

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	9670
Project Name:	Enhancing Regional Climate Change Adaptation in the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas
Countr(ies):	Regional, Albania, Algeria, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia
Implementing Agency:	UNEP

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Enhancing Regional Climate Change Adaptation in the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas

Country

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

GEF ID

9670

Implementing Agency

UNEP

Executing Entity

PAP-RAC

Plan Bleu

GW-Med

Trust Fund

SCCF

Project Type

MSP

PIR Submission

9/15/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 4th PIR

Objective

To enhance capacities of countries in the Mediterranean region to adapt to climate change with a view to influencing wider development processes in the region.

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Moderately Satisfactory

Development Objective

Satisfactory

Overall risk

Low Risk

Project Financing

1,095,000.00

Cumulative Disbursement

955,000.00

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

5/22/2019

Agency Approval

9/12/2020

Implementation Start 12/10/2020	First Disbursement 12/17/2020
Expected MTR	Actual MTR
Expected Completion 12/31/2024	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

The implementation of SCCF project activities was linked and coordinated with the implementation of the activities of the MedProgramme Child Project (CP) 2.1 “Mediterranean Coastal Zones: Water Security, Climate Resilience and Habitat Protection” which started six months earlier and where Output 1.3 provisioned for the preparation of ICZM Action Plans in Morocco and Montenegro informed by the participatory Climagine foresight methodology. The activities in the framework of CP 2.1 in Morocco and Montenegro included the involvement of multiple local stakeholders in each project area, the establishment of a local ICZM Committee to facilitate the preparation and the implementation of the Plans and the preparation of the ICZM Plans which is guided through a series of four integrated participatory Climagine foresight workshops in each site.

Under **Component 1** the SCCF project has contributed to mainstream the impacts of climate change in the two coastal plans by designing and testing an innovative participatory methodology based on sound scientific analysis of available data and information on the climate risks for the specific coastal area, including gender differentiated analysis. This methodology was utilised in both pilot sites, and the outcomes were reported, illustrated and discussed with coastal stakeholders together with possible coastal adaptation solutions to mitigate identified risks. Those workshops and discussions allowed for the identification and prioritization of relevant coastal adaptation solutions for each area. For each prioritized coastal adaptation solution, the project prepared a cost/benefit analysis along with a possible implementation timeline.

Under **Component 2**, the results of this analysis supported the integration of identified coastal adaptation measures in the coastal plans.

Under **Components 1, 3 and 4**, all the six participating Countries benefited from regional activities implemented in the reporting period: exchanges and discussions at the Regional Meeting organised on 24 April 2024 in Podgorica, Montenegro, back to back with the MedProgramme ASM; consultation for the preparation of project proposals; exchanges for the preparation of the ‘Methodological Guidelines on Preparing a Financial Plan for Climate Change Adaptation in Mediterranean Coastal Areas’ and the ‘Assessment on Private Sector Engagement to Catalyse Financing for Climate Adaptation in the Mediterranean (with emphasis in the coastal area of developing countries)’; Trainings; the Webinar on Climate Adaptation Financing and the Regional Roundtable on Climate Adaptation Financing & The Role of the Private Sector; promotional and awareness raising initiatives at regional level; SCCF Side Events at UNFCCC COP29; climate change vulnerability studies.

Under **Component 1**, further progress was achieved over the reporting period under Activity 1.1. With regards to the gender-sensitive climate risk assessments of both pilot sites, a report consisting of a downscaled application of the Coastal Risk Index-Local Scale to the pilot site of Kotor Bay, Montenegro was published.

Under Activity 1.2, Plan Bleu published a Baseline Study of Coastal Adaptation Solutions in both pilot sites based on two participatory workshops on this theme held in July 2022 (Montenegro) and December 2022 (Morocco), laying the ground for the application of cost-benefit analyses to prioritise coastal adaptation solutions in both pilot sites by PAP/RAC. Plan Bleu led a Panel at MEDCOP 3 in Tangier on 22 June 2023 together with Union for the Mediterranean to showcase the achievements of the SCCF, CP 2.1 and CP 2.2 projects in the Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima Region, Morocco, with interventions from project partners PAP/RAC and GWP-Med. During the reporting period, the planned work was finalized for Output 1.3 “*Training provided to at least 50 technical experts and decision makers from the six project countries on climate change adaptation solutions (including ecosystem-based solutions) for coastal areas*” with the organization of two hybrid participatory workshop in English on nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation in Kotor Bay on 3-4 October 2024 and, in French, on 5-6 November in Tangiers, and Output 1.4 “*Sub-regional consultations for International Finance Institutions, banking, insurance, private sectors in low-lying coastal areas on the financing possibilities of the adaptation priorities identified and institutional support needed for the enhanced use of coastal climate risk assessments in investment decisions*” with the publication of two rapid capacity and gap assessments concerning Coastal Adaptation Finance in both pilot sites in September 2024, followed by an online training webinar on ‘Mobilising Finance for Coastal Adaptation in the Mediterranean’ (29 October 2024, exceeding 150 registered participants) in English and French targeting all SCCF project countries.

