



Build back a blue and stronger Mediterranean

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10685

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT No

NGI No

Project Title

Build back a blue and stronger Mediterranean

Countries

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

Agency(ies)

CI

Other Executing Partner(s)

The MedFund and the MedPAN

Executing Partner Type

Others

GEF Focal Area

International Waters

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, International Waters, Large Marine Ecosystems, Marine Protected Area, Fisheries, Influencing models, Deploy innovative

financial instruments, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Information Dissemination, Participation, Consultation, Local Communities, Private Sector, Capital providers, SMEs, Communications, Awareness Raising, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Beneficiaries, Gender-sensitive indicators, Women groups, Gender results areas, Access and control over natural resources, Participation and leadership, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Capacity Development, Knowledge Exchange

Sector

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation 0

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 1

Submission Date

2/28/2022

Expected Implementation Start

7/1/2022

Expected Completion Date

7/1/2027

Duration

60In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

450,000.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
IW-1-1	Strengthen blue economy opportunities through sustainable healthy coastal and marine ecosystems	GET	2,500,000.00	20,193,269.00
IW-1-2	Strengthen blue economy opportunities through catalyzing sustainable fisheries management	GET	2,500,000.00	20,193,269.00
Total Project Cost(\$)			5,000,000.00	40,386,538.00

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

Strong, effective, and sustainable management of Mediterranean MPAs to address global changes and to provide long-term socio-ecological benefits in the Mediterranean in a post COVID recovery context.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 1: Sustainable financing support to core management costs of MPAs in the Mediterranean	Investment	<p>Outcome 1.1: The MedFund generates revenues from investments of an alliance of donors to support sustainable management effectiveness of 432,930 ha of nationally designated Marine protected areas and new MPAs under designation process</p> <p><i>Indicator 1.1. MPAs management effectiveness and effectivity evolution ? Joint indicator for both outcome 1.1 and outcome 2.1</i></p>	<p>Output 1.1.1: Core management and fisheries management costs of 20 MPAs (nationally designated and new MPAs under designation process) covering 432,930 ha supported by 2026, to strengthen management effectiveness and effectivity, and generate socio-economic and ecological benefits.</p> <p><i>Output 1.1.1 indicator: Number of ha of MPAs with 5-year core management activities financially supported and implemented in collaboration with marine and land-based stakeholders.</i></p>	GET	3,734,091.00	28,705,876.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 2: Capacity building of MPAs managers and practitioners and knowledge sharing within the MPA community, for improved MPAs management effectiveness and financing	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 2.1: Enhanced capacities of managers and other stakeholders to effectively and sustainably manage 20 nationally designated and under designation Mediterranean MPAs (nationally designated and under designation process)</p> <p><i>Indicator 2.1.a MPAs management effectiveness and effectivity</i></p> <p><i>Joint indicator for both outcome 1.1 and outcome 2.1</i></p> <p><i>Indicator 2.1.b (GEF Core Indicator 7.4): Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products (target: 4)</i></p>	<p>Output 2.1.1: Managers and other stakeholders (including small-scale fisheries actors as well as targeted administrations in charge of MPAs or fisheries management, depending on the countries situation and challenges) of at least 20 MPAs (nationally designated and under designation process) trained and capacitated in sustainable fisheries management, MPAs core management, mobile species conservation, local sustainable financing mechanism, and climate change adaptation.</p> <p><i>Output 2.1.1 indicator: Number of managers and other stakeholders (including small scale fishers) trained and capacitated</i></p> <p>Output 2.1.2: MPA practitioner and related stakeholders (tourism,</p>	GET	501,004.00	7,989,816.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 3: Stronger regional and national governance and cooperation & strategies to promote MPAs as solutions to address global changes and provide socio-ecological benefits	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 3.1: Operational regional mechanism supports the implementation of policy commitments towards MPAs in the Mediterranean, in particular the Barcelona Convention.</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.1: Number of institutions engaged within the Post-2020 Mediterranean MPA Roadmap mechanism</i></p> <p>Outcome 3.2: Increased regional, sub-regional and national cooperation between MPA actors to jointly promote benefits and needs for effective and sustainable MPAs.</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.2: Number of stakeholders cooperating through networks</i></p> <p>Outcome 3.3: Improved International cooperation between networks of</p>	<p>Output 3.1.1: A Post-2020 MPA Roadmap follow-up and monitoring mechanism is established.</p> <p>Indicator 3.1.1.a: <i>Number of monitoring mechanism for the post 2020 MPA Roadmap</i></p> <p>Indicator 3.1.1.b: <i>Number of organizations engaged in the follow-up coordination mechanism of the Roadmap.</i></p> <p>Output 3.1.2: 4th edition of the MPA Forum (2024) organized & mid-term evaluation of the Post 2020 Mediterranean MPAs Roadmap conducted.</p> <p>Indicator 3.1.2.a: <i>Number of Forum participants, including land-based stakeholders, private sector and land-based polluting industries.</i></p> <p>Indicator 3.1.2.b: <i>Number of mid-term evaluation of the Post 2020</i></p>	GET	400,117.00	1,150,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 4: Monitoring and Evaluation	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 4.1: Overall project implementation progress and results monitored, promoting adaptive management, and project knowledge managed, compiled and disseminated.</p> <p><i>Indicator 4.1: % of required reports and evaluations completed</i></p>	<p>Output 4.1.1: Monitoring and evaluation system developed and implemented.</p> <p><i>Indicator 4.1.1: Number of operational M&E system</i></p> <p>Output 4.1.2: Results from monitoring and evaluation program compiled into a final report.</p> <p><i>Indicator 4.1.2: number of final report</i></p>	GET	126,693.00	500,000.00

Sub Total (\$)	4,761,905.00	38,345,692.00
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Project Management Cost (PMC)

GET	238,095.00	2,040,846.00
Sub Total(\$)	238,095.00	2,040,846.00
Total Project Cost(\$)	5,000,000.00	40,386,538.00

Please provide justification

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Other	The MedFund	Grant	Investment mobilized	7,140,000.00
Donor Agency	MAVA FOUNDATION / THE HIGHLY PROTECTED MEDITERRANEAN INITIATIVE	Grant	Investment mobilized	2,167,714.00
Other	MEDITERRANEAN BIODIVERSITY CONSORTIUM	Grant	Investment mobilized	6,447,816.00
Donor Agency	IUCN MED	Grant	Investment mobilized	465,550.00
Donor Agency	FONDATION PRINCE ALBERT II	Grant	Investment mobilized	7,090,000.00
Donor Agency	FRENCH OFFICE FOR BIODIVERSITY (OFB)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	11,617,000.00
Other	MedPAN	Grant	Investment mobilized	100,000.00
Recipient Country Government	GOVERNMENT OF ALBANIA	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	360,000.00
Recipient Country Government	GOVERNMENT OF Montenegro	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,690,022.00
Recipient Country Government	GOVERNMENT OF Tunisia	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,083,436.00
Recipient Country Government	GOVERNMENT OF Morocco	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,225,000.00

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
			Total Co-Financing(\$)	40,386,538.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

USD 7,140,000 will come as support from the MedFund to support MPA management costs in the 6 countries. USD 2,167,713 will come from the Highly protected Mediterranean Initiatives funded by the MAVA foundation. This funding will be managed by The MedFund and will provide financial resources to MPA for implementing highly protection measures. USD 6,447,816 will come from the Mediterranean Consortium. This co-financing strengthen social and environmental resilience of vulnerable marine and coastal areas in the Mediterranean. USD 291,550 will come from the IUCN Med and the PPI OSCAN 3 which will be supporting local civil society organization working in coastal and marine ecosystems in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. USD 7,090,000 will come from the Prince Albert II Foundation. This financing will be supporting diverse projects including the Inventories in Port Cros National Park, BeMed, the Monk Seal Alliance, Pelagos, SMILO and the project ?tracking the movements and status of Marine top predators in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. Finally, MedPAN will leverage USD 100,000 to support PMC costs.

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
CI	GET	Regional	International Waters	International Waters	5,000,000	450,000	5,450,000.00
Total Grant Resources(\$)					5,000,000.00	450,000.00	5,450,000.00

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount (\$)

150,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

13,500

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
CI	GET	Regional	International Waters	International Waters	150,000	13,500	163,500.00
Total Project Costs(\$)					150,000.00	13,500.00	163,500.00

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)
612,600.00	432,930.00	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)
295,500.00	213,186.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
Akula National Park	125689	Select	295,500.00			<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park Cap des Trois Fourches	125689 555624204	Select Others		8,577.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park Cape of Redoni	125689 N/A	Select Others				<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park Gouraya National Park (marine extension)	125689 9747	Select National Park		7,150.00		<input type="checkbox"/>

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
Akula National Park Jbel Moussa	125689 555698152	SelectProtected area with sustainable use of natural resources		3,840.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park Kerkennah Islands	125689 555543078	SelectOthers		109,150.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park Kuriat Islands	125689	SelectOthers		84,403.00		<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park Rachgoun Island	125689 555542733	SelectOthers		66.00		<input type="checkbox"/>

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)
317,100.00	219,744.23	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)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Akula National Park Abba ssieh	125689 555716223	SelectWildernes Areas		294.00					<input type="checkbox"/>

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)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Akula National Park Al Hoceima	125689 555547509	SelectOthers		48,000.00					
Akula National Park Banc des Kabyles marine reserve	125689 555599910	SelectOthers		600.00					
Akula National Park Habibas Island , Palomas Island and Cap Lindles	125689 19571 , 555698157	Select		29,960.00					

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)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Akula National Park Karaburun Sazan National Marine Park	125689 555513696	SelectNational Park		12,428.00					
Akula National Park Kati?	125689	SelectOthers		2,744.93					
Akula National Park Kneiss	125689	SelectOthers		29,697.00					
Akula National Park La Galite	125689	SelectOthers		10,185.00					
Akula National Park MPA 1-MPA 20	125689	Select	317,100.00						

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)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Akula National Park Palm Islands Nature Reserve	125689 13388	SelectWildernes Area		415.00					
Akula National Park Platamuni	125689	SelectOthers		1,087.13					
Akula National Park Stari, Ulcinj	125689 145127	SelectOthers		929.17					
Akula National Park Tyre Coast Nature Reserve	125689 55557 6135	SelectOthers		11,700.00					
Akula National Park Zembra & Zembra	125689	SelectOthers		71,704.00					

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

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Shared water Ecosystem	Mediterranean Sea	Mediterranean Sea		
Count	1	1	0	0

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

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Mediterranean Sea	4			<input type="checkbox"/>
Select SWE				
Mediterranean Sea		4		<input type="checkbox"/>
Select SWE				

