



## **Fisheries and Ecosystem Based Management for the Blue Economy of the Mediterranean - (FishEBM MED)**

### **Part I: Project Information**

#### **GEF ID**

10560

#### **Project Type**

FSP

#### **Type of Trust Fund**

GET

#### **CBIT/NGI**

CBIT **No**

NGI **No**

#### **Project Title**

Fisheries and Ecosystem Based Management for the Blue Economy of the Mediterranean - (FishEBM MED)

#### **Countries**

Regional, Albania, Algeria, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey

#### **Agency(ies)**

FAO, UNEP

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

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and Mediterranean Action Plan (Barcelona Convention)

#### **Executing Partner Type**

Others

#### **GEF Focal Area**

Multi Focal Area

#### **Taxonomy**

Focal Areas, Species, Biodiversity, Invasive Alien Species, Threatened Species, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Mainstreaming, Fisheries, International Waters, Marine Protected Area, Pollution, Strategic Action Plan Implementation, Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Plan Preparation, Coastal, Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, Large Marine Ecosystems, Aquaculture, Learning, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate Change, Livelihoods, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Climate Change Mitigation, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Stakeholders, Local Communities, Communications, Strategic Communications, Awareness Raising, Behavior change, Education, Private Sector, Large corporations, SMEs, Type of Engagement, Participation, Information Dissemination, Partnership, Consultation, Beneficiaries, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Gender results areas, Access to benefits and services, Access and control over natural resources, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Participation and leadership, Capacity Development, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Exchange, Indicators to measure change, Theory of change, Adaptive management, Knowledge Generation, Innovation, Enabling Activities, Indigenous Peoples

**Sector**

**Rio Markers**

**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 1

**Climate Change Adaptation**

Climate Change Adaptation 1

**Submission Date**

3/23/2020

**Expected Implementation Start**

6/30/2022

**Expected Completion Date**

6/30/2026

**Duration**

48In Months

**Agency Fee(\$)**

691,027.00

**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-1-2	Strengthen blue economy opportunities through catalyzing sustainable fisheries management.	GET	3,500,000.00	34,573,274.00
IW-2-4	Improve management in the areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) through improved management and sustainable use of the open oceans.	GET	3,500,000.00	34,573,274.00
BD-1-1	Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors.	GET	150,000.00	1,440,553.00
BD-2-7	Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and Improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate.	GET	123,973.00	1,440,553.00
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>			<b>7,273,973.00</b>	<b>72,027,654.00</b>

## B. Project description summary

### Project Objective

To reverse the over-exploitation of select commercial living marine resources by enhancing the capacity of Mediterranean countries to manage fisheries, including through the application of ecosystem-based management tools, in their blue economy development pathway.

<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>
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 1: Strengthened capacity to manage commercial fisheries, with particular focus on SSF.	Technical Assistance	<u>Outcome 1</u> : Fisheries managers and stakeholders use sound information generated on the status of key commercial fisheries to support improved management and selected value chain interventions, particularly for SSF, in view of maximizing production sustainability .	<p>Output 1.1: Regional data collection for fisheries, including SSF and recreational fisheries, processed in support to socio-economic analysis and fisheries management.</p> <p>Output 1.2: Investments in management plans and measures promoted, including for SSF and recreational fisheries.</p> <p>Output 1.3: Value chains modelled in view of identifying best practices and entry points for innovation, including the certification of select fisheries.</p> <p>Output 1.4: Reinforced synergies with the private sector to support market-driven opportunities in the fisheries sector.</p> <p>Output 1.5: Participation in the regional network of SSF platforms</p>	GET	1,620,768.00	21,452,704.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 2: Enhanced integration of emerging monitoring, control and surveillance technologies in the fight against IUU fishing.	Technical Assistance	<u>Outcome 2: Fisheries management</u> better accounts for the quantity and magnitude of IUU fishing in the Mediterranean Sea and incorporates control measures, including through the use of emerging technologies.	<p>Output 2.1: Losses in national economies generated by IUU fishing activities assessed through the application of an ad hoc methodology at the country level.</p> <p>Output 2.2: Impacts of IUU fishing on main commercial marine living resources incorporated in stock assessments.</p> <p>Output 2.3: Information on legal frameworks relating to IUU fishing and fisheries crimes collected, analyzed and disseminated, including through a regional repository.</p> <p>Output 2.4: Application of technology in the field of control and surveillance, including small-scale fishing, tested and tailored to the capacity of countries.</p> <p>Output 2.5:</p>	GET	1,408,007.00	17,228,418.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 3: Integrated ecosystem based management tools and ecosystem approach to biodiversity protection and sustainable fisheries.	Technical Assistance	<p><u>Outcome 3</u>: Healthier marine ecosystems with more productive fisheries in place, through the synergistic application of ecosystem-based conservation/management tools and improvements in fisheries tenure governance.</p>	<p>Output 3.1: Area-based and innovative management tools identified and applied to reduce overexploitation of fisheries and enhance ecosystem productivity.</p> <p>Output 3.2: Monitoring of good environmental status of Mediterranean ecosystems and biodiversity ensured, with established link to pollution impacts and sustainable use of marine ecosystem services; adaptation strategies to climate change formulated.</p> <p>Output 3.3: Measures identified to cope with the negative effects of non-indigenous species on biodiversity as well as those of other potential stressors.</p> <p>Output 3.4: Training programmes and case studies to strengthen national capacity towards the</p>	GET	1,420,675.00	15,021,092.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 4: Innovative blue economy solutions accounting for the fishery sector.	Technical Assistance	<u>Outcome 4: Blue economy</u> at the regional and country level promoted through the identification of existing hurdles via a concerted approach among relevant stakeholders.	<p>Output 4.1: Analysis carried out on how the fishery sector can mobilize investments, including in diversification of livelihoods (e.g. aquaculture planning, pescatourism), against the background of marine spatial planning.</p> <p>Output 4.2: Factsheets on successful innovative solutions for the fishery sector and sustainable use of marine ecosystem services prepared in view of attracting blue economy related investments.</p> <p>Output 4.3: Endorsed pilot NAP+ with investment plan(s) tested in at least one country.</p> <p>Output 4.4: New partnerships implemented through the NAP+, enabling the participation of the private sector in the blue</p>	GET	1,534,808.00	13,211,136.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 5: Knowledge management and outscaling.	Technical Assistance	<u>Outcome 5</u> : Integrated pathways conducive of conservation and sustainable management promoted at the regional and global level.	<p>Output 5.1: Initiatives promoted to support countries in encouraging strategic investment enabling, among others, public and private partnerships.</p> <p>Output 5.1: Initiatives promoted to support countries in encouraging strategic investment enabling, among others, public and private partnerships.</p> <p>Output 5.2: Lessons learnt and best practices disseminated to showcase the benefits of the concerted GFCM-MAP approach in aligning different national and regional priorities.</p> <p>Output 5.3: Outreach &amp; Communication Strategy developed and implemented, including coordination and awareness-raising meetings with co-financing</p>	GET	943,335.00	1,512,921.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
				<b>Sub Total (\$)</b>	<b>6,927,593.00</b>	<b>68,426,271.00</b>

**Project Management Cost (PMC)**

	GET		346,380.00		3,601,383.00	
<b>Sub Total(\$)</b>			<b>346,380.00</b>		<b>3,601,383.00</b>	
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>			<b>7,273,973.00</b>		<b>72,027,654.00</b>	

Please provide justification

Kindly note that the \$943,335 allocated for Component 5 includes \$428,550 for M&E.

**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	Albania	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	1,500,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Albania	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	4,522,757.00
Private Sector	Catapult CX	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	11,150,000.00
Other	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,650,000.00
Private Sector	CLS - Collete Localisation Satelites	Grant	Investment mobilized	27,000.00
Private Sector	CLS - Collete Localisation Satelites	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	37,200.00
Other	Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	16,078,937.00
Other	National Center for Marine Science (CNRS)	Grant	Investment mobilized	125,000.00
Other	La Conf?rence Minist?rielle sur la Coop?ration Halieutique entre les Etats Africains Riverains de l'Oc?an Atlantique (COMHAFAT)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,300,000.00
Other	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	4,000,000.00
Other	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)	Grant	Investment mobilized	6,000,000.00

<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>
Other	GFW ? Global Fishing Watch	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,300,000.00
Donor Agency	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,633,341.00
Recipient Country Government	Libya	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Morocco	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	10,048,434.00
Private Sector	MetOcean Telematics	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	105,400.00
Recipient Country Government	Montenegro	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	1,500,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Republic of Turkey	In-kind	Investment mobilized	2,000,000.00
Other	SPNI ? Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,008,000.00
Private Sector	Studio Lasso d.o.o.	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	195,000.00
Other	Mediterranean Action Plan	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,779,115.00
Other	University of Alicante	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	800,000.00
Civil Society Organization	WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,767,470.00

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
			<b>Total Co-Financing(\$)</b>	<b>72,027,654.00</b>

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

Investments mobilized: ? Albania, Montenegro and Turkey?s mobilized investments consist of projects executed by the Ministry of Agriculture in support to the fishery and aquaculture sectors. Moreover, mobilized investment consists of projects executed by the Ministry of Environment in the framework of the Barcelona Convention. ? CLS?s investments include activities related to MCS, including technical support and loaning electronic EMS/REM to monitor and control industrial & semi-industrial vessels and run tests on field. The co-financing from CIHEAM, CNRS, GFCM, IUCN and University of Alicante are categorized as Investment Mobilized? because they exclude recurrent expenditures. All these Co-Financing contribute directly or indirectly to the achievement of the objectives of the FishEBM MED project. However, strictly speaking, none of these contributions was directly mobilized by the GEF grants allocated to the project. Without the GEF FishEBM MED Project, however, the funds mobilized by the above-mentioned partners will work in isolation without any coordination and synergies. This GEF investment in the Mediterranean allows for the full coordination and for the financing of the additional costs associated with transforming the co-financing listed in Table C, from national benefits into global environmental benefits impacting positively the Mediterranean LME and its related ecosystems. Namely: ? CIHEAM is co-financing through multiple projects implemented focusing on growth of coastal communities, the participatory approach in management of marine resources, sustainability and marine litter, touristic valorization, and fisheries networks in the Mediterranean. ? CNRS in Lebanon is co-financing through activities such as evaluating the impacts of ocean acidification on seafood, the Lebanese marine environment, sampling of fisheries resources and testing fishing gears, programme on monitoring discards and characterizing recreational fisheries. ? GFCM is providing co-financing through a mix of in-kind and extra-budgetary funds supporting GFCM annual work plans and strategic work, including project management costs consisting in the provision of facilities and selected staff time. ? IUCN contributions consist of projects relating to initiatives for CSOs and marine related activities in North Africa, and social-ecological climate change resilience activities and deep-sea conservation in Lebanon. It also involves a MAVA-IUCN framework programme for activities in concerned countries. ? University of Alicante will contribute to the project within its academic program on sustainable fisheries management.

**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>
FAO	GET	Regional	International Waters	International Waters	5,000,000	475,000	5,475,000.00
UNEP	GET	Regional	International Waters	International Waters	2,000,000	190,000	2,190,000.00
UNEP	GET	Montenegro	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	273,973	26,027	300,000.00
<b>Total Grant Resources(\$)</b>					<b>7,273,973.00</b>	<b>691,027.00</b>	<b>7,965,000.00</b>

**E. Non Grant Instrument**

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

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Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

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

PPG Required **true**

**PPG Amount (\$)**

200,000

**PPG Agency Fee (\$)**

19,000

<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>
FAO	GET	Regional	International Waters	International Waters	143,000	13,585	<b>156,585.00</b>
UNEP	GET	Regional	International Waters	International Waters	57,000	5,415	<b>62,415.00</b>
<b>Total Project Costs(\$)</b>					<b>200,000.00</b>	<b>19,000.00</b>	<b>219,000.00</b>

## Core Indicators

**Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	125,845.00	0.00	0.00

**Indicator 2.1 Marine Protected Areas Newly created**

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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**Indicator 2.2 Marine Protected Areas Under improved management effectiveness**

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	125,845.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WD PA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
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Name of the Protected Area	WD PA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Akula National Park Ain Al Ghazala (Libya)	125689 N/A	SelectOthe rs		26,074.00					
Akula National Park Al-Hoceima National Park (Morocco)	125689 5555 4750 9	SelectNatio nal Park		19,600.00					
Akula National Park Butrinti (Albania)	125689 1819 66	SelectNatio nal Park		754.00					
Akula National Park Cap Lindles (Algeria)	125689 5556 9815 7	SelectStrict Nature Reserve		4,283.00					
Akula National Park Farwa lagoon (Libya)	125689 N/A	SelectOthe rs		4,605.00					

Name of the Protected Area	WD PA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
<b>Akula National Park</b> Fethiy e- Gocek (Turke y)	<b>1256 89</b> N/A	<b>Select</b> Habit at/Species Managem ent Area		34,011. 00					<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Akula National Park</b> Fo?a (Turke y)	<b>1256 89</b> N/A	<b>Select</b> Habit at/Species Managem ent Area		5,178.0 0					<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Akula National Park</b> Habib as Island s (Algeri a)	<b>1256 89</b> 1975 1	<b>Select</b> Natu ral Monument or Feature		2,680.0 0					<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Akula National Park</b> ?les Kneiss (Tunisi a)	<b>1256 89</b> 1519 8	<b>Select</b> Othe rs		5,850.0 0					<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Akula National Park</b> Karab urun- Sazan (Albani a)	<b>1256 89</b> 1244 6	<b>Select</b> Natio nal Park		12,428. 00					<input type="checkbox"/>

Name of the Protected Area	WD PA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
<b>Akula National Park</b> Kotorsko Risanski Zaliv (Montenegro)	125689 N/A	SelectProtected Landscape/Seascape		2,386.00					
<b>Akula National Park</b> La Galite Archipelago (Tunisia)	125689 109053	SelectOthers		6,465.00					
<b>Akula National Park</b> Palm Islands Nature Reserve (Lebanon)	125689 13388	SelectHabitat/Species Management Area		470.00					
<b>Akula National Park</b> Platamuni (Montenegro)	125689 N/A	SelectOthers		1,061.00					

**Indicator 7 Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management**

	<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>Shared water Ecosystem</b>	Mediterranean Sea	Mediterranean 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)**

<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>
Mediterranean Sea	4	4		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Select SWE</b>				

**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)**

<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>
Mediterranean Sea	4	4		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Select SWE</b>				

**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>
Mediterranean Sea	1	1		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Select SWE</b>				

**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>

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

**Indicator 8 Globally over-exploited fisheries moved to more sustainable levels**

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)
238,000.00	238,000.00		

**Fishery Details**

Sardina pilchardus 145,000 Engraulis encrasicolus 45,000 Merluccius merluccius 23,000  
 Parapenaeus longirostris 8,000 Solea solea 5,000 Mullus barbatus 4,000 Nephrops norvegicus  
 4,000 Squilla mantis 2,000 Aristeus antennatus 1,600 Aristaeomorpha foliacea 200 Pagellus  
 bogaraveo 100

**Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment**

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
<b>Female</b>	5,000	152,000		
<b>Male</b>	5,000	353,000		
<b>Total</b>	10000	505000	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

CI 2: The 125,845 hectares were calculated at the PIF stage on the basis of the percentage (%) of the nationally designated MPAs for the whole Mediterranean Sea. This is reported to be 1.31 % (3,297,200 Hectares) (source: MedPAN and SPA/RAC, 2019). Of these 3,297,200 Hectares, 90.05 % is located in European waters (not eligible for GEF). The GEF Mediterranean eligible countries cover roughly 10% of the total Mediterranean surface under

designation (i.e. 0,13 %) of the whole Mediterranean Sea. During the project preparation phase, it was decided that FishEBM MED will aim at least to target 38% of the nationally designated MPAs for GEF Eligible countries. This was estimated at:  $3,297,200 \text{ Hectares} * 0.1 = 329.720 * 0.38 = 125,845$  hectares expected at PIF stage. Following further elaborations on the basis of more precise data on the MPAs that may benefit from FishEBM Med, of the endorsement by GEF eligible Mediterranean countries of the project proposal and of their preliminary manifestation of interest on specific MPAs, we are confirming the CI2 target 125,845 hectares and providing a list of targeted MPAs in the GEF 7 Core Indicators Worksheet. The project will anyway take any possible action to increase this target if feasible. CI8: This publication (<https://www.fao.org/3/cb2429en/online/cb2429en.html>), provides a description of the source of the estimate of tonnage, and a justification for including the fisheries mentioned in this indicator as overexploited CI 11: In summary (202,000 employed onboard fish vessels (all Mediterranean countries) + 303,000 estimated non vessels based employed (pre- and post-harvest sectors, gleaners and other on-shore based activities including ?invisible women?). Men are estimated at 100% of onboard fisheries workers + 50% of on shore workers totaling some 353,000 units and women are estimated at 50% of on shore workers totaling 152,000 units. Please refer to Annex F for the detailed explanation.

## **Part II. Project Justification**

### **1a. Project Description**

#### **a. The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed**

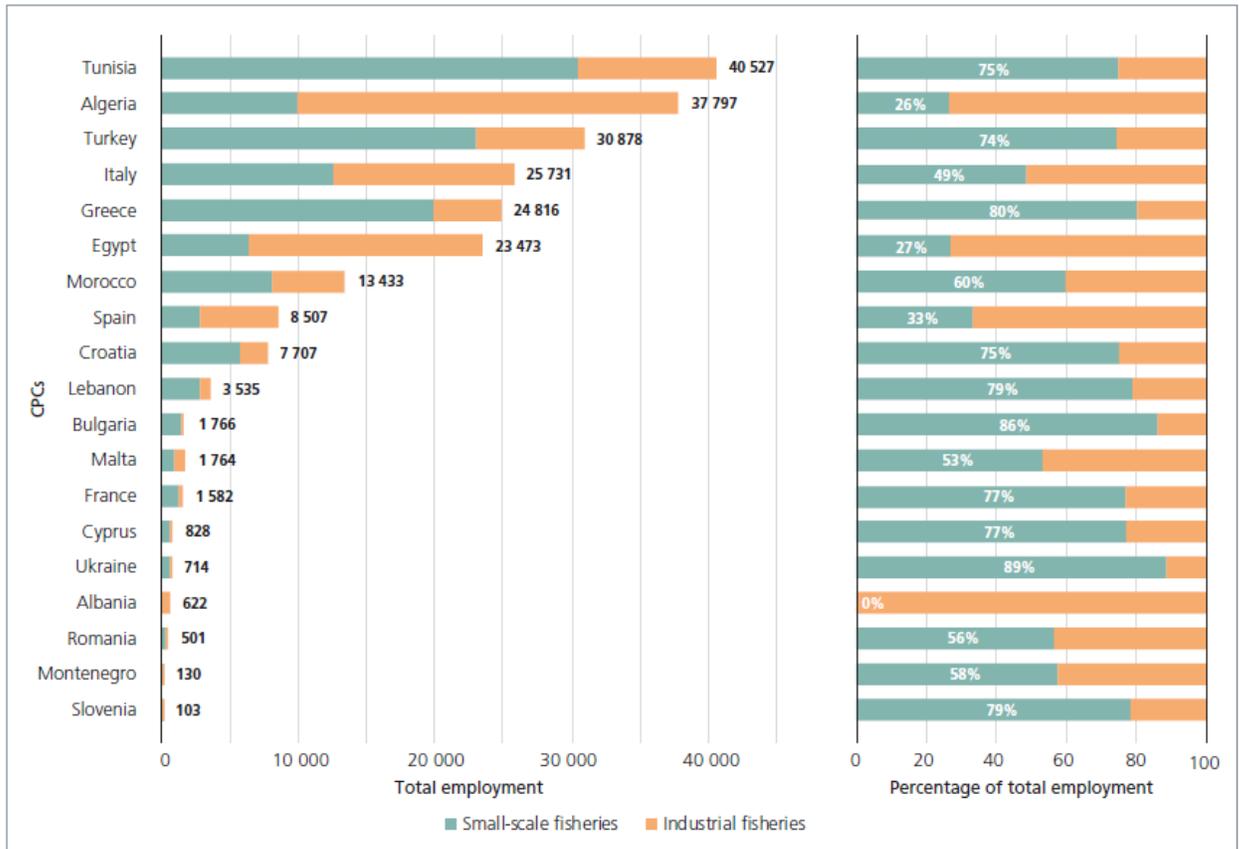
##### **a) The root causes**

###### a.1 A sector overlooking ecosystem-based approaches:

The Mediterranean has sustained fisheries exploitation since ancient times. Today, industrial, semi-industrial and small-scale fisheries coexist in the region, each using a large variety of fishing gear to harvest a multi-species marine environment extremely rich in biodiversity. In contrast with other major fishing areas in the world, where fishing fleets extend their operations well onto the high-seas to target select stocks, the Mediterranean Sea generally lacks large mono-specific fisheries and instead exploits a variety of benthic and pelagic stocks of fish, as well as molluscs and crustaceans. In addition, since the Mediterranean is a semi-enclosed sea, exploited stocks are mostly shared among the fishing fleets of littoral States, which calls in turn for the need to ensure very strong cooperation and coordination among them in the elaboration and implementation of those measures which are essential for the sustainable management of the fisheries. This was corroborated by the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) for the Mediterranean Sea published in 2005 in the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), the first UNEP initiative to be developed under the Regional Seas Programme established in 1974. The TDA identified and analyzed in some detail the major environmental concerns in the region, including the decline of biodiversity, thus providing the technical basis for the refinement of both the Strategic Action Programmes (SAP-MED and SAP-BIO) and the National Action Plans (NAPs) in the area of international waters of the GEF. In the statement of the causes of such concerns the TDA included invasive species, introduced species, overfishing, by-catch, adverse effects of fishing gear and uses on marine habitats (e.g. bottom trawling), inadequate or non-existent legislation and available enforcement means. Until recently only limited attention was given to these concerns, as opposed to that received by other concerns which were outlined in the TDA, such as pollution.

While the fishery sector has traditionally been engraved in the socio-economic fabric of the Mediterranean region, its output compared to other emerging sectors of the last decades (e.g. tourism, oil and gas exploration, etc.) has been often overlooked. To a certain extent, the traditional contribution by the fishery sector has been progressively played down as the littoral States moved on to focus on targeting new uses of the Mediterranean Sea. With a reported annual production amounting to roughly 805 700 tons of fish though, the fishery sector offers employment opportunities to several hundred thousand people, it supplies quality protein and many other essential nutrients for human consumption

in local and regional markets, and it creates many other indirect benefits, such as safeguarding coastal communities. It is precisely in these communities where this sector provides a source of livelihoods throughout the Mediterranean (particularly in non-EU countries ? see Figure 1 below).



**Figure 1** ?Employment onboard small-scale and industrial fishing vessels by GFCM contracting party and cooperating non-contracting party [see Annex M]

Nonetheless, with fisheries being part of broader agricultural policies usually coming within the scope of national authorities in charge of agriculture and rural development, the littoral States have long favored a production-oriented sector. However, fisheries production, although being in line with food security systems, cannot be equated to agriculture production as sustainability must be considered when harvesting living marine resources. With anthropogenic impacts steadily increasing their pressure on the Mediterranean stocks, the notion of a production-oriented sector has been challenged by the need for an ecosystem approach to fisheries. Arguably, the level of investments, both public and private, in the fishery sector of Mediterranean countries has induced preliminary yet not transformational change to the management of this critically importance resource. These investments have included, but are not limited to, investments in improving vessel monitoring and control, investments in modernized vessel design and improving gear selectivity, and investments in improving fish landing sites and cold chain

facilities, among others. Most recent exploitation trends, as reported herein, are alarming which implies in turn the need to urgently rethink the Mediterranean fishery sector.

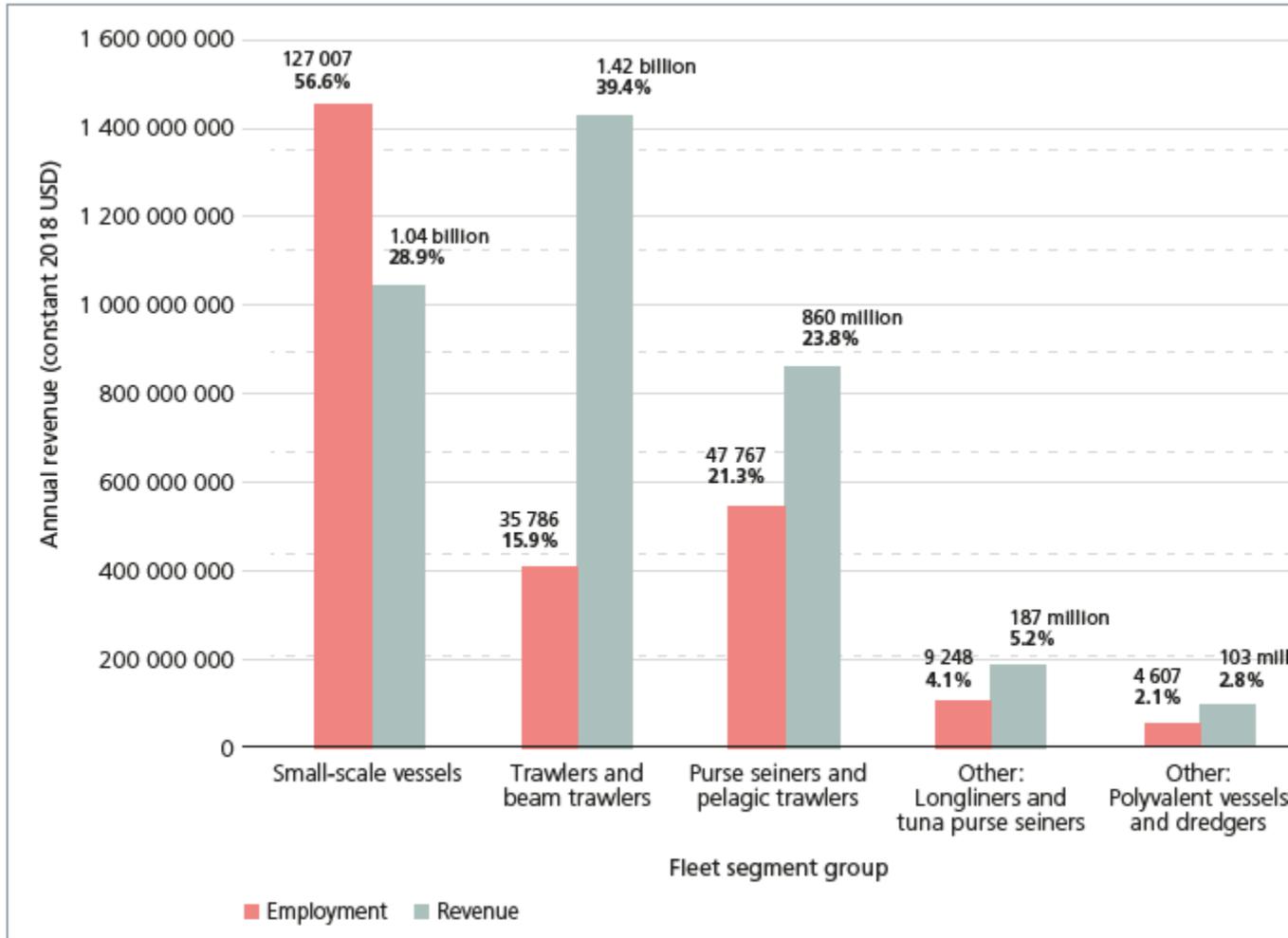
Only through sound ecosystem-based management of Mediterranean fisheries can the potential for stronger productivity be unlocked in a sustainable way. This implies a shift toward a more participatory approach to fisheries and a change in thinking policy and management by both government agencies and stakeholder groups. Small-scale fisheries tend to be inadequately addressed, both with regard to resource management and from a broader social and economic development perspective.

The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), endorsed by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in 2014, were developed to address this situation. This instrument now needs to be implemented to have its intended impact of enhancing the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and sustainable livelihoods. Empowering small-scale fisheries stakeholders to engage in decision-making processes has shown to be a powerful and effective tool for sustainable management and this realization has led to new institutional arrangements in the form of co-management in which a set of agreed fishery stakeholders together with government agencies jointly participate in fishery management and decision making, and specifically the development, implementation and enforcement of fishery regulations and management measures. While co-management is increasingly recognized as a good practice, resource users feel marginalized from decision-making and lack incentives to engage in management and development processes. This concerns both fishers and fish workers in the postharvest sector. The understanding of the coastal fisheries value chain dynamics and how coastal fisheries are situated in a wider environmental, economic and social reality is not sufficiently considered. Capacity building and skills development are often fundamental requirements in order to recognize the mutual benefits of engaging in such participatory processes and to put in place mechanisms that will foster dialogue and build trust. Participatory management systems, such as co-management, should be promoted in accordance with national law and States should involve small-scale fishing communities, with special attention to equitable participation of women, in the design, planning and, implementation of management measures affecting their livelihoods.

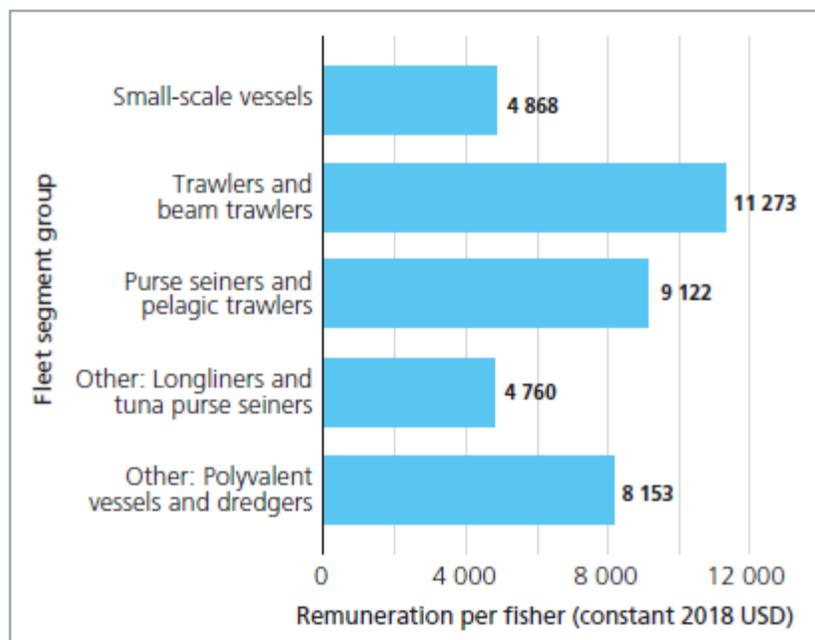
#### a.2 Markets not accounting for the predominant SSF:

82.1% of Mediterranean fisheries are considered to be small-scale, operating in coastal waters and therefore instrumental to secure livelihoods in coastal communities. However, the benefits accrued by the fishery sector in the Mediterranean Sea are not equally distributed across the various vessel groups (e.g. large-scale trawlers and purse seiners vs. the smaller-scale vessels using passive or polyvalent gear). Small-scale vessels provide 55% of employment in fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea, but only account for 29% of revenue, whereas for large-scale vessels this is inverted (see figure 2 below). On average, small-scale fishers earn about half of what their peers on trawlers and purse seiners can expect to make, despite SSF being generally considered to be more selective and to have a lower environmental impact (see figure 3 below). This lower remuneration points to a higher vulnerability of small-scale fishers, who often work alone or in small-groups and face high variability in their catch, limited bargaining power vis-à-vis middlemen and markets, as well as limited access to financial instruments in order to further invest in their activity. On the other hand, these vulnerabilities point to opportunities where simple value chain interventions and limited investments could produce

considerable socio-economic impacts. Should SSF be given the consideration they arguably deserve, in light of data and figures, the entire Mediterranean fishery sector would benefit from it.



**Figure 2** - Comparison of revenue and employment by fleet segment group in the GFCM area of application [see Annex M]



**Figure 3** ? Annual remuneration per fishery (in absolute terms) by fleet segment group in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea [see Annex M]

Noting the demand for fresh and local fish in the Mediterranean market, as well as the fact that the majority of Mediterranean countries remain net importers of fish products, as there is high demand from other regions of the world ? with only six countries currently exporting more fish than they import (Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey, Albania, Croatia and Greece) ? public and private sector investments, particularly in SSF and including in capacity development and organizational structures such as cooperatives, could easily generate a high return to fishers (with socio-economic benefits to coastal communities), as highlighted by a number of best practice cases in the Mediterranean region [3]. This would still be nullified without accounting for the different processes and stressors threatening the sustainability of Mediterranean fisheries. Though social and economic considerations are always the first to be made and debated, biological and environmental considerations matter as much when it comes to fisheries. The general poor state of main Mediterranean commercially important stocks currently reduces the capacity of marine ecosystems to provide socio-economic benefits for coastal communities. This cannot be addressed without significant increases in data collection and data processing, including for the integration of the commercial fisheries data in the Good Environmental Status of Mediterranean marine waters and marine ecosystem according to the IMAP framework (the MAP framework for developing marine and coastal environment monitoring and assessment capacities at national and regional level) and related capacity building support to carry out these actions along the value chain, as well as consideration of the Local Ecological Knowledge (LEK) of fishers and coastal communities.

### a.3. Vulnerability of coastal and small-scale fishing communities

Mediterranean coastal zones are subject to increasing pressures due, amongst others, to growing economic activities with competing access to coastal and marine resources and ecosystem services, to climate change and increasing population density. In particular the growing environmental risks and the significant increase in maritime activities (aquaculture, fishing, mining, industry, infrastructure, transport, tourism, sports, defense and security) requires improved tools to anticipate possible threats and prevent adverse impacts through innovative forms of governance and resources management. In this context GFCM and MAP have reviewed main drivers at stake, identified priorities for action and formulated recommendations, instruments and policy frameworks aimed to reduce pressures on coastal areas and marine resources while maintaining socially equitable, environmentally sustainable and economically viable development, i.e. the ICZM Protocol and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), the Ecosystem-based Approach (EcAp), and the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean coastal and marine areas.

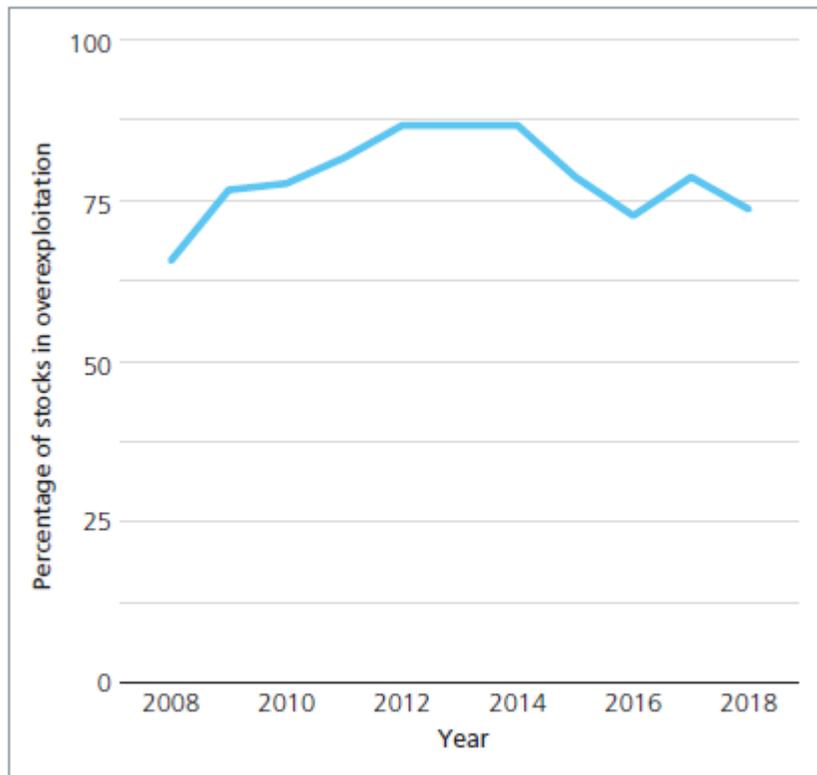
In particular, the livelihoods of coastal communities highly depending on fishing and related activities based in particular on small-scale fisheries that encompass all activities along the value chain, from pre-harvest to post-harvest, are at high risk. Many small-scale fishers and fish workers are self-employed and engaged in directly providing food for their household and community as well as working in processing and marketing. Securing and increasing the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and poverty eradication faces many challenges and constraints due to the vulnerability of these communities. Where poverty exists in small-scale fishing communities, it is of a multidimensional nature and is not only caused by low incomes but also due to other factors which hinder proper access to public services and social protection, among others. Small-scale fishing communities are commonly located in remote areas and tend to have limited or disadvantaged access to markets, and may have poor access to health, education and other social services. The economic opportunities available are limited, as small-scale fishing communities face a lack of alternative livelihoods, youth unemployment, unhealthy and unsafe working conditions, forced labour, and child labour. Pollution, environmental degradation, climate change impacts and natural and human-induced disasters add to the threats facing small-scale fishing communities. All these factors make it difficult for small-scale fishers and fish workers to make their voices heard, defend their rights, and secure the sustainable use of the fishery resources on which they depend.