This webinar also informed the ‘Regional Roundtable on Catalysing Financing for Climate Change Adaptation in the Mediterranean: The Role of the Private Sector’ (2-3 December 2024 in Athens & online, exceeding 200 registered participants) organised by GWP-MED and Plan Bleu, as a joint SCCF project/WES-Med event under **Component 3**. Output 1.4.7 (Report on the role of coastal setback for financing sector) of PAP/RAC benefited from the land cover change analysis performed within CP 2.1 and was finalized, together with a Policy Brief in Q3 2024 and also promoted at the UNFCCC COP29.

Under **Component 2**, the coastal adaptation measures identified through the Climagine meetings (scoping meeting, diagnostic meeting, coastal adaptation meeting) organised through CP 2.1 and SCCF and prioritized through were integrated in the local ICZM plan for Boka Kotorska Bay and in the final ICZM coastal plan (SRL TTA) for the Tangiers, Tetouan, Al-Hoceima region in Morocco (final draft finalized in April 2024). For Boka Kotorska Bay, also the study on main legal, policy and institutional barriers and opportunities for implementing adaptation solutions was finalized during the second semester of 2024. For Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima Region, a similar study on main legal and institutional barriers was finalized in December 2024, after the bilateral meetings to discuss the institutional barriers and the was forward regarding the ICZM coastal plan finalization held in Tangier and Rabat in November 2024. In Morocco, the Inter-ministerial meeting planned for June 2024 in order to discuss legal and institutional barriers was done in October 2024.

Under **Project Component 3** on “Access to existing and emerging finance mechanisms relevant to climate change adaptation, including international and domestic instruments”, progress has been accelerated in the final semester of implementation and all activities and deliverables were completed. A series of guideline documents on how to access financial resources for climate change adaptation were reviewed along with case studies and lessons learned from resource mobilization for coastal adaptation in the Mediterranean region. This information provided the basis for the compilation of a guidelines document on how to prepare a financing plan for climate risk adaptation in coastal areas which, among others, was utilised for guiding the preparation of one regional project proposal for coastal adaptation in at least two participating countries. Selection criteria and a proposed timeline were prepared and discussed at the SCM of June 2023. Four options on possible contents of the project proposal were prepared and, after an initial screening, an option that integrates two of them was elaborated in more detail, discussed and preliminarily validated by financing partners (GCF) and three interested Partner Countries (Morocco, Tunisia and Libya), culminating into the GCF Project Concept Note ‘Sustainable Source to Sea solutions for Mediterranean coastal resilience: Enhancing blue carbon ecosystems and water adaptation capacity’.

Three additional activities focusing on private sector engagement for coastal climate adaptation have been co-designed and implemented by SCCF in synergy with and co-financed by the EU Water & Environment Support Project: (i) elaboration of the 'Regional Assessment on Private Sector Engagement to Catalyse Financing for Climate Adaptation in the Mediterranean' and (ii) organisation of the 'Webinar on Mobilising Finance for Coastal Adaptation in the Mediterranean' (29 October 2024, exceeding 150 registered participants), and (iii) organisation of the hybrid 'Regional Roundtable on Catalysing Financing for Climate Change Adaptation in the Mediterranean: The Role of the Private Sector' (2-3 December 2024 in Athens & online, exceeding 200 registered participants).