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

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Mediterranean Sea	4			<input type="checkbox"/>
Select SWE				
Mediterranean Sea		4		<input type="checkbox"/>
Select SWE				

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

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
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Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Mediterranean Sea		1		<input type="checkbox"/>
Select SWE				

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

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Mediterranean Sea	3			<input type="checkbox"/>
Select SWE				
Mediterranean Sea		1		<input type="checkbox"/>
Select SWE				

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)
35,685.00	18,058.00		

Fishery Details

Fishery Details Sardina pilchardus 145,000 mt; Engraulis encrasicolus: 45,000mt; Merluccius merluccius: 23,000mt; Parapenaeus longirostris: 8000mt; Solea solea: 5000mt Mullus barbatus: 4000mt; Squilla mantis: 2000mt; Nephrops norvegicus: 4000mt; Aristeus antennatus: 1600mt; Aristaeomorpha foliacea: 200mt; Pagellus bogaraveo: 100mt

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)
Female	5,000	5,000		
Male	5,000	5,000		
Total	10000	10000	0	0

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

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

SECTION 0: CHANGES FROM THE PIF

1. Details on the geographical scope of the project intervention were added, through the justification of the selection of 20 designated or under designation MPAs in the 6 pilot countries, as the MedFund, MedPAN, SPA/RAC and IUCN Med had pre-identified 26 MPAs as potential project sites. For each country, the environmental and institutional context has been expanded, including specific biological characteristics, the physical context, the legal framework of existing MPAs and the surface area for both types of MPAs.
2. Since the PIF phase, another main evolution related to the area of intervention of the project, was the inclusion of Albania within the targeted countries, who endorsed the project and provided an endorsement letter. The designated MPA Karaburun Sazan and the proposed MPA Cape of Redoni were selected as the most relevant MPA in Albania for the project.
3. The project covers MPAs both designated and under designation, because in the Mediterranean, some MPAs have been proposed but are not yet formally designated. The wording concerning MPAs has therefore been changed from "established" to "proposed" throughout the Project Document. The project will not directly be involved in the formal designation of MPAs, however the support provided and the advocacy work conducted by the MedFund and MedPAN will definitely contribute to this formal designation.
4. Based on the updated list of targeted MPAs, information collected from MAPAMED, consultation process and field missions, the end of project target for the GEF Core indicator 2.1 "Marine protected areas newly created" has been updated. While the PIF indicated that the project will contribute to the official designation of 295,500 ha, the target has since been recalculated to 213,186 ha. Likewise, the target of the GEF Core indicator 2.2 on "Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness" has been reevaluated to 219,744 ha, instead of 317,000 ha as indicated in the PIF. As mentioned above, the original targets at PIF stage were calculated based on a pre-selection of a list of 26 MPAs. Out of these 26 MPAs, 20 were selected during the PPG phase, which led to a reduction of the target area for both indicators. Furthermore, the PPG phase allowed to collect and compile the most precise MPAs surface area data which vary greatly from one source to another. Finally, the recent official designation of three MPAs in Montenegro also led to reevaluate the target for GEF Core indicator 2.2 on "Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness".
5. The number of metric tons of globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels has been revised to 18,058 metric tons, instead of the 35,685 metrics tons from the PIF, due to changes in calculation methods. At PIF stage, the calculation was based on an overall percentage of the area the 20 MPAs represented in the Mediterranean Sea as a whole; whereas as PPG phase, calculations made are based on the specific area of the 20 pre-identified designated and proposed MPAs, and it considers specific MPAs compared to the total territorial seas and the total landings of the 6 countries. The calculations made during the PPG phase are therefore more robust. The area of the

MPAs that will be supported by the project represents 8.6% of the countries fishing areas/territorial seas. Taking the average total yearly landings for the 6 countries of 232,863 metric tons and if considering that 90% of the stocks are overexploited $232,863 \times 0.90 = 209,576$ metric tons, this leads to 18,058 metric tons of currently overexploited resources that will be moved to more sustainable levels.

6. At last, for the 10,000 direct beneficiaries as co-benefit of GEF investment, the PPG process has led to target more precisely 50% of women and 50% of men.

7. Some minor adjustments were made to the budget distribution. The budget allocated to M&E has been increased (from USD 47,620 to USD 126,693) to cover regular M&E function as well as to account for the project mid-term review and the terminal evaluation. This increase on M&E component consequently decreased the budget allocated to the technical components (from USD 3,771,400 to USD 3,734,092 for C1; from USD 537,450 to USD 501,004 for C2; and from USD 405,435 to USD 400,117 for C3). PMC remains unchanged.

8. The extensive consultations and data collection undertaken during the PPG phase enabled the refinement of the project design, and therefore there were some reformulations of the project outcomes and outputs. No major restructuring has been made since the PIF phase. The following table summarizes the more substantive changes made:

Table 1. Changes between the PIF and CEO Endorsement phase

Output as written in the PIF	Output revised during PPG
Output 1.1.1. 20 nationally designated MPAs and new MPAs under designation process core management costs supported by 2026, covering 612,600 ha	This output 1.1.1. was updated with the revised MPA surface area targeted by the project (#32,930 ha) and refined with an emphasis on management effectiveness, effectivity and socio-economic benefits.
Output 2.1.2. Managers and other stakeholders of 20 nationally designated and under designation process MPAs trained	Type of stakeholders (small-scale fisheries actors, administrations in charge of MPA or fisheries management?) and type of trainings (sustainable fisheries management, MPA core management?) have been defined and added.
Output 3.1.1. A Post-2020 Mediterranean MPAs Roadmap follow-up and monitoring mechanism established	The importance of engaging stakeholders in the follow-up coordination mechanism of the Roadmap has been enhanced in the output 3.1.1, by targeting the commitment of 100 stakeholders in the process along with other key Mediterranean partners.
Output 3.2.2. MPA communication and policy tools developed and disseminated through networks	The type of stakeholders targeted by the tools (land-based stakeholders), and the type of networks has been clarified.
Output 3.3.1 Key policy tools jointly produced by networks of MPA managers beyond the Mediterranean	The notion of 'recommendations' instead of 'policy tools' has been integrated to this output.

Output 4.1.1: Monitoring and evaluation program developed.	Outputs 4.1.1 and 4.1.2. were merged.
Output 4.1.2: Monitoring and evaluation program implemented.	

9. The changes in the Output plan have also resulted in changes to the amount of budget allocated to the project's four Outcomes. These are displayed in the table below:

Table 2. Changes in the budget allocation from PIF to PPG phase

Outcome	Amount Budgeted in PIF	Amount budgeted in PPG phase
Outcome 1	3,771,400	3,734,092
Outcome 2	537,450	501,004
Outcome 3	405,435	400,117
Outcome 4	47,620	126,693

1) The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers to be addressed

Global Environmental Problems

The Mediterranean Sea is one of the "hotspots" of global biodiversity. Although it represents less than 1% of the surface of the world's oceans, the Mediterranean Sea is home to nearly 10% of the world's marine biodiversity and has a high level of endemism. It contains remarkable diversity and is a vital breeding area for many charismatic, endangered and commercially important pelagic species.

An overall intensification of the degradation of marine and coastal environments in the Mediterranean has been observed over the past decades. The three foremost environmental concerns are listed below.

A decline of biodiversity

The Mediterranean Sea marine life faces multiple pressures, such as professional and recreational fishing, maritime traffic, conversion and degradation of critical habitats, water pollution, unregulated coastal development, introduction of non-indigenous species, and offshore oil and gas prospection and exploitation. The impacts of these activities are aggravated by the effect of climate change, resulting in habitat degradation and biodiversity loss. At least 78 marine species assessed by IUCN are threatened with extinction, especially cartilaginous fish, marine mammals, reptiles and corals, due to interaction

with overfishing and anthropogenic pressures. Projections suggest that more than 30 endemic species will become extinct by the end of the century.

Despite high biodiversity in the Mediterranean, some species are reaching dangerously low abundance levels, reflecting the cumulative effects of multiple pressures affecting the Mediterranean coastal and marine environment. Indeed, over the past 50 years, Mediterranean marine mammal populations have declined by 41%, more than half (53%) of its sharks are at risk of extinction and many species are currently listed in the annexes to the SPA/BD Protocol as threatened or whose exploitation must be regulated. This includes the endangered Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) which once spanned across the whole Mediterranean Sea and of which only a few hundreds of individuals remain, restricted to the Eastern basin; or the dusky grouper (*Epinephelus marginatus*), which population is estimated to have decreased by well over 50 % in only a few generations.

Seagrass meadows illustrate this coastal degradation by showing signs of regression due to both natural and anthropogenic pressures. The endemic Mediterranean seagrass (*Posidonia oceanica* - a Mediterranean sea grass which is an important nursery habitat for many species, a carbon sink and a buffer against sea acidification) has declined by 34%. Moreover, non-indigenous and invasive species are increasingly present in the Mediterranean region, the main vectors for introduction being corridors and maritime transport (through ballast water and hull fouling). By 2017, more than 1,000 non-indigenous marine species had been recorded in the Mediterranean Sea, with 618 species considered established. Those non-indigenous and invasive species may have negative impacts on marine ecosystems and dependent economies and societies.

A decline in fishing stocks

Due to over-fishing, use of harmful fishing practice, and loss of shallow water habitats for some life stages of critical fisheries, fisheries in the Mediterranean are facing sustainability and socioeconomic challenges. Fisheries are highly threatened by overfishing, pollution, habitat degradation, invasive species and climate change. According to Plan Bleu in 2020, 78% of Mediterranean and Black Sea stocks are fished at biologically unsustainable levels, and this prevailing overexploitation jeopardizes the sustainability of fisheries and their socioeconomic benefits.

Recovery of species population and improvement of marine habitats have been recorded, notably in MPAs and in no-take zones (NTZs) that are well managed and enforced. However, out of more than 1,000 existing Mediterranean MPAs very few have shown an increase of fish biomass and biodiversity with benefits for local communities, plus only 0.04% (81,500ha) of the basin is covered by NTZs. Moreover, roughly 90 percent of the scientifically assessed fish stocks are considered to be fished outside safe biological limits.

Degradation of coastal ecosystems and loss of related services

Coastal ecosystems provide important ecosystem services, such as shoreline stabilization and buffering, coastal defense, groundwater storage and water purification. However, coastal environments are suffering from accelerated erosion rates and substratum loss on rocky shores due to urbanization and coastal infrastructure expansion, sea level rise and reduced river sediment inputs. Around 1,238 coastal terrestrial species have been identified by IUCN as threatened with extinction.

Coastal ecosystems include wetlands, coastal aquifers, forests, agricultural land and soft and rocky shores which provide several ecosystem services also experiencing degradation. Wetlands underwent habitat loss of 48% since 1970 due to pressures such as the conversion of wetlands to agricultural and urban areas, water pollution, overfishing, coastline retreat and sea level rise.