Due to the lack of a systematic collection of genders disaggregated data on the contribution of women to the fisheries sector, their role still remain mostly invisible. According to the 'Study of the role of women in fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea' which, although focused on EU Member States contains conclusions on gender which are relevant for the whole region, posits that the sector is mainly managed by men. A significant number of women operate in the sector too, albeit without a specific legal status or remuneration and thus without the possibility of influencing decisions on its management. This is particularly the case in small-scale, family-run businesses where fishers' wives, daughters and mothers, assist with the running of the family business on a full-time or ad-hoc basis. In processing, women either represent the majority of workers or are equal in numbers to men. Most women with lower levels of education are assigned to unskilled tasks (labelling, packaging, filleting and canning) while some women with higher education levels work in administration, accounting and marketing.

### a.4 Overexploited stocks:

Considering the role the fishery sector plays in providing livelihoods for rural coastal communities and considering the dependence of this sector on the long-term sustainability of Mediterranean living marine resources, the findings of recent stock assessments of main commercial fish stocks in the Mediterranean are concerning. A significant majority of stocks assessed by the GFCM in 2018 [4] ?

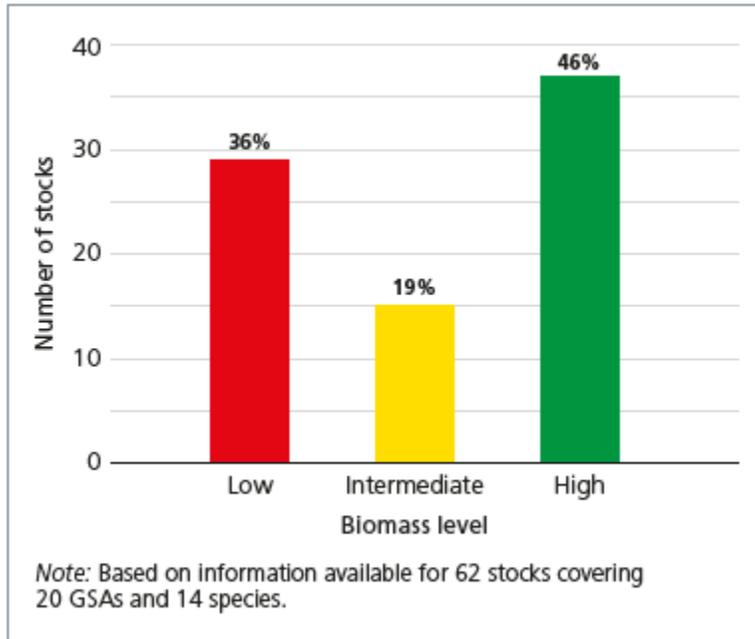
75% ? are regarded as overexploited (see Annex M), which means more fish are being caught than the population can naturally replace. High as this percentage is, though, it has slightly decreased since 2014, when the figure was 88% (see figure 4 below). This reflects the difference recent management plans introduced by the GFCM have made, which for several decades have been lacking as countries were not effectively coordinating their policies. Absent further investments in management and adequate capacity at national level to adapt fishing operations to management measures adopted by the GFCM, only very little progress can be expected.



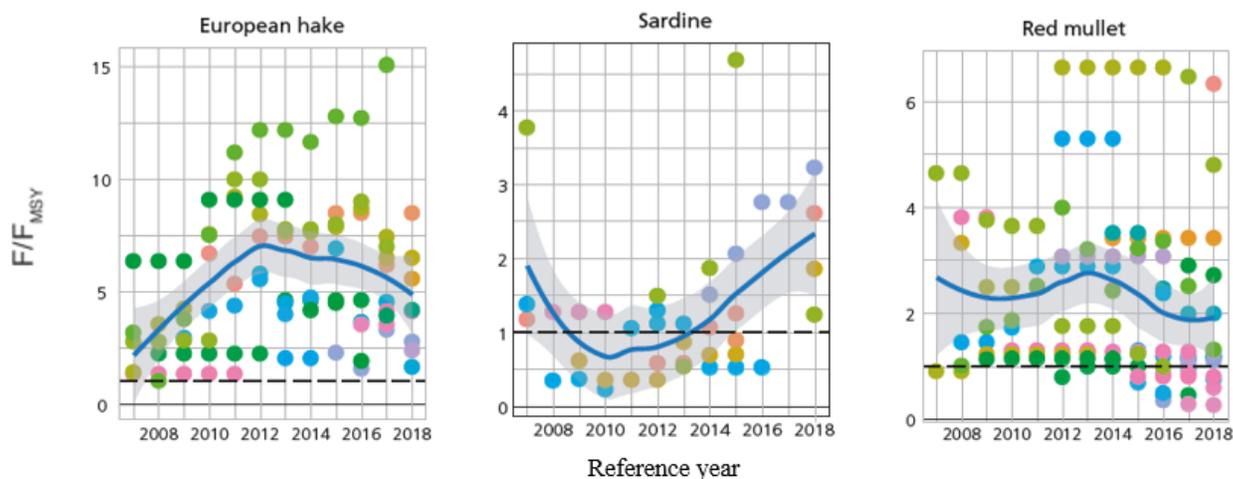
**Figure 4** ? Percentage of stocks in overexploitation in the GFCM area of application, 2008-2018 [see Annex M]

Just over a third (36%) of stocks in the Mediterranean currently show low biomass: this may reflect the long time-frame over which they have not been properly managed by countries, diminishing their capacity to replenish (see figure 5 below). The most overexploited species in the Mediterranean is European hake, which ? due to its presence in most trawl fisheries and despite recent improvements ? shows an overexploitation rate on average 5 times higher than what is considered sustainable (see figure 6 below). In addition, some species such as sardines and anchovies have a low fishing pressure, however, they show a low biomass which could be linked to other environmental effects apart from fisheries. Even so, aside from hake, overexploitation indexes have been slightly decreasing in those

species for which management plans have been adopted (see figure 6 below). Although a decline in fishing pressure was observed during the most critical phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, fishing pressure returned to normal levels quite rapidly and preliminary information suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic had limited to no impact on stock status. On the other hand, it is likely that the COVID-19 pandemic may create issues related to data availability, as many data collection activities were necessarily put on hold.

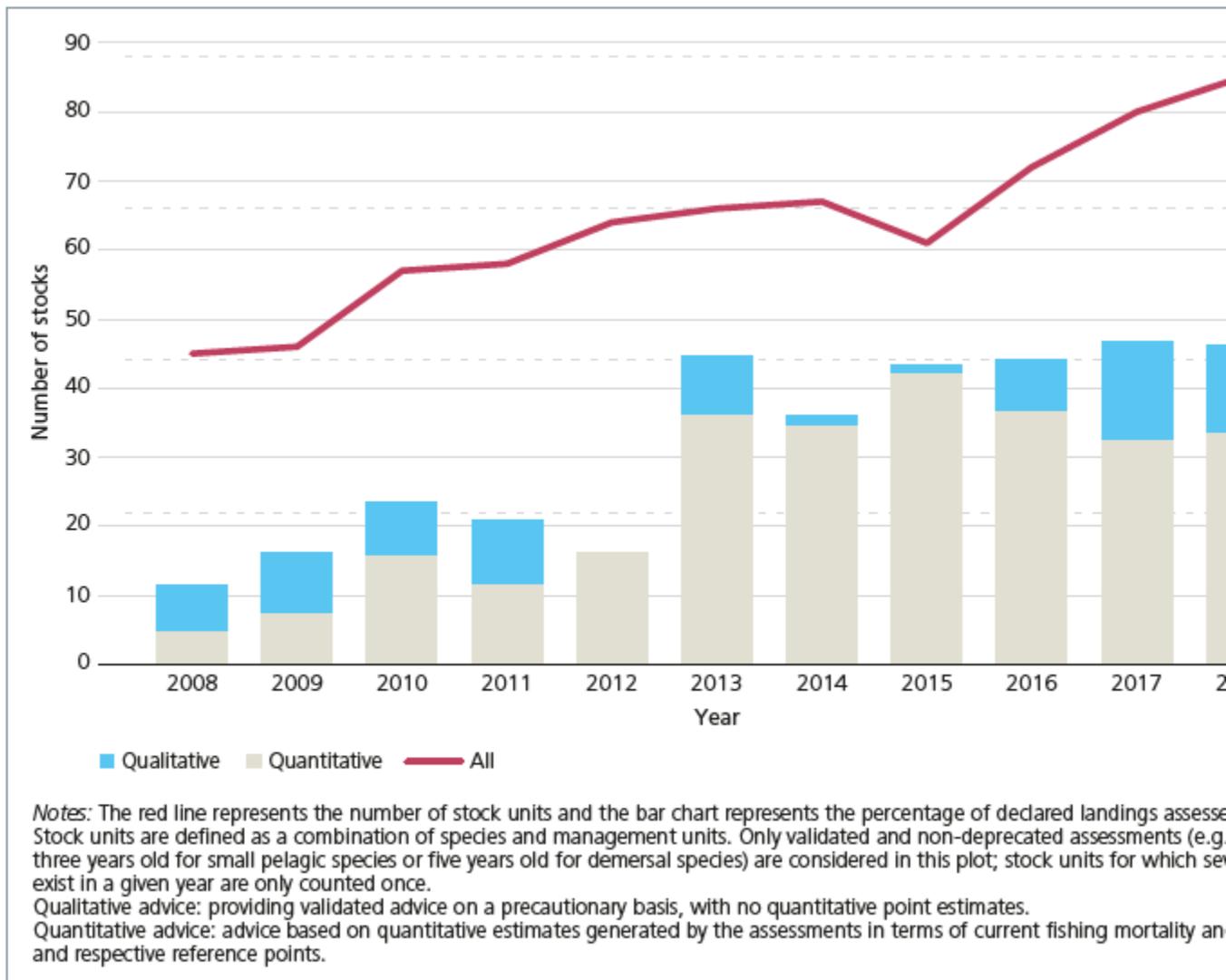


**Figure 5** ? Number and percentage of Mediterranean stocks at low, intermediate and high biomass levels [see Annex M]



**Figure 6** ? Trends in the overexploitation ratio (F/F<sub>MSY</sub>) of select priority species, 2007-2018 [see Annex M]

The quality of scientific advice provided by the GFCM has been improving significantly in recent years (see figure 7 below) and, concurrently, the GFCM has advanced towards the management of fisheries in its area of application. This has been coupled with improved scientific advice provided by the MAP and associated Regional Activity Centers (RACs) which has in parallel advanced towards the improved management of marine ecosystems in their area of application. However, advice in support of management still addresses only a percentage of exploited stocks, marine populations, ecosystems and areas. This might not be enough to revert the effects of prolonged unsustainable management. With this in mind, the GFCM, in consultation with experts and managers, has identified a list of priority commercial species for which advice should be consistently produced, based on both the socio-economic importance and conservation concern of these species, as well as their subjugation to management plans which form the basis of their sustainable management. [5] Having regard to this justification and the source of data used, these species will be targeted by the proposed project to revert their overexploitation trend and are identified under Annex F.



**Figure 7** ? Number of stock units and percentage of declared landings assessed per year, 2008-2018, with an indication of the quality of the advice (i.e. qualitative vs. quantitative) emerging from the assessments [see Annex M]

Furthermore, although it is early to assess the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the exploitation status of the region's fisheries, the disruptions to business as usual in the Mediterranean region may have, in some cases, put in motion pernicious coping mechanisms ? driven by economic and social factors ? that could have had the potential for further exacerbating the overexploitation status in the region. On the other hand, the pandemic may have also reduced fishing pressure over an acute period (although whether this results in long-term impacts is yet to be understood). Measures taken by countries to contain the pandemic have had important impacts on the fishing sector's ability to catch and market fish, and has also affected fisheries management, control and research activities. According to an analysis carried out by the GFCM, the region's fisheries experienced an initial reduction in

operating vessels of up to 80 percent in some countries, as well as an initial decrease in production of around 75 percent. Fish market prices also decreased between 20 and 70 percent during this initial phase, particularly for species typically destined to the hotel, restaurant and catering (HoReCa) sector. Furthermore, restrictions on the movement of people and goods across borders had an immediate impact, particularly for those countries highly reliant on exporting their catches to international markets and those fleet segment groups which have a high reliance on foreign labour. In some cases, fishers were quick to adapt to changing conditions by shortening value chains and selling catch via direct sale and e-commerce, for example, or by switching to targeting species better adapted for local markets or for processing and sale at a later date. Due to this adaptability, as well as measures put in place by governments, the dramatic early impacts began fading towards summer 2020 and production returned to pre-crisis levels in some – but not all – countries. Nevertheless, demand has remained volatile and uncertainty persists over the longer-term economic outlook for the sector. Furthermore, the pandemic has affected the ability of fisheries scientists to collect data in the field, with potential impacts on the quality and quantity of data available for assessments. The pandemic has, however, provided clear evidence that anthropogenic activities put significant pressure on marine ecosystems, including through the displacement of marine animals from parts of their habitats and increased turbulence and noise. Moreover, marine pollution remains high and the observed increase in the use of single-use plastic packaging, masks, gloves and other litter associated with the pandemic may also have some impacts over the short, medium or long term.

#### a.5 Lack of capacity:

In past decades, the limited capacity of national administrations to implement sound and adequate management measures has been a major constraint, therefore also hampering coordinated efforts at the regional level. In recent years, however, the regional organizations in place, namely the GFCM, the Regional Fisheries Management Organization competent for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, and the MAP, the Regional Seas Programme adopted under UNEP's umbrella for the Mediterranean, have been instrumental in building capacity at the national level. The incremental value of the GEF intervention sought via the proposed project is therefore to further empower GEF eligible Mediterranean countries in the ecosystem-based management of commercial stocks thanks to continued and enhanced support by these regional organizations. These organizations have entered into a memorandum of understanding to formalize their cooperation as the countries in the region, participants in both, noted that they have been successful in effectively providing technical assistance and facilitating knowledge-sharing. By aligning and coordinating country actions with that of regionally agreed strategies, the GFCM and the MAP have made significant strides in advancing agreed upon transboundary priorities, while building capacity. The long-term objective being to ensure that capacity is transferred to national level stakeholders, thereby enabling greater autonomy in both technical implementation of policies formulated and financial management. Currently, lack of capacity is being experienced at country level in connection with the ability to generate scientific knowledge, including at the level of human resources addressing scientific/technical issues of relevance to the work of the GFCM and the Barcelona Convention MAP, the ability to properly collect and analyze data and to timely identify issues at stakes and related drivers, and consequently to set priorities for action and develop own management framework to reduce pressures from those drivers on the marine environment and on the sustainability of the fisheries sector, the ability to transpose regional policies into national legislation and monitor their implementation and the ability to set in motion administrative actions needed in support to the improved integration of the fishery sector in a blue economy context (e.g. establishment of VMS systems, launching of surveys, replacement of equipment such as fishing nets and refrigerators, etc.). Furthermore, as noted previously, the COVID-19 pandemic has, in many cases, further hampered the collection of regular time series data and/or has deviated funding resources to other priorities, further limiting country capacity to act on these issues. Previous GEF interventions in the Mediterranean Sea, and particularly under the MedProgramme have been decisive to addressing the main root causes of lack of capacity in connection with degradation of marine and coastal ecosystems focusing, among others, on Integrated Water Resource Management, Water-Food-Energy and Ecosystems Nexus, Land base Sources of Pollution and investments on water

security and MPAs. However, the MedProgramme lacks a fishery component. It is therefore important, however, that the fishery sector not be left behind; the successful model that is being applied by the MedProgramme to conserving the marine environment can be replicated under this project through the collaboration GFCM-MAP to ensure that favourable conditions are created towards integrating fisheries into existing National Action Plans [6] (?NAPs?; section 2.a refers) and considering mobilizing investments, either public, private or by public-private partnerships.

In addition to insufficient capacity of national administrations to implement policies and measures, there are also considerable needs in ensuring that the legal frameworks are adequate and allow for implementation of relevant international instruments such as the SSF Guidelines. To date, national and regional legal frameworks have also not been very supportive of the integration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of marine ecosystem services in sectoral policies such as fisheries. Government structures tend not have the capacity and mechanisms to support the involvement of fisheries organizations in decision-making and development activities, and fishers and fish workers often lack the capacity and the organizational structures needed to be effective partners in decision-making processes and engage in SSF Guidelines implementation activities. In particular in the small-scale fisheries sector, these actors often have low educational levels and technical skills, as well as a general lack of organizational and planning capacities. They also tend to lack clarity on how they should participate in decision-making processes and co-management. Coastal communities do not have the capacities and opportunities required to participate in fisheries management and development processes; co-management is promoted but the regulatory and institutional tools and capacities are not yet in place for its successful implementation, including the capacity of coastal communities to effectively engage in and contribute. States should facilitate, train and support small-scale fishing communities to participate in and take responsibility for, taking into consideration their legitimate rights and systems, and the management of the resources on which they depend for their well-being and livelihoods.

Due to the lack of a systematic collection of genders disaggregated data on the contribution of women to the fisheries sector, including relating to management and development processes, it is not possible to identify at this stage any specific difference among men and women regarding knowledge gaps, capacity needs and inclusion in decision-making processes. However, taking into consideration that the fisheries sector is heavily dominated by men and that involved women mostly operate in assisting roles without any specific legal status or remuneration, it is highly likely that capacity building efforts needed to enable coastal communities to engage in and contribute to fisheries management will require a particular attention for women and their inclusion.

## **b) Barriers preventing the management of resilient and sustainable fisheries:**

The major barriers to be addressed by the proposed project are overfishing, IUU fishing and destructive fishing practices (direct stressors), vulnerability of coastal and small-scale fishing communities and the negative effects of anthropogenic activities on commercial fish stocks, with pernicious impacts on local coastal economies and national capacity (indirect stressors). As a result of these barriers, which echo the findings of the TDA, market opportunities are not fully seized and the benefits of fisheries value chains are not leveraged in the Mediterranean region. This, coupled with the growing regional demand for fish, and national investments in the fishing sector in view of a COVID-19 recovery, adds new perspectives to the overall diagnostic of the current state of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas thereby triggering ad-hoc remedial actions for the fishery sector. A more precise description of the aforementioned barriers follow:

### **b.1 Overfishing**

Overfishing is the most serious threat to the conservation and sustainable use of marine living resources in the Mediterranean Sea to the extent that it seriously puts at risk the socio-economic wellbeing of coastal communities in littoral States. The Mediterranean region has been strengthening collaboration towards the common management of fisheries resources. Significant progress has been made in improving the knowledge and conservation of the region's living marine resources. Action has also been taken by the GFCM to trigger the adoption of management plans to reverse the trend of the most critically and unsustainably exploited commercial stocks and to protect their most vulnerable habitats. Although improvements are being made, much is still to be done, including to secure investments in the fishery sector at the country level. One of the principal management challenges for Mediterranean fisheries remains the implementation of science-based adaptive plans, combining also local ecological knowledge, capable of adjusting fishing capacity to realistic estimates of ecosystem productivity and encompassing adequate monitoring and control measures. This is complicated further by the fact that the vast majority of these fisheries are small-scale and data-poor, a constraint which undermines the performance of all-encompassing assessments of stock status. However, new methods for improving data collection, as well as assessing and managing data-poor fisheries, are emerging and should be applicable to the Mediterranean region. Such methods foresee also applying participatory approaches in view of co-management practices and integrating value chain perspectives in order to fully involve stakeholder groups, both men and women. This entails building capacity of fishers and fish workers to effectively support their participation in management and decision-making and also identifying other support and structures needed for more resilient livelihoods, e.g. social protection arrangements (see further below). The proposed project, building upon the MoU GFCM/MAP, will support the capacity building needed to reduce overfishing and improve understanding at country level of data-limited stocks for improved fisheries governance, sustainable use and biodiversity conservation outcomes. Furthermore, it will aim to capitalize on ongoing national and regional efforts to 'build back better' following the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting the recovery of sustainable fishing activities and contributing to building capacity for sustainable fisheries management moving forward. Since weak enforcement of the management regimes is also known to contribute to overfishing of many commercial stocks, the proposed project will aim at leading to improvements and updates in the regulatory frameworks of the GEF eligible Mediterranean countries, including through the promotion of the identification and the reform of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, as indicated in Action 21 of the Post 2020 SAPBIO.

## b.2 IUU fishing and destructive fishing practices

It is recognized that better management of fisheries in the Mediterranean is greatly challenged by a wide array of illegal activities, spanning from the use of dynamite and poison fishing in some coastal communities to the widespread disregard of common rules in place, leading to a culture of noncompliance. Although approximate estimates of the impacts of IUU fishing at global level exist, including by FAO, they are considered to be under-represented vis-à-vis the status of fisheries. Also, analysis of trends is difficult due to existing uncertainties, and when it comes to a semi-enclosed sea like the Mediterranean, specific regional estimates should be made in the remit of robust scientific advice for management purposes. It is stressed that Mediterranean countries, in their capacity as flag States, coastal States, port States and market States, are expected to act in a coordinated fashion to deter illegal activities and fisheries crime. This will require an approach to monitoring, control and surveillance that is both common among all countries of the region, but also takes into consideration the specificities of the SSF and recreational fisheries sectors. Through the proposed project, support will be provided to enhance efforts to quantify the extent and magnitude of IUU fishing. A methodology will be tested at the country level to this end. At the same time, as a quantification of IUU fishing should lead to renewed national commitment to eradicate IUU operations, the proposed project will strive to harmonize monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing vessels. In this regard, the proposed project will involve the private sector to increase investments in best practices such as catch documentation schemes, traceability systems, eco-labelling, gear sensors and ad hoc technologies, such as solar-power based transponders and drones. Also, actions to improve monitoring of the SSF sector in

an appropriate way, in line with the principles of the RPOA-SSF and the SSF Guidelines, are in high demand. Moreover, a common approach for assessing the bycatch effect on non-targeted endangered species and/or in bad conservation status will be addressed in line with the provisions of the Post2020 SAPBIO, along with scientifically tested strategies and measures to adapt or ban the fishing gears most harmful to biodiversity, including on the seabed, and to reduce the impact of bycatch, discards and abandoned lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear on living marine resources.

### b.3 Vulnerability of coastal communities

The contribution of coastal fisheries to environmental, economic and social sustainability in the project countries is threatened by unsustainable fishing pressure and practices, wastage in the post-harvest sector, as well as socio-economic vulnerabilities, leading to sub-optimal benefits, degradation of coastal habitats as well as poor working conditions and insecure livelihoods. Barriers in coastal fisheries also relate to limited capacity of institutions to effectively address the vulnerability of coastal communities through participatory approaches and including constraints that may be beyond the fisheries sector itself. There is a need for regulating fishing, promoting responsible practices and strengthening value chains as well as addressing new emerging issues such as climate change which amplifies these threats and complicates fisheries management and increases the vulnerability of coastal populations with degrading ecosystems. The vulnerability of coastal communities is also linked to the general lack of data and information to provide a sound basis for management and policy decisions, in particular with a focus on the specificities of coastal communities. To elevate coastal communities and the small-scale fishery sector on the policy agenda, recommendations should be supported by data and information, and this knowledge basis needs to be improved and applied, including socio-economic data. In addition to insufficient understanding among policy makers of the challenges faced in small-scale fisheries and coastal communities and opportunities for development, and as described under Barriers a.2 Markets not accounting for the predominant SSF and .a.3 Vulnerability of coastal and small-scale fishing communities, many residents from these communities do not seem to receive equitable benefits from their work and different livelihoods aspects (e.g. limited access to markets, health services, education and social protection programmes) also hamper their socio-economic security and well-being. There is a need to deal simultaneously with improving fisheries governance and management, including small-scale fisheries, and strengthening the seafood value chains to create environmental, economic and social benefits. This can only be accomplished by taking a value chain perspective, combining implementation of fisheries management plans and supporting post-harvest activities. Indeed, inadequate post-harvest infrastructure leads to quality deterioration, post-harvest losses and poor revenues, exacerbating overfishing. Women play a critical role in the fisheries value chain ? particularly for small-scale fisheries ? but because of their often unrecognized or undervalued fisheries-related activities, women continue to be best known for their roles in processing/marketing fish and related products. However, this generalization can make projects and fisheries governance blind to women's other valuable inputs to the sector. They also often play important invisible roles at the household and community level, supporting fishing activities in direct and indirect ways that are not considered because ?this is what they do?. To be successful in valorizing the contribution of coastal communities, including vulnerable groups, an approach that synchronizes the implementation of both legal and operational measures is required. Furthermore, success will largely be dependent on the active participation of all stakeholders, and consequently, it is essential to strengthen stakeholder representation and engagement as well as to improve overall communication and cooperation for sharing experiences, lessons learned and best practices in the region, with special attention to vulnerable and marginalized community members and groups. To secure coastal communities and sustainable small-scale fisheries and realize their potential contribution to food security and poverty eradication, a holistic and inter-sectorial approach needs to be taken that takes the reality of small-scale fishing communities as its basis.

#### b.4 Climate change, biodiversity loss and marine pollution, including marine litter, and non-indigenous species

It is recognized that anthropogenic phenomena, such as climate change and the introduction of non-indigenous species, can have serious negative effects on the marine ecosystems and their living resources. The sea surface temperature of the Mediterranean Sea is  $19.7 \pm 1.3$  °C, differing significantly from season to season (9.7-17.7 °C in winter and 20.8-28.3 °C in summer) and between sub-basins. In addition, there is a negative correlation between this temperature and the North Atlantic Oscillation Index (NOAI), which can potentially affect the water transport over the western Mediterranean Sea. Other studies are examining past/future trends using the ensemble mean of different CMIP5 (based on 24 GCMs) and future climate scenarios (RCP 2.6, 4.5, 6.0 and 8.5). For the ensemble of future scenarios, the increase in the sea surface temperature has been projected at 0.5-2.6 °C by the end of the 21st century. The mean temperature of the catch on the other hand is an indicator used to assess the effect of global warming on fishing communities. According to Tsikliras & Stergiou (2014), the this indicator rate of increase in the Mediterranean Sea, for the period 1973-2006, has been higher in central zones (1.05°C decade<sup>-1</sup>) when compared to western and eastern areas (0.56 and 0.29°C decade<sup>-1</sup>, respectively). For all the Mediterranean sub-basins, the mean temperature of the catch has ranged between 11.2 to 16.9 °C for the period 1973-2006. Furthermore, observed temperature variations in the Mediterranean basin are showing increasingly warm periods in recent years (e.g. 2003 and 2010), with an increase in heat wave intensity, number of heat wave events and length of the summer over the 1960-2006 time period. Throughout the region, there is a decreasing precipitation trend and water discharge with increasing salinity, indicating a new trend towards freshwater deficits. Moreover, changes in the sea level have been estimated using CIRCE projections, showing an increase due to the steric effect (thermal expansion of the sea) of approximately 12.5 to 15 cm by 2050. The proposed project calls for the improved availability of information on those stressors, at national and regional level, and for a sound vulnerability evaluation of the potential cumulative ecological and socio-economic effects on Mediterranean fisheries and biodiversity of climate change and of the introduction of non-indigenous species, including the preliminary identification of the vulnerable areas and priority sites for urgent mitigation and adaptation action. This will open the way to the creation of a regional/Mediterranean Sea adaptation strategy to cope with potential effects of climate change, and of non-indigenous species on fisheries and biodiversity, in synergy with the actions undertaken on climate change adaptation by the MedProgramme child projects under the Barcelona Convention and consistent with the targets and actions of the Post 2020 SAP-BIO on NIS prevention, monitoring and control. Lessons learned from best practices in supporting the resilience of fishers during the COVID-19 pandemic are foreseen to be incorporated into such a strategy, considering supporting the resilience and adaptive capacity of fishers in the face of future crises, such as the looming climate change crisis. Other indirect stressors that are known to be currently aggravating the situation include ocean noise pollution, acidification, microplastic and abandoned fishing gear. While the ongoing MedProgramme tackles head-on issues relating to marine pollution, the proposed project will be crucial to elaborate the aforesaid adaptation strategy for key Mediterranean fisheries whilst considering the consequences that other anthropogenic activities can have on fisheries conservation.

#### b.5 Limited coordinated and integrated programming

There are many programmes, projects and initiatives implemented and planned in the Mediterranean region. Some are sector specific while others are geographically focused but these are often limited in scope and informed by a silo approach. This silo approach to tackling issues relating to marine environment and living resources is known to lead to inefficient use of resources, lost opportunities, duplication and, in the worst-case scenario, conflicts. Where there is greater coordination of efforts at regional scale, as seen in the partnership between OSPAR and the NEAFC, implementation of proposed actions is more efficient and effective, including avoiding/minimizing conflicts. Over time, cooperation and collaboration has increased progressively among competent agencies with sectoral mandates over the Mediterranean Sea as well, especially between the GFCM and the Barcelona

Convention MAP. Greater impact and stronger outcomes can be expected if both agencies jointly programme actions so that each other's comparative advantages and mandates are capitalized upon and so that together the impact of their action is greater than operating independently. As the fisheries sector entail many different aspects, from environmental to social, a holistic approach is necessary; future work will be needed to effectively support bottom-up approaches and include the relevant stakeholders, both men and women, in the preparation and implementation processes to align with participatory approaches promoted for the sustainable management of fisheries.

## **b. The baseline scenario and any associated baseline Programs**

### **2.a Baseline scenario:**

In 2018 approximately 76 300 fishing vessels were operating in the Mediterranean region. Compared to 2016, the number of vessels in the regional fleet has remained relatively stable, however, the latest figures reveal that overall landings in the Mediterranean have increased by 273 percent. This increase, however, is recent. In the 1990s, annual landings of commercial fish species from the Mediterranean Sea exceeded 1,000,000 tons; since then landings declined to approximately 850,000 tons in 2016. In addition to the overall state of the major commercial living resources, although dire, have recently shown signs of improvement. This change can, in part, be linked to the adoption of two separate Ministerial Declarations in the context of the GFCM (one in 2017 for commercial stocks and one in 2018 for SSF, 2.b refers). Such renewed commitment has helped advance some initial positive fisheries-related trends across the region. Also, it has helped increase awareness of the problems afflicting the fishery sector in the broader context of an ecosystem-based management approach. Promoting this approach is a priority not only for the GFCM but also for the Barcelona Convention MAP, as underlined in the Post 2020 SAPBIO.

These two regional agencies have been working with Mediterranean countries to elaborate regional strategies and initiatives for many years. Thanks to the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding in 2012, they have been making strides towards a better understanding of their mutual mandates, exchanging information on their programmes of work and trying to avoid duplication or conflicts. Irrespective of their regional programmes, strategies and action plans, which each agency is successfully executing, there is rarely joint participation in common activities. Were the impacts of respective efforts by the GFCM and the MAP to be more closely aligned, there could be wider positive implications for the Mediterranean countries which, while calling for a greater collaboration between these agencies, have provided little guidance on how such collaboration should be operationalized. Arguably, there are two common priority areas of work that could facilitate integration between the work of GFCM and the MAP: the ecosystem approach, which is a pillar of the work of both agencies, and the TDA-SAP/NAP system, which can be linked to the blue economy.

It is worth recalling that in connection with past GEF interventions, Mediterranean countries have already addressed those baselines, agreeing on how to deal with environmental concerns through two separate SAPs under the Barcelona Convention Regional Sea (i.e. the SAP-MED and the SAP-BIO), which then led to the adoption of NAPs to move forward with the implementation on the ground. However, these interventions have not helped to bridge the gap between the sectoral mandates of the GFCM and the MAP which resulted in neither priority area having been fully capitalized on to integrate the work by these agencies. As a result, most recent NAPs updated by Mediterranean countries have prioritized measures aimed at achieving good environmental status in several areas, including commercial fisheries, against the background of ecosystem approach based ecological

objectives. Yet, issues relating to the sustainable management of fisheries have been left behind in the NAPs, although such management is essential to achieve good environmental status of marine habitats and the conservation of numerous emblematic species of the Mediterranean Sea.

There is currently a keen interest in maintaining Mediterranean fisheries sustainability and ensuring their profitability, as the economic output of the fishery sector is considerable, producing a total estimated annual revenue of over USD 3.4 billion. Whereas this figure is based on data collected on value at first sale (direct revenue), it is estimated that the wider economic impact of the fishery sector in the Mediterranean region, including the value of fisheries-dependent industries, is at least 2.6 times the value at first sale [1] or approximately USD 8.8 billion. Total employment onboard fishing vessels (part-time and full-time included) account for approximately 202 000 jobs in the Mediterranean in 2018. Compared to 2016, this indicates a relative stagnation, with only a slight increase of about one percent. It's important to note however, that this figure is considered an underestimate as it does not account for non-vessel based employment, such as work done in the pre- and post-harvest sectors and by gleaners and other shore-based activities dependent on fisheries which are estimated to employ almost 2.5 times as many people as those employed directly onboard vessels. Furthermore, fisheries provide jobs precisely where they are needed most, namely, in rural coastal communities where, on average, one in every 1000 residents is a fisher (although this can reach one in 100 residents in select countries). The importance of this sector for livelihoods, and the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic may have had an impact on fisheries-based livelihoods (official data are not yet available), underlines the need to improve socio-economic benefits in an equitable manner, for both men and women. Realizing that these social and economic benefits depend on a resilient environment of healthy habitats, together with equitable access to resources and services such as social protection, could build further momentum on combining the efforts by the GFCM and the MAP, incorporating for instance MAP's work on habitats into GFCM fisheries management at the regional and national levels.

Under the framework of the proposed project, the sectoral mandates of the GFCM and the MAP would be fully aligned to facilitate integration of work in the execution of regional level activities. This would make sure that biological and environmental considerations inform the socio-economic dimension of fisheries management while the socio-economic dimension of fisheries management is factored into biological and environmental conservation. Moreover, with a view to contribute also to the alignment of national policies relating to the protection of marine environment and the sustainable management of fisheries, the proposed project would pursue the development of a pilot NAP+ in at least one country, where the implementation of ecosystem-based conservation and management tools will be tested, as relevant to the implementation of the Post 2020 SAP-BIO. Such a pilot would be instrumental in fostering a more holistic environment-fisheries approach, mainstreaming GFCM/MAP regional mandates into a national blue economy strategy that, in the context of the pilot NAP+, could lead to new partnerships and facilitate broader transversal networks.

Montenegro, which is expected to pilot the anticipated NAP+ (output 4.3 refers), is a perfect candidate with its 293 km of coastline along the Adriatic Sea and its maritime zone extending up to 12 nautical miles offshore, covering an area of about 2,500 km<sup>2</sup> with a maximum depth of 1.233 m<sup>2</sup>. The diversity of geological formations, landscapes, climate and soils, as well as the position of Montenegro on the Balkan peninsula and Adriatic Sea, have created conditions to host biological diversity with very high values, making the country one of the biological 'hot-spots' of European and world's biodiversity. Montenegro developed its first National Biodiversity Strategy with the Action Plan for the period 2011-2015 in 2010 and updated it for the period 2016-2020 in 2015. Major areas for biodiversity include the area around Boka Kotorska Bay, which is an important spawning site and probably the best-studied area biologically, and has a number of rare species such as the mollusks *Tijsira orahoviciana* and *Mitra zonata*. A range of human activities reportedly threatens many of these species: pollution from land-based sources, such as discharges of excess nutrients and hazardous substances, marine litter, overfishing and degradation of critical habitats. Furthermore, the country's fishing sector was not spared the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic – particularly in light of its high reliance on foreign trade, which was impeded due to border closures – and, as such, it is now focusing efforts towards rebuilding the sector's resilience. These are among the key factors responsible for biodiversity loss, including fisheries. As much as other activities to be undertaken in the remit of the proposed project,

the pilot NAP+ in Montenegro can't happen without a proper integration of the work by the GFCM and the MAP.

As far as the other countries go, in Albania fishing activity takes place along the entire 380 km of coastline. However, fishing activity is mainly concentrated on the continental shelf, which on the Adriatic side in the north extends to 25 miles, but to only 2-4 miles on the side of the Ionian Sea. The fisheries sector in Albania represents a significant source of jobs in coastal and remote areas. The employment created through the fisheries sector is relatively low but jobs relating thereto are often located in areas of high unemployment and socio-economic needs. The sector has high growing potential to be exploited through formulation and adoption of appropriate policies sustained by efficient investments. Main threats identified thus far include poor enforcement, pollution of marine and coastal waters from urban and industrial waste, sewage, and chemicals used in agriculture, the impact of climate change, rising sea levels, changing ecosystems in lagoons, increased frequency and intensity of floods, introduction of alien and invasive species from warmer regions and a decrease in some marine and coastal populations of fish and invertebrates. Major areas for biodiversity protection include those in the Karaburun Sazan National Marine Park.

There are 20 major fishing ports along the 1 280 km coastline of Algeria. The continental shelf is approximately of 13 700 km<sup>2</sup> and the fishing zone is of about 95 000 km<sup>2</sup> wide. The total of recorded vessels operating in the country is estimated at more than 5 000 units, including some 600 trawlers and more than 1000 purse seiners. Marine capture production has remained quite stable between and is estimated at around 90000 tonnes annually. Major areas for marine biodiversity protection include the Banc des Kabyles Marine Reserve and the Habibas Islands.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has 13 km of coastline and a marine capture fisheries production of 5 tonnes a year.

The Lebanese coastline is 220 km long with a narrow continental shelf (less than 1 200 km<sup>2</sup> with up to 200 m depth), which rarely extends beyond an 8 km strip from the coast, except for North Lebanon. Lebanon's large hydrological network includes a dozen of rivers running through the coast, which consequently plays an important role in the quality of marine coastal waters. The Lebanese coast hosts 44 fishing ports and landing sites that harbor around 3 000 all-artisanal, small-scale fishing vessels. The fisheries of Lebanon are traditionally based on trammel nets, longlines and purse seine nets that capture roughly 3 000 - 3 500 tons annually. The political instability of the country seems to play a key role in disincentivizing investments in the sector. Most of the fishing nets used have small mesh sizes (less than the mandated 2x2 cm). The all-artisanal predominantly wooden fishing fleet (average length is 7 m) can only practice coastal fishing, due to its limited navigation and safety capabilities. This makes the fishing area practically contained within three nautical miles from the shoreline thus causing immense pressure on and overexploitation of the coastal fish stocks, catch, biodiversity and environment. Major areas for biodiversity protection include the Palm Islands Nature Reserve and the Tyre Coast Nature Reserve.