The implementation of the activities relating to **Project Component 4** on "Knowledge, management, project coordination and influencing", were successfully completed. A Regional Meeting was organised back to back with the second MedProgramme Annual Stock-Taking Meeting in Montenegro in April 2024. Implementation progress and preliminary outputs were illustrated together with previous experiences in the region for the development of an adaptation relevant monitoring and evaluation framework. The SCCF project structure and preliminary results were also illustrated at the Regional Forum organised by the Union for the Mediterranean "Green Week on Energy, Environment and Climate Action" in Istanbul on 14 May 2024. Given that a scientific report on climate risk in the Mediterranean had been recently released by the MedECC initiative, it was decided to refocus the report on good practices for coastal adaptation in the region resulting in a "report on coastal risks in the Mediterranean and on good practices – potential solutions" which illustrates "the major climate risks and hotspots in the region" along with climate change adaptation good practices and most promising solutions for addressing the coastal risks and a glossy electronic brochure to illustrate and promote widely the SCCF Legacy in terms of tools, methods and approaches promoted and tested by the project. The brochure includes a short description of each tool and a link to access more information and download project documents. The planned awareness raising initiative were organised back to back with the presentation of the coastal plans in Morocco and Montenegro. The SCCF project also contributed to the implementation of the Child Project 4.1 which is to foster programme-wide learning and dissemination of knowledge, effective portfolio coordination, gender mainstreaming and monitoring progress to impacts. SCCF has contributed to develop the first version of the MedProgramme Knowledge Management Platform and in particular the project management tool, the Medprogramme website and database which will support overall visibility and dissemination of results and outputs, and of the MapX based visualization tool allowing to visualise the linkages between Child Projects implementation progress and the changes in the environmental and sustainable development indicators utilised in the Mediterranean monitoring frameworks. In addition to the above activities, the team worked on the following administrative activities in the reporting period: Online monthly meetings with the individual EPs; Support to the preparation of the Quarterly Progress, Expenditure and co-financing Reports from S2 2024 to S4 2024; Preparation of the contribution to the Third MedProgramme Annual Stock-Taking Meeting in April 2025; Organisation of the Fifth and Final Steering Committee Meeting on 4-5 December 2024.

Under **Component 4**, PAP/RAC organized a side event at COP29 in Baku in November 2024, in which the activities of adaptation to climate change and coastal plans were presented (SCCF and CP2.1 projects), with participation of Plan Bleu, GWP-Med, and representatives of four countries: Morocco, Tunisia, Montenegro and Croatia. Furthermore, GWP-MED organized the SCCF Side Event on 'Harnessing freshwater, wetlands and coastal and marine ecosystems through Source to Sea and WEF Nexus approaches for a net-zero transition', and the High Level Segment on 'Fostering adaptation and mitigation co-benefits in the freshwater-coastal- marine ecosystems continuum: Leveraging opportunities and mobilizing finance for resilient and net-zero development', 18 November 2024, Baku, at UNFCCC COP 29. PAP/RAC prepared a specific website promoting PAP/RAC's activities within the SCCF project. It may be found on the following address: <https://gefmed.paprac.org/sccf-project/>

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

Challenges encountered in project implementation include the difficulty to manage the contribution of multiple stakeholders from different sectors, the procedures for administrative and financial management, the delays in the implementation of the other projects linked with SCCF (2.1 and 4.1).

C. Stakeholder Engagement

During this reporting period, the MedPCU organized the Final Project Steering Committee meeting in Athens on 3-4 December to illustrate in detail the outputs of the project and to evaluate its outcomes, and the Third Annual Stocktaking Meeting (ASM) which brought together in Istanbul in April 2025 over 60 MedProgramme Stakeholders, thematic experts and other Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. The ASM acted as a platform for the exchange of experiences and learning across MedProgramme. Participants gathered to reflect on achievements, share knowledge, and explore new ways to amplify impact under the theme “The MedProgramme: Greater than the Sum of its Parts”.

With the intention to create a ripple effect to accelerated results for environmental security in the Mediterranean Basin, innovative, art-inspired and out-of-the-box tools and techniques were employed to unlock break throughs for enhanced collaboration across projects, countries, and sectors.