To conclude, as The Mediterranean Sea is one large water ecosystem with high connectivity, having sustainable and effectively management MPAs in non-European countries will not only provide socio-ecological and fisheries benefits in the MPAs themselves and their direct boundaries, but will also contribute to the overall large ecosystem health.

Root Causes

There are several underlying causes of the environmental problems:

Poor management and co-management of MPAs

MPAs, when they are well/effectively managed, financed and enforced and with a sufficient part of strong protection, are recognized as effective tools for protecting marine and coastal ecosystems and conserving their biodiversity while simultaneously contributing to the sustainable economic development of local communities, especially related to small-scale fisheries and sustainable tourism.

However, most of the Mediterranean MPAs are affected by the ‘paper park’ syndrome where protected areas have inadequate resources to ensure management effectiveness. Many MPAs fail to meet thresholds for effective and equitable management processes, with widespread shortfalls in staff and financial resources. In fact, only 2.48% of the Mediterranean Sea is covered by MPAs with a management plan, just 1.27% is covered by MPAs that effectively implement their management plans, and a meager 0.03% of the Mediterranean is covered by fully protected areas which are known to deliver ecological benefits. Moreover, in 2016, NTZ represented 0.04% of the Mediterranean, while the Tangiers Declaration in 2016 recommended that NTZ should cover at least 2% of the Mediterranean by 2020, especially in key functional areas. Hence, for 95% of the total protected area in the Mediterranean Sea (72.6% of the MPAs), no differences exist between the regulations imposed inside the MPA compared with those outside.

The table below presents a synthesis of the available data on the total surface for the 20 MPAs which will be supported by the project and the no-take zones.

Table 1. Summary total MPAs and no-take zones surfaces

Country	Total MPA surface (ha) ? designated and proposed	No-take zones (ha)[1]¹	% No-take/ total
Albania	12,428	12,428	100%

Algeria	37,776	3,100	8%
Lebanon	12,409	-	0%
Montenegro	4,761	80	2%
Morocco	60,417	28	0%
Tunisia	305,139	10,070	3%
Total	432,930	25,626	6%

Based on the available information, for the 20 considered MPAs, for a total surface of 432,930 ha, only 25,626 ha are or are going to be, considered 'no-take' zones.

Many MPAs in the Mediterranean Sea face operational difficulties, particularly in non-European countries. Many sites do not have dedicated management units, or regulations to curb existing pressures (such as overfishing) and / or sufficient means to enforce these regulations. Only a very small fraction of Mediterranean MPAs are effectively managed, which leads to a lack of effectiveness of the MPAs themselves towards fulfilling their role towards the conservation and protection of coastal and marine resources. A recent global study conducted on 218 MPAs showed that MPAs with adequate staff capacity had ecological effects 2.9 times greater than MPAs with inadequate capacity. Thus, continued global expansion of MPAs without adequate investment in human and financial capacity is likely to lead to sub-optimal conservation outcomes. The current status of MPAs in the Mediterranean Sea does not reverse the biodiversity and fish stocks decline trends, partly because of this ineffective management. This in turn can discredit MPAs to stakeholders, including governments, and could lower the political buy-in towards the establishment and operationalization of new MPAs.

Contributing to the issue is the overall lack of engagement of stakeholders affected by the implementation of MPAs, and the frequent absence of co-management arrangements. This leads to negative perceptions of the MPAs and low buy-in, including where fishers refuse the creation of an MPA due to the limitations that will potentially be implemented such as the reduction of fishing effort, closed areas, shifting, etc. Moreover, the concentration of fishing efforts near MPA boundaries, associated with competition for resources by coastal fishes, can reduce their overall effectiveness. It can indeed reduce the ability for some species to colonize nearby areas that could be pools of resources for fishers. While no-take zones and the associated surrounding buffer area play a positive role to manage the 'fishing the line' problem, no-take zones only covered 0.04% of the Mediterranean Sea in 2016. Environmental degradation in MPAs is therefore not always curbed due to this poor management, and is compounded by the fact that regulations are often not sufficiently stringent or adapted to local contexts, or simply not well implemented in the MPAs.

Unsustainable fisheries (i.e., overfishing, destructive fishing practices)

Fishing represents the activity having one of the greatest impacts on the marine environment, with most Mediterranean stocks having been driven to overexploitation. It is estimated that in 2016, 90% of fish stocks in the Mediterranean and Black Sea were fished unsustainably. In a period of 30 years, the

catches in the Mediterranean have been reduced by 60%. Bottom trawling fleets predominate in many Mediterranean fisheries, being responsible for a high share. Trawlers have dramatic effects on the ecosystem including physical damage to the seabed and the degradation of associated communities, the overfishing of demersal resources, and the changes in the structure and functioning of marine ecosystems derived from the depletion of populations and the huge amount of bycatches and associated discards.

Despite industrial fisheries being largely to blame, the scale of the impacts driven by artisanal fisheries is also notable. In fact, about 80% of the Mediterranean fleet, with some 60,000 vessels, is considered small-scale or artisanal. These brought in \$519 million (24%) of the region's commercial fishing revenues in 2017. Small-scale fisheries are often poorly documented and studied with less rigor than their large-scale counterparts, are less regulated than industrial endeavors, and many of the complex management issues remain largely unresolved. Hence, small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean are poorly managed or not managed at all. Moreover, the fishing practices themselves can be particularly damaging, including for instance the fact that small-scale fisheries often target specific species at high trophic levels (and thereby put excessive pressure on large individuals and affecting reproduction), the massive use of fixed nets (and other artisanal gears such as traps), makes ghost fishing by abandoned or discarded gears a potentially important problem for sensitive habitats in MPAs. Fishing the line? phenomena, the fishing effort concentration near MPA boundaries, can hamper the so-called spillover effect?.

The increase of recreational (but also subsistence) fisheries is altering the classic features of coastal fishing and placing increasing pressure on species. According to recent studies, 41 out of 136 species (i.e., 30% of the total) captured by recreational fishers in nine Mediterranean MPAs are classified as vulnerable. Clearly, recreational fisheries may pose a threat to vulnerable species, many of which have experienced marked declines in their populations in recent decades[12]². Some recreational fishing methods (e.g., spearfishing) target endangered species ? e.g., grouper (*E. marginatus*), red scorpionfish (*S. scrofa*) and common pandora (*P. erythrinus*), included in international conventions (e.g., Barcelona, Bern, or Washington conventions), laws (e.g., EU Habitats Directive) or lists (e.g., the IUCN Red List). Furthermore, Mediterranean MPAs see frequent conflicts between professional small-scale fishers and recreational fishers. Professional fishermen report unfairness whereby their operations are highly regulated and subject to a number of administrative procedures while recreational fishing is poorly regulated, accessible to all, using increasingly high tech means and followed by the illegal selling of catches in many areas.

Illegal fishing may also add extra pressure on fishery resources ? this is a problem in most coastal areas and MPAs. Illegal fishing includes fishing in forbidden areas, selling in black market, using forbidden gears, using more and longer gears than allowed by regulation, retired professional fishermen still commercializing their catch, etc. Two related factors make poaching in MPAs especially attractive: higher fish density inside the MPA, and reduced catch per unit effort (CPUE) outside the MPA. The box below highlights a few illegal fishing practices identified in some of the countries of focus for the project.

Illegal fishing practices identified in the countries of focus

Albania:

- ? Collection of date mussel and lobsters that are protected species in the Mediterranean.
- ? Diving and illegal fishing with lights and spear guns is also practiced, in particular for fishing the threatened dusky grouper.

Lebanon

- ? Spearfishing
- ? Use of small mesh size nets
- ? Dynamite fishing

Morocco

- ? Dynamite fishing
- ? Trawling in shallow areas

Tunisia

- ? Traditional gear such as ? kiss ? and other bottom trawls that leads to the destruction of benthic habitats and capture of juvenile fishes.
- ? The ? jemma ? is a collective fishing technique where a few boats work together to circle fish, and in particular mullets, in shallow areas.
- ? The collecting of some annelids species, to be used as baits, is another destructive activity which competes with clam collecting and has a negative impact on the benthic flora and fauna
- ? The use of ? derra ?, a prohibited non-selective beach seine, by some fishermen is a source of conflicts and constitutes a threat to some of the fish stocks.

Unregulated coastal development

The impacts of coastal development (agricultural, industrial, urbanization) are among the main threats to the Mediterranean Sea and these have intensified over the last few years. Four hundred fifty million people live in the Mediterranean basin, 40% of whom live on the coast. This significant coastal demographic growth contributes to degraded landscapes, soil erosion, increased waste discharges into the sea, loss and fragmentation of natural habitats as well as a deterioration of the state of vulnerable or endangered species. The development of activities in coastal areas (fishing industry, aquaculture, tourism, urbanization, etc.) has created economic opportunities but has also affected the local people's standard of living.

The Mediterranean region is one of the world's most important tourism destinations, attracting about 30% of international tourism. While generating benefits to the countries' economy, this popularity generates significant negative impacts on the marine environment through uncontrolled coastal zone development and its impact on the degradation of seagrass meadows, through the increased use of water resources, the production of solid wastes and sewage, and the anchoring on *Posidonia meadows* (conventional mooring chains scrub the substrate, and can destroy the immediate environment). Although sustainable tourism could be a source of income for many MPAs locally if local financial mechanisms would exist.

Climate change

A specific climate change assessment has been conducted during the PPG. This study report can be found in Appendix XIII. Climate change is already adversely impacting ecosystem functions in the

Mediterranean and constituting a major challenge for MPA management. The IPCC identifies the region as an area "highly vulnerable to climate change" that will "suffer multiples stresses and systemic failures due to climate changes"[1]. According to Network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC), the Mediterranean region has become warmer and drier during all seasons for the last half-century, associated with an increase in evaporation and a decrease in runoff, to the point that the Mediterranean Region is warming 20% faster than the global average. Global and regional climate model projections indicate that these trends will likely continue, with a general increase in temperature of 2.2°C by 2040. For each 1 °C of global warming, mean rainfall is likely to decrease by about 4% in most of the region, particularly in the south. This increase in temperatures is expected to be associated with more heatwaves, increased risk of desertification, soil degradation, an increase in duration and intensity of droughts, changes in species composition, increase of alien species, habitat losses and agricultural and forests production losses.

It is expected that water temperatures will rise between +1.8°C and +3.5°C by 2100, and sea levels will rise approximately 3 centimeters per decade (IPCC 2014). The effect of sea-level rise due to global warming is more important in most of the Mediterranean Sea where, due to the small tidal range, coastal infrastructure and the fact that coastal communities are located closer to mean sea level. The Adriatic, Aegean, Levantine and north-east Ionian Seas are amongst the areas currently most impacted by climate change.