Although Libya has a Mediterranean coastline almost 2 000 km long, fishing tradition has not particularly developed in the Libyan society. Fishery production, however, has increased since the 1970s, until recent political turmoil, through extensive public investments in ports and onshore infrastructure and services. Initiatives were also taken to strengthen administrative, technical, and research agency support for the sector. Scarcely official data are available for Libya. The estimated capture fisheries is around 32 000 tonnes from a total of 4 500 vessels roughly, almost all under 24 meters length overall.

Fisheries constitute an economic sector of primary importance in Morocco, with capture fisheries production at around 1.4 million tonnes in 2017, with the bulk harvested from the Atlantic side. The fishing sector provides direct employment to more than 100.000 people and the national fleet totals almost 20.000 vessels, of which 90 percent are less than 12 meters long. Major areas for biodiversity protection on the Mediterranean side include the Al-Hoceima National Park.

The coastline of Tunisia covers about 1 300 km along the Mediterranean Sea. Most of the Tunisian population lives along the coast and many coastal communities have a strong tradition of fishing. The continental shelf covers 80 000 km<sup>2</sup> and includes a number of islands. The Gulf of Gabès in the south of the country is a particularly rich fishing area. There are ten fishing ports where industrial vessels can be based, 23 coastal ports and 8 landing area for artisanal fishing boats. Total capture production has been increasing in recent years reaching exceeding the 100000 tonnes a year. A total of more than 13 000 vessels are engaged in fishing, more than half of which are not motorized. Major areas for marine biodiversity protection include the La Galite Archipelago the Kneiss Islands and the Zembra and Zembretta National Park.

Turkey has 82333 km of coastline on the Black Sea, the Aegean Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, the Sea of Marmara, the Bosphorus and Dardanelles. Most of the capture fisheries production comes from the Black Sea and is highly influenced by fluctuating anchovy catches. The total estimate of national fishing vessels reported in national statistics is around 18000 vessels, of which approximately 70percent are under 5 GT. Threats to the sector are over-fishing, fleet overcapacity, poor environmental planning, and unregulated fishing. Opportunities for increasing production in a sustainable manner are sought in the promotion of co-management schemes, stock assessment, monitoring control and surveillance, increased market access for Turkish fisheries products into the European Union, and the development of recreational fisheries.

The baseline scenario described above is embedded in the theory of change under Section 3 and is sufficiently robust to support the incremental reasoning of the expected GEF intervention, set to be the first ever promoting a concerted approach between a RFMO and a RSC. In this regard, the proposed project will leverage the outcomes of the associated baseline projects, as listed below, catalyzing transformational change.

## **2.b Associated baseline projects:**

### GFCM related projects:

As the FAO since its creation has established various regional fisheries management organizations worldwide, the GFCM, being the organization mandated to manage Mediterranean fisheries, enjoys significant functional and operational autonomy in the framework of the FAO. It is not funded through the FAO regular budget and, according to FAO financial rules, it is managed as a project via a separate budget, autonomous from that of the FAO, currently totaling roughly USD 8 million, two of which representing the operational costs of the Commission paid by the annual contributions of the 23 Member States. The rest of the budget comes from projects executed by the GFCM in connection with ad hoc financial contributions from countries and organizations. While being regional in scope, the GFCM focuses considerably on harmonizing national measures and policies in its Member States on fisheries via the management measures it adopts, including for the Mediterranean basin. The GFCM also plays an important coordinating role to make sure that different interventions, as relevant to Mediterranean fisheries both at national and regional level, can be conceived of as concerted actions. As already indicated, the GFCM has recently heralded the adoption of a ministerial declaration by Mediterranean littoral States, the so-called MedFish4Ever Declaration towards the sustainability of fisheries, [7] which renewed their political commitment to work together in the remit of the GFCM to reach different targets relating to the rational management of fisheries, the fight against IUU fishing, the conservation of their ecosystems and the building of national capacity. The MedFish4Ever Declaration was supplemented by another declaration, also adopted by the competent Ministries in the countries, to promote sustainable SSF via a wide-ranging regional plan of action. [8] Together these two declarations provide the political buy-in require to induce the transformational change that a GEF intervention focusing on Mediterranean Sea fisheries can contribute to attain.

### MAP related projects:

In addition to the aforementioned GEF funded MedProgramme (GEF ID 9607, 2020-2024), which includes seven child projects working on:

1. Reducing Pollution from Harmful Chemicals and Wastes
2. Pollution Hot Spots Investment Project.
3. Water Security, Climate Resilience and Habitat Protection in Coastal Zones
4. Managing the Water-Energy-Food and Ecosystems Nexus in Coastal Zones
5. Enhancing regional climate change adaptation in the Marine and Coastal Areas.
6. Management Support and Expansion of Marine Protected Areas in Libya.
7. Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Environment and Climate Support

and are all supported by a common Knowledge Management Strategy and a common Gender Mainstreaming Strategy which will be also utilized as a baseline to develop the FishEBM Med Knowledge Management and Gender Mainstreaming Action Plans. Furthermore, the MAP is executing/executed several projects in the Mediterranean region. These interventions, aiming to the achievement of the Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea, are supported by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and by several donors, mainly the GEF and the European Union (EU). The partnership between the GEF and the MAP delivered several strategic products between 1997 and 2016, among them: 1) the Mediterranean Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA, 2005); 2) the Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land-Based Activities (SAP-MED); and 3) the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity (SAP-BIO) and the Mediterranean National Actions Plans (NAPs). In its later stage, between 2009 to 2016, this process was supported by two GEF investments, the "Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem" MedPartnership (GEF ID 2600 ? US\$ 12,891,000, 2009-2015) and the "Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to Implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean" ClimVar&ICZM (GEF ID 3990 ? US\$ 2,298,545, 2012 - 2015). The two projects fostered a coordinated effort to setup and catalyze the policy, and legal and institutional reforms necessary to reverse the degradation trends affecting the Mediterranean LME and set the base for the development of the MedProgramme including its fishery dimension represented by the current proposed Project. Ad hoc support has been secured in relation to the ecosystem approach (EcAp) strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources through the EcAp MED I and II projects, which that promote conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. The EcAp MED I (2012-2015) and II (2015-2019) projects, funded with a total of approximately US\$ 4,000,000, achieved many objectives including the development of national integrated monitoring programmes in line with the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP), the MAP framework for developing marine and coastal environment monitoring and assessment capacities at national and regional level. IMAP is based on the definition of Good Environmental Status, it encompasses 11 Ecological Objectives and related targets and indicators covering pollution and marine litter, biodiversity, fisheries, non-indigenous species, coastal ecosystems, and hydrography. The EcAp MED III project (funded for the period 2020-2023 with an overall budget of USD 2,494,790) aims to further assist the Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia) to implement the IMAP. The project "Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in the Adriatic Sea through Marine Spatial Planning" (GEF Adriatic, 2017-2019), a 1,817,900 USD project funded by the GEF and implemented in the period 2017-2021 by MAP in Albania and Montenegro, also contributed to develop national monitoring capacities in line with IMAP requirements. The project "Towards achieving the Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean

Sea and coast through an ecologically representative and efficiently managed and monitored network of Marine Protected Areas? (IMAP-MPA, 2019-2023), with an overall budget of 4 million euros is contributing to the achievement of Good Environmental Status (GES) in the Mediterranean Sea and coast through the consolidation of the ecosystem approach for MPA management and the strengthening and further development of the Mediterranean network of MPAs together with the improvement of national biodiversity-related governance frameworks and policies.

MAP and GFCM are actively collaborating on linking fisheries information to other data on the basis of the IMAP approach thus enriching the collection of information for ecosystem based management in the context of marine spatial planning. In addition the Barcelona Convention and MAP system is developing several activities related to the implementation of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (SPA/BD Protocol) in the Mediterranean. Particularly relevant to the proposed project, is the recently launched the 'Post-2020 SAP BIO' process (Decision IG.24/7, Barcelona Convention COP 21, Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019), to align the SAP with the Sustainable Development Goals, harmonized with the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework through the optic of the Mediterranean context.

#### FAO related projects:

FAO currently runs several projects in the Mediterranean region aiming at integrating the role of fisheries and aquaculture in blue economy policies, including, the Blue Hope project (concluding in 2021), focusing on Algeria, Tunisia and Turkey, and several technical cooperation projects at the country level of varying budgets. FAO also has global projects that include activities in the project area. These include, for example, the 'Creating an enabling environment for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries' project, funded by the Sida and supporting SSF Guidelines implementation, and the Social Protection for Fisheries and Aquaculture (SocPro4Fish) project.

#### LIFE Programme:

LIFE is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action created in 1992. The current funding period 2014-2020 has a budget of EUR 3.4 billion. Its objective is to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental and climate policy and legislation by co-financing projects with European added value. LIFE co-finances projects in the environmental sector in particular in the areas of air, chemicals, green and circular economy, industrial accidents, marine and coastal management, noise, soil, waste, water, and the urban environment. The programme provides action grants for pilot and demonstration projects to develop, test and demonstrate policy or management approaches. It also covers the development and demonstration of innovative technologies, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of EU environmental policy and law, as well as best practices and solutions. In this remit, the project LIFE ELIFE (Elasmobranchs Low-Impact Fishing Experience) was launched in October 2019, totaling a 3,360,445.00 EUR budget, with a view to improve the conservation of elasmobranch species (sharks and rays) which have been under growing pressure by promoting best conservation practices in the Mediterranean Sea, including in bottom trawl and longline fisheries.

#### Conservation International related projects:

Under the GEF IW focal area the 'Long-term Financial Mechanism to Enhance Mediterranean MPA Management Effectiveness' pursued the establishment of a Conservation Trust Fund to enhance the management effectiveness of Mediterranean MPAs through improving their long-term financial

sustainability in the following pilot countries: Albania, Morocco and Tunisia. The GEF Project Financing amounted to USD 908,275 and was executed by the Association for Sustainable Financing of Mediterranean MPAs (M2PA). A second implementation phase is about to commence through the CI implemented project titled "Build back a blue and stronger Mediterranean" (GEF ID 10685), which is implemented across Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon, Montenegro, and which might offer valuable synergies with FishEBM Med, including specific to Montenegro.

#### World Bank related projects:

Among the projects implemented by the World Bank in the Mediterranean region the following are worth mentioning: 1) Adriatic Sea Environmental Pollution Control Project (I) and 2) MED Integrated Coastal Zone Management-Mediterranean Coast. These projects have been implemented mainly at the country level. In addition, a loan agreement between Montenegro and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (Institutional Development and Agriculture Strengthening Project, "MIDAS-2") was signed in 2018, amounting to roughly USD 35 million. The MIDAS-2 project includes four components, one of which being the modernization of the fisheries sector of Montenegro, aiming to finance public sector investment to enhancing the productive capacity of the sector with investments in basic infrastructure and equipment and providing fishermen with regulated safe, and sanitary landing facilities and access to port.

The WB MENA Blue Economy and Coastal Management Project supports the transition to a more sustainable marine economy in the region. It aims to strengthen countries' capacity to develop blue economy growth opportunities and climate-resilient coastal investments at national and regional levels. Under the Project, the World Bank helps countries identify causes for the degradation of the marine and coastal ecosystems and develop effective strategies and policy options. Among other actions, the Project helps the Government apply natural capital accounting methodologies and develop capacity for integrated marine and coastal planning and it helps countries make the blue economy a foundation for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. In Tunisia, the World Bank works with the Government to take stock and assess the status of the blue sectors to drive a blue recovery. In Morocco, it supports the Government to examine the impact of the pandemic on the fisheries sector and in this respect it has recently published "[Diagnosis of the Vulnerability and Impact of Covid-19 on the Moroccan Fisheries Sector](#)". These country experiences and lessons learned are part of the Project regional knowledge sharing activities and will contribute through webpages, webinar, blogs, social media and other communication channels, to wide uptake of Blue Economy approaches throughout the region.

The WB MENA Blue Skies Blue Seas Project, contributes to the region's blue economy efforts by providing information on the state of the environment for the marine and coastal areas in the region with a focus on marine plastics and coastal erosion. It looks at the impacts of pollution on the public and on sustainable, inclusive and resilient development in the region. The Project will provide policy choices to address these pollution issues.

#### MAVA Foundation related projects:

Created in 1994, this foundation has become a champion of global conservation with a broad approach embracing sustainable economy, green finance and responsible resources. MAVA has been supporting in particular projects in the Mediterranean region focusing on freshwater, coastal and island wetlands, seagrass, high trophic level fish, cultural landscapes and priority commercial species in order to make

fishing more sustainable by limiting impacts on stocks and habitats. In 2018, the total amount of MAVA funded projects in the Mediterranean region was roughly EUR 3.8 million. Moving towards ending grant-making in 2022, MAVA is putting greater emphasis on funding project portfolios ? delivered by groups of partners working together, and collaboratively funded by donor consortia.

#### International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) related projects:

The CIHEAM is a Mediterranean intergovernmental organization composed of 13 Member States (Albania, Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey) established in 1962, which operates through four separate institutes. As a key player in multilateral cooperation in the fields of sustainable agriculture and fisheries, food systems, coastal and rural development, its mission revolves around various objectives which it strives to achieve vocational activities, networked research, cooperation and political dialogue. The CIHEAM acts as implementing agency for several project, of relevance to the baseline scenario. For instance, the ongoing MedAID project (Mediterranean Aquaculture Integrated Development) aims at increasing the overall competitiveness and sustainability of the Mediterranean marine fish-farming sector, throughout the whole value chain and is worth EUR 7 million. The expected GEF intervention will allow the proposed project to take stock of and build on lessons learnt so far and further the results of projects executed or ongoing in the Mediterranean region, as relevant to the sustainable management of fisheries. It will also take advantage of the formal framework of cooperation between the GFCM and the MAP, thereby concretely operationalizing their memorandum of understanding and complementing respective efforts deployed by both. The proposed project is also expected to rely on country support as well as that of relevant partner organizations. A more detailed mapping of associated baseline projects will be carried out during the PPG phase.

#### Bilateral country projects:

A number of bilateral projects are also funded by the national development cooperation agencies of France and Italy in the field of sustainable socio-economic development of marine ecosystem dependent coastal communities in different GEF eligible Mediterranean countries (WATERMEDYN - La jeunesse et l'innovation pour une gestion durable des eaux et des ressources marines in Tunisia, Libya and Egypt; ADAPT?ACTION on the impact of climate change on food security; BLUE ADAPT on the possible commercial valorisation of NIS).

### **c. The proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project**

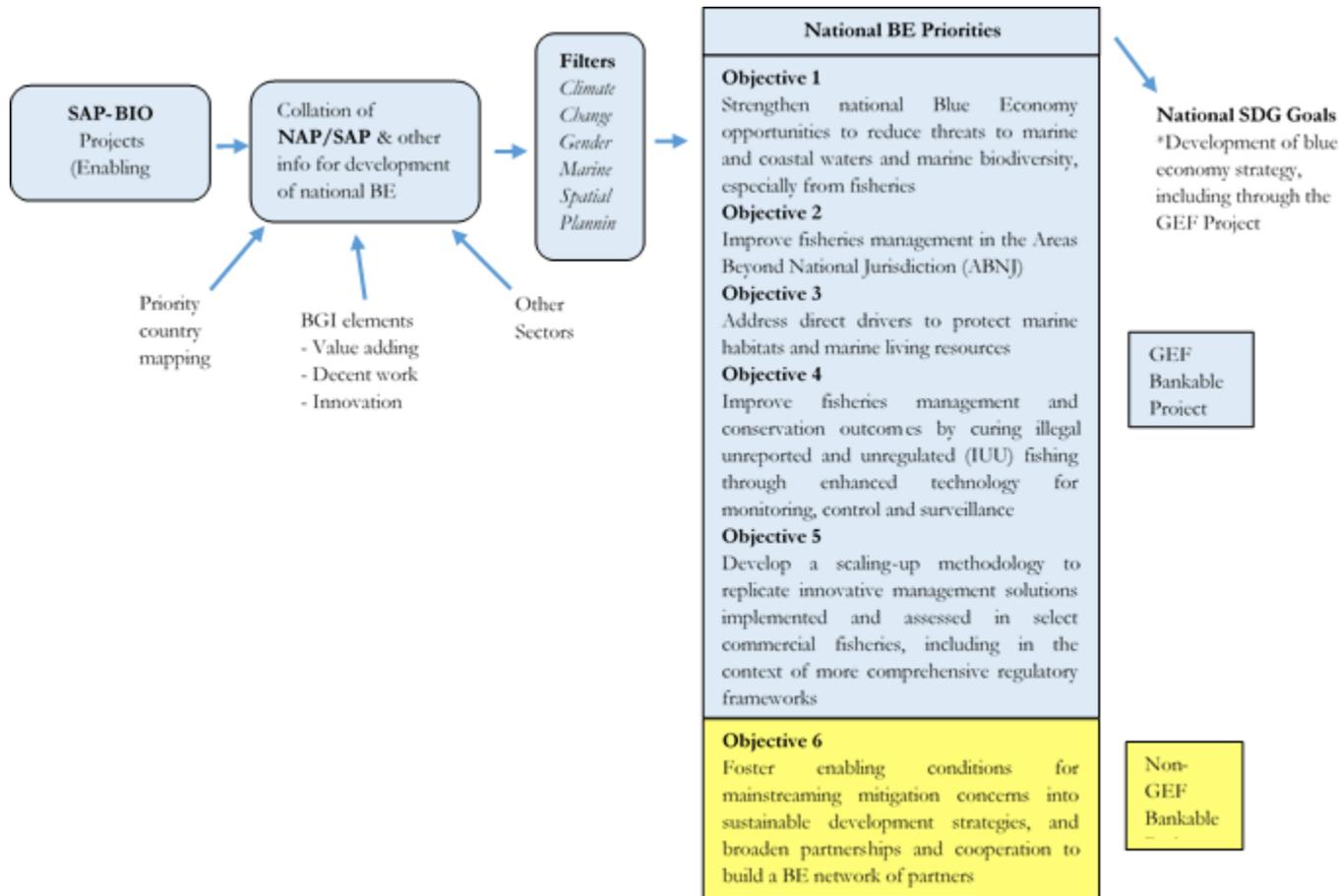
#### **3.a The proposed alternative scenario:**

The problem that the proposed project seeks to address, as outlined under section 1), including its root causes and barriers, is the overexploitation of Mediterranean fisheries. In this regard, as already hinted at, the vicious circle between lack of capacity at country level and the depletion of living marine resources will have eventually to be broken and the executing agencies can significantly contribute to

this process by meeting the targets under the three core indicators being addressed (Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation, sustainable use and globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels and number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment). The thrust of the proposed project is to overcome this problem at the regional level in close coordination with the countries by reversing the trend in the loss of marine biodiversity.

Previous GEF interventions in the Mediterranean Sea have been pivotal to support the TDA and its SAP-BIO under the Barcelona Convention but, as previously explained, and though some fisheries related issues were clearly identified, the support to invest in the fishery sector could not be fully seized thus far. This has resulted in not adequately taking into account fisheries in the context of respective NAPs developed. Such a gap would be addressed by the proposed project which would leverage the results expected from the execution of activities regional in scope under components 1, 2 and 3, to finally integrate fisheries into the NAP+ to be piloted in one country, [9] building upon the ongoing cooperation between the GFCM and the MAP and against the background of the MedProgramme. With a view to mainstream the increased sustainability and profitability of fisheries - expected to be delivered by the proposed project via its regional activities - into a blue economy strategy, the pilot NAP+ would pursue selected objectives. At the PIF stage, six of such objectives have been identified (diagram in Box 1 refers) as relating to the relevant regional activities. They stem from national blue economy priorities yet to be adequately addressed in the NAP context, consistent with previous findings in the MAP SAP-BIO as well as with GFCM policies on fisheries and aquaculture. Progress expected in the execution of regional activities under the different components of the proposed project will therefore inform the integration into the NAP of the interrelated identified objectives. [10] As a result, the NAP+ would bring about the enhanced contribution by sustainable and profitable fisheries at the regional level to a national blue economy strategy. This is where the experience garnered thus far by the MAP with the elaboration of NAPs would correlate to the work expected from the GFCM in steering the piloting the NAP+ in connection with regional activities on fisheries under the proposed project. Consistent with the memorandum of understanding in place, lessons learnt from this RSC would be therefore capitalized upon by its counterpart RFMO.

**Box 1 - Framework for NAP+ (potential national blue economy strategy)**

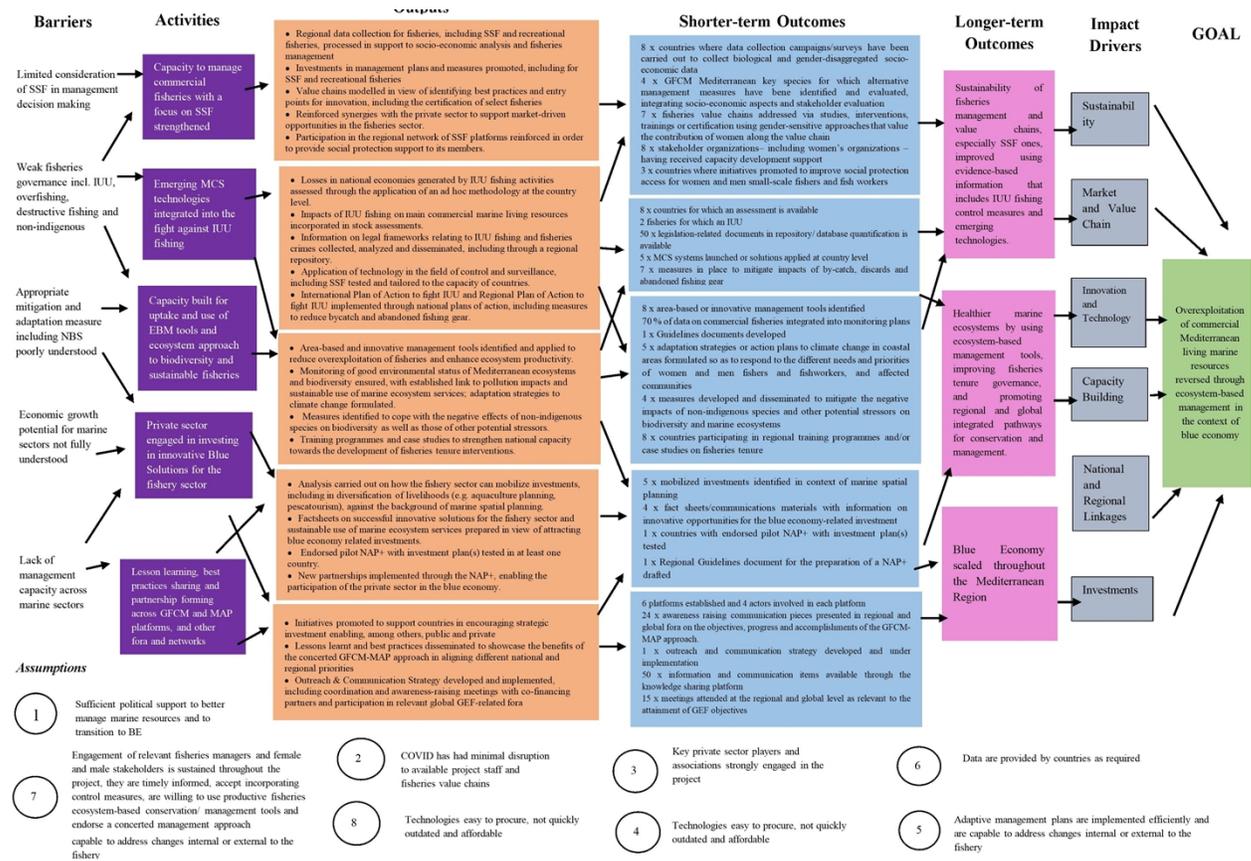


The experience stemming from correlating the national activities, as captured in the NAP+, and the multi-country activities of the proposed project is expected to facilitate the replication of best practices in other GEF Mediterranean eligible countries and the consequent scaling up of methodologies needed to catalyze transformational change, thanks to the positive influence of the GFCM-MAP partnership (component 5).

The transformational change to resilient, productive and sustainable fisheries affected by various adverse impacts, will impact on the vicious circle described above by bringing about more focus on the development of value chains, controls, management plans and other tangible measures that have the potential to mobilize investments and break the cycle of dependence from external support, that is still prominent at the national level in the GEF eligible Mediterranean countries. This calls for an execution of the project driven by the GFCM and the MAP under the alternative scenario because the lack of capacity at the country level to properly oversee implementation of foreseen activities would greatly hamper transformational change. With that said, as previously mentioned, the long-term objective would be to build sufficient national capacity to facilitate ever-increasing autonomy at the national level and eventually break the cycle of dependency. Under the proposed alternative scenario, it will be possible to fully understand the economic potential of the Mediterranean fishery sector and to dwell upon an improved knowledge of the social relevance of fisheries. This will unlock public and private investments so that the intervention by the GEF will accelerate progress towards the long-term objective of autonomy at the country level.

The proposed project enshrines the main elements of FAO's Blue Transformation Initiative, namely value addition, decent work and innovation, which aim to maximize economic and social benefits, and minimize environmental degradation across sectors related to fisheries and aquaculture. It is worth recalling that this initiative stems from the concept of blue economy as it is centered on the pillars of sustainable development: environmental, economic, and social. It is arguably more focused on sustainably developing fisheries and aquaculture and differs from a business as usual approach in these sectors because it prioritized social and economic benefits rather than single-user interests. Under the proposed alternative scenario, the proposed project will adhere to the FAO's Blue Transformation Initiative as it emphasizes the need for growth in the GEF eligible Mediterranean countries particularly in the fishery sector. From the GEF perspective, following the inclusion of the blue economy in the Programming Directing for the 7th Cycle, this can be regarded as a framework that encourages investment in the management of marine living resources and fosters a strategy based on a blue economy approach, encompassing private and public interventions while capturing the specificities of the fishery sector.

The logical framework of the proposed project is rooted in the Theory of Change diagram available below and in as separate PDF file in the Roadmap section of the Portal. Its design assumes that by addressing priority concerns on the management of commercial fisheries their overexploitation will decline thanks to systematic implementation of management measures. This Theory of Change reflects lessons learned from the MedProgramme and prioritizes investments in the fishery sector where the GEF eligible Mediterranean countries need a transformational change. The underlying rationale of the Theory of Change of the proposed project is that the coastal populations along the southern and eastern Mediterranean shores will benefit from improved sustainable fisheries, more stable livelihoods, enhanced capacity, gender equality, an environment-fisheries mutually supportive relationship and enhanced adaptation to climatic change and variability.



ToC ? the proposed alternative scenario

### **3.b Brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project:**

#### **Component 1. Strengthened capacity to manage commercial fisheries, with particular focus on SSF**

The outcome of this component is to deliver robust and timely information on the status of key commercial fisheries supporting selected value chain interventions, particularly for SSF, in view of maximizing productivity while ensuring sustainability and reinforcing positive synergies with other economic activities in coastal areas. This component is expected to reverse the declining trend of key commercial fish stocks at the regional level through a series of interlinked activities starting from an enhanced regional data collection for fisheries in order to provide a solid basis to inform the scientific advice produced by the GFCM, including socio-economic considerations, towards the formulation and implementation of adaptive management plans (output 1.1). Through this output gender disaggregated socio-economic data will be collected along the value chain, capturing also the often invisible contribution of women to the fisheries sector, and fishery-independent information will be enhanced while also increasing the capabilities of eligible countries and with the aim of including SSF and recreational fisheries information in the assessment of the status of priority stocks (output 1.1). This information will feed into the evaluation of alternative management measures, especially in data-limited situations, towards the formulation of adaptive management plans (output 1.2) in line with the priorities identified by GFCM scientific bodies and in particular aiming to improve knowledge and advice on those species of relevance to coastal fisheries. The engagement of stakeholders in the process will be a key contribution of component 1 which, on one hand foresees the involvement of multiple stakeholders, including women associations, in the determination of management priorities and on the other, seeks to empower stakeholders by providing detailed feedback on the scientific work performed at the basis of same management plans, including towards fostering enabling conditions towards co-management scenarios.

These outputs will ultimately enable the assessment of the socio-economic contribution of fisheries to the regional economy and, most notably, that of participating GEF-eligible Mediterranean countries as the component will focus for the first time on integrating information on the approximately 200,000 tonnes of fish caught annually by SSF, upon which approximately 134,300 small-scale fishers in the region rely directly for their livelihoods, into an all-encompassing fisheries management framework. By supporting such regional rational fisheries management, not only those working onboard small-scale fishing vessels will benefit directly, but significant benefits will also reach the wider coastal communities in the region, including those whose livelihoods rely on the small-scale fishing industry (estimated to be at least double those employed directly onboard vessels). The component will also enhance the productivity and competitiveness of fisheries value chains by integrating enhanced regional value chain knowledge to help promote economies of scale and ensure that economic improvements go hand in hand with environmental sustainability, and social inclusiveness, including gender mainstreaming. Such regional value chain work will seek to identify new opportunities and markets at the regional level and, in consultation with local stakeholder groups, spur concerted value chain interventions at the local level. These interventions will seek to, for example, remove barriers for small-scale fishers in the southern and eastern Mediterranean to access northern Mediterranean market (e.g. promoting regional cooperatives for collective sales, ensuring compliance with sanitary and cold chain requirements, etc.), facilitating legal frameworks for the export/import of certain species (e.g. the invasive species of blue crab), or others. In this regard, outputs 1.3 and 1.4 will target select value chains that concern GEF eligible Mediterranean countries to maximize economic returns and social benefits, while minimizing detrimental effects on natural habitats and aquatic resources. Special attention will be paid to small and medium-sized businesses, because of their potential to deliver economic and social benefits, particularly those for women and youth. This could include participatory identification of alternative and complementary income generating activities, in or outside the fisheries sector itself. Efforts will be made to model local fisheries value chains, in consultation with local stakeholder groups in view of identifying entry points for innovation and best-practices to be scaled-up.

These best practices may include promoting direct sales, raising consumer awareness about local SSF products and promoting enhanced market access by implementing certification schemes, improving traceability and reinforcing the cold chain through improved onboard storage and catch preservation techniques. Efforts will also be made to strengthen SSF producer organizations in order to enhance their bargaining power vis-à-vis potential buyers and input suppliers and to reinforce social protection systems in view of addressing the risks and vulnerabilities associated with SSF, including via access to microfinancing. Output 1.5 will tackle these efforts by conducting a complete mapping of stakeholder organizations at the local level, in view of reinforcing existing networks of SSF stakeholders. Overall, component 1 will be complemented by interventions at the national level in the GEF eligible Mediterranean countries, with a view to address the main barriers identified under section 1) and its specific outputs will focus in particular on building the capacity of relevant stakeholders at the national and regional levels to address these barriers.

#### Planned Activities under Component 1

Output 1.1: Regional data collection for fisheries, including SSF and recreational fisheries, processed in support to socio-economic analysis and fisheries management.

##### ACTIVITIES:

- Data collection along the value chain, including to capture the socio-economic contribution of non-vessel based fisheries, particularly the role of women, to the fishing sector (e.g. pre-/post-harvest work, gleaners, etc.), including:
  - o Carrying out data collection in eligible countries
  - o Providing training and awareness raising for stakeholders participating in data collection on how socioeconomic data is used and report on results
  - o Carry out training (ToT) on a gender-sensitive approach
- Implement demersal and pelagic surveys at sea in relevant countries, including exploratory surveys

Output 1.2: Investments in management plans and measures promoted, including for SSF and recreational fisheries

##### ACTIVITIES:

- Identify a list of priority coastal species (including those of particular interest to fish workers and women fishers) for data collection (including from all fleets involved), assessment and identification of potential management measures/approaches (including co-management)
- Develop a framework for the identification and evaluation of potential alternative management measures for GFCM Mediterranean key fisheries in a data poor context, integrating socio-economic aspects and SSF peculiarities, based on stakeholder consultations to guide the subsequent management strategy evaluation as well as towards consolidating an adaptation strategy to cope with the effects of climate change
- Stakeholder meetings to provide feedback on SSF data collection, stock assessments and alternative management measures to concerned fishers / fish workers and managers and to integrate their knowledge into stock status reports
- Develop strategic guidance (regional / national level) for SSF co-management

- Promote research and investments in more selective / updated gear (in the context of management plans, research programmes on NIS, etc.), including assessing the feasibility (socio-economic aspects, investment potential, etc.) of such investments through the creation of a regional repository on bycatch mitigation measures, the implementation of targeted pilot studies and participatory studies

Output 1.3: Value chains modelled in view of identifying best practices and entry points for innovation, including the certification of select fisheries

ACTIVITIES:

- Identify and assess the feasibility of, and subsequently implement, select value chain interventions at the local level (particularly in connection with the objectives of Outputs 1.2 [management plans] and Output 1.4 [synergies with women's organizations], as well as with the use of new market species ? e.g. previously discarded or non-indigenous species)
- Organise trainings and exchanges between countries / locations on fish handling and product development combined with training on fish quality / sanitary requirements (use of ice etc.)
- Carry out a regional market study including consumer perceptions of SSF/local fish products and preferences
- Develop a framework for catch certification schemes and roll it out on select key fisheries in the Mediterranean

Output 1.4: Reinforced synergies with the private sector to support market-driven opportunities in the fisheries sector

ACTIVITIES:

- Map relevant stakeholder groups, particularly SSF producer organisations (including women's organizations) and fish processing/marketing companies
- Assess capacity development needs of selected SSF organisations (including a focus on women's organizations) and provide support accordingly
- Develop guidance and provide training workshops on key issues in line with identified needs

Output 1.5: Participation in the regional network of SSF platforms reinforced in order to provide social protection support to its members

ACTIVITIES:

- Carry out awareness raising activities on social protection and how it links to fisheries management, including by conducting studies on existing social protection systems in selected countries (using existing diagnostic tool)
- Provide support to strengthen the role of SSF platforms in facilitating access to social protection

## **Component 2. Enhanced integration of emerging monitoring, control and surveillance technologies in the fight against IUU fishing**

The outcome of this component will deliver the assessment of the quantity and magnitude of IUU fishing in the Mediterranean Sea and the responsiveness of existing control measures by fostering the use of emerging technologies for more effective fisheries management. Under this component, the proposed project will draft national plans of action for the fight against IUU fishing and evaluate losses generated by IUU fishing activities in national economies in GEF eligible Mediterranean countries participating in the project (output 2.1 refers). This will be furthered by the scientific assessment and quantification of IUU fishing in GEF eligible countries with the aim of incorporating such information in the stock assessments run by the GFCM. (output 2.2 refers). These activities will be complemented, under output 2.3 in the relevant Mediterranean countries, by the collection and analysis of information on existing studies on IUU related issues and fisheries crimes which will be made accessible through a user-friendly online repository, in view of identifying and filling the gaps in IUU fishing national legislation and providing technical assistance in this context. Having regard to the extent of IUU fishing, these outputs will not only focus on industrial fishing but also on SSF and recreational fishing, which require specific national legislation. The incidence of fisheries crime will be also considered as the proposed project will also shed light on the economic losses along fisheries value chains caused by fisheries crime, through partnerships with other organizations and entities. Output 2.4 will complement the scope of this component by testing and applying monitoring, control and surveillance technologies, to be tailored to the capacity of countries with a view to curb IUU fishing. Solutions will be identified and tested to address different situations in the GEF eligible Mediterranean countries, spanning from tags and gear sensors, to hybrid location transponders and drones. This will entail, among others, the development of human capacity at the national level since the reliance on technology to fight against IUU fishing has to improve. A participatory approach will create an environment conducive of learning where fishers will be directly involved so as to reduce the risk of conflicts over fish stocks. Interventions at the national level are therefore foreseen. In this regard, the component will rely, among others, on the involvement of the private sector, most notably the industry concerned with developing technology for monitoring, control and surveillance purposes. Under output 2.5, activities will revolve around developing national action plans consistent with the IPOA-IUU and the RPOA-IUU. Activities will also address the negative consequences of by-catch, discards and abandoned fishing gear in order to recommend appropriate measures by carrying out studies to identify illegal gears and test new gears in select local fishing communities.

### Planned Activities under Component 2

Output 2.1: Losses in national economies generated by IUU fishing activities assessed through the application of an ad hoc methodology at the country level.

#### ACTIVITIES:

- Drafting national plans of action for the fight against IUU fishing
- Trainings on the assessment of IUU fishing for national authorities
- Expert analysis and quantification, based on data collected at country level, of the extent of IUU fishing
  
- Establishment of expert working groups composed of national stakeholders in support to a national methodology for the regular assessment of IUU fishing

Output 2.2: Impacts of IUU fishing on main commercial marine living resources incorporated in stock assessments.

ACTIVITIES:

- Collect and collate information on existing studies and reports on IUU related issues in the Mediterranean and evaluate the current status of data holdings by GFCM on IUU-related issues
- Develop and implement a regional quantitative survey encompassing IUU related issues at the national level in relevant countries
- Create an IUU spatial risk assessment framework applicable to the whole Mediterranean and obtain an independent estimate of fishing vessel activity to determine the magnitude of IUU fishing

Output 2.3: Information on legal frameworks relating to IUU fishing and fisheries crimes collected, analysed and disseminated, including through a regional repository.