One session brought together subject matter experts, countries, partners and sectors for guided discussions on emerging topics such as climate change adaptation, source-to-sea management, and the circular economy. Meanwhile, art students captured these conversations in sketches, which were later transformed into an AI-generated movie highlighting common challenges and proposed solutions. This creative approach showcased the power of collective effort, proving that together, we can achieve more and be greater than the sum of our parts. In addition, the knowledge management (KM) platform - the “go to” place for knowledge for the Child Projects within the MedProgramme, launched during the 2nd ASM meeting, allowed to strengthen the systematic documentation of the progress in the implementation of Programme activities including the progress to impact, for improving the dissemination and transfer of results, lessons learned and good practices, and for supporting the knowledge exchanges between and across Child Projects, among participating countries and involved stakeholders; thereby contributing to a region wide knowledge exchange experience. On the project level, and in the current reporting period, the SCCF project ensured stakeholders’ engagement through the organization of multiple meetings in Montenegro and Morocco and at regional level to gather involved players and stakeholders and exchange on the outcomes and outputs of the project. Challenges encountered in stakeholder engagement included striking the right balance between representativeness of involved players and the necessity of adequate arrangements to properly manage and streamline the contributions provided by involved players. In Morocco this resulted in setting up two different Coordination Committees, one with a larger number of stakeholders for consultation purposes (and legally appointed by the regional governor ‘wali’) and a more restricted one including the players indicated in the ICZM law to take decisions on the integrated plan and its implementation (in accordance with the regional ministry for the environment DRE TTA, acting secretary of the project). In Montenegro, the recommendations for adaptation measures, to be mainstreamed into the Coastal Management Plan, are set to be presented to the national working group on ICZM, which is a part of the National Council for Sustainable Development. Joint CP 2.1 and SCCF stakeholder engagement meetings related to the activities in Montenegro implemented from July 2023 to December 2024 include:

- 4 July 2023: Fourth stakeholder meeting on the ICZM Plan and Climagine Coastal Plan 4 workshop – 29 stakeholders, held in Tivat
- 5 July 2023: in-person interviews with the officials of Tivat and Kotor municipalities

- 27 September 2023 in-person interview (in Podgorica) with the officials of Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
- 7 December 2023 Online interview with officials from the Forest Administration
- 3-4 October 2024: Regional training on Ecosystem-based adaptation and Nature-based adaptation solutions in Kotor
- 29 October 2024: Webinar on Mobilizing Finance for Coastal Adaptation
- November 2024 Meeting for the presentation of the ICZM Plan in Podgorica
- 2-3 December 2024: Hybrid Regional Roundtable on Catalysing Financing for Climate Change Adaptation in the Mediterranean: The Role of the Private Sector
- Joint CP 2.1 and SCCF stakeholder engagement meetings related to the activities in Morocco implemented from July 2023 to December 2024 include:
 - September 2023: Second stakeholder meeting on the Plan (Diagnostic meeting) and Climagine Coastal Plan 2 workshop; held in Tangier
 - 21 September 2023: In-person working meeting with the regional stakeholders in Tangier, to discuss and present the zero draft of the ICZM coastal plan SRL TTA
 - 30 January 2024: Virtual working meeting with the regional ministry DRE TTA regarding the first draft and the key points of the ICZM coastal plan SRL TTA.
 - 9 April 2024: finalization of the ICZM coastal plan SRL TTA and the cartographic atlas, the documents shared with the regional and national authorities for the validation.
 - June 2024: organisation and moderation of a panel at MEDCOP 3 in Tangier, focusing on ICZM and the WEF Nexus to support adaptation efforts in the Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima and Morocco, organised with UfM and showcasing the work of the SCCF project partners
 - November 2024: bilateral meetings in Tangier and Rabat on institutional barriers and the ways forward towards the finalization of the ICZM coastal plan SRL TTA.
- 4-5 November 2024: Regional training on Ecosystem-based adaptation and Nature-based adaptation solutions in Tangier

In Algeria, under CP 2.1, Output 1.3 ICZM Strategies/plans developed and adopted, a methodological document integrating climate, environmental and socioeconomical vulnerabilities (based on the SCCF approach) was drafted, and will be presented during stakeholder workshops which will be organized in second half of 2024 in the Wilayas of El Tarf and Mostaganem. The DPSIR analysis will be presented for the approval and inputs of stakeholders.