Species distribution, habitat features and ecosystem structure indicates that a serious alteration of biological and ecological patterns in marine biomes is already taking place and generating mostly negative impacts. Current and projected impacts of climate change on the Mediterranean are summarized in the table below.

Table 2: Observed and expected climate change impacts in the Mediterranean

Criteria	Current impacts	Projected impact by 2100
Temperature	Surface temperatures have risen by roughly 1°C	Surface temperatures will rise by a further 2.5°C on average by 2100, and intermediate and deep layer temperatures will rise as well (High confidence)
Salinity	Increased by 0.05 ppt in intermediate and deep layers in the 20th century	Will tend to increase in surface, intermediate and deep layers; surface salinity could increase by 0.5 ppt by 2100 depending on freshwater inputs, ocean circulation and other factors with a higher increase in the Aegean and Adriatic seas (Medium confidence)
Sea-level	Mediterranean Sea levels have been rising by 1-3 mm/yr	Temperature and salinity increases would have opposite effects on sea-level (Low confidence). Ocean temperature-driven sea-level rise during the 21st century could be between 3 and 61 cm, while salinity-driven sea-level change estimates between -22 and +31 cm

Sea acidification	Ocean surface water pH has fallen by 0.1 pH unit, equivalent to a 30% increase in acidity	The Mediterranean Sea will continue to acidify with increasing CO2 emissions. At global level it is projected to drop another 0.3 to 0.4 units by 2100 (to a pH less than 7.8) (Low confidence)
Mediterranean circulation	No observed effects at the moment	Possible weakening and disruption of the thermohaline circulation (Medium confidence)
Coastal erosion	Impacts on estuarine, beach and deltaic coastal areas, with reduced sediment deposition	Expected to increase in the future due to the effects of sea-level rise and storms, particularly in autumn and winter (Low confidence)
Upwellings and current intensity	No observed effects at the moment	Lower intensity (Low confidence)

Climate Change is and will continue to aggravate current environmental issues in the Mediterranean. In particular, climate change is expected to have adverse negative impacts on:

- Marine biodiversity: Climate change is causing changes in physiology, growth, reproduction, recruitment, geographical distribution, migration and behavior in marine organisms. There will be a greater risk of extinction of species; aquatic plants such as Posidonia meadows, which act as significant carbon sinks and marine habitats, are predicted to be extinct by the middle of the century. An additional impact of climate change is the proliferation of biological invasions and proliferation of pathogens and diseases due to changes in temperatures, which strongly affects MPA management.;
- Fish production and catches: By 2050, a high emission scenario predicted an up to 5% reduction in the potential catches at the Mediterranean scale;
- Coastal environments which face high risks due to sea-level rise; and
- Human health, well-being and security through an increase in temperature, increase of extreme weather events, decrease in the production of staple food as well as an increase in vector-borne diseases due to changes in seasons.

Barriers to Addressing the Environmental Problems and Root Causes

Under the current situation, there will continue to be significant disparities in terms of MPAs? management across the Mediterranean, undermining the effectiveness of the approach to support the effective delivery of ecosystem services. Most sites in non-European countries will continue to be poorly managed, without dedicated management units, and lack the means (technical and financial) to enforce regulations. Indeed, core management costs for MPA operations will continue to lack sustainable financing options.

Four main barriers stand in the way of realizing the long-term goals outlined in regional policies that relate to the sustainable management of MPAs in the Mediterranean, and which would contribute to generating global environmental and long-term socio-economic benefits.

Barrier 1: Lack of consistent and/or sustainable financing for MPA core management costs

Mediterranean MPAs, in particular those located in non-European countries, suffer from a significant lack of resources to finance their core management costs, including operation, scientific monitoring and surveillance, training and coordination with stakeholders, staff, equipment, day-to-day administration. In fact, a study carried out in 2015 revealed that several hundred MPAs had no budget at all and that current resources cover only 12% of the financial needs for effective management of MPAs.

A five-year financing assessment needs to be conducted by The MedFund for 14 MPAs in 5 countries in 2019-2020 identified an annual financing gap for these 14 MPAs between 30 to 60% of their respective annual planned budget. For these 14 MPA, the total annual financing gap reaches EUR 2 million annually. Core operating costs represent half of this financing gap, meaning a core costs financing needs up to EUR 1 million annually for these 14 MPA and EUR 72,000 per MPA per year on average.

Traditional sources of financing such as project-based approaches have been highly unpredictable, of short durations, irregular, and therefore unsustainable. Indeed, Mediterranean MPAs have been relying heavily on ad hoc financial resources from national public funds dedicated to the creation and management of MPAs, bilateral, regional (European Union, UNEP/MAP) and international cooperation funds (Global Environment Facility), private companies or foundations (MAVA Foundation, Fondation Albert II de Monaco, etc.) and self-financing for some MPAs. Moreover, even when budgeted, funding does not systematically reach MPA managers due to a lack of fluidity in administrative and financial processes, and priority is often given to funding activities and infrastructure rather than operating costs. This reliance on ad hoc funding sources leads to MPA managers having to spend a significant part of their time seeking funding from different donors to the detriment of the day-to-day management of the MPA.

MPA managers also lack access to approaches and tools, as well as successful models, for effective MPA management including on setting up and promoting local sustainable financing mechanisms.

The COVID-19 crisis is putting additional economic and financial pressure on MPAs. The current pandemic and its aftermath could undermine decades of conservation effort. This global pandemic will have both immediate and longer-term effects on marine protected and coastal areas, such as staff being sent home to self-isolate or even being laid off. Because staffing levels (front line custodians) are key to protected area effectiveness, this can have serious impacts on conservation of key habitats and species. The pandemic can also lead to reduced revenue from tourism and cuts in MPA operational budgets.

As some nations emerge from the lockdown phase there will be additional challenges for protected areas, including MPAs: a global economic depression, job losses, reallocation of government budgets to priorities such as health and social care needs. Governments are likely to invest in massive stimulus packages to restart and revive economies, with the risk of reduced environmental regulation and fewer funds allocated for conservation. The MedFund financial needs analysis conducted for 14 MPAs in 2019 showed the importance of the financial support Governments are currently investing in MPAs in

the targeted countries for staff salaries, among others. Having this financial support reduced due to the debt increase of many countries following the COVID-19 crisis will put extra pressure in the years to come on already scarce financial resources of MPAs.

Barrier 2: Limited institutional and organizational capacities of MPAs and incomplete set of tools for an informed approach to achieve the objectives of relevant conventions, agreements, and policies in Mediterranean MPAs (including the Barcelona Convention)

The financial constraints to conservation and effective MPA management extend far beyond a simple lack of money, with a wide range of structural and political factors limiting the effectiveness and impact of spending, leading to increased costs, and/or failing to create an enabling environment and adequate incentives for conservation.

For many existing Mediterranean MPAs in non-European Union countries, there remains an inadequate operational mechanism for effective management with MPA management entities being under-staffed, under-equipped, and inadequately trained. On the latter, MPA managers generally lack the tools, knowledge, and data to make informed management decisions. Most MPAs do not have a marine assessment and monitoring strategy and staff have insufficient or often inexistent M&E skills, impeding the ability of their managers to assess impact of interventions and potential progress towards achieving conservation objectives. Finally, MPA managers and staff also lack the basic skillsets and core competencies for effective management, such as the formulation of management plans, budgeting and financial management, and strategic planning. They do not have appropriate management skills for addressing impacts from both recreational activities (divers and nautical) and for local fisheries (commercial and sport) and do not have the skills to facilitate stakeholder participation processes.

Barrier 3: Insufficient knowledge and experience/practices sharing on successful models for sustainable fisheries and to guide effective MPA management (regional/global scales)

Integral protection in MPAs offers many benefits, both ecological and socio-economic. Around the world, integral protection is considered one of the key features that exponentially increase the conservation benefits of MPAs. Lester et al (2009) demonstrated how protection in marine reserves where harvesting is prohibited results in a significant average increase in density, biomass, organism size and species richness of communities within the reserve boundary. The absence of extractive activities such as fishing not only benefits the target species, it also avoids impacts on other species and habitats. Fully protected areas can also improve the effectiveness of moderately regulated adjacent areas. However, currently, only 2% of the world's oceans are under integral protected areas and 0.03% in the Mediterranean Sea.

Furthermore, as stated in the recent FishEBM MED PIF, overfishing is still the most serious threat to the conservation of marine living resources in the Mediterranean Sea, to the extent that it seriously puts at risk the socio-economic well-being of coastal communities in littoral States. One of the main management challenges for Mediterranean fisheries remains the implementation of adaptive plans 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.

MPAs are also facing these issues. Most of them face overfishing issues, do not have fisheries management plans, do not have co-management schemes with small-scale fishers in place, and lack of data on fisheries and the relationship to small-scale exploitations. Methods and tools for improving data collection at MPA level, as well as assessing and managing data-poor fisheries, are available and should be promoted to MPA managers. MPA managers also lack knowledge on climate change adaptation of MPAs and the linkages to biodiversity loss and invasive species.

Barrier 4: Absence of a coordination mechanism to promote and engage the different stakeholders in the implementation and monitoring of the current 2020 MPA Roadmap and the Post-2020 MPA Roadmap being developed

Every 4 years, the Mediterranean MPA Forum, led by MedPAN and the SPA/RAC, triggers a unique process during which the whole MPA community (managers, scientists, socio-economic actors, institutions, donors, NGOs) shares the current status of MPAs and collectively updates/develops Mediterranean recommendations to tackle the challenges MPAs are facing in the region.

The previous editions of the Mediterranean MPA Forum (Antalya 2012 and Tangier 2016), were the culmination of a consultation process aiming at developing (2012), as well as evaluating and updating (2016), a Roadmap for Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean. The roadmap has been called 'The 2020 MPA Roadmap: Towards a comprehensive, ecologically representative, effectively connected and efficiently managed network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas by 2020', and has served as a basis of the Barcelona Convention 2020 MPA Roadmap, aimed to achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean, which was adopted at the Barcelona Convention COP 19 in 2016.

The 2020 MPA Roadmap was revised in 2016, taking into account the mid-term evaluation of its implementation carried out in 2016, and the recommendations issued from the 2016 MPA Forum held in Tangier (Morocco), to improve and help achieve the 2020 MPA Roadmap objectives by 2020. The 2020 MPA Roadmap provided recommendations for actions to be implemented at local, national, and Mediterranean levels under five strategic objectives and a sixth overall objective. However, the extent to which these recommendations were materializing was not monitored using a harmonized approach nor tools involving the whole Mediterranean MPA community. The development of the post-2020 MPA Roadmap in 2020-2021 (see below) gives the opportunity to develop in a participatory manner and put in place such a harmonized monitoring approach as well as to set-up a common framework to promote and monitor the roadmap implementation more actively.