ACTIVITIES:

- Retrieve, collect and disseminate national legislation related to fisheries management in the context of an online Regional Repository (GFCM-Lex)
- Analyze areas of possible amendment of national legislation with the national authorities
- Technical assistance to national authorities for the drafting/amendment of national legislation in line with the GFCM recommendations
- Trainings for national authorities on national legislation, including preparation of awareness-raising material;
- Cooperation with UNODC towards the understanding of fisheries crime against the background of national legislation

Output 2.4: Application of technology in the field of control and surveillance, including small-scale fishing, tested and tailored to the capacity of countries.

ACTIVITIES:

- Streamline the identification and deployment of tracking devices (VMS, AIS, gear sensors etc.) in line with regional standards in place, while bearing in mind the specificities of respective national fleets and related priorities, including for SSF
- Piloting SaaS services to establish or upgrade national FIS with new functionalities to integrate and represent location data from solar / battery devices
- Facilitate the pilot of technology platforms to perform IUU risk analysis by leveraging digital processing of data in order to ease the planning of fisheries control activities
- Organisation of national and sub-regional technical trainings on MCS and related technologies addressing key personnel of relevant fisheries control institutions
- Support the exchange of control data among CPCs through their national control systems and FMCs in line with GFCM recommendations

- Support knowledge sharing on best practices related to MCS measures in the context of targeted field missions at the country level

Output 2.5: International Plan of action to fight IUU and Regional Plan of Action to fight IUU implemented through national plan of actions, including measures to reduce bycatch and abandoned fishing gear.

ACTIVITIES:

- Develop surveys to identify illegal gears used at the country level
- Facilitate the marking of fishing gears through national traceably systems for the monitoring of such gears
- Testing new fishing gear in selected areas and encourage buy-back programmes to replace illegal gears with new fishing gears in select local fishing communities
- Contribute to efforts to retrieve abandoned fishing gear by empowering local fishing communities through the provision of necessary equipment (e.g. shredders to dispose of such gears)
- Accelerate progress in the adoption of national plans of action for the fight against IUU fishing

**Component 3. Integrated ecosystem based management tools and ecosystem approach to biodiversity protection and sustainable fisheries**

The outcome of this component will deliver healthier and more resilient marine ecosystems with more sustainable and hence long term productive fisheries in place, through the synergistic application of ecosystem-based conservation/ management tools to improve tenure governance in fisheries (i.e. access rights to fishery resources and land ones for accessory activities). Building upon the ongoing partnership between the GFCM and the MAP, this component will facilitate the implementation of ecosystem-based management tools in the context of protection and sustainable use of living marine resources in the Mediterranean Sea. To this end, the identification of most appropriate area-based and innovative management tools on the basis of previous work by Barcelona Convention MAP, GFCM, FAO, UNEP, IMO and CBD ?including Fisheries Restricted Areas, OECMs, marine litter surveys, assessment of ocean noise impacts from fisheries and innovative selective fishing gear ? will lead to their application, particularly in the GEF eligible Mediterranean countries (output 3.1) with the aim of reducing overexploitation of fisheries and enhancing ecosystem productivity. Having regard to the relevance of the MAP instruments and tools, Post2020 SAP-BIO, Post-2020 Regional Strategy for marine and coastal protected areas (MCPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean, Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP), and pertinent SPA/BD Protocol Regional Action Plans to the proposed project, as well as of the previous work by the GFCM in supporting the MAP to monitor the good environmental status of Mediterranean ecosystems and biodiversity, output 3.2 will focus on the monitoring of said status, including improving national capacities for integrating commercial fisheries information, pollution impacts and sustainable use of marine ecosystem services into wider GES processes and on the development of adaptation strategies to climate change in coastal areas, which could have critical effects on Mediterranean fisheries (linking also with Output 1.2 to improve fisheries-related climate change information) and fisheries dependent coastal communities. By the same token, output 3.3. will focus on non-indigenous species and how they are reportedly impacting Mediterranean fisheries, biodiversity, human health, and ecosystem services, as well as linking to Output 1.3 to develop value chains for NIS targeted by commercial fisheries. Bearing in mind the environmental complexity of the Mediterranean Sea, this output would also provide an opportunity to address emerging potential stressors that are

detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity and thus are hampering the productivity of fisheries and the efficacy of area-based management tools. This is the case, among others, of solid wastes including lost and abandoned fishing gear (with relevant linkages to Output 2.5). Measures will be identified and disseminated in cooperation with the GEF eligible Mediterranean countries to cope with the negative effects of those stressors. The focus on area-based and innovative management tools, including those applied by the GFCM and the MAP, will be instrumental to strengthen the capacities of national planning authorities to use marine spaces, reduce overexploitation and enhance ecosystem productivity. Investments towards implementing area-based management tools into broader user frameworks will also link with work to support national capacity to strengthen fisheries tenure, taking a human rights-based approach that is instrumental for facilitating relevant users and local communities' capacity to engage in governance processes and to prompt their willingness to voluntarily engage in conservation behaviors (output 3.4 refers).

### Planned Activities under Component 3

Output 3.1: Area-based and innovative management tools identified and applied to reduce overexploitation of fisheries and enhance ecosystem productivity

#### ACTIVITIES:

- Develop a framework for the identification of priority areas, including network of essential fish habitats, for the establishment of potential new Fisheries Restricted Areas in the Mediterranean Sea
- Develop and implement innovative surveys to assess the status of the vulnerable benthic ecosystems (i.e. VME) protected by GFCM Fisheries Restricted Areas and/or to identify VMEs that might be protected by GFCM FRAs in relevant Countries
- Develop a toolbox of minimum management standards applicable to all Fishery Restricted Areas and compile a catalogue of protected/restricted areas as well as significant hotspots in the Mediterranean
  
- Collect socio-economic data, in accordance with the DCRF, in support of the identification of new GFCM Fisheries Restricted Areas
- Develop and implement pilot studies, including technical trials using innovative ?fishing for litter? gear, to collect information on the interaction between marine litter and fisheries in relevant countries, including technical trails
- Carry out surveys at sea to evaluate the noise emitted by bottom trawlers and its propagation on the sea bottom, particularly for sensitive habitats

Output 3.2: Monitoring of good environmental status of Mediterranean ecosystems and biodiversity ensured, with established link to pollution impacts and sustainable use of marine ecosystem services; adaptation strategies to climate change formulated

#### ACTIVITIES:

- Identify, under the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP), relations among the different

indicators covering pollution and marine litter, biodiversity, non-indigenous species, coastal ecosystems and fisheries and define the contribution to the Good Environmental Status of Mediterranean marine waters and marine ecosystem by commercial fisheries (Study)

- Compared analysis of the GFCM and the IMAP reporting frameworks to find out available data and required developments on the contribution to the Good Environmental Status of Mediterranean marine waters and marine ecosystem by data on commercial fisheries and incidentally caught vulnerable species according to the IMAP framework (Study)
- GAP analysis study within the beneficiary countries on available capacities for integrating data on commercial fisheries and incidentally caught vulnerable species in the Good Environmental Status of marine waters and marine ecosystem, in line with IMAP requirements.
- Guidelines document for the integration in national monitoring plans of the contribution to the Good Environmental Status of marine waters and marine ecosystem by commercial fisheries data and their relations with biodiversity, pollution, ecosystem services indicators
- Technical assistance actions to interested Partner Countries to improve capacities for integrating data on the contribution by commercial fisheries and incidentally caught vulnerable species, and their relations with biodiversity, pollution and ecosystem services, in the Good Environmental Status of marine waters and marine ecosystem according to the national IMAP framework in line with Post 2020 SAPBIO Action 26.
- Preparation of a regional document on the state of the art of national/local climate change adaptation strategies in coastal areas, bringing together previous and ongoing work to address particular issues affecting the commercial fisheries sector in the Mediterranean area with the ?Methodological guidelines for elaborating a financing plan for climate change adaptation in the coastal area? developed by the MedProgramme Child project SCCF and the Climagine method to build adaptation planning capacities.
- Organisation of a joint regional training workshop to introduce and support the utilization of the regional document, bringing together relevant experts from the fisheries and environment sectors
- National technical support actions for the formulation of national/local climate change adaptation strategies or action plans integrated with the Integrated Coastal Zone Management strategies and plans under development.

Output 3.3: Measures identified to cope with the negative effects of non-indigenous species on biodiversity well as those of other potential stressors

#### ACTIVITIES:

- Support West and Central Mediterranean and Adriatic Partner Countries to conduct baseline studies and design monitoring and assessment programmes for data collection on NIS/IAS (national lists of alien species, their habitats, introduction pathways) and their impacts on biodiversity, human health, and ecosystem services including fisheries, within the framework of IMAP (Guidelines document, technical training of trainers (regional)) in line with Post 2020 SAPBIO Action 5 and 6 and in coordination with the EcAp MED III project

- Technical support to Partner Countries to share data on NIS/IAS through the georeferenced online platform MAMIAS (manual, technical training (regional)) in line with Post 2020 SAPBIO Action 20
- Support to the identification and dissemination of appropriate measures for the reduction of new introductions and for eradication/control of NIS in priority sites (regional workshop, guidelines document) in line with Post 2020 SAPBIO Action 5 and 6
- Support for reducing discharge of solid wastes from fishing boats (guidelines document) in line with Post 2020 SAPBIO Action 7

Output 3.4: Training programmes and case studies to strengthen national capacity towards the development of fisheries tenure interventions

ACTIVITIES:

- Tenure workshop in the Mediterranean in coordination with FAO-NFI to share best practices in rights-based approaches to both fisheries resources and land-based resources necessary for fisheries activities

**Component 4. Innovative blue economy solutions accounting for the fishery sector**

The outcome of this component will deliver the identification of potential hurdles to blue economy at the country level by promoting a concerted approach, among relevant stakeholders, including women's associations, and setting the scene for public and private investments. Under output 4.1, an analysis will be conducted involving representatives of stakeholders familiar with both the GFCM and the MAP fora about the potential hurdles to blue economy and lead to elaborate concrete proposals and recommendations for public and private decision makers, including for taking the momentum of the COVID-19 recovery and establishing appropriate mechanisms and tools for reinforcing the socio-economic resilience of the fisheries sector, as well as for implementing more sustainable marine resources management and related habitat conservation methods and thus ensuring the productivity of at risk marine ecosystems and habitats and associated SSF. Output 4.2 will support select pilot actions to develop gender sensitive blue economy solutions for fisheries ? such as investment in NIS fisheries for both food production, but also blue economy purposes (e.g. medical and cosmetic uses), including further identification for investment potential. A database of key stakeholders to target for investment will also be elaborated. Taken together, the analysis and practical work carried out through outputs 4.1 and 4.2 will be shared with donors and potential private sector investors so as to prompt future investments in the fishery sector with a view to promote, among others, gender responsive diversification opportunities and will benefit from previous and ongoing work on marine spatial planning in the Mediterranean Sea, which was premised on the assumption that overall environmental security, sustainability of the livelihoods of growing coastal populations and their resilience would be improved by mainstreaming consideration of biodiversity resilience and adaptation into national plans. Also, this output will be linked to the new foresight MED 2050 study aiming at exploring possible futures based on knowledge of the Mediterranean in order to assist decision-makers in their task. The general outcomes from this output, will enable to frame the fishery sector within the blue economy and permit the elaboration of at least one pilot NAP+ plan in Montenegro building upon previous work by the MAP on updated NAPs [11], taking stock of national priorities consistent with regional actions, where the fishery sector would be a vector for investments, private and public (output 4.3 refers). The pilot NAP+ will be aligned with the goals and targets of the MAP Post-2020 SAPBIO and will entail the collection of data, where possible disaggregated by gender, related to potential competing access to resources, to impacts of climate change, of non-indigenous species, of incidental catches of vulnerable species, of pollution and other stressors on commercial fisheries, biodiversity and marine ecosystem services so as to support the elaboration of appropriate gender sensitive policy responses capable of

ensuring both the sustainable use of marine ecosystem services and future blue economy investments related thereto [12]. The NAP+ will be built upon the general principles of biodiversity protection and conservation indicated in the National Biodiversity Strategy with the Action Plan (NBSAP) of Montenegro, especially on the provisions related to marine ecosystems and will reflect its strategic targets especially the ones related to inter-sectoral cooperation, information management, illegal fisheries, invasive species and protected areas. The outcomes achieved through the NAP+ will also contribute to improved integration of fisheries and other economic activities in the future releases of the NBSAP. This tangible output, namely output 4.3, not only will contribute to test knowledge generated by the proposed project against a real-case scenario but will also facilitate the understanding of how regional actions carried out under the proposed project, including those under the previous two components, relate to national priorities relevant to a blue economy pathway and of what the role of the fishery sector can be (industrial, semi-industrial, small-scale, recreational), including but not limited to opportunities for diversification. The lessons learned from the tested pilot NAP+ and from the preparatory actions for the development of the NAP+ in other project partner countries will inform the elaboration of a Regional Guidelines document for the preparation of the NAP+ which will encourage and guide further replications of the NAP+ process in other Mediterranean countries and beyond. It is also foreseen that this component, via the tested pilot NAP+, will contribute to create new governance partnerships that enable the participation of the private sector, including women's associations and enterprises, in blue economy (output 4.4 refers), to be measured by the number of stakeholders involved disaggregated by gender, and of investments that will be generated.

#### Planned Activities under Component 4

Output 4.1: Analysis carried out on how the fishery sector can mobilize investments, including in diversification of livelihoods (e.g. aquaculture planning, pescatourism), against the background of marine spatial planning

##### ACTIVITIES:

- Collection and review (desk based) of information on previous and ongoing work to frame the fishery sector in the blue economy, including in the context of marine spatial planning in the Mediterranean Sea, based on consultation with regional stakeholders and experts

Output 4.2: Factsheets on successful innovative solutions for the fishery sector and sustainable use of marine ecosystem services prepared in view of attracting blue economy related investments

##### ACTIVITIES:

- Production of factsheet and other documentation material on the outcomes of the analysis at 4.1 and on innovative solutions for the fishery sector in a blue economy context
- Support to pilot actions, building on Blue Hope investment plans
- Development of a database of key stakeholders, including donors and potential private sector investors, as well as appropriate dissemination tools, to promote future investments via diversification opportunities for the fishery sector.

Output 4.3: Endorsed pilot NAP+ with investment plan(s) tested in at least one country

#### ACTIVITIES:

- Data collection and studies on the blue economy sectors potentialities and possible constraints, in Montenegro (on the basis of outcomes of 4.1) and other interested countries, including competing access to resources, impacts of climate change, non-indigenous species, incidental catches of vulnerable species, pollution and other stressors on marine fisheries, biodiversity and marine ecosystem services.
- National workshops for the identification of national blue economy priorities and issues at stake and the set-up of national working groups (see 4.4)
- Drafting of the NAP+ aligned with the Post 2020 SAPBIO goals and targets with investment plan in Montenegro
- Illustration of the NAP+ and investment plan to decision makers for endorsement in Montenegro
- Implementation of NAP+ pilot actions in Montenegro
- Drafting a Regional Guidelines document for the preparation of the NAP+
- Pilot utilisation of the Guidelines document for the preparation of the NAP+ in one or more interested country
- Support to preparatory actions to the development of NAP+ in one or more interested countries

Output 4.4: New partnerships implemented through the NAP+, enabling the participation of the private sector in blue economy

#### ACTIVITIES:

- Support to interested countries for the establishment of a national public-private blue economy partnership and for the preparation of a NAP+ including joint strategic

### **Component 5. Knowledge management and outscaling**

The outcome of this component will be instrumental to project implementation and results achievement (e.g. through the engagement of project stakeholders) and will deliver the scaling-up of effective integrated pathways conducive of conservation and sustainable management at the regional and global level.

FishEBM Med intends to create the conditions for generating gender sensitive innovative management solutions that can be tested, evaluated and outscaled (e.g. administrative and legal framework favourable to strategic investments, certification schemes, identification of value chain opportunities enhancing product added value versus its quantity, integration with other sectors, access to markets, storage and transport technologies, etc.) in order to set-out alternative integrated fisheries management models to improve economic investments and returns of the fisheries sector including socio-economic benefit and resilience of SSF while balancing the need to conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Under this component, a three-tier approach will be followed. First, having regard to both regional activities, outputs and lessons learnt via the pilot NAP+, the proposed project will identify best practices of transformational change (output 5.1 refers). Specific focus will be placed on active coordination at the national level involving co-financing partners and relevant initiatives, public and private partnerships and sources of mobilized investments. This will be supported by the establishment of national gender inclusive stakeholder platforms in interested countries (in line with the MAP Post-

2020 SAPBIO) and through the promotion of collaborative work, among stakeholders? groups, with a focus on the private sector and through the introduction of innovative and integrated gender sensitive fisheries management practices linked to tangible economic and financial advantages for fisheries operators via strategic public-private investment plans and partnerships.

The proposed project, which will advance public-private partnerships, will raise awareness in the GEF eligible Mediterranean countries on the need to bring about favorable administrative and legal frameworks, such as national laws, which would encourage greater investments in the fishery and other related sector by the private sector, including through its participation in partnerships. These practices will be then disseminated to showcase the benefits of the concerted GFCM-MAP approach in aligning different national and regional priorities (output 5.2 refers). The FAO, including via its Regional Fishery Bodies Secretariat Network, comprising roughly 50 of such bodies, will make specific efforts to inform other RFMOs about the benefits accrued by the GFCM through the proposed project. Similarly, MAP will use its dissemination channels, such as the yearly Global Annual Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans gathering 18 RSCs involving 146 countries, to share information on the benefits of this partnership approach. This would ultimately contribute to make other RFMOs and Regional Seas Conventions aware of the importance of fostering a mutually-supportive fisheries-marine environment relationship.

The expected outcomes outlined under the previous components will be underpinned by a gender responsive communication and outreach action plan that, consistent with GEF policies and standards, will empower global dissemination efforts to inform processes such as the LME and the IW conferences, both keen on demonstrating how synergies between environment and fisheries can be capitalized upon, including in economic terms (output 5.3 refers). The expected results will also be fully and continuously integrated within the MedProgramme Knowledge Management Strategy (KM Strategy) through an ad-hoc Knowledge Management Action Plan and disseminated through the MedProgramme knowledge sharing platform. This platform will include a project management tool and a portal populated with key information showcasing progress towards impact and the contribution of FishEBM-Med to global and regional environmental goals and to make available gender sensitive information and communication tools produced by the project.

This will contribute to raise regional and global awareness on the proposed project and its accomplishments. The proposed project could hence become the driver of transformational change, not only within the Mediterranean region, but also beyond, thanks in particular to the foreseen involvement in relevant IWLEARN activities.

#### Planned Activities under Component 5

Output 5.1: Initiatives promoted to support countries in encouraging strategic investment enabling, among others, public and private partnerships

#### ACTIVITIES:

- Promotion and support to outreach tools and initiatives for the establishment of national FishEBM Med/Post 2020 SAPBIO stakeholders platform in interested countries including public and private actors involved in the conservation and sustainable management of marine resources and ecosystems in view to develop national blue economy capacities and encourage participation in FishEBM-Med actions and joint investments (National stakeholder meetings, preparatory national studies, information management support and technical support to the SPA/RAC and GFCM NFPs)

Output 5.2: Lessons learnt, and best practices disseminated to showcase the benefits of the concerted GFCM-MAP approach in aligning different national and regional priorities

ACTIVITIES:

- Develop a framework to effectively collect information on the project progress, findings, achievements, experiences, good practices, success stories and lessons learned, including testimonies, audio-visual material and precise facts and figures
- Create content tailored to the various stakeholders in the region
- Identify, design and rollout ad hoc knowledge exchanges and trainings on selected topics to enhance the capacity of key regional stakeholders, addressing specific capacity building needs in relevant regional and global fora

Output 5.3: Outreach & communication strategy developed and implemented, including coordination and awareness-raising meetings with co-financing partners and participation in relevant global GEF-related fora

ACTIVITIES:

- Development and implementation of the FishEBM-Med Knowledge Management & Outreach & Communication Plan based on the MedProgramme Knowledge Management Strategy
- Develop a segmented database of key stakeholders in the region, identifying for each type the specific interests and most efficient channels of communication
- Establish a series of communication tools to ensure the dissemination of adequate content to relevant stakeholders.
- Establish and/or maintain partnerships with relevant actors within and outside the Mediterranean region, strengthening the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) and positively influencing decision-making.
- Coordination and awareness-raising meetings with co-financing partners and participation in relevant global GEF-related fora
- Adaptation and utilization of the knowledge sharing platform of the MedProgramme including:
  - An online project management tool
  - An outward-facing MedProgramme portal populated with key information showcasing progress towards impact and the contribution of FishEBM-Med to global and regional environmental goals and to make available information and communication tools produced by the project
  - A database to store raw/primary data collected/produced by the project with flexible restricted/public access
  - Visualization tools to display spatial and non-spatial data generated by the project
- Contribution to coordination and awareness-raising meetings with co-financing partners and participation in relevant global GEF related fora

- Engage with key stakeholders participating in IW:LEARN activities (including participation in the conferences and twinning, preparation of Experience Notes, relevant trainings and workshops among others) and other GEF relevant initiatives and events

#### **d. Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies**

The proposed project adopts an ecosystem approach to fisheries to tackle the barriers to sustainable management of Mediterranean fisheries (i.e. overfishing, IUU fishing and destructive fishing practices, vulnerability of coastal and small-scale fisheries communities, and climate change, biodiversity loss and marine pollution, including marine litter, and non-indigenous species) with a focus on promoting blue economy. It is fully aligned with the following GEF-7 Focal Areas and their objectives:

- ? IW Objective 1 ?Strengthening Blue Economy opportunities?;
- ? IW Objective 2 ?Improve management in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)?
- ? BD Objective 1 ?Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes?
- ? BD Objective 2 ?Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species?.

### **e. Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing**

GEFTF funds will provide incremental value across a range of proposed interventions to reduce the overexploitation of fisheries and enable GEF eligible Mediterranean countries to progress in breaking the cycle of dependency from external support, especially for SSF. The incremental cost reasoning of the proposed project is simple in that it will expand the scope of baseline projects, some of which are earmarked as sources of co-financing, and will assist GEF eligible Mediterranean countries to progress the transition from dependence to autonomy thanks to the GFCM and the MAP. By focusing on sustainable and profitable fisheries, the proposed project will highlight the importance of the conservation and sustainable use concepts including the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) ? at the biological, social, economic and environmental levels - and boost the level of cooperation needed to create the conditions for strategic investments, an area that has not been previously targeted by GEF interventions. The project may contribute to building back better in many countries since restoring stocks, reducing IUU fishing and improving ecosystems and their services will support job growth in marine sectors (e.g. fisheries, tourism and aquaculture) and along associated value chains. It is assumed

that in the absence of such a GEF intervention the status quo would not be adequately challenged and that under the business as usual scenario the future development of interventions to revert fisheries overexploitation in the Mediterranean Sea will lack the holistic vision advocated by GFCM's measures and exacerbate the deterioration of environmental, economic and social conditions in the fishery sector of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean. Deteriorating ecosystems and their services will challenge an effective transition to the Blue Economy where such services are the foundation of sustainable development of marine resources.

Significant co-financing has been mobilized for the proposed project, the details of which, including sources of the co-financing, the scope and contribution to the achievement of the project objective are cursorily described in section 2.b above, as well as in Part I, Section C. During the implementation phase this co-financing level is expected to increase further (e.g. thanks, among others, to foreseen private sector contributions) and possibly encompass additional contributions stemming from the projects described in section 2.b above, among others.

#### Component 1. Strengthened capacity to manage commercial fisheries, with particular focus on SSF

The GEF grant will deliver robust and timely information towards the determination of the status of key commercial fisheries supporting selected value chain interventions, including for SSF, in view of maximizing productivity and benefits while ensuring sustainability, supporting the sector's recovery from the crisis prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting sector and coastal community resilience in the face of future shocks (climate change, etc.) and reinforcing positive synergies with other economic activities, including COVID-19 recovery efforts, in coastal areas. The SSF Guidelines and the Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (RPOA-SSF), developed to address challenges and inequalities faced by the small-scale fisheries sector, will be among the instruments guiding the successful implementation of this component following a holistic approach, including with a socio-economic perspective. The project will support increased implementation of both tools for enhancing the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and sustainable livelihoods. This component is expected to reverse the declining trend of key commercial fish stocks at the regional level in order to ensure sustainable resources and secure dependent livelihoods and food security and contribute to the COVID recovery. Management plans will be introduced (output 1.2 refers) alongside possible socio-economic measures for the sector, in line with the priorities identified by the GFCM scientific bodies and based on data collected by countries which will be used to inform the formulation of scientific advice by the GFCM (output 1.1 refers). In line with the SSF Guidelines and the RPOA-SSF, the proposed management plans and measures will also be based on a participatory approach engaging stakeholders in the sector and will integrate fisher ecological knowledge to better address the need for innovative value chains, adequate social services, the recognition of the role of women, among others. These outputs will not only result in a more accurate assessment of the status of key fisheries from a biological point of view but will also allow an evaluation of the socio-economic contribution of fisheries to the regional economy and, most notably, that of GEF eligible Mediterranean countries as the component will focus in particular on the sector's COVID-19 recovery and its long-term sustainability, including of the approximately 200 000 tonnes of fish caught annually by SSF, upon which approximately 134 300 small-scale fishers in the region rely directly for their livelihoods.

Furthermore, through support to the regional rational fisheries management, including the better integration of ecosystem-based management and enhancing engagement of stakeholders in data collection and decision-making processes (including co-management), not only those working onboard small-scale fishing vessels will benefit directly, but significant benefits will also reach the wider coastal communities in the region, including those whose livelihoods rely on the small-scale fishing industry (estimated to be at least 2.5 times those employed directly onboard vessels).

The component will also enhance the productivity and competitiveness of fisheries value chains by improving regional value chain knowledge in promotion of economies of scale and to ensure that economic improvements go hand in hand with environmental sustainability and social inclusiveness. Such improved regional knowledge on value chains will seek to identify new opportunities and markets at the regional level by, for example, removing barriers for small-scale fishers in the southern and eastern Mediterranean to access northern Mediterranean market (e.g. promoting regional cooperatives for collective sales, ensuring compliance with sanitary and cold chain requirements, etc.), facilitating legal frameworks for the export/import of certain species (e.g. the invasive species of blue crab), or others. In this regard, outputs 1.3 and 1.4 will target select value chain interventions, in consultation with concerned stakeholders in participating GEF eligible Mediterranean countries to maximize economic returns and social benefits, while minimizing detrimental effects on natural habitats and aquatic resources. Special attention will be paid to small and medium-sized businesses, because of their potential to deliver economic and social benefits, particularly those for women and youth. Efforts will be made to analyze the selected fisheries value chains in view of assessing feasibility and identifying entry points for innovation and best-practices to be scaled-up. These best practices may include promoting direct sales, raising consumer awareness about local SSF products and promoting enhanced market access by implementing catch certification schemes, improving traceability and reinforcing the cold chain through improved onboard storage and catch preservation techniques. Efforts will also be made to strengthen SSF producer organizations in order to enhance their bargaining power vis-à-vis potential buyers and input suppliers and to reinforce social protection systems in view of addressing the risks and vulnerabilities associated with SSF. Output 1.5. will tackle these efforts and aim at reinforcing existing networks of SSF stakeholders. Component 1 will be complemented by interventions at the national level in the GEF eligible Mediterranean countries, with a view to address the main barriers identified under section 1) and its specific outputs will focus in particular on building the capacity of relevant stakeholders at the national and regional levels to address these barriers.

#### Component 2. Enhanced integration of emerging monitoring, control and surveillance technologies in the fight against IUU fishing

The proposed GEF project will deliver an assessment of the quantity and magnitude of IUU fishing in the Mediterranean Sea and the responsiveness of existing control measures by fostering the use of emerging technologies along with the capacity building for more effective fisheries management. Under this component the proposed project will draft national plans of action for the fight against IUU fishing and evaluate losses generated by IUU fishing activities in national economies by applying in the GEF eligible Mediterranean countries participating in the project (output 2.1 refers). This will be furthered by the scientific assessment and quantification of IUU fishing in GEF eligible countries with

the aim of incorporating such information in the stock assessments run by the GFCM (output 2.2 refers). These activities will be complemented by the collection, analysis and dissemination of information on legal frameworks in connection with measures to fight against IUU fishing and fisheries crimes, with activities under output 2.3 targeting in particular the GEF eligible Mediterranean countries. Having regard to the extent of IUU fishing, all outputs proposed will not only concern industrial fishing but also SSF and recreational fisheries, another sector where there is a need to strengthen national legislation and technical capacity of national authorities. The incidence of fisheries crime will be also considered and, through partnerships with other organizations and entities (UNODC), the proposed project will shed light on the economic losses caused by fisheries crime along fisheries value chains. Output 2.4 will complement the scope of this component by tailoring most appropriate control measures to the capacity of countries with a view to curb IUU fishing, including testing and applying various monitoring, control and surveillance technologies. Different solutions will be identified and tested for different situations in the GEF eligible Mediterranean countries, spanning from tags and gear sensors to hybrid location transponders and drones. Application of new technologies in the field of control and surveillance, including small-scale fishing, will entail, among others, the development of human capacity at the national level since the reliance on technology to fight against IUU fishing has to improve. A participatory approach will create an environment conducive of learning where fishers will be directly involved so as to reduce the risk of conflicts over fish stocks. Interventions at the national level are therefore foreseen. In this regard, the component will rely, among others, on the involvement of the private sector, most notably the industry concerned with developing technology for monitoring, control and surveillance purposes. Output 2.5 will enable to grasp the negative consequences of by-catch, discards and abandoned fishing gear which are also to be regarded as components of sound national plan of action to fight against IUU fishing, consistent with the IPOA-IUU and the RPOA-IUU.

### Component 3. Integrated ecosystem-based management tools and ecosystem approach to biodiversity protection and sustainable fisheries

The GEF grant will deliver healthier marine ecosystems with more productive fisheries in place, through the synergistic application of ecosystem-based conservation/ management tools to improve tenure governance in fisheries. Building upon the ongoing partnership between the GFCM and the MAP, this component will facilitate the implementation of ecosystem-based management tools in the context of protection and sustainable use of living marine resources of the Mediterranean Sea. To this end, the identification of most appropriate area-based and other innovative management tools ? including tools such as Fisheries Restricted Areas, OECMs, marine litter surveys, assessment of ocean noise impacts from fisheries and the application of innovative selective fishing gear ? will lead to their application, particularly in the GEF eligible Mediterranean countries (output 3.1). Having regard to the relevance of the Post- 2020 SAP-BIO to the proposed project, and previous work by the GFCM in supporting the MAP to set good environmental status for select commercial fisheries, and the activities of the ongoing project EcAp MED III which is aimed at supporting overall national implementation of IMAP in the Mediterranean region, Output 3.2 will focus on the development of national and regional capacities for integrating data on the contribution by commercial fisheries and incidentally caught vulnerable species, and their relations with biodiversity, pollution and ecosystem services, to pursue the Good Environmental Status of marine waters and marine ecosystem according to the IMAP framework and for the monitoring of said status. Output 3.2 will also contribute to make the state of the art of national/local climate change adaptation approaches, tools and strategies in Mediterranean coastal areas, bringing together previous and ongoing work by GFCM and MAP to address particular issues affecting fisheries dependent coastal communities and more in general, the commercial fisheries sector in the Mediterranean area, which could be critically impacted by the consequences of climate change. By the same token, output 3.3 will focus on developing national (in the Western and Central Mediterranean and Adriatic partner countries) and regional capacities for assessing and monitoring non-indigenous species and how they are reportedly impacting biodiversity, marine ecosystems services, including fisheries, within the IMAP information management framework in line with the

approach and methodology developed under the NIS related activities of the MAP EcAp MED III project and being already tested in the Eastern Mediterranean partner countries (Turkey, Lebanon, Egypt). This will also provide the opportunity for linking with Output 1.3 and to develop value chains for NIS targeted by commercial fisheries. Bearing in mind the environmental complexity of the Mediterranean Sea, this output would also provide an opportunity to address emerging potential stressors that are negatively impacting marine ecosystem services and hampering the productivity of fisheries and the efficacy of area-based and other innovative management tools. This is the case, among others, of solid waste including lost and abandoned fishing gear. Measures will be identified and disseminated in cooperation with the GEF eligible Mediterranean countries for the reduction of new introductions and for eradication/control of NIS and for reducing discharge of solid wastes from fishing boats. The focus on area-based management tools, including those applied by the GFCM and the MAP, will be instrumental to strengthen the capacities of national planning authorities to use marine spaces. Investments towards implementing area-based management tools into broader user frameworks will be instrumental for relevant users, including fisheries, to have a better understanding of the role and importance of fisheries tenure on fisheries management ? and in particular the application of these tools ? and therefore improve the efficiency of the mechanisms supporting local communities? willingness to voluntarily engage in conservation behaviors (output 3.4 refers). The use of other innovative management tools, such as gear selectivity measures, will serve to complement area-based tools towards achieving the most efficient protection of select life-stages of priority species. In efforts to build back better from the COVID-19 Pandemic, these efforts could be linked to COVID Recovery programmes.

#### Component 4. Innovative blue economy solutions accounting for the fishery sector

The proposed GEF project will deliver the identification of potential hurdles to blue economy at the country level by promoting a concerted approach among relevant stakeholders, including women?s associations, and setting the scene for public and private investments under pinned by the TDA-SAP or NAP if it exists. Under output 4.1, an analysis will be conducted involving representatives of stakeholders familiar with both the GFCM and the MAP fora about the role of the fisheries sector in the blue economy in the context of marine spatial planning, including for mobilizing investments, for its improved integration with other sectors, and for the diversification of revenues of male and female fishworkers being mindful of space and environmental footprint of alternative economic activities. Potential hurdles to sustainable blue economy development patterns will also be identified and this will lead to elaborate concrete gender sensitive proposals and recommendations for public and private decision makers. Where possible the analysis will also link to COVID recovery initiatives that contribute to improving environmental benefits (e.g. work programmes linked to habitat restoration). Output 4.2 will support select pilot actions to develop innovative blue economy gender responsive solutions for fisheries ? such as investment in NIS fisheries for both food production, but also blue economy purposes (e.g. medical and cosmetic uses), including further identification for investment potential. A database of key stakeholders to target for investment will also be elaborated. Taken together, the analysis and practical work carried out through outputs 4.1 and 4.2 will be shared with donors and potential private sector investors so as to prompt future investments in the fishery sector with a view to promote, among others, gender sensitive diversification opportunities and will benefit from previous and ongoing work on marine spatial planning in the Mediterranean Sea, which was premised on the assumption that overall environmental security, sustainability of the livelihoods of growing coastal populations and their resilience would be improved by mainstreaming consideration of biodiversity resilience and adaptation into national plans. Also, this output will be linked to the new foresight MED 2050 study aiming at exploring possible futures based on knowledge of the Mediterranean in order to assist decision-makers in their task. The general outcomes from this output, will enable framing of [13] taking stock of national priorities consistent with regional actions, where the fishery sector would be a vector for investments, private and public. The pilot NAP+ will build upon previous MAP and GFCM initiatives in Montenegro (e.g. the SAP-BIO NAP experience, the ?Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in the Adriatic Sea through Marine Spatial Planning?

(GEF Adriatic) and the EcAp Med I, II, III projects), will coordinate with the activities in Montenegro of the GEF funded CI project 'Build back a blue and stronger Mediterranean' (GEF ID 10685), which is implemented by MedPAN, the network of Mediterranean MPA managers and the MedFund, the environmental fund for Mediterranean MPAs, and aims at supporting the development of management capacity for nationally designated MPAs and new MPAs under designation, and will integrate the outcomes of the other FishEBM Med components projecting them in a specific national blue economy context and will support the achievement of the goals and targets of the Post-2020 SAPBIO. It will entail the collection and analysis of data and information related to the potential competing access to resources among the different involved sectors, to the impacts of climate change, of non-indigenous species, of incidental catches of vulnerable species, of pollution and other stressors on commercial fisheries, on biodiversity and marine ecosystem services so as to support the identification of the national blue economy priorities and issues at stake as well as the elaboration of appropriate policy responses capable of ensuring both the sustainable use of marine ecosystem services and future blue economy investments [12]. This tangible output, namely output 4.3, not only will contribute to test knowledge generated by the proposed project against a real-case scenario but will also facilitate the understanding of how regional actions carried out under the proposed project, including those under the previous three components, relate to national priorities relevant to a blue economy pathway. And what the role of the fishery sector can be (industrial, semi-industrial, small-scale, recreational), including but not limited to opportunities for diversification and integration with other sectors. The lessons learned from the tested pilot NAP+ and from the preparatory actions for the development of the NAP+ in other project partner countries will inform the elaboration of a Regional Guidelines document for the preparation of the NAP+ which will encourage and guide further replications of the NAP+ process in other Mediterranean countries and beyond. It is foreseen that this component, via the tested pilot NAP+, will contribute to create new partnerships that enable the participation of the private sector in blue economy (output 4.4 refers), to be measured by the number and type of participating entities and by the number of investments that will be generated. Considering that in the coastal zones of the Mediterranean GEF eligible countries, livelihoods still mostly rely on the 'traditional' blue economy sectors such as travel, tourism, maritime transport, shipyard, fisheries and seafood production which have been heavily affected by the COVID crisis, the possibility of linking the innovation oriented private-public investment plans developed under the NAP+ with the national COVID recovery initiatives will contribute to improve the wider sustainability (social, economic and environmental) of the fishery sector and its integration with the other blue economy sectors. E.g. by enhancing social protection of fishery workers, introducing technologies for processing, conservation and transport, improving access to markets, supporting sustainable alternative livelihoods, promoting the role of women in fisheries, shifting resources from effort enhancing subsidies to stock and ecosystem management policies.