D. Gender Equality

The finalization of recruiting the gender expert allowed to gather data on the implementation of the gender action plan and prepare for reporting. However, gender aspects were observed in the invitation letters where gender parity was encouraged as well as in the ASM and SC meetings where gender aspects were monitored. In principle, gender parity was always achieved in project activities with many occasions where number of female participants exceed male participants. For example, the Boka Kotorska Bay Coastal Plan and Climagine Workshop held on 4 July 2023 consisted of 81 % female (6 males, 23 females). The substantive work on gender aspects was carried out during the 2nd ASM meeting from 22 to 24 April 2024 and the Third ASM in Istanbul in April 2025. The outcomes of the ASMs discussion indicated that the MedProgramme was the first initiative to put an accent on gender and to reflect on this new thematic for many of the executing partners, including the ones where the question is the least obvious (such as MedWaves dealing with chemicals and waste). The Panel confirmed that country specificities should always be taken into account when addressing gender equality, and the discourse needs to be adapted to the national context. Documented progress on gender mainstreaming mostly include two gender-sensitive assessments of climate change risks

developed in Kotor Bay in Montenegro and the Tangier-Tetouan-Al-Hoceima region in Morocco that shed light on how gender inequalities exacerbate vulnerabilities to climate change risks and impacts in the Mediterranean context. These assessments integrated the lessons from the Climagine methodology underway in both pilot sites to provide a platform for building coastal resilience to climate change in a sustainable and gender-responsive manner. This is an innovative approach according to which vulnerability assessments also include gender criteria and variables to ensure that differentiated risks for women and men are adequately identified, and to contribute to understanding how gender-specific coping capacities to climate change impacts can be identified and valorised.

E. Knowledge Management

The Knowledge Management strategy of the MedProgramme operates at two levels: at the programmatic level (to support the entire portfolio with KM services and products delivered through the Hub Child Project 4.1); and at the individual child project level (with specific outputs and activities that build on the overall programmatic services and are supported by the Med PCU for their execution). The SCCF Project has integrated the programmatic KM approach in its project document narrative and has annexed the full KM strategy to the ProDoc; it also foresaw its Component 4 “Knowledge management, project coordination and influencing” which aims at strengthening the science-policy interface, making accessible knowledge generated in the framework of the project and enhancing regional climate information in order to up-scaling and promoting broader adoption of the planning approaches, vision, policies and practices that it promotes. In the reporting period the project implemented the planned awareness raising campaigns in the pilot sites, prepared “report on coastal risks in the Mediterranean and on good practices – potential solutions” which illustrates “the major climate risks and hotspots in the region” along with climate change adaptation good practices and most promising solutions for addressing the coastal risks and a glossy electronic brochure to illustrate and promote widely the SCCF Legacy in terms of tools, methods and approaches promoted and tested by the project. The brochure includes a short description of each tool and a link to access more information and download project documents. At the level of the MedProgramme Child Project 4.1, the regional hub support project with the objective, among others, to foster programme-wide learning and dissemination of knowledge and effective portfolio coordination and synergistic interactions among Child Projects (CPs), the SCCF project has contributed to the development of the MedProgramme Knowledge Management Platform.

The project organized the final project Steering Committee meeting, in Athens on 3-4 December 2024, back with the ‘Regional Roundtable on the Role of the Private Sector in catalysing financing for Climate Change Adaptation in the Mediterranean coastal area in a Source-to-Sea approach’ allowing for the detailed illustration and dissemination of all project outputs with a wide audience. The SCCF project and its results were also illustrated during the 2025 MedProgramme ASM which provided the opportunity to share lessons learned and information generated from the project with a wide number of stakeholders from the region as well as the final Steering Committee Meeting, organized on 3-4 December 2024

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	

Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Kotor Bay, Montenegro	42.47194	18.74444	

Location Description:

Coastal Area

Activity Description:

Elaboration of climate risk adaptation measures for integration in the Coastal Management Plan under development

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Tangiers-Tetouan-Al Hoceima Region, Morocco	35.76727	-5.79975	

Location Description:

Coastal Area

Activity Description:

Elaboration of climate risk adaptation measures for integration in the Coastal Management Plan under development

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category M and E Document	Title 9670_MEDP_PIR_UNEP_2025
Document Category M and E Document	Title 9670 MEDP - Multi-country Programme GCF CN-1
Document Category M and E Document	Title 9670 MEDP SCCF Climate Finance Methodological Guidelines_Final-1
Document Category M and E Document	Title 9670 MEDP SCCF Project2025-4a-1
Document Category M and E Document	Title 9670 MEDP SCCF Project2025_case studies-2
Document Category M and E Document	Title 9670 MEDP wg