2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

Current Baseline (Business-as-usual Scenario) / Future Scenarios without the Project

In the baseline scenario, a range of policy, legal and technical measures, and financial investments, are being undertaken by key partners and institutions to support the sustainable and effective management of Mediterranean MPAs.

Key partners involved in the baseline scenario include the following:

? Regional financing mechanism to support sustainable financing of Mediterranean MPAs ? The MedFund

The Mediterranean MPA Forum (Antalya, Turkey) in 2012 highlighted the need to establish a regional financial mechanism to support the sustainable financing of the Mediterranean MPAs in accordance to the 2014 Athens Declaration of the Union for the Mediterranean and to help countries meet their commitments under the Barcelona Convention. Following this recommendation, the initiative to set up a sustainable financing mechanism for Mediterranean MPAs was launched jointly by France, Monaco, and Tunisia in October 2013 during the high-level session of the International MPAs Congress. It received political support from the countries bordering the Mediterranean at the Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change in May 2014 and at the 19th Meeting of The Parties to the Barcelona Convention in February 2016. The MedFund (formerly known as M2PA) was established in 2015.

As a result, in 2018, **the GEF supported the project entitled ?Long-term Financial Mechanism to Enhance Mediterranean MPA Management Effectiveness? (GEF ID 9959), which effectively established and operationalized The MedFund (formerly known as M2PA), a sustainable financing mechanism for Mediterranean MPAs according to the practice standards for CTF and its donors? requirements.** It is today a hybrid environmental fund composed of an endowment fund, a sinking fund, and a revolving fund. The MedFund's mission is translated into two operational objectives that guide the Fund's actions: 1) Solicit public and private actors to (i) mobilize new funding for the Mediterranean MPAs, independent of the existing ones, and (ii) raise awareness of the role of MPAs; and 2) Contribute to the long-term financing of activities that are poorly funded but essential to the effective management of MPAs, particularly their core management costs.

The MedFund's resource mobilization goal is based on a diversified mix of funding sources to include national, bilateral, and multilateral donors (including current donors), philanthropic donors (private, foundations, international NGOs, and individuals), and the private sector including corporations. The Fund develops advocacy, communication, networking, and negotiation activities.

As part of its initial fundraising activities The MedFund raised EUR 1M from the *Fonds Fran?ais pour l'Environnement Mondial* (FFEM) and EUR 4M from *Agence fran?aise de d?veloppement* (AFD) for its endowment fund, and a EUR 1M from Prince Albert II Foundation for its sinking fund. These EUR 6 million are invested according to The MedFund investment strategy and will generate revenues over the next 5 years which will be used to co-finance the core management costs of some of the targeted 20 MPAs.

As of June 2021, The MedFund has committed 2.7 million for MPA core management cost projects in Tunisia, Morocco, Albania and Turkey. Since its creation, The MedFund has demonstrated over the years the following elements of added value:

- o The first regional CTF dedicated to marine life in the Mediterranean Sea that promotes job creation, gender equality, sustainable fisheries;
- o A resilient tool design for long term time horizons;
- o A political recognition by the Union for the Mediterranean and the Barcelona Convention as a unique and innovative financial tool but also a political dialogue tool for the Mediterranean basin countries;

- o A custom-made tool dedicated to the mobilization of public and private actors for the sustainable financing of Mediterranean MPAs;
- o The capacity of covering in the long term, along with national governments, the core management costs of Mediterranean MPAs;
- o A proven ability to raise funds from public and private sources;
- o Long-term support to institutional, organizational and technical capacity building of organizations involved in the management / co-management of MPAs;
- o A long-term support to management-effectiveness monitoring of beneficiary MPAs;
- o A capacity of advocacy with national, regional and international organizations for the development and sustainable management of Mediterranean MPAs;
- o A networking capability, in complementarity and synergy with other regional organizations.

? MedPAN. The network of MPA managers in the Mediterranean, MedPAN, is a key player in the region. The network exists since the 90s. It is run since 2008 by the MedPAN organization, a permanent, independent and non-profit making non-governmental structure, established, at the request of MPA managers, as an association under the French law, with dedicated funds. The MedPAN Board of Directors, that is the main governance body of the organization, is made of 13 organizations from 6 different European countries and 2 non-European Mediterranean countries. Moreover, the MedPAN General Assembly that meets every year gathers all members and partners of the network to approve yearly activity plan and report. MedPAN has a Scientific Committee made of key MPA experts to provide scientific advice on MedPAN actions. MedPAN has an Advisory Committee made of the main Mediterranean organizations working on MPAs, to better orientate the MedPAN activities and explore synergies. MedPAN has also started to set-up some thematic working groups, gathering key experts and MPA managers, to enable bringing direct expertise to all Mediterranean MPA managers. Finally, coordination of the network is ensured by an 8-people Secretariat based in Marseille France. The MedPAN network currently gathers 68 member organisations, that are MPA managers, and 48 official partners, that are organizations contributing to MPA creation and management, from 8 European countries and 11 Mediterranean non-European countries. Together they are responsible for the management of over 110 marine protected areas across the Mediterranean, representing more than 63% of the total of Mediterranean MPAs that are effectively managed. MedPAN's mission is to contribute to the achievement of a representative, connected, integrated and efficiently managed system of Mediterranean MPAs, through a strong and active network of MPA managers and other actors at all levels, and which strengthens MPA knowledge and capacities while improving MPA awareness, policy implementation and funding. In itself, it is a tool for enhancing the effectiveness of MPA management in the Mediterranean and ensuring healthy marine ecosystems through technical and strategic axis: 1) sharing information and knowledge, experience and expertise and build capacities; 2) bring direct support for MPAs; and 3) a think tank function for MPA managers and related actors to better inform and influence MPA-related policy and funding and collaborate with other key stakeholders at national, Mediterranean and international levels. MedPAN has a bottom-up approach rooting its actions and communications on concrete field experience to raise awareness, inform and influence authorities, decision-makers, the general public, key economic sectors, and donors.

The network has developed and implemented a 2013-2017 action strategy, delivering a clear set of results: from a technical point of view, the detailed regional assessments of MPAs, the timely and updated technical tools (video tutorials, guidelines, resource center, virtual library, etc.), the small grants mechanism and experience-sharing events are all widely recognized and appreciated by members. A new 2019-2023 strategy was approved in 2018, with the following expected results: (i) strong and active MedPAN network, (ii) Active networks of MPA actors at all levels, (iii) improved capacity of MPA managers in the Mediterranean, (iv) Increased knowledge & data on MPAs in the Mediterranean, (v) Increased awareness of MPA managers, decision-makers, donors, relevant economic sectors and general public to support MPAs, (vi) Policy implementation to support MPAs, (vii) Sustainable funding for MPA networks and MPA management. At the regional level, MedPAN supports the implementation of international agreements and marine policies, fostering partnerships with all relevant marine conservation stakeholders and key regional organizations such as SPA/RAC, WWF, IUCN, GFCM, ACCOBAMS and Conservatoire du Littoral/PIM. MedPAN has also given a voice to Mediterranean MPA managers and has demonstrated the added value of a human network in multiple international marine fora, associating with other regional networks of MPA managers beyond the Mediterranean (RAMPAO, CaMPAM, NAMPAN, etc.). MedPAN also supports the development and collaboration with thematic, national and sub-regional networks of MPA managers to enhance direct support to MPAs and policy impact. MedPAN is a supporter of the MedFund since the Antalya Forum in 2012 and is a board member of The MedFund.

MedPAN is leading the implementation of the EC Interreg-Med project 'MPA NETWORKS' - 'Support MPAs effectiveness through strong and connected networks in the Mediterranean' - 2019-2022. This project aims to build stronger MPA managers networks at all levels (national, sub-regional, Mediterranean) and links with other networks at Transatlantic level to contribute to the effectiveness of Mediterranean MPA. The MPA NETWORKS project focuses on providing sustainable solutions to challenges requiring a supra MPA approach. These challenges include the global question of management effectiveness, and more specifically the management of small-scale fisheries in MPAs, the conservation of mobile species and the development of sustainable financing mechanisms for MPAs.

? UN Environment Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC). This center is assisting Mediterranean countries in the implementation of their commitments under the SPA/BD Protocol (being the Mediterranean's main tool for implementing the 1992 CBD, as regards the in situ sustainable management of coastal and marine biodiversity). The Protocol envisages three main elements in order to ensure the safeguard of biological diversity in the Mediterranean: 1) the creation, protection, and management of Specially Protected Areas (SPAs); 2) the establishment of a list of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs); and 3) the protection and conservation of species. SPA/RAC is a board member of The MedFund and of MedPAN Board of Directors as well as part of the MedPAN Advisory Committee. The SPA/RAC and MedPAN have a Memorandum of Cooperation 2020-2025. A new strategy for Mediterranean MPAs Post 2020 is currently under development.

? The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med) was created in 2000. Since 2001, IUCN Med has worked with government authorities, as well as local NGOs, academic institutions, and the private sector to strengthen cooperation in the conservation of the Mediterranean's natural

resources. The long-term goal of IUCN in the Mediterranean is to preserve biodiversity components and restore degraded ecosystems functionality as the fundamental basis for the sustainable development and welfare of the Mediterranean people and societies. Its work will be guided by its 2021-2024 Mediterranean Programme currently under development. IUCN Med is a board member of The MedFund and is partner of MedPAN as well as part of the MedPAN Advisory Committee.

? WWF Mediterranean is part of WWF's global conservation network. It aims to achieve four key goals by 2025: 1) The Mediterranean's natural resources are conserved and well managed; 2) Mediterranean landscapes are protected, well managed or recovering so they can provide people with crucial ecosystem services; 3) Freshwater habitats are protected, freshwater ecosystems are healthy, water governance is improved and water footprint significantly reduced; and 4) The environment is a key part of the economic and social development agenda in the region. WWF Mediterranean is partner of MedPAN and part of the MedPAN Advisory Committee.

? PIM initiative, *Petites Iles de Méditerranée* Initiative is an international NGO for the promotion and assistance in the management of Mediterranean insular areas. Its objective is the preservation of these micro-areas through the implementation of concrete actions in the field, by promoting the exchange of know-how and knowledge between conservationists and specialists in the Mediterranean basin. PIM is partner of MedPAN and part of the MedPAN Advisory Committee.