#### Component 5. Knowledge management and outscaling

The GEF grant will promote scaling-up of effective integrated pathways conducive of conservation and sustainable management at the national, regional and global level. This component will build on the tools developed, the network established, the knowledge generated, and the results achieved through previous GFCM and MAP projects and initiatives in the Mediterranean region and the other components in this project, and will coordinate with other ongoing initiatives in the fishery and marine resources management sectors at national, regional and global level. The focus of the information and knowledge, including good practices and lessons learned, will be on proposed integrated and innovative fisheries management methods, innovative technologies, tools and approaches to support the fishery sector players (from fisheries to processors) from Mediterranean countries. Information resources and knowledge in different forms from these different sources will be gathered, collated, analyzed, edited and disseminated according to the specific profile of each category of users. This component will ensure the information is available to users in a proactive, user-friendly and operational manner.

To this end, knowledge gathered and generated on project results will be fully and continuously integrated within the MedProgramme Knowledge Management Strategy (KM Strategy) which will be declined in a project Knowledge Management Action Plan relevant and coherent with the scope, targets and stakeholders of FishEBM-Med, and will be also integrated into the knowledge sharing platform of the MedProgramme. A specific section of this platform will be dedicated to FishEBM-Med and will include an online project management tool allowing project primary stakeholders to access working documents and information resources useful for project implementation and an outward-facing portal populated with key information showcasing progress towards impact and the contribution of FishEBM-Med to global and regional environmental goals and highlighting information and knowledge generated by the project.

The proposed project will identify best practices of transformational change whereby GEF eligible Mediterranean countries made progress to build their capacity thanks to the GEF intervention, moving away from external support and towards self-sufficiency (output 5.1 refers). With a view in particular to advance public-private partnerships, the proposed project will promote the establishment of national multi-stakeholder platforms in interested countries (also in line with the Post-2020 SAPBIO) and encourage collaborative work, among stakeholders' groups, with a focus on the private sector, and the introduction of innovative and integrated fisheries management practices linked to tangible economic and financial advantages for fisheries operators via strategic public-private investment plans and partnerships. The proposed project will also raise awareness in the GEF eligible Mediterranean countries on the need to bring about a favorable administrative and legal framework, such as national laws, which would encourage greater investments in the fishery sector from the private sector.

These practices will be then disseminated to showcase the benefits of the concerted GFCM-MAP approach in aligning different national and regional priorities, bearing in mind that this proposed project is expected to be the first ever joint collaborative effort funded by the GEF to create mutually enforcing synergies across a UNEP regional seas programme and an FAO RFMO (output 5.2 refers).

The development and implementation of the FishEBM-Med Outreach & Communication Plan, consistent with GEF policies and standards, will support information dissemination, communication and promotion of project outcomes and outreach activities and will empower global dissemination efforts to inform processes such as the LME and the IW conferences, both keen on demonstrating how synergies between environment and fisheries can be capitalized upon, including in economic terms (output 5.3 refers). This will contribute to raise regional and global awareness on the proposed project and its accomplishments in the Mediterranean and beyond.

#### **f. Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)**

The proposed project is expected to generate global environmental benefits (GEB) first and foremost by moving to more sustainable exploitation patterns the priority species of commercial Mediterranean stocks identified under Core Indicator 8. Progress is expected also under Core Indicator 2 as well as the relevant other Core Indicators expected to be targeted (i.e. Core Indicator 11). Interventions will be prioritized relative to the potential of national capacity to strengthen fisheries management via mainstreaming biodiversity conservation. The proposed project, which is grounded in the SSF Guidelines, will also represent an important contribution to sustain food systems and ecosystem services for the local communities in the Mediterranean region which rely on the steady supply of fishery products. Bearing in mind the synergies that the GFCM and the MAP will promote together with the proposed project, the following table illustrates to which SDG14 targets the proposed project contributes primarily.

<b>SDG14</b>	<b>How the proposed project will contribute</b>
<p>14.2: By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans</p>	<p>The proposed project will complement and add too efforts under the MedProgramme to increase the proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches, with particular regard to the ecosystem approach to fisheries</p>
<p>14.4: By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics</p>	<p>The proposed project will increase the proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels in connection with the list of priority species included under Core Indicator 8</p>
<p>5: By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information</p>	<p>The proposed project, thanks in particular to recourse to area-based management tools, such as fishing restricted areas, and emerging concepts such as OECMs, will contribute to increase the coverage of protected marine areas</p>
<p>14.b: Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets</p>	<p>The proposed project will assist countries in progressing towards the application of the legal/policy framework in place (the RPOA-SSF) recognizing and protecting access rights for SSF</p>
<p>14.c: Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want</p>	<p>The proposed project will accelerate progress by countries in participating to and implementing relevant ocean-related instruments that implement international law for the purpose of conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources</p>

Due to its regional dimension and to the tight interconnections among Mediterranean marine ecosystems the project is also expected to generate Global Environmental Benefits related to the GEF IW mandate. The expected Outcomes (1,3,5) involving information management activities are aimed at creating an informed and common understanding among the participating countries on the pressures that the Mediterranean marine ecosystems are facing together with the potential negative consequences on the linked economic sectors, such as fisheries, and the possible alternative and more integrated ecosystem-based management options. Also the expected Outcomes (1,2,3,4) involving activities for devising and supporting the introduction of more sustainable and integrated fisheries and marine ecosystem services management approaches and tools are expected to support transboundary cooperation among participating countries in the conservation and sustainable use of shared and interconnected marine ecosystems and related services. By promoting cross-sectoral collaboration, at national level, to the identification and development of Blue Economy opportunities the project is supporting the incorporation of the market value of marine resources and ecosystem services into national economies potentially resulting in sustainable economic and social benefits for the coastal communities.

## **g. Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up**

The proposed project is expected to promote innovation in fisheries management, sustainability of results and the potential to scale up project results regionally. Innovations will come from integrating fisheries into a multi-sectoral blue economy framework, in particular, through leveraging coordination with other relevant GEF interventions expected to be implemented within the region. Innovative new technology and market-based instruments will also be harnessed, in collaboration with relevant private sector firms, to introduce new incentives and control mechanisms for sustainable fisheries management. Furthermore, the proposed project will focus on putting in place enabling conditions to facilitate investment, including by the private sector. Central to promoting investment is a well-functioning institutional framework. To this end, the proposed project will seek to build capacity at the national level, strengthening scientific and technical know-how, facilitating proper database management and the use of modern collection and analysis tools, and engaging fisheries stakeholders themselves in governance/in the development of projects for investment to the maximum extent possible. Such enabling conditions will ensure continuity of results beyond the project's implementation and will lay the groundwork for further private sector investment in sustainable fisheries activities. In particular:

The proposed GEF project is foreseen to innovate through:

- Facilitating the introduction of certification of fisheries;
- Introducing business models, including for fisheries value chains;
- Testing and tailoring emerging technology in the field of control and monitoring;
- Promoting recourse to microfinancing;
- Assisting countries in fisheries governance reforms via, among others, management plans.
- Promoting a joint fisheries-environment approach aimed at bringing together biodiversity conservation issues and sustainable fisheries management practices in an integrated multi-stakeholder blue economy context;

- Developing quantitative analyses of marine ecosystem services and of the impacts of stressors on fisheries productivity to promote alternative scenarios based on more sustainable use patterns and on adaptation strategies and to promote strategic investments;
- Empowering the role of women in the fishery sector at all levels

In addition, a number of innovative tools currently developed by the GFCM, such as the SSF mapping tool of various past and ongoing projects addressing SSF in the Mediterranean Sea and the GFCM Data Collection Reference Framework for the analysis of biological, social and economic data, will be used throughout the proposed project.

Sustainability of the proposed project outcomes will be achieved via:

- capacity building of a wide range of actors and institutions, including national authorities and SSF associations;
- the development and demonstration of the feasibility of NAP+ with private investment plans;
- developing strategies towards securing funding in support of small-scale fishers;
- contributing to consolidating and securing the socio-economic resilience of coastal communities through the development of fishers' associations, the improvements of social protection schemes, the diversification of revenues, the increased integration of economic sectors in coastal areas in a blue economy context, the availability of adaptation options to climate change and its potential impacts;
- the enabled engagement of scientific institutes involved in collecting data via surveys and research campaigns;
- the design and implementation of a multi-stakeholders tailored knowledge management and communication strategy.

The proposed project will set conditions for large-scale change through:

- integrated governance (multi-stakeholder platforms, management plans, marine spatial planning) that will allow large-scale environmental benefits, particularly in connection with fisheries;
- strengthened capacity of national authorities to generate multiple benefits and prompt investments through good governance practices which could be replicated in the region and beyond;
- synergies between public and private sectors;
- regional scope of proposed actions and approaches and regional coordination frameworks through MAP and GFCM.

**Summary of changes in alignment with the project design with the original PIF**

The PPG phase enabled the team developing the project document to uncover the challenges countries are facing during the COVID-19 pandemic and to give insights into the challenges they will face post-pandemic. The partners indicated that COVID has shifted a) resources in the GEF countries and while government partners in country think they can deliver much of what was originally planned they feel that: a) the current list of indicators will reflect the impact of the investment; b) the availability of consultants to be contracted may be effected, as the pandemic and subsequent influx of assistance is challenging the retention of highly qualified and experienced staff; c) value chains have altered as some have become more domesticated or more regional, and how long-term these changes are is uncertain; and d) this change in value chains and throughout many of the fisheries has changed the role of women some whom have dropped out of the workforce as markets and processing facilities closed down ? how this will change over the life of the project is unknown. Nevertheless, most the current list of indicators will strengthen national reporting and contribute to long-term sustainable management of GFCM fisheries. The PPG phase also enabled GFCM to identify synergies between projects and with both organization?s reporting systems and to address the comments by STAP and GEF constituents made to the PIF. Further changes between the PIF and PPG stages can be summarized as follows:

Co-finance:

The co-finance amounts differ from those proposed at the PIF stage, as additional partner organizations expressed interest in providing co-finance support to the project. During the PPG stage, a total of USD 72,027,654 in co-financing letters were received, as opposed to the originally foreseen USD 29,200,000. This result is linked to the wide consultation made during the project development phase as well as to the massive engagement supported by GFCM and MAP over the past months. This co-finance is expected to increase following the CEO endorsement of the project as GFCM and MAP continue to negotiate with several partners with a view to secure their engagement and involvement in the execution of the project. Regardelss their formal inclusion as co-financers to the projects, GFCM and MAP?s partners will still be engaged in the project execution proving their inputs and contributions during stakeholders meetings, steering committees, workshops, etc.

Project framework:

The project framework has overall remain unchanged, however, in view of facilitating efficient synergies among work by the two Executing Agencies, attempts were made to plan activities by output in line with the competencies and comparative advantages of each agency. In this respect, select activities originally foreseen under planned outputs were shifted to other outputs in order to facilitate a more logical division and implementation of work and budgets. This was done taking into account the outcome of remote consultations carried out bilaterally with each country during the PPG phase.

Matrix showing changes between PIF and CEO End stage specific to outcomes, outputs and indicators

	<b>PIF</b>	<b>PRODOC CEO End Stage</b>
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<b>Project Objective</b>	to reverse the overexploitation of select commercial living marine resources by enhancing the capacity of Mediterranean countries to manage fisheries, including through the application of ecosystem-based management tools, in their blue economy development pathway.	to reverse the overexploitation of select commercial living marine resources of Mediterranean countries in support of their blue economy development pathway
<b>Outcome1</b>	Fisheries managers and stakeholders use sound information generated on the status of key commercial fisheries to support selected value chain interventions, particularly for SSF, in view of maximizing sustainability productivity	Fisheries managers and stakeholders use sound information generated on the status of key commercial fisheries to support improved management and selected value chain interventions, particularly for SSF, in view of maximizing production sustainability
<b>Outcome 3</b>	Healthier marine ecosystems with more productive fisheries in place, through the synergistic application of ecosystem-based conservation/ management tools to improve tenure governance in fisheries	Healthier marine ecosystems with more productive fisheries in place, through the synergistic application of ecosystem-based conservation/ management tools and improvements in fisheries tenure governance
<b>Output 1.1</b>	Regional data collection for fisheries, including SSF and recreational fisheries, processed in support to socio-economic analysis	Regional data collection for fisheries, including SSF and recreational fisheries, processed in support to socio-economic analysis and fisheries management
<b>Output 2.5</b>	//	International Plan of Action to fight IUU and Regional Plan of Action to fight IUU implemented through national plans of action, including measures to reduce bycatch and abandoned fishing gear

<b>Output</b> <b>3.1</b>	Area-based management tools identified and applied to reduce overexploitation of fisheries and enhance ecosystem productivity.	Area-based and innovative management tools identified and applied to reduce overexploitation of fisheries and enhance ecosystem productivity
<b>Output</b> <b>3.2</b>	Monitoring of good environmental status for commercial fisheries ensured and adaptation strategies to climate change formulated.	Monitoring of good environmental status of Mediterranean ecosystems and biodiversity ensured, with established link to pollution impacts and sustainable use of marine ecosystem services; adaptation strategies to climate change formulated
<b>Output</b> <b>3.3</b>	Measures identified to cope with the negative effects of non-indigenous species on commercial fisheries and that of other potential stressors (e.g ocean noise pollution).	Measures identified to cope with the negative effects of non-indigenous species on biodiversity as well as those of other potential stressors.
<b>Output</b> <b>4.2</b>	Factsheets on successful innovative solutions for the fishery sector prepared in view of attracting blue economy related investments.	Factsheets on successful innovative solutions for the fishery sector and sustainable use of marine ecosystem services prepared in view of attracting blue economy related investments.
<b>GEF7</b> <b>Core</b> <b>Indicator</b> <b>11</b>	10,000 direct beneficiaries (5,000 Female, 5,000 Male)	On the basis of additional consultations and assessment the target was increased to 505,000. In summary (202.000 employed onboard fish vessels (all Mediterranean countries) + 303.000 estimated non vessels based employed (pre and post-harvest sectors, gleaners and other on-shore based activities including ?invisible women?). Men are estimated at 100 % of onboard fisheries workers + 50% of on shore workers totalling some 353.000 units and women are estimated at 50% of on shore workers totalling 152.000 units. Please refer to Annex F for the detailed explanation.

<p><b>Outcome</b></p> <p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p>	<p>Number of area-based management tools in place,</p> <p>2) the integration of GES for commercial fisheries into monitoring plans,</p> <p>3) the number of strategies on fisheries adaptation to climate change,</p> <p>4) the number of measures to address non-invasive species,</p> <p>5) the number of studies on emerging stressors and</p> <p>6) the number of training programmes/case studies relating to fisheries tenure</p>	<p>1) Number of area-based or innovative management tools identified</p> <p>2) Percent of data on commercial fisheries and incidentally caught vulnerable species integrated in IMAP based national monitoring plans of the Good Environmental Status of marine waters and marine ecosystem, in interested countries</p> <p>3) Number of developed Guidelines document for the integration in national monitoring plans of the contribution to the Good Environmental Status of marine waters and marine ecosystem by commercial fisheries data</p> <p>4) Number of national/local gender sensitive adaptation strategies or action plans to climate change in coastal areas formulated that respond to the different needs and priorities of women and men fishers and fishworkers, and affected communities</p> <p>5) Number of measures developed and disseminated to mitigate the negative impacts of non-indigenous species and other potential stressors on biodiversity and marine ecosystems</p> <p>6) Number of countries with an equal representation of men and women participating in regional training programmes and/or case studies on fisheries tenure</p>
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<p><b>Outcome 4</b></p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p>	<p>the number of analysis and studies carried out,</p> <p>2) the extent of information collected in factsheets prepared,</p> <p>3) the number of joint initiatives promoted to prompt blue economy and related investments,</p> <p>4) the number of pilot NAP+</p> <p>5) the number of actors participating in new partnerships implemented</p>	<p>1) Number of mobilized investments identified in context of marine spatial planning</p> <p>2) Number of fact sheets/communications materials with information on innovative gender sensitive opportunities for the blue economy-related investment</p> <p>3) Number of countries with endorsed pilot NAP+ with investment plan(s) tested</p> <p>4) Number of Regional Guidelines document for the preparation of a NAP+ drafted</p> <p>5) Number of actors participating in new governance partnerships and percentage of actors representing or represented by women</p>
<p><b>Outcome 5</b></p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p>	<p>The number of initiatives promoted at the regional and national level,</p> <p>2) the number of experience notes and scientific publications documenting the knowledge generated across the portfolio of interventions,</p> <p>3) the extent of awareness raising communication tools at regional and global levels,</p> <p>4) the number of global and regional fora where executed agencies participated</p> <p>5) the development of an outreach and communication strategy</p>	<p>1) Number of national FishEBM Med/Post 2020 SAPBIO gender inclusive stakeholders platform established and number of public and private actors involved in each platform and percentage of actors representing or represented by women</p> <p>2) Number of awareness raising gender sensitive communication pieces presented in regional and global fora on the objectives, progress and accomplishments of the GFCM-MAP approach.</p> <p>3) Number of gender sensitive outreach and communication action plans developed and under implementation</p> <p>4) Number of gender sensitive information and communication items available through the knowledge sharing platform</p> <p>5) Number of meetings attended at the regional and global level as relevant to the attainment of GEF objective</p>

### 1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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



The Project will be implemented in the Mediterranean region, including the following Mediterranean Sea riparian countries: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey.

### 1c. Child Project?

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

n/a

### 2. Stakeholders

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

**Civil Society Organizations** Yes

**Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities**

**Private Sector Entities** Yes

**If none of the above, please explain why:**

**Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.**

This Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) has been designed to ensure effective engagement between various stakeholders throughout the lifecycle of the FishEBM MED project. This engagement was started during project identification and design and will continue throughout project implementation. The SEP is closely linked to monitoring and evaluation of the project as well as knowledge management and communication and is hence also reflected in these sections of the project document.

Definitions

*Consultation:* Consultation involves information exchanges among the government representatives, the Implementing Agencies (FAO and UNEP), the project executing agencies (GFCM and MAP), and other stakeholders including organizations representing fishers and fish workers. Although decision making authority rests with Executing Agencies, its government partners and the Implementing Agency, periodic consultations throughout the project cycle help managers make informed choices about project activities. More important, it provides opportunities for fishers, fish workers, communities and other stakeholders to contribute to project design, implementation, and evaluation.

*Public Involvement:* Public involvement consists of three related, and often overlapping, processes: information dissemination, consultation, and stakeholder participation. Stakeholders are the individuals, groups, or institutions which have an interest or "stake" in the outcome of a GEF-financed project or are potentially affected by it. Stakeholders include the Executing and Implementing Agencies, recipient country governments; other institutions/organisations/groups directly involved in carrying out project activities; project beneficiaries; groups of people who may be affected by project activities; and other groups in the civil society which may have an interest in the project.

*Stakeholder participation:* Stakeholder participation is when stakeholders collaboratively engage in the identification of project concepts and objectives, selection of sites, design and implementation of activities, and monitoring and evaluation of project outcomes. Developing strategies for incorporating stakeholder participation throughout the project cycle is particularly necessary in projects which have impacts on the incomes and livelihoods of local groups, especially disadvantaged populations in and around project sites (e.g. women, poor households). The strategies can also be used to gather information from stakeholders such as Indigenous Peoples, as appropriate, as they are regarded as knowledge holders for sustainability, biodiversity, food systems and resilience.

**Policy framework for stakeholder engagement**

FAO and UNEP are committed to the human rights-based approach (HRBA), which is recognized as a principle that informs the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects. In its work on the right to food, FAO has established the PANTHER framework, which is a HRBA to the right to adequate food, food security and nutrition that should guide decision-making and implementation processes. The approach is based on seven principles: Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination, Transparency, Human dignity, Empowerment and Rule of law.

The United Nations Human Rights Council adopted in March 2021 a resolution that calls for a human-rights-based approach to conserving and restoring natural spaces noting and advancing the need for a human-rights-based approach in the context of conserving, restoring and sustainably using biodiversity

In the fisheries arena, the 1995 Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries urges States to "facilitate consultation and the effective participation of industry, fish workers, environmental and other interested organizations in decision-making with respect to the development of laws and policies related to fisheries management, development, international lending and aid." (paragraph 6.13, FAO, 1995 [14]). Stakeholder participation, and in particular that of fishers, fish workers and their communities "including Indigenous Peoples, where present" is also an important guiding principles of the Voluntary Guidelines to Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication ([the SSF Guidelines](#), FAO, 2015 [15]), which stipulate that active, free, effective, meaningful and informed participation should be ensured in the whole decision-making process related to fishery resources and areas where small-scale fisheries operate (Guiding principle No 6, FAO, 2015 [16]). FAO's Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples and the Free Prior and Informed Consent manual for project practitioners will also guide stakeholder engagement should Indigenous Peoples be identified and affected by project activities.

The [GFCM 2030 Strategy for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and Black Sea](#) also refers to participatory decision-making, in particular in the context of the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea ([RPOA-SSF](#)). The objectives and principles of the ministerial declaration endorsing the RPOA-SSF in 2018 included a call for encouraging "the visibility and participation of small-scale fisheries representatives in the national and local decision-making and advisory processes when addressing fishery and other relevant policies, such as environment, transport, tourism and infrastructure" (paragraph 35, GFCM, 2018 [17]).

Increased demand for stakeholders engagement in addressing environmental issues is a direct outcome of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The Rio+20 Outcome Document, "The Future We Want," adopted in June 2012, reports that Member States requests UNEP to "Ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions and exploring new mechanisms to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society."

According to the UNEP Stakeholders Engagement Handbook, civil society stakeholders are key contributors to implementing the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme. Therefore UNEP strives to ensure effective, broad and balanced participation of Stakeholders as they play a central role in providing expertise and relevant knowledge. They also channel the voices of those most

likely to be directly affected by environmental problems and related policies, and call needed attention to emerging issues as they reach out to their respective communities and the public at large.

MAP recognizes the contribution of non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and other key stakeholders as a means to maximize effectiveness and results on the ground, The ICZM Protocol states that "appropriate governance allowing adequate and timely participation in a transparent decision-making process by local populations and stakeholders in civil society concerned with coastal zones shall be ensured". In this respect Article 14 on Participation highlights: "With a view to ensuring efficient governance throughout the process of the integrated management of coastal zones, the Parties shall take the necessary measures to ensure the appropriate involvement in the phases of the formulation and implementation of coastal and marine strategies, plans and programmes or projects, as well as the issuing of the various authorizations, of the various stakeholders, including: the territorial communities and public entities concerned; - economic operators; non-governmental organizations; social actors; the public concerned.

**Identification of stakeholders for engagement**

In order to ensure inclusive participation, consultations were held during the project identification and design phases and will continue during project implementation. The list in Table 1 includes the identified general categories of stakeholder groups that are associated with the project in different ways:

- Persons and organizations/social groups affected directly or indirectly by the outcomes of the Project implementation,
- Persons and organizations/social groups that participate in the project directly or indirectly,
- Persons and organizations/social groups who are able to influence and decide the outcomes and the manner of the project implementation or make decisions based on the outputs of the project.

**Table 1:** Stakeholder groups associated with the project

<p><b>Stakeholders affected, directly or indirectly, by the outcomes of the project</b></p>	<p><b>Stakeholders that participate in project implementation</b></p>	<p><b>Stakeholders able to influence and decide on project implementation or use project outcomes for decision making</b></p>

Fishers, fish workers and their household members and communities.	Project staff	Project Steering Committee members.
Fisher and fish worker organisations.	GFCM	
Fishing, trading and export companies and other private sector entities.	MAP	Fisheries and environment administrations and researchers.
Fish consumers.	FAO	
Fisheries and environment administrations.	Project executing partners.	Inter-governmental organisations.
Research institutes.	Government counterparts.	
Inter-governmental organizations NGOs.	NGOs	Fisher and fish worker organisations.
Blue Economy players and investors.	Fisher and fish worker organizations.	
Users of marine ecosystem services.	Blue Economy players and investors.	Blue Economy players and investors.

Within the stakeholder groups identified in Table 1, vulnerable groups are nested and will need to be given special attention. These would include poorer, marginalized and food insecure population groups. These will be identified at the project site level at the beginning of project implementation. The involvement and contributions of women in the fisheries sector is often invisible. Women play an important role in the small-scale fisheries sector, in particular in the post-harvest sector in many countries but also as fishers, both on boats ? although more rare ? but also as gleaners and seafood collectors. Women also play important roles in accessory activities and more generally in support in fishing households and communities but these roles are often not recognized and women may not have the same opportunities with regard to access to resources and services.

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

### Stakeholder interest analysis and engagement activities

The project strives to collect and analyze stakeholder expectations and concerns, as well as to take appropriate responsive measures throughout the project life. Stakeholder engagement is also part of the overall project strategy and many project activities directly require participation, e.g. fisheries management plans will be designed in close collaboration with fisher and fish worker organizations (e.g. participatory and co-management) and capacity building according to identified needs will be offered to national authorities.

During project identification and design, a mapping of stakeholders' perceived and expressed interests in the different parts of the project was conducted. This mapping is provided in Table 2 together with examples of how stakeholder engagement will take place in project implementation. A full description of consultations carried out with stakeholders during project preparation, in line with the GEF Policy on Stakeholder Engagement, is provided in Annex I2.

**Table 2:** Mapping of stakeholders interest in the project and examples of stakeholder engagement activities

Stakeholder group	Areas of project of particular interest	Outputs	Means and frequency of engagement
Fishers, fish workers and their household members and communities, fisher organizations	Data collection; value chain; management plans; co-management; social protection; non-indigenous species; sustainable management; role of women; fishing technology	Output 1.1 Output 1.2 Output 1.3 Output 1.4 Output 1.5 Output 2.4 Output 2.5 Output 3.1 Output 3.3	Consultation meetings - providing information, training courses, project decisions, training workshops, exchange of documentation, data collection templates and procedures

Fishing, trading and export companies and other private sector entities	Value chain; sustainable management, public-private partnerships	Output 1.3 Output 1.4 Output 4.1 Output 4.2	Exchange of documentation, project website, brochures
Fish consumers	Value chain Certification		Project website, brochures
Fisheries and environment administrations	Management and regulatory tools (e.g. area-based management); public-private partnerships; legal frameworks; MCS and fighting IUU; blue economy; dissemination of best practices	Output 1.2 Output 1.4 Output 2.3 Output 2.4 Output 3.1 Output 3.3 Output 4.1 Output 4.2 Output 4.3	Meetings, exchange of minutes, progress reporting, project decisions, official letters

<p>Research institutes</p>	<p>Data collection and monitoring;  stock assessment; IUU assessment; area-based management;  modelling climate change;  selectivity and fishing technology;  dissemination of best practices</p>	<p>Output 1.1  Output 1.3  Output 2.1  Output 2.2  Output 3.1  Output 3.2  Output 3.3  Output 5.1  Output 5.2</p>	<p>Exchange of correspondence, meetings, training courses, design supervision, data collection templates and procedures</p>
<p>Inter-governmental organizations</p>	<p>Sharing of lessons learned, best practices; blue economy</p>		

Gender expertise and women's representation	Support the achievement of the targets relating to gender equality that have been integrated into the project design through the activities to be carried out and the outcomes to be achieved.	Output 1.1 Output 1.3 Output 2.1 Output 2.2 Output 3.1 Output 3.2 Output 3.3 Output 3.4 Output 4.1 Output 4.2 Output 4.3 Output 4.4 Output 5.1 Output 5.2 Output 5.3	Exchange of correspondence, contribution to the Gender Action Plan (GAP), meetings, training courses, design supervision, data collection templates and procedures
NGOs	Engaging local actors; co-management; value chain; stakeholder capacity building; blue economy; dissemination of best practices	Output 1.2 Output 1.3 Output 1.5 Output 4.1	Consultation meetings ? Providing information, exchange of documentation

Blue Economy players	Data collection	Output 3.2	Establishment of the National stakeholders platforms Promotion of new governance and investment partnerships
	Innovative practices	Output 3.3	
	Improved integration of blue economy sectors	Output 4.3	
	NAP+	Output 4.4	
	New governance partnerships	Output 5.1	

### **Making information available**

FishEBM Med Component 5, on Knowledge management and outscaling, will play an important role in stakeholder engagement and the FishEBM Med KM Action Plan will support the jump-start and continuous engagement and information of these groups at the programme level with targeted actions and outreach tools.

Promoted national FishEBM Med national stakeholders platforms will provide the ground for promoting and supporting dialogue and collaborative work, among stakeholders? groups, with a focus on the private sector, and aimed at the introduction and contextualization of innovative and integrated fisheries management practices linked to tangible economic and financial advantages for fisheries operators via strategic public-private investment plans and partnerships.

Effective participation to project activities and milestone events by relevant national stakeholders ? especially the investors from the private sector ? will be ensured through a continuous and interactive flow of tailored information and knowledge tools, with the objective to set-up national and local partnership frameworks and to draw joint investment plans for the development of the fishery sector in a socio-economically sustainable manner as well as mutually supportive with the environment.

FishEBM Med may create the conditions for generating innovative management solutions that could be tested, evaluated and outscaled (e.g. administrative and legal framework favourable to strategic investments, certification schemes, identification of value chain opportunities, integration with other sectors, access to markets, storage and transport technologies, etc. ) in order to set-out alternative integrated fisheries management models to improve economic investments and returns of the fisheries sector including socio-economic benefit and resilience of SSF while balancing the need to conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The project will endeavour to make information available to the public to allow stakeholders to get to know and understand on one side the social, economic and environmental challenges that the Mediterranean fisheries sector is facing and on the other available innovative concrete options to set-out alternative integrated fisheries management models to improve economic investments and returns of the fisheries sector including socio-economic benefit and resilience of SSF while balancing the need to conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services.

This approach will enable project stakeholders to be aware of the current risks the Mediterranean fisheries sector is facing and of the available risk management options and opportunities offered by the project and to have the necessary knowledge and tools to make informed decisions on fisheries and environment related issues.

On an ongoing basis, the project will continue consultation and information sharing regarding project performance with primary stakeholders at national and regional level, including both achievements, constraints and challenges. The project will ensure transparency in the preparation, conduct, reporting

and evaluation of its activities. This includes full disclosure of all non-confidential information, and consultation with major groups and representatives of local communities. The disclosure of information shall be ensured through posting on websites and dissemination of findings through knowledge products and events (e.g. project briefs, annual reports, specific media products and other communication channels, as appropriate). Project reports will be broadly and freely shared, and findings and lessons learned made available. The project will also provide an overview of the stakeholder engagement process and how affected parties can participate and provide feedback through meetings or via other channels.

**Monitoring and reporting**

Monitoring is an integral component of project management as it tracks and assesses progress towards achieving planned project results. It is an essential management tool which provides an opportunity to know whether results are being achieved as planned, what corrective action are needed to ensure delivery of the intended results and how they are making positive development contributions. For this SEP, the parameter below are suggested to be monitored to help ensuring that the plan is being implemented as intended.

The PMU will follow all the stakeholder engagement activities including monitoring and reporting responsibilities on stakeholder engagement through the annual project implementation reports (PIRs). In the annual PIRs, the PMU will report on the following:

Table 3: SEP monitoring and reporting responsibilities

	<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Monitoring and reporting responsibility</b>	<b>Frequency of reporting</b>
1	Number of different stakeholder groups that have been involved in project implementation	PMU	PIR
2	Number of stakeholder engagement activities carried out	PMU	PIR
3	Number of grievances received and responded to/resolved	PMU	PIR

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

**Consulted only;**

**Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;**

**Co-financier; Yes**

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

**Executor or co-executor;**

**Other (Please explain)**

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

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

#### **3.1 Alignment with FAO and GEF gender policies**

The project is fully aligned to and supports FAO, UNEP and GEF policies on gender equality and mainstreaming. Understanding gender equality as a defining factor of sustainability, FAO and UNEP recognise the importance of gender mainstreaming in each project phase to ensure the sustainability of the project, support equitable growth, and increase its impact. FAO's and UNEP's gender policy are guided by the following objectives:

- Women participate equally with men as decision-makers in rural institutions and in shaping laws, policies and programmes
- Women and men have equal access to and control over decent employment and income, land and other productive resources
- Women and men have equal access to goods and services for agricultural development, and to markets
- Women's work burden is reduced by 20 percent through improved technologies, services and infrastructure, and
- The share of total agricultural aid committed to projects related to women and gender equality is increased to 30 percent
- Reaffirm the vital role of women as drivers of sustainable development and the need for their full and equal participation and leadership in all areas of sustainable development
- Disclose the potential of women to engage in, contribute to and benefit from sustainable development as leaders, participants and agents of change removing, inter alia, the persistent social, economic and political inequalities
- Promote equal rights and opportunities for women in political, economic and environmental decision-making and resource allocation and to removing any barriers that prevent women from being full participants in the economy.
- Undertake legislative and administrative reforms to give women equal rights with men to economic and natural resources, including access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, credit, inheritance and appropriate technology.

While recognising gender equality as a cross-cutting priority to achieve sustainability benefits, GEF's approach to gender takes on a gender-responsive 'do good' approach, beyond gender awareness. This is based on the following principles:

- Efforts to mainstream gender and promote gender equality and female empowerment are done in accordance with the decisions on gender under the MEAs that the GEF serves, and in recognition of related international and national commitments to gender equality and human rights.
- 
- GEF-Financed Activities address and do not exacerbate existing gender-based inequalities.

- Stakeholder engagement and analyses are conducted in an inclusive and gender-responsive manner, so that the rights of women and men and the different knowledge, needs, roles and interests of women and men, including Indigenous Peoples if applicable, are recognized and addressed.
- GEF-Financed Activities are conducted, designed, and implemented in an inclusive manner so that women's participation and voice are, regardless of background, age, race, ethnicity or religion, reflected in decision-making, and that consultations with women's organizations, including Indigenous Peoples, women and local women's groups, are supported at all scales.
- A gender-responsive approach is applied throughout the identification, design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of GEF.
- Opportunities to address gender gaps and support the empowerment of women are seized in order to help achieve global environmental benefits.

In fisheries, women's roles and contributions to the sector are more significant than often assumed. These roles include gleaning and near-shore fishing, as well as post-harvest activities. FAO (SOFIA 2020) estimated that in 2018, overall, women accounted for 14 percent of all people directly engaged in the fisheries and aquaculture primary sector, representing 19% in aquaculture and 12% in capture fisheries. When both the primary and secondary sectors of aquaculture and fisheries are considered the role of women is even more significant. Generally, however, the different roles, needs and priorities of women are not given due attention in policy and project design and implementation, rendering their contributions invisible and impeding their possibilities.

During the PPG phase, a comprehensive gender analysis was undertaken. This comprehensive gender analysis made a range of recommendations on mainstreaming gender in the ongoing project. The findings indicated that women face many disadvantages in terms of access to alternative livelihood opportunities, credit, trainings, mobility, and decision-making power, and the lack of gender-disaggregated data on gender roles and women's contributions to the fishery sector makes their work generally invisible and so easily disregarded in policy and programmes design and implementation. The gender analysis identified the following key recommendations to mainstream gender in the project:

- Implement a data collection and analysis system that includes women's contributions in the fishery and more widely in all the blue economy sectors, extending, for example, the current marine harvesting statistics to the onshore fishing and post-harvest sector, as well as the informal and unpaid sector when possible. The lack of gender-disaggregated data is the norm in the project region, which limits the potential and efficiency of gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment interventions.
- Support female fishers and fish workers through value-chain upgrading strategies that improve their livelihoods and take into account their specific needs and priorities, as women face more constraints than men in accessing credit and other production inputs, training opportunities, and alternative income-generating activities.
- Design and implement management interventions, such as area-based management schemes, new governance partnerships, NAP+ and investment plans, with the active participation of both women and men, so their different roles, needs and priorities are taken into account.
- Make any project intervention gender-sensitive and identify its potential impacts and benefits for both women and men, through a gender and equality lens.
- Ensure women's representation and active participation in project working groups, trainings, and other activities. This requires taking into account the time and mobility burdens of women, as well as the need to create a female-friendly atmosphere that ensures their participation, for example by including female facilitators and leaders.
- Engage with women's organisations to be active project stakeholders, as they have the knowledge on women's roles, constraints and priorities and can also encourage other women to participate in project activities and meetings.

### 3.2 Gender Action Plan

A draft Gender Action Plan (GAP) for the project has been prepared also on the basis of the provisions related to the role of women in the fisheries and in the biodiversity protection sector indicated in the Malta MedFish4Ever Ministerial Declaration, in the Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (RPOA-SSF) and in the Post2020 SAPBIO and integrated into proposed activities. This GAP will be developed fully during inception work planning period on the basis of the MedProgramme Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and in line with its Action Plan and based on country needs and consultations with implementing partners. Based on this GAP, gender inclusive outcomes, outputs and activities, budgets and revised indicators for the project have been included (Annex A1 refers), including an updated project baseline. Gender focal points and/or champions in each country will be identified and consulted throughout the GAP elaboration process. In particular, the following tentative targets relating to gender equality have been integrated into the project design through the activities to be carried out and the outcomes to be achieved:

#### Component 1: Strengthened capacity to manage commercial fisheries, with particular focus on SSF

Outcome 1: Fisheries managers and stakeholders use sound information generated on the status of key commercial fisheries to support improved management and selected value chain interventions, particularly for SSF, in view of maximizing the sustainability of production.

- Socio-economic fisheries data collection include gender-disaggregated data, as well as data on coastal and marine harvest sectors and post-harvest sector. Additionally, data on informal and unpaid contributions by women and men is also included.
- Both women and men have access to stock status information and use this information for fisheries management and value-chain improvements
- Priority species for which the quality of stock assessments have improved include also those species of special interest for women, for example gleaning or important for processing. The local and traditional knowledge used to improve these stock assessments considers both women and men's experiences.
- The participatory development of co-management plans in the fishery counts on the active involvement and participation of both women and men.
- Improved understanding of value-chains and good practices identified, as well as gender-sensitive value-chain upgrading strategies that reflect the different needs and priorities of women and men.
- Female and male value-chain actors are supported to improve their market access, through e.g. the implementation of catch certification schemes, business skills training, and improved access to credit and other inputs. In order to do so, the engagement of women in women's organisations is supported.
- SSF organisations, and especially women's groups, receive support to participate in decision-making processes and establish partnerships.
- Women and men benefit equally from social protection initiatives, while special consideration is given to the nature of women's work (part-time, informal, unpaid) that may traditionally limit their participation in these schemes.

#### Component 2: Enhanced integration of emerging monitoring, control and surveillance technologies in the fight against IUU fishing.

Outcome 2. Fisheries management better accounts for the quantity and magnitude of IUU fishing in the Mediterranean Sea and incorporates control measures, including through the use of emerging technologies.

- The measures put in place to reduce by-catch, discards and abandoned fishing gear take into account their different impact on female and male fishers and fish workers, due to their different roles in the fishery and their unequal access to resources (credit, inputs)
- The collection of information on IUU fishing and fisheries crimes and its analysis is done through a gender and equality lens that assesses the role of gender in this matter.
- Women and men have equal knowledge of and access to the technological systems and solutions for control and surveillance that are applied at country level. The lower access of women to knowledge and technology is improved by, for example, providing training when appropriate.

Component 3: Integrated ecosystem-based management tools and ecosystem approach to biodiversity protection and sustainable fisheries.

Outcome 3: Healthier marine ecosystems with more productive fisheries in place, through the synergistic application of ecosystem-based conservation/ management tools and improvements in fisheries tenure governance.

- Area-based management tools take into account the different roles and needs of both women and men.
- Formulated strategies for climate change adaptation respond to the different needs and priorities of female and male fishers and fish workers, and other marine ecosystems and blue economy stakeholders and affected communities
- Women and men are involved in the activities on the identification and adoption of appropriate measures for the reduction of new introductions and for eradication/control and valorisation of NIS in priority sites
- Women and men participate actively in training programmes to develop capacity towards the development of fisheries tenure interventions

Component 4 Innovative blue economy solutions accounting for the fishery sector.

Outcome 4. Blue economy at the regional and country level promoted through the identification of existing hurdles via a concerted approach among relevant stakeholders.

- Investment opportunities within a blue economy context are presented within a gender-sensitive lens and offer equitable opportunities for women and men
- The analysis of diversification of livelihoods to mobilize investment in fishery communities consider the gender differences in terms of roles and access to resources.
- Factsheets on innovative solutions for the fishery and marine sector that attract blue economy related investments are developed with the participation of both women and men, so their different experiences, views and priorities enrich these plans.
- Both women and men are involved in the discussions for the identification of Blue Economy priorities and in the elaboration of the NAP+
- The active participation of women and men in new governance partnerships is strongly encouraged

Component 5: Knowledge management and outscaling.

Outcome 5. Integrated pathways conducive of conservation and sustainable management promoted at the regional and global level.

- National FishEBM Med stakeholders platforms equally involve women and men. Women and men are involved in the communication of best practices and lessons learned of the project.

- Women and men participate actively in awareness-raising meetings with co-financing partners
- Women and men have equal access to the knowledge disseminated through the outreach and communication strategy and the knowledge sharing platform
- Success stories and best practices for women in fisheries are disseminated in view of raising awareness of their role in the sector

**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.**

Similarly to the case of other stakeholders, private sector actors have been thus far involved in select working groups and workshops organized by the Executing Agencies opened to all participants. The engagement with the private sector is a fundamental element of this project and will be a continuous throughout the life of the project. The Executing Agencies will continue to engage the private sector in line with the 'FAO Strategy for Partnerships with the Private Sector' which was adopted by the FAO to provide for the first-time ever, an operational framework for managing relations with the private sector in a proactive and efficient manner in line with national development priorities of each country. Though participation of the private sector still remain limited, especially in light of the impact of COVID, to only certain meetings in particular, this FAO strategy will facilitate the involvement of some private sector actors to play a role in the implementation of the proposed project.

In this very respect, private sector involvement in this project is twofold. Fishing associations or cooperatives at regional and national scale that represent fishers and fishing companies will continue to provide a conduit between the project and fishing operators where behavior change is needed to ensure the sustainability and profitability of fisheries. These associations are the most cost-effective way to reach individual fishers and fishing companies who can, in turn, provide feedback on proposed project activities. Often, they have a long history of servicing the fishery sector and therefore could be a key element in providing sustainability of some of the project activities or outcomes. In addition and subsequently, the private sector will be directly involved in the execution of select activities. This would be the case, for instance, of service providers of monitoring, control and surveillance technology for Component 1 and 2 and of private sector Blue Economy players (fisheries, aquacultures, tourism, transport, industry, infrastructures, energy) for the set-up of innovative inter-sectoral partnerships aimed at joint investment and collaborative governance and for the preparation and implementation of the pilot NAP+. The project will also stimulate the involvement of other actors from the private sectors which are concerned by the mandates of the Executing Agencies, such as aquaculture investors, certification and traceability companies, financial institutions and other market outlets involved in the harvesting, processing and trade of living marine resources as well as in the utilization of the marine ecosystem services. Their involvement will have to be in line with the above FAO Strategy and with any other relevant policies adopted by the Implementing Agencies as relating to relationships with the

private sector. As need be, the GEF eligible Mediterranean countries may have to be consulted on private sector engagement as the project evolves.

## 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):**

Risk management is a structured, methodical approach to identifying and managing risks for the achievement of project objectives. The risk management plan will allow stakeholders to manage risks by specifying and monitoring mitigation actions throughout implementation. Part A of this section focuses on external risks to the project and Part B on the identified environmental and social risks from the project.

### **Section A: Risks to the project**

In the section below, elaborate on indicated risks **to the project**, including climate risks, potential social environmental, political or fiduciary 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.

In the Mediterranean region, the primary risks to the smooth execution of the proposed project are political stability, in that some of the countries have been experiencing social turmoil of late years, and major pollution incidents, either from land-based sources or from ships, or oil and gas platforms. Climate risk screening is embedded in the proposed project, as its outcomes are directly linked to adaptation of fishery resources to climate change impacts. All risks summarized at the identification phase in the table below, including potential political and environmental threats, are related to complexities stemming from implementing project management in the Mediterranean region and draw on the combined knowledge of this region by the GFCM and the MAP.

<b>Risk description</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Likelihood/ Impact</b>	<b>Mitigating measure</b>
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<p>Different/divergent stakeholder interests may prevent efficient consensual implementation (lack of environment-fisheries dialogue, different understanding and definition of the importance of the problems and priorities, difficulties in promoting a concerted approach, etc.)</p>	<p>Operational</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>The risk is only in part under the proposed project control. However, during the inception phase the identification of appropriate counterparts in national agencies will be perfected and implementation arrangements will be defined and, should it be necessary, the Executing Agencies will play a supplementary role to overcome the risk.</p>
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<p>Instability in some countries undermines their active participation in the proposed project activities</p>	<p>Political</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>The risk is not under the proposed project control. One of the key measures to address the risk is postponing/stopping all activities in the countries concerned if the security situation does not enable sound execution. Continuous dialogue with country focal points and the national stakeholders will be promoted with a view to ensure that national responsibilities are properly assessed and addressed. Where possible, alternative options will be pursued (e.g. capacity building activities in neighboring countries). Lessons will be learnt and implemented in light of the experience garnered by the MAP to date in the execution of GEF interventions at the regional level.</p>
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<p>Tensions among fishers over the access to and management of the living marine resources</p>	<p>Social</p>	<p>L/M</p>	<p>The risk is only in part under the proposed project control. Latent conflicts other use of living marine resources, including between neighboring countries, among fishers, in coastal communities and with other sectors are exacerbated by the over-exploitation of these resources and the different uses of marine spaces. To mitigate these conflicts, the proposed project will invest in involving all relevant stakeholders in the development of management measures and ultimately reduce the opportunities for conflicts.</p>
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<p>Bureaucratic obstacles in the implementation of certain activities</p>	<p>Operational</p>	<p>L/M</p>	<p>The risk is only in part under the proposed project control. Being the first time that synergies and coordination between different national authorities (i.e. Ministries of Agriculture/Fisheries and Ministries of Environment) will have to be jointly ensured by the Executing Agencies, the extent of such coordination might at times be limited or hampered by issues of administrative nature. The Executing Agencies will avoid as much as possible the raising of issues of administrative nature between the different national agencies (e.g. contracting of consultants, procurement procedures, travels, etc.) by liaising with the Implementing Agencies in advance as well as with the national administrations with a view to find appropriate solutions and/or agree on derogations from certain practices and</p>
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<p>Limited national capacity for the proposed project effective implementation in some countries persist</p>	<p>Operational</p>	<p>L/M</p>	<p>The risk is only partly under the project control. However, this is the cornerstone of the intervention logic under all components therefore the proposed project will invest considerable resources in capacity building of national authorities. The proposed project implementation will involve a wide range of partners that can support the Executing Agencies in ensuring the achievement and sustainability of the project outcomes.</p>
<p>Low participation by stakeholders in specific activities</p>	<p>Social</p>	<p>L/M</p>	<p>The risk is under the project control. The proposed project aims to raise awareness and emphasize the multiple benefits of stakeholders participation. In particular, a focus will be placed on the economic benefits to be derived from the sustainability and profitability of fisheries.</p>

<p>Climate-induced phenomena and variations</p>	<p>Climate</p>	<p>L/L</p>	<p>The risk is only partly under the project control. The mitigation of impacts of climate on fisheries will require adaptation strategy and the monitoring of non-indigenous species which will in turn empower countries to mitigate negative consequences. Furthermore, the project will maximize the outcomes of scientific work already ongoing in fisheries and adopt approaches that are being considered by the FAO to facilitate a transition towards climate change adaptation. Carrying out of a more solid climate risk assessment was not necessary, as the climate risk of the project is determined as low.</p>
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<p>Outbreak of diseases in the region and beyond (Covid-19)</p>	<p>Social/ Operational</p>	<p>M/M</p>	<p>The risk is only partly under the project control. The recent outbreak of Covid-19 has been already affecting the work of international organizations, including both the Implementing and Executing Agencies. Travel restrictions have been in place and of late days meetings have been cancelled due to the spreading out of the virus. Should the situation continue, or should similar situations take place, the risk will be mitigated by trying to carry out relevant activities via alternative working methods (e.g. video-conferences, telecommuting, recourse to national human resources in the countries, etc.). Any mitigation measure will have to be discussed with and cleared by the respective Implementing Agencies.</p>
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Fisheries tenure	Legal / Social	L/M	<p>The risk is under the project control. Insecure and unclear tenure can undermine incentives for management and ultimately the supply for supported fisheries value chains. The proposed project will work with all relevant stakeholders ? local, national, governmental, non-governmental ? to identify working management strategies, thus advancing knowledge on tenure and user rights in fisheries.</p>
Women are not adequately represented in involved stakeholders groups	Social/operational	M/M	<p>The risk is partly under the project control. As it may jeopardize planned gender sensitive and women empowerment activities, the project will promote the involvement of women as integral part of the national stakeholder platforms as well as the role of women in improving fisheries and marine ecosystem management frameworks and practices. It will also support the empowerment of women fisheries players to effectively contribute to project stakeholder consultation and promote good practices on women?s representation and leadership.</p>

COVID-19 has impacted on the life of many Mediterranean countries, including Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. According to the John Hopkins University of Medicine statistics Albania had 189,125 cases and 2,955 deaths, Bosnia and Herzegovina had 257,401 cases and 11,717 deaths, Lebanon had 646,629 cases and 8,546 deaths, Libya had 360,914 cases and 5,207 deaths, Montenegro had 148,579 cases and 2,148 deaths, Morocco had 947,396 cases and 14,713 deaths, Tunisia had 713,308 cases and 25,276 deaths, and Turkey had 8.2 million cases and 72,127 deaths (information accessed on 08 November 2021). However, the limited international travel to some of these countries has provided some shielding from larger COVID infection spikes, while others have been significantly affected. Apart from the direct consequences on people's health, the disease has heavily impacted the region's economy and the GDP in the Mediterranean region is expected to contract significantly (-2.3 to -19.5%), which is more than the global average as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic increasing the already high vulnerability to climate change and other shocks that affect the region. The developing country status of the participating countries constrain the capacity of local authorities and international agencies to deal with pandemics, making them especially vulnerable to the economic and social impacts of the Coronavirus. As with many crises, the most vulnerable groups, such as coastal communities and informal workers, have suffered the greatest hardship, with decreased incomes and employment, increased poverty and food insecurity.

To assist in monitoring and addressing impacts and identifying mitigation measures for the fisheries sector, the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department established a COVID-19 Task Team to coordinate Departmental initiatives in response to the pandemic and provide coordinated support to measures and interventions addressing the impact of COVID-19 on fisheries and aquaculture (see <https://www.fao.org/fishery/covid19/en>), including direct guidance to countries and partners. According to an FAO publication Food systems and COVID-19 in the Mediterranean and Black Sea: A preliminary analysis of the impacts of COVID 19 (GFCM 2020 <https://www.fao.org/3/ca9090en/CA9090EN.pdf>), the pandemic has significantly affected the operation of both the industrial and small-scale sectors of the fishing industry in the Mediterranean region. Apart from the direct effects on fishers health, indirect impacts on fisheries include changing consumer demands, market access or logistical problems related to transportation and border restrictions, which have a damaging effect on fishers and fish farmers' livelihoods, as well as on food security and nutrition for populations relying heavily on fish for animal protein and essential micronutrients.

### **COVID-19 risks to project delivery and measures to mitigate them**

The early design of the proposed project (PIF stage) included risk mitigation measures to minimize the risks related to the COVID-19 global pandemic in the area of community health, and further steps were elaborated during the PPG phase based on updated FAO and UNEP Covid strategies. The project's detailed design (PPG phase) includes active steps to mitigate COVID-19 risks, including training on pandemic-related guidance for project staff and stakeholders during the inception phase, and the expansion of standard monitoring of project operations to ensure that they are in conformity with FAO and UNEP policies with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic. A preliminary risk analysis and identification of outline mitigation measures is shown in the table below.

	<b>Risk associated with COVID-19</b>	<b>Mitigation measures</b>
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Short-term (project lifetime)	Re-instatement of COVID-19 containment measures with no, restrictions on or cancellation of travel and personal meetings, impacting project activities such as training events (including during the PPG phase)	The project's COVID-19 mitigation strategies and measures (e.g., for managing travel, workshops etc.) will be aligned with GEF, FAO, UNEP and participating country Government policies, procedures and guidelines on operating during the pandemic, and lessons learned through execution of other projects in the Mediterranean region during the 2020-2021 period. Regular COVID19-related risk assessments will be undertaken to inform project implementation. The project will employ an adaptive management approach where work plans are frequently reviewed and revised to take into account changing circumstances as needed, with increased use of technology and support for adoption of mitigation measures where high human presence is required. For instance, site selection will be partly determined (prioritised) by the presence of local staff/resource persons/fishing community liaisons who can participate in virtual meetings with the fisheries authorities and other stakeholders (to reduce travel and risk of spreading virus, which will also help maintain local community buy-in and support dissemination of result). Capacity building support will be offered to these individuals as required. The executing agencies and national FAO Country Offices will closely monitor the Covid-19 situation and risks, with regular discussions held with project partners. The Project Manager will report on compliance to the Project Steering Committee and take any necessary steps to protect the health of staff, consultants/contractors, and beneficiaries required by the situation.
	Changes in national Government executing body priorities during COVID-19 response, e.g. shifts in resources with less Government focus on environment during the COVID crisis and consequently reduced and changing government partner capacity as human resources are mobilized elsewhere. Similarly, change in capacity of other executing entities and the effectiveness of the overall project implementation arrangement	The project will not overly rely on individual staff, but on institutions and organizations (Government and other partners), and spreading capacity development within individual countries so that as many individuals are involved and trained as possible. The project will also strengthen institutional coordination both at the national (through national fisheries and environmental agencies) and regional level (through GFCM and the Barcelona Convention Regional Sea MAP framework). This will help address some of the potential loss and reallocation of partner staff due to COVID. Institutional coordination on appropriate COVID measures will be key to ensuring project staff and beneficiaries have limited risk of contracting COVID.
	Reduced availability of co-financing availability (co-financing from both the private sector and governments, as well as international donor partners e.g. EU)	Government co-financing is largely in-kind so less affected by competition for new cash funding which is expected to be significant in both the immediate and longer terms due to the impact of the costs of the COVID-19 pandemic on the public budgets of the target countries. In addition, other co-financing sources not dependent on public sector funding will also be identified during the PPG and implementation. The contribution from the private sector fisheries is expected to be substantial.

	Limited capacity and experience for remote work and online interactions	The project will encourage remote working/meetings as required (Zoom, Skype, email-type platforms), the operation of which will be informed by lessons learned through successful execution of other projects in the Mediterranean region during 2020-2021 period. There will be a shift to online training courses supported by increased engagement of learners and encouragement of enrolment through using advanced learning technologies (FAO/UNEP have experience in this area). Equipment and training of key individuals involved with the project will be provided (assessed at the PPG stage) to ensure there are no barriers to engaging online. All countries were able to work and engage remotely and successfully during the PPG phase over the last 18 months.
	Changes in project implementation timelines and delays/difficulty in procuring technical equipment or personnel	A budgeted contingency plan will be developed to cover the first two years of the project in case COVID-19 does not permit the implementation of activities as initially proposed. In addition, during the PPG phase consideration will be given to programming of field activities during the second half of the project (when risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic are expected to be less following vaccination programmes).
	Stakeholder engagement reduced due to restrictions on their mobility	The project's stakeholder engagement strategy and plan, developed during the PPG phase, specifically considers the risk associated with COVID-19 on the target communities, their ability to engage with the Mediterranean project, and mitigation measures (these will depend on the final choice of pilot sites and their associated communities). Special attention will be paid to the more marginalized groups, such as women and local communities, as well as to Indigenous Peoples in case their presence is identified during project implementation. As mentioned above, targeted capacity (equipment and training) will be provided to enable local communities to properly engage with the project and can continue to be included in the event of future COVID-19 restrictions/lockdowns.
Long-term (post project)	Increased national debt/fiscal crises due to costs of responses to the COVID-19 pandemic impacting sustainability of project results where Government funding needed	The project will produce a Sustainability Plan in its final year which will consider the financial needs to sustain any project results.  However, the need for continued financing to ensure the sustainability of project results (and therefore the need for continued Government financing) is built into the design of the project through (see Sustainability section for text) and will be minimised.
	Future risk of similar crises	It is expected that FAO and UNEP will review its ESS screening framework in the next years to reflect any changing situation with regard to COVID-19 and also to integrate assessment of risk from future pandemics. As part of the process, consideration will be given to differences between LDCs and other recipient countries in their capacity to deal with COVID-19 with a differential risk assessment applied according to country status.

Given the unique situation faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the following provides a more detailed risk assessment as well as potential for turning these risks into opportunities in the Mediterranean region.

## **Opportunities associated with COVID-19**

As pointed out in GEF guidance document 'Project Design and Review Considerations in Response to the COVID-19 Crisis and the Mitigation of Future Pandemics' (27 August 2020), the COVID-19 crisis offers an opportunity to showcase and promote initiatives with significant potential to generate Global Environmental Benefits while at the same time increasing the resilience of ecological and socio-economic systems. Indeed, a recent study undertaken on behalf of the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, has proposed a set of priority opportunities to support such blue recovery, including 'invest in coastal and marine ecosystem restoration and protection', to which the project will contribute.

The project will exploit opportunities to contribute to the rebuilding of more resilient, sustainable and equitable post-COVID societies specifically through improved sustainable fisheries management and the adoption of responsible fishing practices (especially through Components 1 and 3), along with enhancing livelihoods (such as through better utilization of bycatch and discards in value chains), empowering communities and providing other social and environmental benefits based on supporting 'blue economy' initiatives (especially through Component 3 and 4). Together these will not only support the COVID-related recovery process (supporting opportunities to 'build back better') but improve the long-term resilience of communities to future shocks. Specific short-term and longer-term opportunities are identified below.

<b>Short-term opportunities associated with COVID-19</b>
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- ? Project-related, short-term employment opportunities (especially Components 1,3 and 4);
- ? Improved capacity of all stakeholders (especially beneficial for local community participants) to use virtual/online frameworks for communication, data gathering, analysis and management, and engaging with relevant authorities in decision-making (across the project but particularly Components 1, 2 and 3), which will contribute to government and project staff safety and decrease the need for travel thus decreasing the carbon footprint of the project;
- ? Reduced dependence on personnel for MCS activities through technology development and digitisation of fisheries, including bycatch and discards, monitoring and reporting (Component 2), with more efficient MCS systems in national fisheries administrations functioning and reduced human exposure to COVID-19;
- ? Improved resilience and transparency in supply chain and reduced risk of exposure to COVID-19 (Component 1);
- ? The project offers the opportunity to promote sustainable fisheries mainstreaming across both public and private (industrial and SSF) fishery industry sectors helping to improve fish stocks and counter destruction of marine and coastal habitats, on which many communities rely;
- ? Incorporation of COVID-19 mitigation measures messaging into training and capacity building activities supported under the project (across project, integrated into all communications enabling greater spread of health messaging)
- ? Indicators to measure/monitor COVID-19 situation/response in project target areas may be useful for local health authorities (e.g. for planning)

**Long-term opportunities associated with COVID-19**

- ? Strengthening of bycatch and discards management approaches and technologies (under Component 1 and 3) and compliance measures (under Component 2) supported by increased capacity will lead to more sustainable fisheries, productivity improvements, and increased benefits to communities such as improved livelihood opportunities and food security, contributing to socio-economic resilience to future shocks such as pandemic, and climate change;
- ? Socio-economic benefits to project target communities, such as support for the SSF sector and associated jobs and local economic development (particularly following Component 1, 3 and 4), will also help build greater resilience to climate change. Benefits are likely to be particularly valuable to marginal and underprivileged communities such as women and girls in the project's target sites, and given these are coastal these are climate vulnerable communities;
- ? Increased effectiveness and cost-efficiency in managing bycatch and discards (particularly following delivery of Component 1 and 2) as well as addressing IUU fishing and reducing economic losses and improving the performance of legal operators (particularly following Component 2);
- ? More efficient capture technology (less bycatch and discards) will also help reduce the carbon footprint of fishing vessels due to lower fuel use (more bycatch = more fuel wasted) and contributes to more climate resilient fisheries infrastructure;
- ? Increased access to fisheries and alternative livelihood data/knowledge by fisher communities as well as the capacity to use ITC technology and systems will help support feedback loops, the collation and dissemination of data, early warning mechanisms and identification of potential risks, contributing to building greater resilience of SSF communities to future shocks, as such capacity is transferable e.g. many skills can be applied to other environment, development and health-related initiatives (use across project especially Components 1 and 2) as well as nature based solutions (Component 3);
- ? Involvement of communities in the project (especially Components 1 and 3) will allow increased awareness of COVID-19 and greater likelihood of better access to available mitigation and adaptation measures in response to future COVID-19 threats (and other pandemics) and general public health benefits;
- ? Contribution to recovery of marine and coastal ecosystems due to reduction of threats (overfishing and plastic pollution from ALDFG) and more sustainable fisheries which is required for 'blue growth' in the Mediterranean region (Component 1);
- ? Successful engagement with the private sector will allow opportunities for accelerating new sustainable 'blue growth' based businesses approaches in incorporating 'green recovery' activities into projects and programs in the fisheries industry.

## **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.**

### **6.a Institutional arrangements for project implementation**

The proposed project will be implemented by two of the GEF's Implementing Agencies, the FAO and UNEP, both of which possess a comparative advantage in light of their constant support to countries, thanks to their experience, respectively, in food systems management and protection and restoration of ecosystem services. The FAO and UNEP will play a close coordination and liaison role with the Executing Agencies and the GEF Secretariat. The FAO will also be responsible for all enquiries regarding the proposed project implementation progress and the project-level reporting, mid-term evaluation and terminal evaluation and, final project completion and the achievement of higher level of project's impacts on the global environment. The FAO (as GEF Implementing Agency) heavily relies on the role of regional fishery bodies to advance progress in the implementation of its fisheries related policies among groups of neighbouring countries, as well as UNEP (as GEF Implementing Agency) heavily relies on its Regional Seas Programme as the most important regional mechanism for conservation of the marine and coastal environment. The proposed project, in full compliance with what established by the PIF, will be executed by the GFCM, together with the Barcelona Convention Regional Sea MAP governance framework, as the multilateral environmental agreement administered by UNEP in the region.

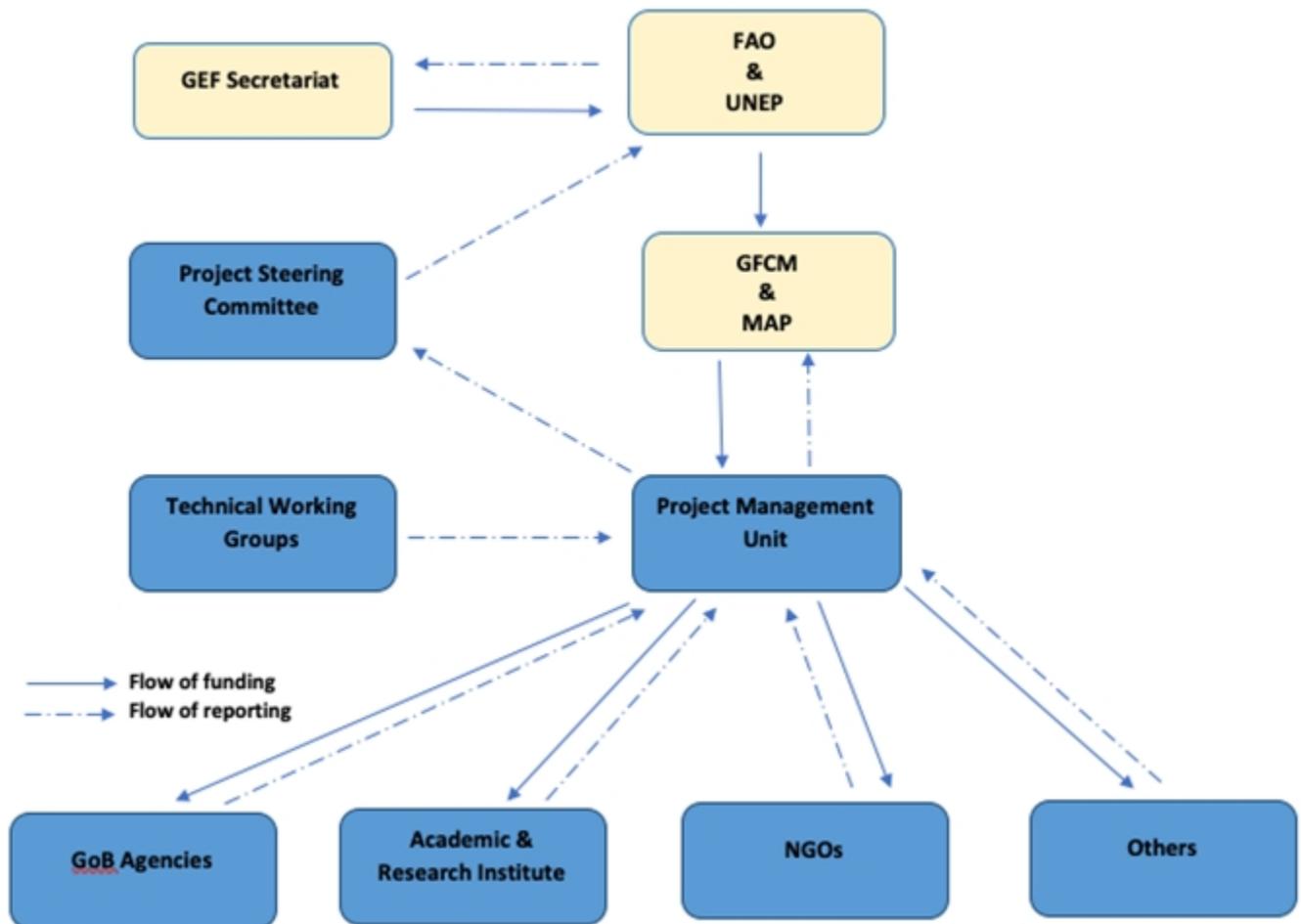
The GFCM and MAP, as the Executing Agencies, will be in charge of coordinating the execution of the activities under the proposed project and ensuring coordination with initiatives funded by other donors in the Mediterranean as well as other expected GEF-funded initiatives under the same focal area. The GFCM and MAP will manage the proposed project funds and will be supervised by the FAO and UNEP to make sure that all fiduciary standards are being met. GFCM and MAP's roles in project execution will be costed within the PMC. In its capacity as Executing Agencies, the GFCM and MAP will also be responsible for the regular monitoring of the proposed project results, and the reporting of such results (through progress reports, technical and financial reports, Project Implementation Reports for instance) to the Implementing Agency, as need be and according to a calendar that would be adopted during the inception phase. Evaluations, however, will be conducted by the Evaluation Office of FAO, as an independent entity.

A Project Steering Committee (PSC), chaired by the countries in a rotational way, and comprising two national focal points from each country (GFCM and MAP), the Implementing Agencies, the Executing Agencies, and possibly the GEF Secretariat in an ex-officio capacity, will act as an advisory and decision-making mechanism to maximize synergies and ensure the successful design and implementation of the proposed project. The main role of the PSC will be to review and approve the annual project's work plans and budgets, provide a coordination forum and a monitoring platform during the implementation phase of the proposed project. It will also provide an overall, high-level, coordination of the technical alignment and synergy between the proposed project components. Other partners, such as international organizations, NGOs, and the private sector, will be involved as necessary. It will meet virtually every four months, if possible, to track progress and provide opportunities for cross-fertilization; it will meet face-to-face once a year, if required and possibly in a different project site. From the early stage of the proposed project implementation, particular attention will be placed on all possible opportunities to promote coordination. In this regard and bearing in mind in particular the fact that the FAO is planning a germane GEF intervention for the Black Sea, the PSC will be regularly informed by the GFCM on the status of this intervention, which shares a similar thrust, rationale and objective compared to those of the proposed project. This

potential cross fertilization between the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea GEF interventions will enable the PSC to uptake lessons learnt and build synergies.

The GFCM and MAP will act as the lead executing agencies having the overall executing and technical responsibility for the project, with FAO and UNEP providing oversight as GEF Agencies as described below. The MAP Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC) established by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in order to assist Mediterranean countries in implementing the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (SPA/BD), the Strategic Action Programme for the conservation of BIOlogical diversity (SAP-BIO and the Post2020 SAP-BIO) will be also involved as executing agency for the MAP components. The GFCM, MAP and the SPA/RAC will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project results entrusted to it in full compliance with all FAO and UNEP rules and procedures. GFCM, MAP and SPA/RAC are responsible and accountable to FAO and UNEP for the timely execution of the agreed project results, operational oversight of implementation activities, timely reporting, and for effective use of GEF resources for the intended purposes and in line with FAO, UNEP and GEF policy requirements.

The project organization structure is as follows:



Although established through FAO and UNEP, the GFCM and MAP are separate entities. The GFCM is a commission established under the provisions of Article XIV of the Constitution of the FAO with an

independent budget; MAP is part of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme with its own governing body and coordinates activities aimed at the protection of the marine environment through a regional approach.

A Project Management Unit (PMU) will be co-funded by the GEF grant and established within the Executing Agencies. The main functions of the PMU, following the guidance of the Project Steering Committee, are to ensure overall efficient management, coordination, implementation and monitoring of the project through the effective implementation of the annual work plans and budgets.

It is expected that the PMU will be composed of a Project Manager (PM), a SPA/RAC Technical Project Manager (TPM), and a GFCM M&E Expert ? as well as relevant technical staff of the Executing Agencies backstopping the technical activities to be implemented ? who will work full-time for the project lifetime to oversee daily implementation, management, administration and technical supervision of the project, on behalf of the Executing Agencies and within the framework delineated by the PSC. Furthermore, the Project Manager (PM) and the GFCM M&E Expert will serve both the PMUs of the GEF Mediterranean (FishEBM-Med) and Black Sea (FishEBM-BS) projects, with a view to promote efficient use of GEF resources. The PM, the TPM and the M&E Expert will be responsible, among others, for:

- Coordination with relevant initiatives;
- Ensuring a high level of collaboration among participating institutions and organizations at the national and local levels;
- Coordination and close monitoring of the implementation of project activities;
- Tracking the project?s progress and ensuring timely delivery of inputs and outputs;
- Providing technical support and assessing the outputs of the project national consultants hired with GEF funds, as well as the products generated in the implementation of the project;
- Monitoring financial resources and accounting to ensure accuracy and reliability of financial reports;
- Ensuring timely preparation and submission of requests for funds, financial and progress reports to FAO and UNEP reporting requirements;
- Maintaining documentation and evidence that describes the proper and prudent use of project resources, including making available this supporting documentation to FAO and UNEP, and designated auditors when requested;
- Implementing and managing the project?s monitoring and communications plans;
- Ensuring the implementation of the Gender Action Plan;
- Organizing project workshops and meetings to monitor progress and preparing the Annual Budget and Work Plan;
- Submitting the Project Progress Reports (PPRs) with the annual work plans and budgets to the PSC and FAO and UNEP;
- Preparing the first draft of the Project Implementation Review (PIR);
- Supporting the organization of the mid-term and final evaluations in close coordination with the FAO Budget Holder and the FAO Independent Office of Evaluation (OED);
- Informing the PSC, FAO and UNEP of any delays and difficulties as they arise during the implementation to ensure timely corrective measure and support.

The FAO and UNEP, as the GEF Implementing Agencies (IAs) for the Project will provide project cycle management and support services as established in the GEF Policy. As the GEF IAs, FAO and UNEP hold overall accountability and responsibility to the GEF for delivery of the results.

In the IA role, FAO will utilize the GEF fees to deploy three different actors within the organization to support the project (see Annex K for details):

- The Budget Holder, which is usually the most decentralized FAO office, will provide oversight of day-to-day project execution;
- The Lead Technical Officer(s), drawn from across FAO will provide oversight/support to the projects technical work in coordination with government representatives participating in the Project Steering Committee;
- The Funding Liaison Officer(s) within FAO will monitor and support the project cycle to ensure that the project is being carried out and reporting done in accordance with agreed standards and requirements.

These roles are specific only for FAO and relevant to its implementing function only.

In the IA role, UNEP will deploy following actors within the organization to support the project through the team of the UNEP International Waters Task Manager, the GEF International Water team, the Funding Liaison unit and GEF Coordination office support as required.

MAP, through the MedProgramme Management Officer and the MedProgramme Financial Officer will ensure continuous follow up on project activities as well as will liaise between the SPA/RAC implementing team and the UNEP deployed actors ensuring that the project implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation frameworks, activities and outputs are aligned with UNEP and GEF standards.

FAO and UNEP responsibilities, as GEF Agencies, will include:

- Administrate funds from GEF in accordance with the rules and procedures of FAO;
- Oversee project implementation in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, agreements with co-financiers, Operational Partners Agreement(s)and other rules and procedures of FAO and UNEP;
- Provide technical guidance to ensure that appropriate technical quality is applied to all activities concerned;
- Conduct at least one supervision mission per year; and
- Reporting to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, through the annual Project Implementation Review, the Mid Term Review, the Terminal Evaluation and the Project Closure Report on project progress;
- Financial reporting to the GEF Trustee.

#### **6.b Coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.**

FishEBM Med will build upon the activities implemented and the results achieved by the partnership between GEF and the MAP in the period 1997-2021. In particular the integrated and multi-sectoral framework of the project is based on the outcomes of the Mediterranean Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) which provided the technical basis for development of the Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land-Based Activities (SAP-MED), the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity (SAP-BIO) and the related National Actions Plans (NAPs). In particular, the planned NAP+ to be developed in Montenegro under the FishEBM Med project and which is expected to define the national inter-institutional collaboration framework for implementing the Post2020 SAPBIO, the regional MAP strategic framework to further the

mainstreaming of biodiversity into all environmental and sectorial policies relevant for the sustainable use of marine living resources, is a direct evolution of the 'first generation' of NAPs developed with GEF support.

FishEBM Med will also build on the results achieved by the two GEF supported projects implemented from 2009 to 2016, the 'Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem' MedPartnership? (GEF ID 2600) and the 'Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to Implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean ClimVar&ICZM?' (GEF ID 3990) which fostered a coordinated effort to setup and catalyze the policy, and legal and institutional reforms necessary to reverse the degradation trends affecting the Mediterranean LME and set the base for the development of the MedProgramme (GEF ID 9607).