? MAVA Foundation has supported key initiatives in the Mediterranean regions, including the following projects:

- o 'Empowering the legacy: Scaling up co-managed and financially sustainable No-Take Zones/Marine Protected Areas' - 2020-2022. Eight partners (including WWF Mediterranean, MedPAN, SPA/RAC, LIFE Platform, Blue Seeds) joined forces in this project to develop a new regional partnership to boost the work on MPAs and create long-lasting mechanisms towards a resilient Mediterranean Sea. Partners directly worked with coastal communities and small-scale fishers (SSF) in 30 coastal and marine areas of 10 countries (Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Italy, Greece, Malta, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia, and Turkey) to rebuild the fish biomass and protect key habitats (i.e., seagrass meadows and coralligenous). Partner are focusing on the creation of new NTZs and deliver a set of solutions to improve the management and governance of existing NTZ and MPAs. Project results are to be scaled-up at regional level by supporting capacity building, disseminating and exchanging lessons learned, promoting networking in order to amplify the impact and increase the potential of replication by inspiring and involving other MPAs and fishers of the Mediterranean countries and beyond.

- o 'Conservation of Sea Turtles in the Mediterranean Region' - 2020-2022. The overall objective of the project (led by SPA/RAC with MedPAN as partner) is to contribute to the effective and sustainable protection of the Mediterranean marine turtles and their habitats, mainly the Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) and the Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*). The current and good data on sea turtles feed into discussions with MPA managers and national/ local authorities to improve management strategies especially within MPAs as well as with a Mediterranean common management approach, while the Partnership facilitates the dissemination of the standardized methodologies to different groups, especially to newly emerging research groups from North Africa. Lastly, the solid knowledge obtained during the project will support know-how exchanges, networking, advocacy and awareness activities and allow us to scale-up successes to other important sites.

? Enhancing regional cooperation in the Mediterranean: Mediterranean MPA Forum and the Post-2020 Roadmap

As mentioned above, the 2012 and 2016 editions of the Mediterranean MPA Forum were the culmination of a consultation process aiming at developing, as well as evaluating and updating the 2020 MPA Roadmap. The 2020 Mediterranean MPA Forum process focused on the development of a Post-2020 Roadmap for Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (i.e. ?Post-2020 MPA Roadmap?). This process was carried out through different steps including a online survey launched in October 2020, online working groups held in November 2020, and virtual forum sessions held in June 2021 to discuss the recommendations of the Post-2020 Roadmap. The first draft of the Roadmap based on this online consultation process is currently under preparation as of June 2021. A face-to-face and online Forum will be organized in November-December 2021 and will lead to the finalization of the Post 2020 Roadmap including operational recommendations for Mediterranean MPAs, to effectively achieve the expected post-2020 targets. Similarly to the ?2020 MPA Roadmap?, the ?Post-2020 MPA Roadmap? will be complementary to the Barcelona Convention Post-2020 strategy for MPAs.

A harmonized approach and tools for promoting the implementation and continuous monitoring of this Post-2020 MPA roadmap will have to be developed and put in place and, as for the 2020 MPA roadmap evaluated and updated in 2016, this Post-2020 Roadmap will be evaluated at mid-term in 2024-2025 and updated during the 2024-2025 edition of the Mediterranean MPA Forum.

A range of policies, legal and technical measures, and financial investments are currently being undertaken by key partners and institutions to support the sustainable and effective management of MPAs. However, while there has been significant progress in expanding the coverage of MPAs, current levels of engagement and investment are not sufficient to secure the long-term and efficient management of existing and future MPAs, being ineffective in reversing the trends of biodiversity loss and reduction of fish stocks. Only 1.27% of the Mediterranean is effectively protected as unmanaged MPAs prevail. Regular monitoring activities are limited to a few MPAs mainly in some EU countries. Human, material and financial resources are inadequate, resulting in weak enforcement. Moreover, the financial gaps across MPAs are significant and risk becoming pervasive, which may cause the loss of social and political confidence in the usefulness of MPAs as a conservation and sustainable development tool.

Many sites are not actually managed and there are no regulations in place to curb existing pressures or enough means to enforce them. There are few management measures in place, and they are not effective enough at maintaining or restoring the biodiversity they aim to protect. It appears that the human and financial means allocated to management are too low and too sporadic thereby compromising successful conservation.

Considering the high pressures exerted on the Mediterranean marine environment with growing trends, it is clear that willingness to invest in marine conservation needs to be boosted up. Achieving effective protection of the Mediterranean marine environment is an undeniable challenge and requires a significant and sustainable mobilization of human and financial resources and, more importantly, a change in the mindset of policymakers, key stakeholders and local communities.

The situation remains particularly critical in non-EU countries, where MPA management budgets for core management costs are heavily dependent upon external, project-based donor financing and significant knowledge gaps regarding sustainable MPA management remain. Moreover, the financial

gaps across the MPAs are significant and risk becoming pervasive, which may cause the loss of social and political confidence in the usefulness of MPAs as a conservation and sustainable development tool.

Associated Baseline Projects

The proposed GEF project will be in synergies with several programs and projects, which are described further below.

PPI OSCAN 3 - Small-scale Initiatives Program for North African CSOs.

Duration: 2022 ? 2024

Total anticipated budget for 2022-2024: EUR 2.8 million

This program aims to strengthen the technical, administrative and financial capacities of CSOs working in the environmental field in Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. The PPI OSCAN is managed by IUCN-Med. The second phase will be ending in 2021 and the third phase is expected to start September 2021 for a period of 42 months. The objective of the "PPI" is to support CSOs and local communities in African countries that are active in the protection of biodiversity and the fight against climate change, through the financing of small-scale projects. The global objective of the project is to strengthen the influence and contribution of the North African Civil Society in terms of biodiversity conservation and the fight against climate change. To achieve this objective, PPI OSCAN will: (i) Support CSO's effective implementation and management of conservation project, (ii) Improve the technical, organizational, and institutional effectiveness and sustainability of CSOs in their ability to carry out field projects, and (iii) Promote exchanges and networking among CSOs, and pursue dialogue and coordination with governments. The programme will organize 2 calls for proposals oriented towards biodiversity conservation projects and targeting CSOs.

PPI OSCAN 3 will provide a grant of USD 291,550 cofinancing for the proposed GEF project as PPI OSCAN will focus in supporting the emergence of new NGOs involved in the co-management of coastal and marine areas, which could subsequently be funded by The MedFund.

IUCN Med will also provide USD 174,000 cofinancing from its Nature-based Solutions from marine ecosystems in a post COVID-19 Mediterranean project, supporting MPAs in the *Principaut?* of Monaco, covering the 2022-2023 period.

RESCOM ? Renforcer la r?silience des ?cosyst?mes en M?diterran?e ? Strengthen Ecosystem Resilience in the Mediterranean

Duration: 2022-2027

Total Budget for 2022-2027: EUR 5.4 million

This project will be funded by the AFD (EUR 4 million) and the FFEM (EUR 1.4 million) for a period of 5 years (July 2022 to June 2027). The aim of the project is to increase the social and environmental resilience of vulnerable marine and coastal areas in the Mediterranean, by improving the services

provided by various ecosystems, from the sea to coastal forests and wetlands, by implementing Nature-based Solutions (NBS) and by supporting local actors at all scales through training, technical or institutional support, and by developing and disseminating information and knowledge. More specifically, the project will (i) strengthen the capacity of stakeholders at regional, national and local levels to cope with global changes, (ii) Design and implement NBS at pilot sites to address biodiversity loss, climate change and related social challenges, (iii) Implement demonstrative field actions through calls for small projects, (iv) Build and/or strengthen regional, national and local strategies and policies. RESCOM proposes a new collaborative approach through the involvement of seven organizations with extensive experience in biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean basin: 6 international NGOs (MedPAN, Medwet, Association PIM, Tour du Valat, IAMF, IUCN Med) united under a Mediterranean Consortium for Biodiversity, supported by the Conservatoire du Littoral and in cooperation with other key Mediterranean, national and local partners. The combination of networks (institutional or expertise) and know-how of the 7 partner organizations within this project is particularly relevant to help find solutions to the challenges of conservation in the Mediterranean.

RESCOM will provide grant cofinancing for the proposed GEF project as both initiatives share a common goal of strengthening the resilience and conservation of Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems.

ENI CBC MED program ? Enhancing Socio-Ecological RESilience in Mediterranean coastal areas (ENSERES)

Duration:

Total Budget for June 2022-July 2023: USD 1,179,000

ENSERES is funded under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) ?Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme? (ENI CBC Med). ENSERES has a budget of EUR 1 million and aims to reinforce the ecological and social resilience of coastal communities in the Mediterranean, targeting public authorities, the private sector and local communities. Its geographic coverage includes Spain, France, Lebanon, Tunisia and Italy. The main objective of the ENSERES project is to promote a new model of coastal zone management based on natural resources and ecosystem quality. ENSERES builds capacities to set common goals for public authorities and natural resource users, boosts sustainable financing mechanisms for co-management, and acts for the operative territorialization of actions at various scales. The project follows three lines of activities: (i) Empower actors with the capacities to increase their socio-ecological resilience, involving global, regional & local policy and sectoral players together with local community representatives, (ii) Creating platforms to assist participatory approaches to the management & conservation of natural resources, (iii) Fostering science-management-policy dialogues for a better integration of management efforts to natural resources.

The project has strong complementarities with the proposed GEF projects through the following activities:

- ? Tailor packaging of a toolkit for local authorities & stakeholders, based on existing tools, including from the MedFund and MedPAN.
 - ? Upscaling of the key solutions & lessons learned to reach MPAs, territorial planners & SPAMI stakeholders at Mediterranean scale through existing networks.
 - ? Ensuring the interaction of different interlinked networks.
 - ? Policy mainstreaming at basin-level, supporting with the outcomes of the post-2020 Mediterranean MPA roadmap & Barcelona Convention policies.
- In addition, Kneiss Island and Tyre in Lebanon are two potential ENSERES pilot, as well as pre-identified MPAs for the proposed GEF project. MedPAN is an ENSERES partner and can therefore enhance the link and synergies between the two initiatives. MedFund is an ENSERES associated partner.

MAVA Foundation - 'Empowering the legacy: Scaling up co-managed and financially sustainable No-Take Zones/Marine Protected Areas? - 2020-2022

Eight partners (including WWF Mediterranean, SPA/RAC, LIFE Platform, Blue Seeds) are joining forces to develop a new regional partnership to boost the work on MPAs and create long-lasting mechanisms towards a resilient Mediterranean Sea. Partners will deploy a strong investment in the field by directly working with coastal communities and small-scale fishers (SSF) in 30 coastal and marine areas of 10 countries (Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Italy, Greece, Malta, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia, and Turkey) to rebuild the fish biomass and protect key habitats (i.e. seagrass meadows and coralligenous). To make the difference, Partner will focus on the creation of new NTZs and deliver a set of solutions to improve the management and governance of existing NTZ and MPAs. Project results will be scaled-up at regional level by supporting capacity building, disseminating and exchanging lessons learned, promoting networking in order to amplify the impact and increase the potential of replication by inspiring and involving other MPAs and fishers of the Mediterranean countries and beyond.