FishEBM Med will work in coordination with two of the child projects of the MedProgramme:

- Mediterranean Coastal Zones: Water Security, Climate Resilience and Habitat Protection
- Enhancing regional climate change adaptation in the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas (SCCF)

For the first Child project - and namely for its component focused on the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol ratification and implementation in Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia and the provision of technical assistance support for the development of pilot ICZM Plans in Montenegro (Kotor Bay), Morocco (Tanger-Tetouan-Al Hoceima region) and Lebanon (Damour) -FishEBM Med, for the NAP+ elements (4.3) can look at potential areas for investment to support the implementation of the ICZM plan for inclusion in the development of the NAP+ especially if there is interest from the private sector people or industry representatives to participate in the development of the NAP.

Concerning Child Project SCCF, FishEBM Med activities on the adaptation to climate change of the fisheries sector (FishEBM Med Output 3.2 focused on the 'creation of a regional/Mediterranean Sea adaptation strategy to cope with potential effects of climate change?') will coordinate with SCCF, in particular:

- FishEBM Med activities on risk assessment will use Climagine methodology where relevant with the results informing any sectoral adaptation strategies
- The NAP+ will consider climate change predictions and engage the private sector and reflect the adaptation priorities and institutional support as expressed by the private sector in developing a climate-informed NAP+
- The identified climate change adaptation measures in the SCCF pilot area in Montenegro will inform the NAP+

Furthermore, FishEBM Med will integrate achieved results within the MedProgramme Knowledge Management Strategy (KM Strategy) through an ad-hoc KM Action Plan, and will disseminate them through the MedProgramme knowledge sharing platform. A specific FishEBM Med working area will be created on this platform making available a project management tool allowing project 'internal' stakeholders contributing to the development of project outputs and a portal allowing project 'external' stakeholders to be informed on project progress and to access key information showcasing progress towards impact and the contribution of FishEBM-Med to global and regional environmental goals and to download information and communication tools produced by the project.

FishEBM Med will establish synergies and coordinate actions with the GEF funded CI project 'Build back a blue and stronger Mediterranean?' (GEF ID 10685), which is implemented by MedPAN, the network of Mediterranean MPA managers and the MedFund, the environmental fund for Mediterranean MPAs, and

aims at supporting the development of management capacity for 20 nationally designated MPAs and new MPAs under designation in Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon, Montenegro. It also aims at strengthening regional / national cooperation to promote MPAs as solutions to address global conservation challenges and provide socio-ecological benefits and at creating a supportive environment for implementing policy commitments towards MPAs in the Mediterranean. This collaboration is particularly relevant for the Output 4.3 related to the development of the pilot NAP+ in Montenegro.

## 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 proposed project will adhere to the priorities set forth by the countries in their national strategies and action plans for the implementation of the provisions of relevant conventions in the context of the Barcelona Convention and its adopted protocols and of the GFCM Agreement and its binding recommendations. In addition, the proposed project is fully consistent with relevant international and regional instruments, including but not limited to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and others pertaining to prevention, mitigation and responses to pollution (e.g. MARPOL), spills, dumping at sea from ships, the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the FAO Compliance Agreement and the FAO Port State Measures Agreement. It is worth recalling that countries have published and implemented first generation National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) focusing on protection and conservation of marine fauna and flora, expansion of protected areas, improving the policy and legislative environments, harmonization at national and regional levels and, improving monitoring and assessment of biodiversity. In addition to its reported contribution to achieving SDG 14 targets (section 5 refers), the proposed project will also contribute to the implementation of the Aichi Targets, in particular the following: 2 (integration of biodiversity values into national and local development plans), 6 (sustainable management of fisheries stocks), 8 (pollution reduction) and 11 (conservation of especially important coastal and marine areas). Ultimately, the proposed project aims at bringing about in the GEF eligible Mediterranean Sea countries better alignment of existing national strategies on fisheries and aquaculture [19] with regional commitments in place and select international calls for action, including in view of the development of post-2020 strategies. This is outlined in the table below.

<b>National Strategies relating to fisheries and aquaculture</b>	<b>Regional commitments national strategies are to be aligned with</b>	<b>International calls national strategies are to be aligned with</b>
Albania National Fishery Strategy 2016 - 2021 (adopted via Decision of Council of Minister (DCM) No. 701, date 12.10.2016).	2004 Declaration of the Ministerial Conference for the Sustainable Development	United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14;

<p>Bosnia and Herzegovina Integrated Water Management Strategy 2015-2024; Strategy and Action Plan for Protection of Biological Diversity in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2015-2020</p>	<p>of Fisheries in the Mediterranean; 2017 MedFish4Ever Ministerial Declaration;</p>	<p>CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets 6 and 11; 2030 United Nations for the Sustainable Development;</p>
<p>Algeria Strategie nationale de peche 2015/2020, Aquapeche bleue 2020 ; Strategie Nationale pour l'Economie Bleue (SNEB) ? l'horizon 2030.</p>	<p>2018 Ministerial Declaration on a Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Small-Scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea;</p>	<p>United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030);</p>
<p>Lebanon Ministry of Agriculture Strategy 2015 ? 2019. P.S. A new Roadmap in support of Fisheries &amp; Aquaculture in Lebanon is currently being developed by the Ministry of Agriculture.</p>	<p>GFCM mid-term strategy towards the sustainability of fisheries (2017-2020);</p>	<p>FAO Strategic Framework and Blue Transformation Priority Programme Area;</p>
<p>Libya Under preparation.</p>		
<p>Morocco - Strategie et Plan d'Actions National pour la Diversite? Biologique du Maroc, 2016-2020 ; - Strategie Nationale de D?veloppement Durable 2030.</p>	<p>2018 GFCM Strategy for the sustainable development of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture.</p>	<p>Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework.</p>
<p>Montenegro [20] Fisheries strategy of Montenegro 2015-2020 with an Action plan for transposition, implementation and enforcement of EU acquis</p>	<p>GFCM 2030 Strategy for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea</p>	

<p>Tunisia</p> <p>Strat?gie nationale pour le d?veloppement de la p?che et de l'aquaculture en Tunisie ? l'horizon 2020.</p>	<p>UNEP/MAP Post2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity (POST2020 SAP-BIO)</p> <p>UNEP/MAP Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP)</p>	
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## 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 and effective communication will be a cross-cutting priority under all of the project's Outputs and Outcomes. Internally, the Knowledge Management Approach will focus on information sharing, regular dialogue at all levels and the dissemination of documents, data and results. Externally, it will focus on the dissemination of information to a wide array of partners (governments, civil society, etc.) and to beneficiaries, using for each type of stakeholder the most effective channel of communication. Supervision and monitoring missions will be organized during the proposed project implementation. The information collected will feed into activities for knowledge management, identify and share good practices, identify problems and constraints, and promote the continuous improvement of the proposed project and its contribution to the implementation of national and regional objectives on the sustainability and profitability of fisheries and environmental protection.

### 8.1 Promotion of initiatives to support countries in encouraging strategic investment

The establishment of national FishEBM Med/Post 2020 SAPBIO stakeholders platform will be promoted and supported in interested countries including public and private actors involved in the conservation and sustainable management of marine resources and ecosystems in view to develop national blue economy capacities and encourage participation in FishEBM-Med actions and joint investments.

### 8.2 Dissemination of lessons learnt and best practices

Throughout the implementation of the project, the project progress, findings, achievements, experiences, good practices, success stories and lessons learned, will be collected and disseminated in various formats tailor made for each category of stakeholders in the region. Ad hoc knowledge exchanges and trainings will be developed on selected topics to enhance the capacity building of key regional stakeholders, in relevant regional and global fora.

### **8.3 Outreach and communication**

A strong outreach and communication strategy will be developed to raise regional and global awareness on the proposed project and its accomplishments. A variety of communication materials will be generated in multiple languages to ensure that all the relevant stakeholders in the region are informed and engaged in the activities of the project with the final objective of positioning the FishEBM Med as a driver of transformational change within the Mediterranean region and beyond. The impacts of the communication strategy and its materials will be closely monitored in order to adapt them regularly and maximize the impact in each country.

Moreover, alignment with the MedProgramme Knowledge Management Strategy (KM Strategy), will be ensured by the proposed project. The MedProgramme KM Strategy aims to maximize the MedProgramme impacts by: i) leveraging and systematically sharing knowledge assets generated with the intended beneficiaries and audiences; ii) strengthening the science-policy interface and influencing decision making through data and information sharing, capacity building, and regional stakeholder engagement; iii) supporting the objectives of the Barcelona Convention and the GFCM Agreement systems through effective stocktaking and scaling up of programme results; and iv) fostering incremental innovation within GEF programmatic approaches and enriching the knowledge base of GEF Implementing and Executing Agencies.

Furthermore, the project will prioritize due participation in the actions identified under the [IW:LEARN](#) Supporting Portfolio Coordination Within and Beyond the International Waters Focal Area, such as regional training workshops, twinning activities, and cross sharing of data and good practices. To this end, 1% of the IW grant will secure participation in learning activities, including global and regional events and the production and dissemination of experience notes. These will be further shared through the IW:LEARN, eventually benefitting an audience that goes beyond the project partners.

## **9. Monitoring and Evaluation**

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

Project oversight will be carried out by FAO and UNEP as the GEF Implementing Agencies, with the support and inputs from the Executing Agencies and the Project Steering Committee (PSC).

Oversight will ensure that: (i) project outputs are produced in accordance with the project results framework and leading to the achievement of project outcomes; (ii) project outcomes are leading to the achievement of the project objective; (iii) risks are continuously identified and monitored and appropriate mitigation strategies are applied; and (iv) agreed project global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits are being delivered.

Regular Monitoring is a task of Project Management Unit (PMU), with support of the Executing Agencies and the FAO and UNEP; FAO will be responsible for the Mid-term review and the Final Evaluation.

### **9.1 Indicators and information sources**

Specific indicators and targets have been established in the Results Framework (see Annex A1) to monitor project progress, outputs and outcomes. The framework's indicators and means of verification will be applied to monitor both project performance and impact. The main sources of information to support the M&E will be (see 9.3 Reporting for further details):

- Inception Report
- Project progress reports (PPRs)
- Project Implementation Reviews (PIR), including co-financing reports
- Results-based annual work plan and budget
- Independent Mid-term Review (MTR)
- Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE)
- Terminal Report
- Back to office reports of site visits and missions
- Relevant workshop and meeting reports
- Brainstorming retreats for the Implementing and Executing Agencies and select relevant partners
- Technical studies and reports

### **9.2. Project supervision**

FAO will provide oversight of GEF-financed activities, outputs and outcomes, establishing a project task force consisting of the Budget Holder, the project Lead Technical Officer, Funding Liaison Officer and Technical Officer(s) from the Implementing and Executing Agencies. Oversight will be primarily delivered through the annual project implementation review, project evaluations, the meeting of the Project Steering Committee and supervisory missions and audits.

The project will also follow UNEP standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes and procedures. Substantive and financial project reporting requirements are summarized in the following sections. Reporting requirements and templates are an integral part of the UNEP legal instrument to be signed by the executing agency and UNEP. Project supervision will take an adaptive management approach. The UNEP Task Manager will develop a project supervision plan at the inception of the project which will be communicated to the project partners during the inception workshop. The emphasis of the Task Manager supervision will be on outcome monitoring but without neglecting project financial management and implementation monitoring. Progress vis-?-vis delivering the agreed project global environmental benefits will be assessed with the Steering Committee at agreed intervals. Project risks and assumptions will be regularly monitored both by project partners and UNEP. Risk assessment and rating is an integral part of the Project Implementation Review (PIR). The quality of project monitoring and evaluation will also be reviewed and rated as part of the PIR. Key financial parameters will be monitored quarterly to ensure cost-effective use of financial resources.

As a GEF Implementing Agencies, FAO and UNEP provide overall supervision and technical guidance, and will undertake supervision missions to project sites to provide technical backstopping, and they are

also part of assurance activities including field visits to the project sites in a timely manner for monitoring the completion by the Operational Partners in accordance with the work plan, budgets, and progress towards producing the project outputs, particularly in cases where gaps or shortcomings are identified so to agree upon corrective actions and risk mitigation measures.

### 9.3 Reporting

Project monitoring will be carried out by the Project Management Unit (PMU). Project performance will be monitored using the project results framework, including indicators (baseline and targets) and annual work plans and budgets. At inception the results framework will be reviewed to finalize identification of: i) outputs ii) indicators; and iii) missing baseline information and targets. A detailed M&E plan, which builds on the results framework and defines specific requirements for each indicator (data collection methods, frequency, responsibilities for data collection and analysis, etc.) will also be developed during project inception by the M&E Experts.

Specific reports that will be prepared under the PMU and under the M&E programme are outlined in Table 1 below and described in the paragraphs that follow. The preparation of the consolidated report for submission to FAO is a task of the PMU.

**Table 1:** Monitoring and evaluation framework

M&E Activity	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Budget (USD)
Inception workshop	Project Management Unit (PMU) or Project Manager	After GEF CEO Endorsement (project formulation phase)	No cost ? held in conjunction with GFCM/MAP annual session/meeting of State Parties
Project M&E Experts/Specialists	A GFCM full-time expert as part of the PMU and a SPA/RAC part time expert	Several consultancy contract starting one month after EOD	USD 136,000
Project Inception Report	Project Manager and PMU	Three months after the project inception workshop	Project staff time
Project progress reports (PPRs) ? FAP	Project Manager and M&E Experts	Every six months	M&E Experts honorarium (see above)
Project Implementation Reviews (PIR), including co-financing reports	BH, LTO, GFCM, MAP, FAO, UNEP and PMU (including M&E experts)	Annually in July. Covering the period from July (previous year) to June (current year)	Project staff time and M&E Experts honorarium (see above)

Results-based Annual Work Plan and Budget	PMU in consultation with the FAO, GFCM, MAP and UNEP Project Task Forces	Annually in July. Covering the period from July (previous year) to June (current year)	Project staff time and M&E Experts honorarium (see above)
Independent Mid-term Review (MTR)	The BH will be responsible for the decentralized independent MTR	In the 1st quarter of the third year of the project (2024)	USD 60,000
Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE)	FAO Office of Evaluation (OED)	To be launched within six months prior to the actual completion date (NTE date)	USD 65,000
Terminal report	BH, LTO, GFCM, MAP, FAO, UNEP and PMU in consultation with project FLO	Finalized and submitted during project operational closure	USD 6,550
Steering committee and learning mission/site visits/brainstorming retreats	PM, PMU and M&E Experts	Yearly, including field missions	USD 161,000
Total M&E budget			USD 428,550

### Project Inception Workshop and Report

It is recommended that the PMU organizes an inception workshop and prepares a draft project inception report in consultation with FAO (LTO, BH), UNEP and other project partners. Elements of this report should be discussed during the Project Inception Workshop and the report subsequently finalized through follow up planning and start-up actions with the executing partners and countries.

The report will include a narrative on the institutional roles and responsibilities and coordinating action of project partners, progress to date on project establishment and start-up activities and an update of any changed external conditions that may affect project implementation. It will also include a detailed first year annual work plan and budget, and a detailed project monitoring plan. The draft inception report will be prepared within three months of the inception workshop and circulated to the PSC members once finalized. This report will be cleared by the FAO (BH, LTO and the FAO GEF Coordination Unit) and UNEP prior to the first PSC meeting.

### Results-based Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B)

The draft of the first year work plan and budget will be prepared by the PMU in consultation with FAO, UNEP and key project stakeholders. After FAO/UNEP initial clearance, the PMU will submit the first draft to FAO and UNEP for review, comments and operational clearance by BH and technical clearance by LTO. The cleared final draft will be submitted to the PSC for review and approval before it is put into

implementation. Once finalized the annual work plan and budget is to be uploaded on the FAO FPMIS by the BH. The work plan and budget must be linked to the project's Results Framework indicators so that the project's work is contributing to the achievement of the indicators. The work plan and budget should include detailed activities to be implemented to achieve the project outputs as well as the output divided into monthly timeframes and targets and milestone dates with indicators to be achieved during the year. A detailed overall project budget for the activities to be implemented during the year should also include all monitoring and supervision activities required during the year.

### **Project Progress Reports (PPR)**

PPRs will be prepared by the PMU based on the systematic monitoring of output and outcome indicators identified in the project's Results Framework (Annex A1). The purpose of the PPR is to report the achievements or results made and also to identify constraints, problems or bottlenecks that impede timely implementation and to take appropriate remedial action in a timely manner. They will also report on projects risks and implementation of the risk mitigation plan. The PMU should follow the reporting schedule and submit PPR to the Budget Holder and UNEP Task Manager who has the responsibility will to coordinate with the PTF members and the FAO and UNEP finance units respectively to review the project progress and the relevant expenditures. The PMU would explain and provide additional information to address comments raised from FAO. Once the PPR is operationally and technically cleared by FAO, the PPR will be submitted to FAO and UNEP-GEF Units for endorsement and to be uploaded to the FPMIS by FLO accordingly.

### **Annual Project Implementation Review (PIR)**

The PMU is to coordinate the inputs among the project execution partners and prepare the annual Project Implementation Review (PIR) using GEF PIR format, which should be submitted to LTO before end of July for review and technical clearance in consultation with the BH and the other PTF members. The LTO will submit the final version to FAO-GEF and UNEP-GEF Units. Annual PIR covers the period July (the previous year) through June (current year) and is to be submitted to the FAO GEF Coordination Unit Funding Liaison Officer (FLO) and to the UNEP-GEF Coordination Unit for review and approval. The FAO GEF Coordination Unit will submit the PIR to the GEF Secretariat and GEF Evaluation Office as part of the Annual Monitoring Review report of the FAO-GEF portfolio. PIRs will be uploaded on the FPMIS by the FAO GEF Coordination Unit.

Key milestones for the PIR process:

- Early August: the LTO submits the draft PIR (after consultations with BH, project team) to the FAO GEF Coordination Unit ([faogef@fao.org](mailto:faogef@fao.org), copying respective GEF Unit officer) and the UNEP GEF Coordination Unit for initial review
- Mid-August: FAO GEF Coordination Unit and the UNEP GEF Coordination Unit responsible officers review main elements of PIR and discuss with LTO as required
- Late August: the FAO GEF Coordination Unit prepares and finalizes the FAO Summary Tables and sends to the GEF Secretariat by the date communicated each year by the GEF Secretariat through the FAO GEF Coordination Unit
- September/October: PIR is finalized. PIR carefully and thoroughly reviewed by the FAO GEF Coordination Unit and the UNEP GEF Coordination Unit and discussed with the LTO for final review and clearance

- Mid November: (date to be confirmed by the GEF): the FAO GEF Coordination Unit submits the final PIR report - cleared by the LTU and approved by the FAO GEF Coordination Unit and the UNEP-GEF Coordination Unit - to the GEF Secretariat and the GEF Independent Evaluation Office

### **Co-financing Reports**

The PMU will be responsible for collecting the required information and reporting on co-financing as indicated in the Project Document/CEO Request. The PMU will compile the information received from the executing partners and transmit it in a timely manner to the LTO and BH and UNEP Task Manager. The report, which covers the period 1 July through 30 June, is to be submitted on or before 31 July and will be incorporated into the annual PIR. The format and tables to report on co-financing can be found in the PIR.

### **Technical Reports**

Technical reports are prepared by national, international consultants or the project contracted service providers as part of project outputs and to document and share project outcomes and lessons learned. The drafts of any technical reports must be submitted to the respective operational partner and LTO and UNEP for clearance. The LTO and UNEP will be responsible for ensuring appropriate technical review and clearance of said report. The LTO will upload the final cleared reports onto the FPMIS. Copies of the technical reports will be distributed to project partners and reported to the Project Steering Committee as appropriate. Technical reports that are to be published will be submitted to FAO and UNEP for review and clearance in accordance with FAO and UNEP rules and regulations on publications.

### **Terminal Report**

Within two months before the end date of the project the PMU will submit to the BH and LTO and UNEP a draft Terminal Report. The main purpose of the Terminal Report is to report to project results and also to give advice at ministerial or senior government level on the policy decisions required for the follow-up of the project, and to provide the donor with information on how the funds were utilized. The Terminal Report is accordingly a concise account of the main products, results, conclusions and recommendations of the project, without unnecessary background, narrative or technical details. The target readership consists of persons who are not necessarily technical specialists but who need to understand the policy implications of technical findings and needs for insuring sustainability of project results.

## **9.4 Evaluation provisions**

FAO is the lead evaluation agency (for both MTR and final evaluation) on this joint FAO-UNEP implemented project, and although full collaboration is expected (sharing of ToRs, draft reports for comments and final reports), the evaluation remains independent. An independent mid-term review will be undertaken at the mid-point of project implementation and the plan for MTR should be endorsed by the PSC. The review will determine progress being made towards achievement of objectives, outcomes, and outputs, and will identify corrective actions if necessary. The MTR will be under the responsibility of the BH, and will, inter alia:

- Review the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation
- Analyze effectiveness of implementation and partnership arrangements
- Identify issues requiring decisions and remedial actions
- Identify lessons learned about project design, implementation and management

- Highlight technical achievements and lessons learned
- Propose any mid-course corrections and/or adjustments to the implementation strategy as necessary

As per the FAO policy on evaluation, the FAO Office of Evaluation (OED) will conduct a final evaluation of the project, to be launched within six months prior to the actual completion date (NTE date). It will aim at identifying project outcomes, their sustainability and actual or potential impacts. It will also have the purpose of indicating future actions needed to assure continuity of the process developed through the project. FAO Office of Evaluation will conduct the evaluation in consultation with project stakeholders and the donor, and share with them the evaluation report, which is a public document.

The Terminal Evaluation (TE) will be managed jointly by UNEP and FAO Evaluation Offices. The FAO Evaluation Office will, however, lead the Terminal Evaluation (TE) and will liaise with the UNEP Evaluation Office throughout the process. Key decision points in the evaluation process will be made jointly by both Evaluation Offices in a collaborative manner [finalisation of Evaluation ToRs, selection of evaluation consultants, review of draft report and acceptance of final report].

The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP, GEF, FAO, executing partners and other stakeholders. It will also have the purpose of indicating future actions needed to assure continuity of the process developed through the project. The evaluation will be conducted in consultation with project stakeholders and the donor. The direct costs of the evaluation will be charged against the project evaluation budget.

The draft TE report will be sent to project stakeholders for comment. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the Evaluation Offices in an open and transparent manner. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the Evaluation Offices of UNEP and FAO when the report is finalised. The evaluation report will be publicly disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process.

## 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 build support from national administrations, research institutes, private sector and stakeholders themselves for fisheries and ecosystem management efforts and fisheries-based livelihoods initiatives that will generate a number of socio-economic benefits at the regional, national and local levels. These include but are not limited to:

- Improved fisheries management, promoting long-term sustainability of the fisheries resources and thus supporting the economic sustainability of the fishing activity and the jobs which depend on the fishing industry.

- Enhanced value chain interventions supporting improved rents to those who rely directly on fisheries for their livelihoods
- Promotion of social protection work initiatives, helping to remove incentives for pernicious behaviour (e.g. short term thinking, lack of compliance with management efforts) and reinforcing fishers' abilities to respond to shocks while planning for the future and promoting stewardship of fisheries resources.
- Reinforcement of access rights to fishery resources and land for accessory activities within the context of a rights-based approach to fisheries tenure
- Enhanced compliance with fisheries management and a reduction in IUU fishing
- Better synergies between fisheries and other Blue Economy sectors, such as tourism.

The above will result in more and better jobs, economic growth, and social development (especially where the fruits of economic development are fairly shared), thus contributing to full and productive employment in the fisheries sector, particularly for rural coastal communities, while reinforcing the concept of decent work. Furthermore, these efforts will address vulnerabilities of coastal communities, exposed particularly through the COVID-19 crisis, supporting their future resilience in the face of shocks and their capacity to build back better?.

Underpinning all of the above is greater investment in and protection of the natural capital of ocean ecosystems. This investment in marine natural capital, in turn, will generate a number of global environmental benefits, including biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, and climate change adaptation (e.g., strengthening the resilience of community marine fisheries).

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#### Notes and references

[1] See [Guidance Note on Gender Mainstreaming](#) in project identification and formulation;

[2] FAO. 2020. The State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries 2020. General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb2429en>;

[3] <http://www.fao.org/gfcm/meetings/ssf2018>;

[4] Analytical stock assessment was available for 85 stocks in 2018, from which emanates around half of the catches in the Mediterranean and Black Sea;

[5] It is important to note, however, that the use of landing weight is

not the only ? nor the best ? indication of the exploitation status, and instead, indicators such as fishing mortality (F) and biomass should also be considered, as. As for overexploited stocks adequate management measures may cause landings to decrease in the short term, in order for biomass and landings to recover in the medium to long term;

[6] National Action Plans (NAPs), are derived from the GEF funded Strategic Action Programme to address Pollution from Land-Based Activities (SAP-MED) and the Strategic Action Programme for the conservation of BIOlogical diversity (SAP-BIO) and designed to implement their respective objectives at the national level. The NAPs considered the environmental and socio-economic issues, policy and legislative frameworks, and the management, institutional and technical infrastructure available in the country. The NAPs described the policies and actions on the ground that each country intended to undertake to reduce pollution and protect biodiversity in line with SAP-MED and SAP-BIO targets. They incorporated mechanisms for information exchange, technology transfer and promotion of cleaner technology, public participation and sustainable financing. Their fundamental goal was to develop and implement concrete projects that enhance economic, technological, environmental and social development at the local level; thus making a concrete contribution towards sustainable development. This project will pilot adding value to the NAP, hence NAP+, by greater inclusion of the blue economy actors from the initiation of this project and with a focus on the fisheries sector;

[7] Malta MedFish4Ever Ministerial Declaration, 30 March 2017.  
<https://gfcmsitestorage.blob.core.windows.net/website/MedFish4Ever/2017-03-30-declaration-malta.pdf>;

[8] Ministerial Declaration on a Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (RPOA-SSF), 26 September 2018.

<https://www.fao.org/gfcm/activities/fisheries/small-scale-fisheries/rpoa-ssf>;

[9] This would be Montenegro for the time being, without prejudice to the possibility that pilot NAP+ are tested in other countries;

[10] Component 1 activities of the proposed project are expected to inform the integration into the NAP of Objectives 2 and 5 listed in Box 1; Component 2 activities of the proposed project are expected to inform the integration into the NAP of Objectives 2 and 4 listed in Box 1; Component 3 activities of the proposed project are expected to inform the integration into the NAP of Objectives 1 and 3 listed in Box 1. Finally, all Components in the proposed project are together expected to inform the integration into the NAP of Objective 6 in Box 1;

[11] As already indicated, one pilot NAP+ will be tested in Montenegro building upon previous work with the MAP on updated NAPs and consistent with the SAP-BIO;

[12] The status of fishery and biodiversity will have to be assessed in line with the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme under the Barcelona Convention and, respectively, the following Ecological Objectives: EO1 (biodiversity), EO2 (NIS), EO3 (fisheries), EO5 (eutrophication), EO9 (contaminants), EO10 (marine litter) and EO 11 (underwater noise);

[13] As already indicated, one pilot NAP+ will be tested in Montenegro building upon previous work with the MAP on updated NAPs and consistent with the Post 2020 SAP-BIO;

[14] FAO, Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, pages 6-7, <http://www.fao.org/3/v9878e/V9878E.pdf>;

[15] FAO, Voluntary Guidelines to Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), <http://www.fao.org/3/i4356en/I4356EN.pdf>;

[16] FAO, SSF Guidelines, pages 8-10, <http://www.fao.org/3/i4356en/I4356EN.pdf>;

[17] GFCM, Regional Plan of Action for small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (RPOA-SSF), page 3, <https://gfcmlib.blob.core.windows.net/gfcmlib/Midterm-strategy/RPOA-SSF/>;

[18] Please refer to GEF Gender Equality Guidelines, Guide to mainstreaming gender in FAO's project cycle, GEF Gender Guidelines;

[19] Unlike the case of national strategies relating to the marine environment protection, which have been adopted, revised and amended by the GEF eligible Mediterranean countries in the

framework of the TDA, its SAPs and the subsequent NAPs thanks to the work of the MAP, national strategies on fisheries and aquaculture have been limited in scope and numbers. Given that the proposed project will complement, as indicated in this document, the MedProgramme, which tackles national strategies relating to the marine environment protection, the table in this section only addresses national strategies on fisheries and aquaculture;

[20] Montenegro, which has committed part of its STAR Allocation under the proposed project, is actively involved in the implementation of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol) of the Barcelona Convention under its NAP. The activities included in the proposed project will contribute directly to the objective of the SPA/BD Protocol while at the same time, thanks to the pilot NAP+, including updated national fisheries and aquaculture investment plans within the existing national NAP framework and incorporating other ?national level? transboundary priorities which are relevant to the proposed project.

**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/Approval	MTR	TE
Low			

**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.

Based on the conducted climate risk screening, the project, the countries of interest and systems targeted by the project are categorized as low risk. During the screening, the past/future climatic trends for the project's location, including the physical properties of the sea water important for fish production and fish growth have been looked at. The proposed project activities are likely to have minimal or no adverse environmental and social impacts.

Special attention should be paid to the expected changes in stratification (as a result of warming Sea Surface Temperature), the decrease in strength and frequency of local upwelling events, and the decrease in precipitation. Besides raising concern on chemical pollution and on the risks associated with the introduction of invasive species and the rehabilitation of the coastal ecosystems, it is also important that fisheries integrate strategies focusing on sustainable harvesting methods (e.g. pole catching, pots and traps, trolling, purse seining, longlining, among others), as well as population monitoring and control strategies.

#### **Supporting Documents**

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Module</b>	<b>Submitted</b>
<b>FAO ES Risk Identification ? Screening Checklist-FishEBM MED</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement ESS</b>	
<b>FishEBM MED_ESS_risk_certification_FAO</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement ESS</b>	

**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).**

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p><b>Project Objective:</b> to reverse the overexploitation of select commercial living marine resources of Mediterranean countries in support of their blue economy development pathway.</p>	<p>1) Number of hectares of Marine Protected Areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use</p> <p>2) Landings from fisheries under sustainable management</p> <p>3) Number of countries having complete data on fisheries-dependent employment, disaggregated by gender, along the value chain</p>	<p>1) 0 hectares Marine Protected Areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use</p> <p>2) 27 000 tonnes of landings from fisheries under sustainable management</p> <p>3) 8 x countries with fisheries-dependent employment data (not gender disaggregated and only vessel-based employment)</p>	<p>1) 60,000 hectares Marine Protected Areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use</p> <p>2) 100 000 tonnes of landings from fisheries under sustainable management or currently sustainable.</p> <p>3) 8 x countries with gender disaggregated fisheries-dependent employment data (only vessel-based employment)</p>	<p>1) 125,845 hectares Marine Protected Areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use</p> <p>2) 238 000 landings from fisheries under sustainable management or currently sustainable.</p> <p>3) 8 x countries with gender disaggregated fisheries-dependent employment data (along the full value chain)</p>	<p>Government statistics RFB reports Project reports Project reports Gender assessment report</p>	<p>Sustained political support from countries throughout the project Adaptive management plans are implemented efficiently and are capable to address changes internal or external to the fishery</p>	<p>Government agencies International /regional Executing Agencies and Implementing Agency</p>
<p><b>Component 1: Strengthened capacity to manage commercial fisheries, with particular focus on SSF.</b></p>							

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p><b>Outcome 1</b> Fisheries managers and stakeholders use sound information generated on the status of key commercial fisheries to support improved management and selected value chain interventions, particularly for SSF, in view of maximizing production sustainability</p>	<p>1) Number of countries where data collection campaigns/surveys have been carried out to collect biological and gender-disaggregated socio-economic data</p> <p>2) Number of GFCM Mediterranean key fisheries for which alternative management measures have been identified and evaluated, integrating socio-economic aspects and stakeholder evaluation</p> <p>3) Number of fisheries value chains addressed via studies, interventions, trainings or certification using gender-sensitive approaches that value the contribution of women along the value chain</p>	<p>1) 0 x countries where data collection campaigns/surveys have been carried out to collect biological and gender-disaggregated socio-economic data</p> <p>2) 0 x GFCM Mediterranean key species for which alternative management measures have been identified and evaluated, integrating socio-economic aspects and stakeholder evaluation</p> <p>3) 0 x fisheries value chains addressed via studies, interventions, trainings or certification using gender-sensitive approaches that value the contribution of women along the value chain</p>	<p>1) 4 x countries where data collection campaigns/surveys have been carried out to collect biological and gender-disaggregated socio-economic data</p> <p>2) 0 x GFCM Mediterranean key species for which alternative management measures have been identified and evaluated, integrating socio-economic aspects and stakeholder evaluation</p> <p>3) 2 x fisheries value chains addressed via studies, interventions, trainings or certification using gender-sensitive approaches that value the contribution of women along the value chain</p>	<p>1) 8 x countries where data collection campaigns/surveys have been carried out to collect biological and gender-disaggregated socio-economic data</p> <p>2) 4 x GFCM Mediterranean key species for which alternative management measures have been identified and evaluated, integrating socio-economic aspects and stakeholder evaluation</p> <p>3) 7 x fisheries value chains addressed via studies, interventions, trainings or certification using gender-sensitive approaches that value the contribution of women along the value chain</p>	<p>Project progress reports</p> <p>Project evaluations</p> <p>Project training reports</p> <p>National policies</p> <p>Management Plans</p> <p>Project reviews</p> <p>Reports of meetings, workshops and trainings</p> <p>Technical elements for management</p>	<p>Engagement of relevant fisheries managers and female and male stakeholders is sustained throughout the project</p> <p>Relevant fisheries managers and female and male stakeholders are properly /timely informed about the availability of sound information generated through the project.</p> <p>For 2: Data are provided by countries as required</p>	<p>Government agencies</p> <p>International /regional Executing Agencies and Implementing Agency</p>

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	4) Number of stakeholder organizations ? including women?s organizations ? having received capacity development support 5) Number of countries where initiatives promoted to improve social protection access for women and men small-scale fishers and fish workers	4) 0 x stakeholder organizations ? including women?s organizations ? having received capacity development support 5) 0 x countries where initiatives promoted to improve social protection access for women and men small-scale fishers and fish workers	4) 4 x stakeholder organizations ? including women?s organizations ? having received capacity development support 5) 0 x countries where initiatives promoted to improve social protection access for women and men small-scale fishers and fish workers	4) 8 x stakeholder organizations ? including women?s organizations ? having received capacity development support 5) 3 x countries where initiatives promoted to improve social protection access for women and men small-scale fishers and fish workers			
<p><b>Output 1.1:</b> Regional data collection for fisheries, including SSF and recreational fisheries, processed in support to socio-economic analysis and fisheries management</p> <p>? 8 X countries where gender-disaggregated socio-economic data collected along in both harvest and post-harvest sectors ? 4 x demersal and pelagic surveys at sea, including exploratory surveys, in relevant countries</p> <p><b>Output 1.2:</b> Investments in management plans and measures promoted, including for SSF and recreational fisheries</p> <p>? 8 x stakeholder consultations held, including to advance towards co-management arrangements</p> <p><b>Output 1.3:</b> Value chains modelled in view of identifying best practices and entry points for innovation, including the certification of select fisheries</p> <p>? 7 x fisheries value chain addressed</p> <p><b>Output 1.4:</b> Reinforced synergies with the private sector to support market-driven opportunities in the fisheries sector.</p> <p>? 50 x stakeholder groups mapped, including SSF producer organizations, women?s organizations and fish processing/marketing companies</p> <p><b>Output 1.5:</b> Participation in the regional network of SSF platforms reinforced in order to provide social protection support to its members</p>							
<p><b>Component 2: Enhanced integration of emerging monitoring, control and surveillance technologies in the fight against IUU fishing</b></p>							

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p><b>Outcome 2</b> Fisheries management better accounts for the quantity and magnitude of IUU fishing in the Mediterranean Sea and incorporates control measures, including through the use of emerging technologies</p>	<p>1) Number of countries for which an assessment is available</p> <p>2) Number of fisheries for which an IUU quantification is available</p> <p>3) Number of legislation-related documents in repository/database</p> <p>4) Number of MCS system launched or solutions applied at country level</p> <p>5) Number of measures in place to mitigate the impacts of by-catch, discards and abandoned fishing gear.</p>	<p>1) 0 countries for which an assessment is available</p> <p>2) 0 fisheries for which an IUU quantification is available</p> <p>3) 0 x legislation-related documents in repository/database</p> <p>4) 0 x MCS systems launched or solutions applied at country level</p> <p>5) 0 x measures in place to mitigate impacts of by-catch, discards and abandoned fishing gear</p>	<p>1) 4 x countries for which an assessment is available</p> <p>2) 0 fisheries for which an IUU quantification is available</p> <p>3) 25 x legislation-related documents in repository/database</p> <p>4) 2 x MCS systems launched or solutions applied at country level</p> <p>5) 3 x measures in place to mitigate impacts of by-catch, discards and abandoned fishing gear</p>	<p>1) 8 x countries for which an assessment is available</p> <p>2) 2 fisheries for which an IUU quantification is available</p> <p>3) 50 x legislation-related documents in repository/database</p> <p>4) 5 x MCS systems launched or solutions applied at country level</p> <p>5) 7 x measures in place to mitigate impacts of by-catch, discards and abandoned fishing gear</p>	<p>Project progress reports</p> <p>Project evaluations</p> <p>Project training reports</p> <p>National policies/regulations</p> <p>Stock Assessment reports</p> <p>Regional strategies</p> <p>Project reviews</p>	<p>Relevant fisheries managers and female and male stakeholders are properly/timely informed about the quantity and magnitude of IUU fishing in the Mediterranean Sea</p> <p>Relevant fisheries managers and female and male stakeholders accept incorporating control measures, including with emerging technologies.</p>	<p>Government agencies</p> <p>Implementation partners</p>