REST COAST - Large scale RESToration of COASTal ecosystems through rivers to sea connectivity

Duration: 2022-2027

Total Budget: EUR 18,482,593

REST COAST is an EU Horizon-2020 initiative that aims to demonstrate to what extent upscaled coastal restoration can provide a low-carbon adaptation, reducing risks and providing gains in biodiversity for vulnerable coastal ecosystems, such as wetlands or sea grass beds. REST-COAST will have 9 pilots, including in the Mediterranean Sea.

The project is structured according the following work programs: WP1- Hands-on restoration of coastal ecosystems and upscaling potential, WP2-Climate risk reduction through innovative restoration, WP3- Financial arrangements and business plans for restoration, WP4- Adaptive Management for Restoration and Upscaling, WP5- Transformative governance for upscaling, WP6- Social transformation/engagement tools for restoration upscaling, WP7- REST-COAST Management and cooperation/clustering with other EU/International projects.

MedPAN will collaborate with REST-COAST and will in particular:

- ? contribute to transfer and replicability of scalable finance support beyond the Pilots (WP3), especially in Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas.
- ? support the systematic methodology to NBS packages and the comparative analysis and guidelines for adaptive management for global application (WP4) by mobilizing its network at Mediterranean level and beyond (Transatlantic).
- ? contribute to transfer and replicability for upscaled restoration in international policies, especially Mediterranean ones (WP5).
- ? contribute to communication and transfer in cooperation with other EU/national projects (WP6).
- ? lead key activities of transfer to international community to export restoration upscaling (WP6).
- ? contribute to the Cooperation Board and the Coastal Restoration Platform (WP7).

Office Français de la Biodiversité (OFB) / French Office for Biodiversity

Duration: 2022 - 2026

Total anticipated budget for 2022 - 2026: EUR 9.845 million

The OFB is a public establishment dedicated to the protection of biodiversity. One of its priorities is to respond urgently to the challenges of preserving living organisms. In the French Mediterranean, the OFB is supporting the implementation of Marine Natural Parks' management plans of the Gulf of Lion, the Cap Corse and the Agriate, as well as the ones of the Natura 2000 network at sea. Activities supported by OFB in these areas include the restoration and good state of conservation of marine habitats, the facilitation of the network of French MPAs, as well as public awareness-raising activities.

Synergies between the OFB and the proposed projects' interventions lie in their common objective of developing an effectively managed network of MPAs at the Mediterranean level. The additionality of the proposed project is to support the management capabilities of MPA managers of the South and Eastern shore of the Mediterranean, while the OFB focuses on France. MedPAN and OFB have some biannual agreements to enhance synergies and cooperation. OFB is partner of MedPAN and part of the MedPAN Advisory Committee.

In-kind co-financing of USD 11,617,100 will be provided for the proposed GEF project.

Prince Albert II Foundation (FPAII)

The Prince Albert II Foundation will bring USD 7,090,000 (EUR 6,010,000) in co-financing in support to the proposed GEF project through the following ongoing initiatives:

? **Port-Cros National Park inventories**

Duration : 2022 ? 2025

Total budget for 2022 ? 2025: EUR 700,000

In its core area, its Optimal Buffer Area, and its Adjacent Maritime Area, the Port-Cros National Park (PNPC) needs to improve knowledge of biodiversity to help its preservation and management. The scientific strategy described the status of the inventories available on most taxonomic groups as well as the planning of the necessary new inventories or their updating over a period of 10 years. The main objective of the project is to acquire this knowledge on this new territory (enlarged in 2012). In accordance with the initial planning, and after updating the list of inventories carried out recently, as much as possible of the inventories programmed for the period 2021-2025 will be carried out. In addition to the biodiversity inventory by taxonomic group, the specialists in these inventories will produce management recommendations.

The main expected result of the project will be the PNPC biodiversity inventory, valued in national databases, but also through awareness tools, as well as lists of management recommendations to preserve this natural heritage.

? **BeMed**

Duration: 2022 ? 2025

Total budget for 2022 -2025: EUR 1.75 million

With more than 3000 billion of microplastic particles, the Mediterranean Sea is the most polluted sea in the world. With this conclusion, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Tara Ocean Foundation, Surfrider Foundation Europe, and the Mava Foundation joined forces to give life to the Beyond Plastic Med initiative (BeMed). BeMed's missions are to (i) Support and develop a network of Mediterranean stakeholders committed to curbing plastic pollution, (ii) Implement effective and sustainable solutions and support the research of novel solutions, and (iii) Engage stakeholders and the public by raising awareness and disseminating best practices.

Every year, BeMed launches a call for micro-initiatives to support projects in the Mediterranean. The direct beneficiaries of the program are NGOs, local authorities, scientific institutions or even small companies engaged in awareness-raising or field actions to fight against any plastic pollution on the shores. Since 2017, 38 initiatives have been supported in 12 countries around the Mediterranean. In 2020, 15 new initiatives have been funded.

BeMed organizes and participates in conferences and workshops on the theme of plastic waste in order to share good practices instilled by micro-initiatives and develop avenues for collaboration.

BeMed is working on the creation of a discussion space for companies having an activity around the Mediterranean. This space will take the form of a college of companies including the actors of the plastic value chain in order to involve companies in a common dynamic of transition and reduction of pollution at the Mediterranean scale.

? **Monk seal alliance**

Duration: 2022 ? 2025

Total budget for 2022 -2025: EUR 2.5 million

The Monk Seal Alliance (MSA) was created in 2019 by its founding Member organizations: the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the MAVA Foundation for Nature, the Segr? Foundation, the Sancta Devota Foundation, and the Thalassa Foundation. The MSA intends to bring together foundations and other donor organizations to leverage the scope and impact of field activities carried out to deliver on Mediterranean monk seal conservation and enable concerted, long-term, and region-wide implementation of actions.

? **Pelagos sanctuary**

Duration: 2022 ? 2025

Total budget for 2022 -2025: EUR 500,000

The Sanctuary is a marine area of 8,750 ha subject to an agreement between Italy, Monaco and France for the protection of marine mammals living in it.

The Pelagos Sanctuary is a site managed by three different authorities and includes coastal areas and international waters that form a large ecosystem of major scientific, socio-economic, cultural and educational interest. The entire Sanctuary can be broadly considered to be a biogeographically distinct sub-section of the Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) that is the Mediterranean. FPAII is supporting the sanctuary operations over the 2022 ? 2025 period.

? **Tracking the movements and status of marine top predators in the Mediterranean & Black Sea - a Basin scale initiative**

Duration: 2019 ? 2023

Total budget for 2022 -2023: EUR 360,000

Highly mobile species are usually apex predators, often migratory, able to cover very long distances while crossing multiple biogeographic areas. As they occupy different habitats depending on their life cycle, these species are highly vulnerable to natural and anthropic pressures (overfishing, habitat loss, maritime traffic, climate change, etc.) that are particularly severe in the Mediterranean and Black seas.

The tracking the movements and status of marine top predators in the Mediterranean & Black Sea - a Basin scale project has the main objective of improving the ecological knowledge, still extremely scant,

of two groups of top predators, elasmobranchs (sharks, rays) and sea birds, in order to better inform the conservation strategies for these often endangered species.

More specifically, the main expected results of the project are to: 1) produce much-needed field data on the spatial distribution and migratory movements to improve our knowledge of the conservation status of sharks, rays and seabirds also in relation to the Red List classification; 2) identify and characterize the geographic areas used by these species for reproduction/feeding, therefore of priority importance; 3) formulate scientific guidelines for designation of MPAs (coastal and open sea) and fishery reserves to better protect these vulnerable species.

? **SMILO/ Small Island Organization**

Duration: 2022 - 2023

Total budget: EUR 200,000

SMILO is a French NGO with the mission to support small islands that wish to adopt a more sustainable way of managing their territory. SMILO's actions cover various transversal themes such as water, sanitation, waste, energy, biodiversity, landscapes and island heritage. SMILO's approach is anchored in shared governance and fosters the sustainable development of each territory to the benefit of its population and their environment.

SMILO developed a label, "The Sustainable Island label", which is an international recognition for small islands that are striving to improve the management and conservation of natural resources. The label aims to highlight conservation challenges on small islands and to promote territories that are veritable "laboratories" with a role to play in ecological transitioning. To support islands as they work towards the label, SMILO grants access to an Islands Fund, which finances concrete, innovative operations on islands.

The general objective of the project funded by FP4II is to implement concrete and sustainable actions in the field within the framework of SMILO's sustainable approach in order to illustrate the capacity of small Mediterranean islands to provide exemplary and replicable solutions for the preservation and sustainable management of natural resources, while promoting dialogue among themselves and with other islands in the world. The project supports 4 Mediterranean islands: Porquerolles (France), Sifnos (Greece), Pakleni Islands (Croatia) and Lipari (Italy). The project will generate valuable good practices and lessons learned that will be shared with the whole SMILO island network.

MAVA Foundation / The Highly Protected Mediterranean Initiative (HPMI)

Duration: 2021-2026 (Pilot phase)

Total Budget: CHF 2 million

This initiative will focus on enhancing the management of existing MPAs with NTZs through "long-term" financial support. 5 to 7 MPAs with highly protected areas will be selected through a rigorous and participatory selection process to receive financial assistance and become the flagship sites of the

Mediterranean. The HPMI will function through two distinctive, but complimentary phases: 1) Pilot Phase (2021 ? 2026); and 2) Implementation Phase.

During the initial phase of the HMPI, the Initiative's short-term impacts will strengthen regional capacity to effectively manage, enforce and monitor NTZs, demonstrating the value of highly protected areas within MPAs to protect, recover and increase the resiliency of ecological communities and improve the well-being of stakeholders. Achieved through demonstrable increases in fish abundance, biomass and individual size, reduced unpredictability in fishery catches and increased fisherfolk revenue, the 5 to 7 flagship sites will invigorate the advancement of the total area of the Mediterranean Sea under high levels of protection. By demonstrating the value of NTZs, coupled with an advocacy campaign and fundraising strategy that will run parallel, the Initiative will hold the ability to unlock further support for the establishment and expansion of NTZs throughout the Mediterranean, leading into the second phase of the Initiative. The HMPI will act as the catalyst for highly protected areas in the Mediterranean, driving forward the region's ability to meet ambitious international commitments.