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p><b>Output 2.1:</b> Losses in national economies generated by IUU fishing activities assessed through the application of an ad hoc methodology at the country level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? 8 x countries drafted a national plan of action for the fight against IUU fishing drafted;</li> <li>? 8 x trainings provided on the assessment of IUU fishing for national authorities,</li> <li>? 4x expert working groups established including of national stakeholders in support to a national methodology for the regular assessment of IUU fishing.</li> </ul> <p><b>Output 2.2:</b> Impacts of IUU fishing on main commercial marine living resources incorporated in stock assessments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? 1x regional document on the status of data related to IUU fishing;</li> <li>? 1x a regional quantitative survey developed and implemented encompassing IUU related issues at national level;</li> <li>? 1x IUU spatial risk assessment framework created to estimate the magnitude of IUU fishing vessel activity.</li> </ul> <p><b>Output 2.3:</b> Information on legal frameworks relating to IUU fishing and fisheries crimes collected, analyzed and disseminated, including through a regional repository.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? 15x national legislation related to fisheries management collected and disseminated through GFCM-Lex;</li> <li>? 8x areas of possible amendment of national legislation identified and analyzed with the national authorities;</li> <li>? 8x trainings delivered to national authorities for the drafting/amendment of national legislation in line with the GFCM recommendations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Output 2.4:</b> Application of technology in the field of control and surveillance, including small-scale fishing, tested and tailored to the capacity of countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? 2x tracking devices (VMS, AIS, gear sensors etc.) identified and deployed in line with regional standards specificities of national fleets and related priorities, including for SSF;</li> <li>? 1x IUU risk analysis performed through the pilot of technology platforms in order to ease the planning of fisheries control activities;</li> <li>? 8x national and sub-regional technical trainings organized on MCS and related technologies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Output 2.5:</b> IPOA-IUU and RPOA-IUU implemented through national plan of actions, including measures to reduce by-catch, discards and abandoned fishing gear.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? 8x surveys to identify illegal gears used at the country level developed;</li> <li>? 4x new fishing gear tested in selected areas to replace illegal gears with new fishing gears in select local fishing communities;</li> <li>? 15x local fishing communities provided with necessary equipment to retrieve abandoned gears.</li> </ul>							
<p><b>Component 3: Integrated ecosystem-based management tools and ecosystem approach to biodiversity protection and sustainable fisheries.</b></p>							
<p><b>Outcome 3</b></p> <p>Healthier marine ecosystems with</p>	<p>1) Number of area-based or innovative management tools identified</p>	<p>1) 0 x area-based or innovative management tools identified</p>	<p>1) 4 x area-based or innovative management tools identified</p>	<p>1) 8 x area-based or innovative management tools identified</p>	<p>Area-based or innovative technical elements for</p>	<p>Relevant fishery governance mechanisms are willing</p>	<p>Government agencies Implementation partners Regional fisheries and</p>

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
more productive fisheries in place, through the synergistic application of ecosystem-based conservation/management tools and improvements in fisheries tenure	2) Percent of data on commercial fisheries and incidentally caught vulnerable species integrated in IMAP based national monitoring plans of the Good Environmental Status of marine waters and marine ecosystem, in interested countries	2) 0 percent of data on commercial fisheries integrated into monitoring plans	2) 35 percent of data on commercial fisheries integrated into monitoring plans	2) 70 percent of data on commercial fisheries integrated into monitoring plans	management Monitoring plans Environment reports Adaptation strategies Project progress reports Project evaluations Working group reports	to use productive fisheries ecosystem-based conservation/management tools throughout the project	environment agencies

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
governance	<p>3) Number of developed Guidelines document for the integration in national monitoring plans of the contribution to the Good Environmental Status of marine waters and marine ecosystem by commercial fisheries data</p> <p>4) Number of national/local gender sensitive adaptation strategies or action plans to climate change in coastal areas formulated that respond to the different needs and priorities of women and men fishers and fishworkers, and affected communities</p>	<p>3) 0 x Guidelines documents developed</p> <p>4) 0 x gender sensitive adaptation strategies or action plans to climate change in coastal areas formulated so as to respond to the different needs and priorities of women and men fishers and fishworkers, and affected communities</p>	<p>3) 0 x Guidelines documents developed</p> <p>4) 2 x gender sensitive adaptation strategies or action plans to climate change in coastal areas formulated so as to respond to the different needs and priorities of women and men fishers and fishworkers, and affected communities</p>	<p>3) 1 x Guidelines documents developed</p> <p>4) 5 x gender sensitive adaptation strategies or action plans to climate change in coastal areas formulated so as to respond to the different needs and priorities of women and men fishers and fishworkers, and affected communities</p>			

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	<p>5) Number of measures developed and disseminated to mitigate the negative impacts of non-indigenous species and other potential stressors on biodiversity and marine ecosystems</p> <p>6) Number of countries with an equal representation of men and women participating in regional training programmes and/or case studies on fisheries tenure</p>	<p>5) 0 x measures developed and disseminated to mitigate the negative impacts of non-indigenous species and other potential stressors on biodiversity and marine ecosystems</p> <p>6) 0 x countries participating in regional training programmes and/or case studies on fisheries tenure</p>	<p>5) 2 x measures developed and disseminated to mitigate the negative impacts of non-indigenous species and other potential stressors on biodiversity and marine ecosystems</p> <p>6) 0 x countries participating in regional training programmes and/or case studies on fisheries tenure</p>	<p>5) 4 x measures developed and disseminated to mitigate the negative impacts of non-indigenous species and other potential stressors on biodiversity and marine ecosystems</p> <p>6). 8 x countries participating in regional training programmes and/or case studies on fisheries tenure</p>			

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p><b>Output 3.1:</b> Area-based and innovative management tools identified and applied to reduce overexploitation of fisheries and enhance ecosystem productivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? 12 x essential fish habitats and vulnerable ecosystems identified for protection by area-based management tools</li> <li>? 2 x pilot studies to trial innovative gear to 'fish for litter' in view of leveraging fisheries to enhance ecosystem health</li> <li>? 1 x survey carried out to evaluate the noise emitted by bottom trawlers and its propagation on the sea bottom particularly for sensitive habitats</li> <li>? 1 x innovations tested to improve gear selectivity to reduce overexploitation and support enhanced ecosystems</li> <li>? 1 x regional repository of bycatch mitigation measures</li> </ul> <p><b>Output 3.2:</b> Monitoring of good environmental status of Mediterranean ecosystems and biodiversity ensured, with established link to pollution impacts and sustainable use of marine ecosystem services; adaptation strategies to climate change formulated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? 70% of data on commercial fisheries and incidentally caught vulnerable species integrated in IMAP based national monitoring plans of the Good Environmental Status of marine waters and marine ecosystem, in interested countries</li> <li>? 1 x Guidelines document for the integration in national monitoring plans of the contribution to the Good Environmental Status of marine waters and marine ecosystem by commercial fisheries data</li> <li>? 1 x regional document on the state of the art of national/local gender sensitive climate change adaptation strategies in coastal areas</li> <li>? 5 x national/local gender sensitive adaptation strategies or action plans to climate change in coastal areas formulated</li> </ul> <p><b>Output 3.3:</b> Measures identified to cope with the negative effects of non-indigenous species on biodiversity as well as those of other potential stressors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? 4 x measures developed and disseminated to mitigate the negative impacts of non-indigenous species and other potential stressors on biodiversity and marine ecosystems</li> <li>? 1 x Guidelines document for the reduction of discharge of solid wastes from fishing boats drafted</li> </ul> <p><b>Output 3.4:</b> Training programmes and case studies to strengthen national capacity towards the development of fisheries tenure interventions</p>							
<b>Component 4: Innovative blue economy solutions accounting for the fishery sector</b>							
<b>Outcome 4</b> Blue economy at the regional and country	1) Number of mobilized investments identified in context of marine spatial planning	1) 0 x mobilized investments identified in context of marine spatial planning	1) 2 x mobilized investments identified in context of marine spatial planning	1) 5 x mobilized investments identified in context of marine spatial planning	Project progress reports developed. Investment	Relevant female and male stakeholders are willing to	Government agencies Implementation partners Industry groups

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
level promoted through the identification of existing hurdles via a concerted approach among relevant stakeholders	<p>2) Number of fact sheets/communications materials with information on innovative gender sensitive opportunities for the blue economy-related investment</p> <p>3) Number of countries with endorsed pilot NAP+ with investment plan(s) tested</p> <p>4) Number of Regional Guidelines document for the preparation of a NAP+ drafted</p> <p>5) Number of actors participating in new governance partnerships and percentage of actors representing or represented by women</p>	<p>2) 0 x fact sheets/communications materials with information on innovative gender sensitive opportunities for the blue economy-related investment</p> <p>3) 0 x countries with endorsed pilot NAP+ with investment plan(s) tested</p> <p>4) 0 x Regional Guidelines document for the preparation of a NAP+ drafted</p> <p>5) 0 x actors participating in new governance partnerships</p>	<p>2) 2 x fact sheets/communications materials with information on innovative gender sensitive opportunities for the blue economy-related investment</p> <p>3) 0 x countries with endorsed pilot NAP+ with investment plan(s) tested</p> <p>4) 0 x Regional Guidelines document for the preparation of a NAP+ drafted</p> <p>5) 5 x actors participating in new governance partnerships and 25% of actors representing or represented by women</p>	<p>2) 4 x fact sheets/communications materials with information on innovative gender sensitive opportunities for the blue economy-related investment</p> <p>3) 1 x countries with endorsed pilot NAP+ with investment plan(s) tested</p> <p>4) 1 x Regional Guidelines document for the preparation of a NAP+ drafted</p> <p>5) 10 x actors participating in new governance partnerships and 25% of actors representing or represented by women</p>	<p>plans/proposals</p> <p>Action Plan</p> <p>Meeting reports</p> <p>Project evaluations</p> <p>Project training reports</p>	<p>identify existing hurdles via a concerted approach at national level</p>	

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p><b>Output 4.1:</b> Analysis carried out on how the fishery sector can mobilize investments, including in diversification of livelihoods (e.g. aquaculture planning, pescatourism), against the background of marine spatial planning.</p> <p><b>Output 4.2:</b> Factsheets on successful innovative gender sensitive solutions for the fishery sector and sustainable use of marine ecosystem services prepared in view of attracting blue economy related investments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? 8 x information material prepared to disseminate gender sensitive information on innovative opportunities for blue economy related investments</li> <li>? 1 x database of key stakeholders for the promotion of investments</li> <li>? 1 x pilot action to incubate blue economy investments</li> </ul> <p><b>Output 4.3:</b> Endorsed pilot NAP+ with investment plan(s) tested in at least one country</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? 1 x endorsed NAP+ with investment plan tested</li> <li>? 1 x Regional Guidelines document for the preparation of a NAP+ drafted</li> </ul> <p><b>Output 4.4:</b> New partnerships implemented through the NAP+, enabling the participation of the private sector in blue economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? 10 public-private blue economy actors participating in new governance partnerships, 25% of which represents women's associations or are represented by women</li> </ul>							
<b>Component 5: Knowledge management and outscaling</b>							
<p><b>Outcome 5</b></p> <p>Integrated pathways conducive of conservation and sustainable management promoted at the regional and global level</p>	<p>1) Number of national FishEBM Med/Post 2020 SAPBIO gender inclusive stakeholders platform established and number of public and private actors involved in each platform and percentage of actors representing or represented by women</p>	<p>1) 0 x platforms established and 0 x actors involved</p>	<p>1) 3 platforms established and 4 actors involved in each platform and 25% of actors representing or represented by women</p>	<p>1) 6 platforms established and 4 actors involved in each platform and 25% of actors representing or represented by women</p>	<p>Project progress reports Project evaluations Project training reports National and regional meeting reports Project reports. Strategies</p>	<p>Project's partnerships cooperate in identifying and sharing lessons learned and successful policies and practices on conservation and sustainable fishery management</p>	<p>Government agencies Implementation partners</p>

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	2) Number of awareness raising gender sensitive communication pieces presented in regional and global fora on the objectives, progress and accomplishments of the GFCM-MAP approach.	2) 0 x awareness raising gender sensitive communication pieces presented in regional and global fora on the objectives, progress and accomplishments of the GFCM-MAP approach.	2) 12 x awareness raising gender sensitive communication pieces presented in regional and global fora on the objectives, progress and accomplishments of the GFCM-MAP approach.	2) 24 x awareness raising gender sensitive communication pieces presented in regional and global fora on the objectives, progress and accomplishments of the GFCM-MAP approach.		ment.  Growing international attention to conservation and sustainable fishery management and political stability in the Mediterranean Basin	
	3. Number of gender sensitive outreach and communication action plans developed and under implementation	3. 0 x gender sensitive outreach and communication action plan developed and under implementation	3. 1 x gender sensitive outreach and communication action plan developed and under implementation	3. 1 x gender sensitive outreach and communication action plan developed and under implementation			
	4) Number of gender sensitive information and communication items available through the knowledge sharing platform	4) 0 x gender sensitive information and communication items available through the knowledge sharing platform	4) 20 x gender sensitive information and communication items available through the knowledge sharing platform	4) 50 x gender sensitive information and communication items available through the knowledge sharing platform			

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	5) Number of meetings attended at the regional and global level as relevant to the attainment of GEF objectives	5) 0 x meetings attended at the regional and global level as relevant to the attainment of GEF objectives	5) 7 x meetings attended at the regional and global level as relevant to the attainment of GEF objectives	5) 15 x meetings attended at the regional and global level as relevant to the attainment of GEF objectives			
<p><b>Output 5.1:</b> Initiatives promoted to support countries in encouraging strategic investment enabling, among others, public and private partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? 6 x countries where national FishEBM Med/Post 2020 SAPBIO gender inclusive stakeholder platforms established and/or engaged in the project activities</li> <li>? 4 x public and private blue economy actors involved in each national platform, 25% of which represents woman associations or are represented by women</li> </ul> <p><b>Output 5.2:</b> Lessons learned, and best practices disseminated to showcase the benefits of the concerted GFCM-MAP approach in aligning different national and regional priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? 24 x awareness raising gender sensitive communication pieces presented in regional and global fora on the objectives, progress and accomplishments of the GFCM-MAP approach</li> </ul> <p><b>Output 5.3:</b> Outreach &amp; communication strategy developed and implemented, including coordination and awareness-raising meetings with co-financing partners and participation in relevant global GEF-related for a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? 1 x gender sensitive outreach &amp; communication and knowledge management action plan developed and implemented</li> <li>? 50 x gender sensitive information and communication items available through the FishEBM Med knowledge sharing platform</li> <li>? 15 x meetings attended at the regional and global level as relevant to the attainment of GEF objectives</li> </ul>							

**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).**

STAP comment	Initial agency response	Response at submission

STAP comment	Initial agency response	Response at submission
<b>STAP's overall assessment: Minor issues to be considered during the project design</b>		
<p>Additional emphasis should be focused on incentives for enforcement. Capacity is necessary but not sufficient to strengthen enforcement. It will be important to ensure that monitoring and lesson-learning during implementation include deep analysis of the barriers to effective enforcement of standards and regulations.</p>	<p>Meetings with partners and government agencies during the PPG phase identified priority areas for enforcement which have been included in the proposed activities and budgeted. In order to enable a deep analysis of the barriers to effective enforcement of standards and regulations, the approach which will inform the implementation phase foresees a strong focus on hurdles still hampering MCS, with an emphasis on the specificities of national fleets and related tailor-made solutions. Technologies that technical partners which signed co-financing letters will be made available to help the understanding of the barriers and, in turn, the bridging of gaps.</p>	<p>Part II, Sections 1b (3) (page 34) and (5) (page 39) for Component 2, and the Results Framework (Annex 1a) reflect the modifications discussed during the PPG phase.</p>
<b>Part II: Project Justification</b>		
<p>3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project</p>		

STAP comment	Initial agency response	Response at submission
<p>Additional emphasis should be focused on incentives for enforcement. Capacity is necessary but not sufficient to strengthen enforcement.</p>	<p>See above. In addition, it's worth mentioning that incentives have been secured during the PPG phase by leveraging commitments from several stakeholders, including from the private sector, which will contribute to strengthen enforcement as the involvement of the private sector in this area is key in the context of the proposed alternative scenario.</p>	<p>Part II, Sections 1b (3) (page 34) and (5) (page 39) for Component 2, and the Results Framework (Annex 1a) reflect the modifications discussed during the PPG phase.</p>
<p>Explicit identification of assumptions would strengthen the design.</p>	<p>The assumptions have been identified and articulated in the theory of change and results framework.</p>	<p>Annex 1A edited to reflect the identified assumptions</p>

STAP comment	Initial agency response	Response at submission
<p>Indication of preliminary outcome indicators and suggestion of flexibility in identification of pilot investments suggests flexibility. But would be good to note approach to adaptive learning planned for implementation.</p>	<p>The adaptive learning approach to be taken has been further elaborated, including in the knowledge management section. Given the increasing number of initiatives to transition to a Blue Economy, the lessons sharing will be very important to ensure that this approach be flexible and effectively encompass the fisheries sector. In this regard, challenges in using such a flexible approach will also be widely shared.</p>	<p>Part II, Sections 1b (3) (page 36) and (5) (page 41) for Component 5 are further elaborated.</p>
<p>5) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEF trust fund, LDCE, SCCF, and co-financing</p>		

STAP comment	Initial agency response	Response at submission
<p>Difficult to judge likelihood of success; the approach recognizes considerable risk. The reasoning entails an aspect of linking existing efforts and system disruption: ?in the absence of such a GEF intervention the status quo would not be adequately challenged and that under the business as usual scenario??</p>	<p>In the absence of such a GEF intervention the support to fisheries agencies to transition to best practices and to work with the private sector to commit to improved fisheries sustainability through a range of measures from improved compliance to market incentive countries would not be possible, especially during recovery from COVID. Therefore the status quo would not be adequately challenged and that under the business as usual scenario. Perhaps this is an issue of rewording and better clarifying the reasoning and what it entails.</p>	<p>In preparing the Project Document, Part II 1b, Section (5) (Incremental Reasoning (page 38) and through PPG phase discussions with countries, this section has been expanded to better describe activities and possible outcomes from the GEF interventions.</p>
<p>6) global environmental benefits (GEF trust fund) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCE/SCCF)</p>		
<p>Indicators, or methodologies will require further specification</p>	<p>Indicators further articulated in the results framework.</p>	<p>Annex 1A edited to reflect further specification</p>
<p>7) innovative, sustainability and potential for scaling-up</p>		

STAP comment	Initial agency response	Response at submission
<p>Demonstration of emerging technologies for IUU monitoring and enforcement has innovative potential. Achieving strengthened regional governance of shared fisheries could also offer important lessons for other regions.</p> <p>Given the importance of European and other urban markets in trade of fish sourced from the Mediterranean, there should also be opportunity to experiment with demand-side innovations, building upon certification and traceability.</p>	<p>Component 1 describes the proposed value chains work which includes building on further exploring the feasibility and market potential of certification, along with traceability, especially in light of COVID impacts to value chains. This should indeed provide opportunities to experiment.</p> <p>Component 2 will set the ground to demonstrate how emerging technologies can be used in the fight against IUU and to enhance the scope of MCS operations, including for SSF fleets.</p> <p>The work to be done under these two components will result in a strengthened regional governance and under component 5 it will be possible to share lessons learned with other regions, including via the FAO which is the implementing agency for this project and will be keen to showcase results expected in other marine areas.</p>	<p>Part II, Sections 1b (3) (page 34) and (5) (page 39) for Components 1, 2, and 5, Section (4) and the Results Framework (Annex 1a) reflect the edits made to better describe how emerging technologies will be explored and harnessed, and results shared through the project</p>

STAP comment	Initial agency response	Response at submission
<p>Transformational change is required, given longstanding political and institutional barriers.</p>	<p>The GFCM has worked closely with the relevant fisheries agencies while MAP has done so with its environment counterparts. This project will address some of the political and institutional barriers by integrated approaches as well as using the Blue Economy pilot in Montenegro as a pilot to foster better integration across institutions and political boundaries. The recently adopted ministerial declarations under the auspices of GFCM (MedFish4Ever and Ministerial Declaration on the SSF-RPOA) will provide a solid foundation to efforts under the project towards transformational change.</p>	<p>Part II, Sections 1b (3) (page 33) and (5) (page 38) for Components 1, 2, 3 and 4, and the Results Framework (Annex 1a) reflect these new developments</p>

STAP comment	Initial agency response	Response at submission
<p>Initial plans indicated.</p> <p>Please refer to new STAP Guidance Note on multi-stakeholder dialogue, addressing regional-scale collaboration (to be posted prior to June 2020 Council meeting).</p>	<p>From the GEF perspective, following the inclusion of the blue economy in the Programming Directing for the 7th Cycle, this project can be regarded as a framework that encourages investment in the management of marine living resources and fosters a strategy based on a blue economy approach, encompassing private and public interventions while capturing the specificities of the fishery sector. At project inception the recent Guidance Note on multi-stakeholder dialogue will significantly inform the implementation of activities which will build upon its influence in the PPG phase, where significant effort was expended in each beneficiary country to better understand and engage key stakeholders through a fully-encompassing dialogue. An early step in the process will be to assess the enabling conditions for agencies and institutions to support transitioning to a</p>	<p>Part II, Sections 1b (3) (page 3) and (5) (page 40) for Components 4 and 5 and the results framework (Annex 1A) which specifically incorporate advice from the guidance note.</p>

STAP comment	Initial agency response	Response at submission
<b>3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</b>		
Good reference to relevant standards of the European Institute for Gender Equality. May consider outreach to KIT (Netherlands), with expertise in gender analysis of aquaculture and fisheries value chains.	Specific gender assessment and strategy was drafted based on expertise of FAO and UNEP.	A Gender Action Plan has been prepared for the project and is summarized in Part II Section 3.2 (page 53)
Significant obstacles to gender equality in processing and trade aspects of fish value chains merit attention.	Considered within the gender strategy and also through a gender-sensitive approach to any value chain activity.	A Gender Action Plan has been prepared for the project and is summarized in Part II Section 3.2 (page 53)
<b>5. Risks</b>		
Passing reference is made to political instability and major pollution incidents, but mitigation regarding political context only addresses security risks, not the difficulties of influencing change when governments have varying levels of commitment and divergent incentives. No mitigation measures are listed for pollution.	Mitigation measures for the political instability related risks have been better considered during the PPG phase so as to reformulate the wording. As for pollution incidents, since there is another GEF-funded initiative in the Med (the MEDProgramme, implemented by UNEP and executed by MAP), the mitigation measure revolves around closely coordinating with this project which should provide relevant steering in the context of fisheries.	Risk table has been edited to reflect finding during the PPG phase

STAP comment	Initial agency response	Response at submission
<p>Climate risks have not been assessed specifically; this is noted as part of plans for PPG stage.</p>	<p>Conducting a detailed evaluation of climate change risks and risk management options is not necessary for the project, as the climate risk has been assessed as low. Climate change has been assessed specifically in the risk table and this was informed by FAO Climate Risk Screening report. The findings of this report are incorporated into the table.</p>	<p>Changes to incorporate climate change added to Risk Table (page 54)</p>
<p><b>6. Coordination.</b> Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF-financed and other related initiatives</p>		

STAP comment	Initial agency response	Response at submission
<p>Difficult to assess learning from prior projects; explicit identification of lessons is needed.</p>	<p>The main lessons learned from previous projects stem from a lack of coordination between/among relevant agencies at different level of governance which has impacted considerably on coordination. This project will rely on partnerships, with particular regard to the partnership between GFCM and MAP, so that lessons learned by these agencies can be captured and lead to best practices to coordination. The main lesson learnt in the past, via prior project, is that coordination between fisheries and environment agencies at the national level was hampered by a silos approach whereby these domains were addressed by contradictory policies (conservation vs profit-driven management). During the PPG phase, efforts have been made to bring together these two agencies in each beneficiary country at the level of remote consultations held which has promoted a positive attitude and willingness</p>	<p>Executing arrangements to better coordinate between agencies are described in Part II Section 6a (page 57) and reflected in Figure (page 58)</p>

STAP comment	Initial agency response	Response at submission
<p>Would be helpful to detail specific lessons and how these influence the design, prior to CEO endorsement stage.</p>	<p>A table is included, in line with the stakeholder engagement table, indicating specific lessons learned and corresponding actions undertaken to build upon them.</p>	<p>Table 2 page 48 and Table I Annex I2 (page 101) reflect this information</p>
<p><b>8. Knowledge management.</b> Outline "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, and how it will contribute to the project's overall impact, including plans to learn from relevant</p>		
<p>Good integration indicated with Med Programme KM strategy, including science-policy interface. Will be important to ensure that monitoring and lesson-learning during implementation include deep analysis of the barriers to effective enforcement of standards and regulations.</p>	<p>Noted. Additional info on the pertinent comment relating to effective enforcement is provided in the previous boxes of this table.</p>	<p>Please see above</p>
Council comments	Initial agency response Response at submission	
<p><b>United Kingdom:</b> It is important that the project in Albania is ?SOC sensitive? (Serious and Organised Crime).</p>	<p>The Project team take note of this comment especially in developing IUU interventions where such crimes are known.</p>	
<p><b>United Kingdom:</b> It is important the project is able to create sustainable livelihoods, while conserving the fisheries stock, environment.</p>	<p>The FAO Project recognizes the need to create livelihoods, and has thus included a value chain approach which can identify and create new opportunities</p>	

STAP comment	Initial agency response	Response at submission
<p><b>Germany:</b> General: While studies have shown that adequate management of marine resources can lead to better status of fish stocks, it is not yet clear from the proposal how fishing pressure will eventually be reduced. Overfishing is rightfully identified as the number one barrier preventing the management of resilient and sustainable fisheries. Current numbers from EU-contribution to the UN Fish Stocks Agreement estimate a fishing pressure FMSY of 224-269%. Reducing current fishing capacities seems to be an issue that needs urgent and prioritized addressing.</p>		<p>Component 1 , Outcomes 1 and 2 will contribute to reducing pressure through social protection for those leaving the sector or having access reduces. A better understanding of IUU will provide a better estimate of effort and therefore how much to reduce it among the valid users. Component 4, outcome 4 includes improved tenure which enables tenured users to manage effort in line with their needs and cultural norms.</p>
<p><b>Germany:</b> Specifically: Output 1.4: the number of fisheries participating in certification schemes seems to be a double-edged indicator as certification schemes have proven to especially disadvantage small-scale fisheries; suggestion is to simply keep the indicator 'sustainable marketing initiatives' (e.g. creating and marketing direct linkages between sustainably operating small-scale fishers and restaurant/ hotels in tourist regions, thus rewarding good practices).</p>		<p>The Project team has taken note and edited in the suggested language</p>

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

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: <b>USD 200,000</b>			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent to date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
Local consultants	32,000	32,000	0

International consultants	42,809	11,940	30,869
Travel	49,441	1,679	47,762
Travel (MAP)	57,000	-	57,000
Workshops	16,000	1,555	14,445
Expendable Procurement sub-total	2,750	300	2,450
Total	200,000	47,474	152,526

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

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



#### **ANNEX E: Project Budget Table**

**Please attach a project budget table.**

**Fisheries and Ecosystem Based Management for the Blue Economy of the Mediterranean (FishEBM MED)**  
**GEF Project ID: 10560**  
**Project budget**

FAO COST CATEGORIES	Component 1: Strengthened capacity to manage commercial fisheries, with particular focus on SSF	Component 2: Enhanced integration of emerging monitoring, control and surveillance technologies in the fight against IUU fishing	Component 3: Integrated ecosystem based management tools and ecosystem approach to biodiversity protection and sustainability of fisheries	Component 4: Innovative blue economy solutions accounting for the fishery sector	Component 5: Knowledge management and outscaling	Sub Total Comp 1-5	M&E	PMC	TOTAL GEF
	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4	Outcome 5				
<b>5011 Salaries professionals</b>									
1) Project Technical Manager (P-3 or equivalent)	73,462	73,462	23,385	23,385	33,385	227,077	0	87,132	314,209
2) Finance/Administrative Officer (P-2 or equivalent)	25,253	50,506	25,253			101,012	0	150,964	251,976
<b>5011 Sub-total salaries professionals</b>	<b>98,714</b>	<b>123,967</b>	<b>48,638</b>	<b>23,385</b>	<b>33,385</b>	<b>328,089</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>238,096</b>	<b>566,185</b>
<b>5013 Consultants</b>									
3) M&E Specialist (M&E)							100,000		100,000
4) Technical programme specialist(s)	19,250	38,500	19,250			77,000			77,000
5) Technical operations specialist	31,500	63,000	31,500			126,000			126,000
6) Experts on MSE case studies for data poor contexts	100,000					100,000			100,000
7) SSF experts (including stakeholders mapping and support to SSF platforms)	40,000					40,000			40,000
8) Senior consultant IUU/MCS		100,000				100,000			100,000
9) Experts on IUU data/information analysis		20,000				20,000			20,000
10) Experts on selectivity and bycatch mitigation measures			40,000			40,000			40,000
11) Experts on EBM tools (including for FRAs identification/establishment, marine litter and bycatch)			65,000			65,000			65,000
12) Experts on best practices for Blue Economy				45,000		45,000			45,000
13) GEF COMMs coordinator				12,320	101,936	114,256			114,256
14) COMMs experts (including writers, editors, graphic-web product design and video-makers)				51,360	38,375	89,736			89,736
15) MAP SPA/RAC - Technical Project Manager			50,000	107,000	12,200	169,200	70,800		240,000
16) MAP SPA/RAC - Finance/Administrative Expert			8,000	17,750	4,000	29,750	7,350		37,100
17) MAP SPA/RAC - Programme Specialist			30,000	65,200	26,016	121,216	22,784		144,000
18) MAP SPA/RAC - Operation/logistics Expert			8,000	17,750	4,000	29,750	7,350		37,100
19) MAP SPA/RAC - Monitoring&Evaluation Coordinator							36,000		36,000
20) MAP SPA/RAC - IMAP Experts			30,000	20,000		50,000			50,000
21) MAP SPA/RAC - Climate Change Adaptation Expert			30,000	20,000		50,000			50,000
22) MAP SPA/RAC - NIS experts			40,000	10,000		50,000			50,000
23) MAP SPA/RAC - MAMIAS database experts			20,000			20,000			20,000
24) MAP SPA/RAC - Fisheries waste management expert			22,000			22,000			22,000
25) MAP SPA/RAC - Fisheries and blue economy experts (NAP+)				45,000	15,000	60,000			60,000
26) MAP SPA/RAC - Fisheries and marine ecosystem experts (NAP+)				60,000		60,000			60,000
27) MAP SPA/RAC - Knowledge Management (KM) Platform Expert					20,000	20,000			20,000
Sub-total international Consultants	190,750	221,500	393,750	471,380	221,527	1,498,907	136,000	108,284	1,743,191
28) SSF national consultants (including data collectors, SSF co-management and value chain)	121,303					121,303			121,303
29) National consultants IUU/Legislation		60,000				60,000			60,000
30) National experts on FRAs identification/establishment			42,000			42,000			42,000
31) National Blue Economy coordinator (Turkey)				60,000		60,000			60,000
32) National consultants on integrating NIS in the Blue Economy				51,000		51,000			51,000
33) MAP SPA/RAC - National Blue Economy consultants (data management, climate change, NIS, fisheries and marine ecosystems)				140,000	20,000	160,000			160,000
34) MAP SPA/RAC - National NIS data management experts			35,000			35,000			35,000
Sub-total national Consultants	121,303	60,000	77,000	251,000	20,000	529,303			529,303
<b>5013 Sub-total Consultants</b>	<b>312,053</b>	<b>281,500</b>	<b>470,750</b>	<b>722,380</b>	<b>241,527</b>	<b>2,028,210</b>	<b>136,000</b>	<b>108,284</b>	<b>2,272,494</b>
<b>5014 Contracts</b>									
Independent Mid-term Review (MTR)(M&E)							60,000		60,000
Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE)(M&E)							65,000		65,000
LoA(s) for regional socio-economic data collection	10,000					10,000			10,000
LoA(s) for catch certification schemes (DWRS/Red Coral)	100,000					100,000			100,000
LoA(s) for SSF platforms support	10,000					10,000			10,000
LoA(s) for IUU assessment and risk analysis tools, including development of online platform		315,000				315,000			315,000
Contract for VMS/i-VMS, ERS devices and related services		445,100				445,100			445,100
LoA(s) for design of online system for fishing gears		20,000				20,000			20,000
LoA(s) for selectivity pilot study in the Mediterranean			30,000			30,000			30,000
Service contract(s) for research/marketing on NIS				50,000		50,000			50,000
MAP SPA/RAC - LoA(s) for fisheries data integration in GES			120,000			120,000			120,000
MAP SPA/RAC - LoA(s) for NIS data management			96,000			96,000			96,000
MAP SPA/RAC - LoA(s) for supporting the promotion, preparation and implementation of the NAP+				325,000		325,000			325,000
MAP SPA/RAC - Developing and managing the FishEBM Med KM Platform as a section of the MedProgramme KM Platform					40,000	40,000			40,000
<b>5014 Sub-total Contracts</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>790,100</b>	<b>246,000</b>	<b>375,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>1,561,100</b>	<b>125,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,686,100</b>
<b>5021 Travel</b>									
Travel to attend Annual Steering Committee meetings (M&E)					40,000	40,000	120,000		160,000
Travel to attend Stakeholder trainings on data use and gender-sensitive approaches	50,000					50,000			50,000
Travel to attend Stakeholder meetings (SSF, stock assessment, alternative management measures)	40,000					40,000			40,000
Travel to attend workshop on SSF co-management	50,000					50,000			50,000
Travel to attend workshops with national authorities (IUU and national legislations)		80,000				80,000			80,000
Travel to attend UNODC coordination workshop on fisheries crime		5,000				5,000			5,000
Travel to attend field missions on MCS and related technologies (national and sub-regional level, including training and FMC visits)		25,000				25,000			25,000
Travel to attend field research on bottom trawl noise impacts			25,000			25,000			25,000
Travel to attend workshop on Mediterranean fisheries tenure			14,288			14,288			14,288
Travel to attend Blue Economy stakeholder consultations				34,743		34,743			34,743
Travel to attend workshop on best practices in blue economy solutions for fisheries				40,000		40,000			40,000
Travel to attend knowledge exchange workshops					20,000	20,000			20,000
MAP SPA/RAC - Assessment and technical assistance missions on fisheries data integration in GES of marine ecosystems			24,000			24,000			24,000
MAP SPA/RAC - Workshop on climate change adaptation in coastal zones (online)			5,000			5,000			5,000
MAP SPA/RAC - Technical assistance missions for the development of national/local climate change adaptation strategies and action plans			21,000			21,000			21,000
MAP SPA/RAC - NIS data management and MAMIAS technical trainings (online)			10,000			10,000			10,000
MAP SPA/RAC - NIS prevention, eradication and control measures			24,000			24,000			24,000
MAP SPA/RAC - Technical assistance missions and workshops for the development and the implementation of the NAP+				45,000		45,000			45,000
MAP SPA/RAC - Meetings for promoting and supporting new partnerships				30,000		30,000			30,000
MAP SPA/RAC - Initiatives to support the establishment of national stakeholders platforms					24,000	24,000			24,000
MAP SPA/RAC - Annual Steering Committee meetings, including field missions (M&E)							41,000		41,000
MAP SPA/RAC - Participation to global and regional fora					24,000	24,000			24,000
<b>5021 Sub-total Travel</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>110,000</b>	<b>123,288</b>	<b>149,743</b>	<b>108,000</b>	<b>631,031</b>	<b>161,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>792,031</b>
<b>5023 Training</b>									
Demersal surveys-at-sea (2022 and 2024)	590,000					590,000			590,000
Pelagic surveys-at-sea (2023)	200,000					200,000			200,000
Investigation of sea bottoms through multibeam (2022)	80,000					80,000			80,000
Surveys on vulnerable benthic ecosystems protected or to be protected by FRAs (including for marine litter and selectivity pilot study)			180,000			180,000			180,000
Survey(s) on bottom trawl noise impacts			50,000			50,000			50,000
MAP SPA/RAC - Assessment and technical assistance missions on fisheries data integration in GES of marine ecosystems			21,000			21,000			21,000
MAP SPA/RAC - Workshop on climate change adaptation strategies in coastal zones (online)			15,000			15,000			15,000
MAP SPA/RAC - Technical assistance missions for the development of national/local climate change adaptation strategies and action plans			24,000			24,000			24,000
MAP SPA/RAC - NIS data management and MAMIAS technical trainings (online)			15,000			15,000			15,000
MAP SPA/RAC - NIS prevention, eradication and control measures			20,000			20,000			20,000
MAP SPA/RAC - Technical assistance missions and workshops for the development and the implementation of the NAP+				70,000		70,000			70,000
MAP SPA/RAC - Meetings for promoting and supporting new partnerships				48,000		48,000			48,000
MAP SPA/RAC - Initiatives to support the establishment of national stakeholders					48,000	48,000			48,000

**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.

n/a

**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.

n/a

**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).

n/a