To achieve this, the HPMI will be supported by an initial contribution from MAVA managed by The MedFund as a sinking fund. Financial support will be provided through a yearly call for proposals to a selected 5 to 7 highly protected areas for a grant duration of up to 5 years. It is recommended that the Initiative either allocates a maximum budget of CHF240,000 ? CHF300,000 per selected site or alternatively, provide diminishing financial support over the grant period. The average grant amount per year per site is proposed as CHF60,000. Co-funding (including in-kind) will be encouraged, especially with governments, national agencies and/or ministries to promote co-management and develop favourable legal contexts for highly protected areas.

3) The proposed alternative scenario, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project

Objective, Components, Expected Outcomes, Targets, and Outputs

The Results Framework detailing the project strategy is provided in Appendix I.

The Project Objective is strong, effective and sustainable management of Mediterranean MPAs to address global changes and to provide long-term socio-ecological benefits in the Mediterranean in a post-COVID recovery context.

Objective indicator a (GEF Core indicator 2.1): Marine protected areas newly created.

Baseline: In the Mediterranean context, some MPAs have been proposed but not yet formally designated. This project will support the management of several of these areas to facilitate their potential designation under national law. Amongst the pre-identified MPA to be supported by this project 7 are not yet designated in national law, representing 213,186 ha.

End of project target: It is expected that the project will contribute to the official designation under national law of 7 MPAs, representing 213,186 ha.

Objective indicator b (GEF Core Indicator 2.2): Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness

Baseline: 12 MPAs already designated under national law, representing 219,744 ha, with their current management effectiveness

End of project target: 219,744 ha under improved management effectiveness

Objective indicator c (GEF Core Indicator 8): Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels

Baseline: Currently, over 90% of the fish stock is overexploited in the Mediterranean Sea.

End of project target: To get a better understanding of the potential impact MPAs could have on the sustainable fisheries management of the 6 countries, the table below presents the respective surfaces of the MPAs that will be supported by the project and the countries territorial seas. Territorial seas have been used rather than Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) as most of the fishing activity is conducted in the territorial seas. Also, the definition of EEZs in the Mediterranean is a complex juridical and political issue and many countries do not have any officially recognized EEZ.

The territorial sea, as defined by the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, is a belt of coastal waters extending at most 12 nautical miles (22 km) from the baseline (usually the mean low-water mark) of a coastal state. If this would overlap with another state's territorial sea, the border is taken as the median point between the states' baselines, unless the state in question agrees otherwise. In some countries (i.e., Lebanon) the territorial sea limit is set at only 6 nm from the coast.

Table 3: MPA cover supported by the project and Territorial Sea surface for the 6 countries

Country	Total MPA area (ha) ? designated and proposed	Territorial seas (ha)	%
Albania	12,428	484,700	2.6%
Algeria	37,776	1,888,800	2.0%
Lebanon	12,409	393,800	3.1%
Montenegro	4,761	250,000	1.9%
Morocco	60,417	529,400	11.4%
Tunisia	305,139	1,474,300	20.7%
Total	432,930	5,021,000	8.6%

The area of the MPAs that will be supported by the project represents 8.4% of the countries fishing areas/territorial seas. Taking the average total yearly landings for the 6 countries of 232,863 T (see below) and if considering that 90% of the stocks are overexploited $232,863 \times 0.90 = 209,576$ T, this leads to **18,058 T** of currently overexploited resources that will be moved to more sustainable levels. This is less than anticipated at PIF stage, as this calculation is different: it is based on the specific area of the 20 pre-identified designated and proposed MPAs and it, considers specific MPAs compared to

the total territorial seas and the total landings of the 6 countries (at PIF stage, the calculation was based on an overall percentage of the area the 20 MPAs represented in the Mediterranean Sea as a whole).

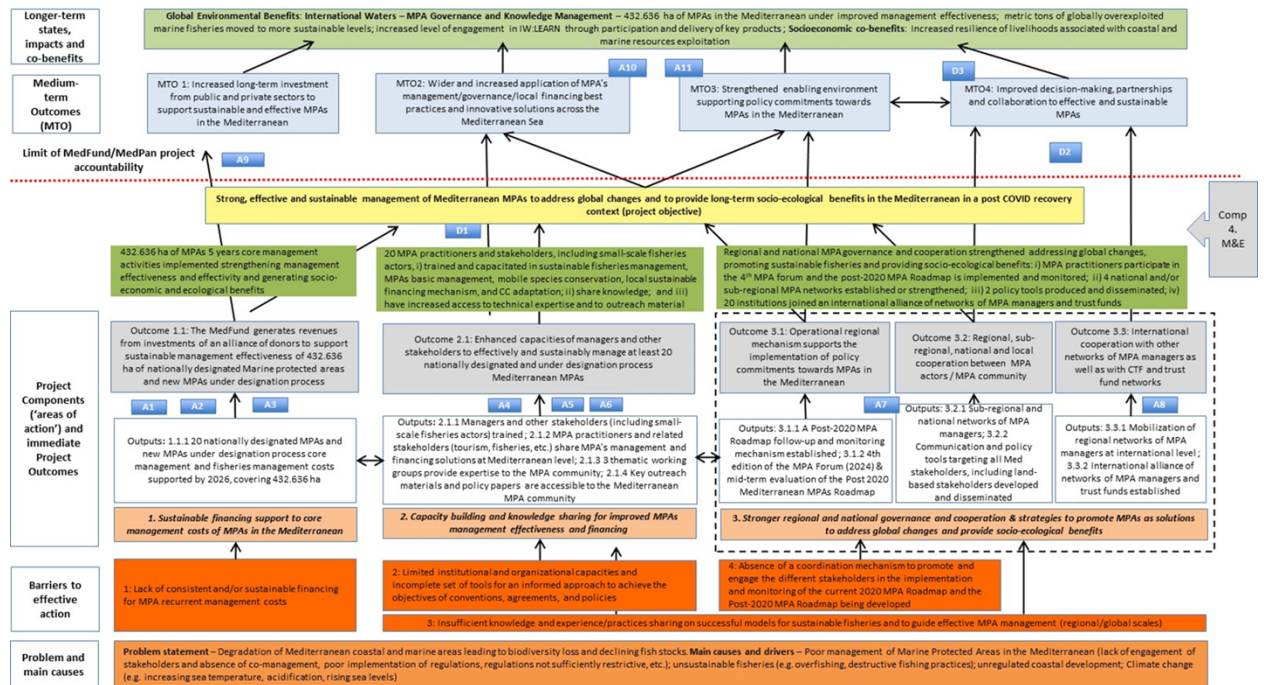
Table 4: Total landings (Tons) per year (2016-2018)

Country	2016	2017	2018	Average
Albania	6,105	6,432	6,113	6,217
Algeria	96,667	101,123	111,232	103,008
Lebanon	3,932	3,376	2,534	3,281
Montenegro	925	827	1,015	922
Morocco	21,957	23,575	23,997	23,176
Tunisia	101,467	91,010	96,298	96,259
Total 6 countries	231,053	226,343	241,189	232,863

Project Theory of Change

The proposed project strategy is illustrated in the project's Theory of Change (ToC) presented below, which sets out the project's causal logic and relationships between the project's outputs (products delivered by the project) and immediate project outcomes (changes resulting from the use of project outputs by key stakeholders), medium and longer-term changes and states, and the project's ultimate desired impact (fundamental, durable changes in environmental and social benefits).

Figure 1: Project's Theory of Change



Several of the expected project outcomes are interlinked and work together or are dependent on the progress and results of others (the key relationships between the main elements in the Theory of Change are indicated by arrows). Together the four components will contribute to the project objective to promote strong, effective and sustainable management of Mediterranean MPAs to address global changes and to provide long-term socio-ecological benefits in the Mediterranean in a post-COVID recovery context. Apart from national gains, delivery of project outcomes would also improve regional decision-making, collaboration and partnerships across the Mediterranean Sea and beyond at global level.

The achievement of the project outcomes and progress towards the project objective and longer-term impacts depends on a number of wider assumptions (depicted by an 'A?' in the ToC), operating over different scales and at different points along the causal chains, being met. Assumptions that directly relate to achievement of the project's immediate outcomes are that:

A1 ? Possible fluctuations in future financial return on the MedFund investments are taken into account in the MedFund investment policy and grand making strategies.

A2 ? Private sector and public donors are willing (or can be encouraged) to invest in The MedFund's capital according to MedFund resource mobilization strategy.

A3 ? Continued political will and commitment of partner countries.

A4 ? National and regional stakeholders acknowledge the necessity to strengthen collaboration and participate (lead) accordingly and provide necessary resources.

A5 ? Project partners supportive with provision of information and expertise.

A6 ? A stable political and global health situation allows governments and MPA managers and other key stakeholders and partners to participate in project activities.

A7 ? Lessons learned and capacitated actors (e.g. MPA managers) with new knowledge will take forward good practice.

A8 ? Willingness of other international stakeholders to collaborate and exchange knowledge and tools.

In addition, it is assumed that unexpected events, such as COVID-19 pandemic, do not significantly adversely impact institutional and governance arrangements that prevent the project from proceeding.

There is also one driver (depicted by a ?D? in the ToC), that may make progress along the causal chain more likely, and over which the project or its partners could exert some influence:

D1 ? Participatory MPA management/ co-management in place / promoted.

If the project outcome-level assumptions and drivers (A1-8 and D1) are met, then delivery of the four project Components will result in further gains along the pathway to sustainable management of Mediterranean MPAs, represented by four Medium term Outcomes (MTO). These are: an Increased long-term investment from public and private sectors to support sustainable and effective MPAs in the Mediterranean (MTO1); Wider and increased application of MPA?s management/governance/local financing best practices and innovative solutions across the Mediterranean Sea (MTO2); Strengthened enabling environment supporting policy commitments towards MPAs in the Mediterranean (MTO3); and Improved decision-making, partnerships and collaboration to effective and sustainable MPAs (MTO4).

Achievement of these longer-term outcomes, which is beyond the immediate influence and accountability of the project, is subject to further assumptions (A9-A11) and additional drivers (D2-D3), namely that:

A9 ? There is sufficient and continued commitment (political support, staff, resources, etc.) by government authorities to support MPAs.

A10 ? Future climate change impacts do not irreversibly affect the structure and function of ecosystem services in productive landscapes.

A11 ? National authorities continue to see the value of, and commit resources for, regional cooperation and collaboration to establish and effectively manage MPAs.

D2 ? International legal obligations, such as commitments to the Barcelona Convention, SDGs, and CBD

D3 ? The role of decision and policy makers at central and decentralized levels in climate change adaption and sustainable development.

Together with additional external inputs, these would be expected to lead to the long-term ?situation sought? of ?Threats to the Mediterranean Sea removed, ecosystem conditions and services ? on which sustainable fisheries productivity depends ? restored and maintained, and socio-economic and cultural sustainability and climate change resilience improved?.

Component 1: Sustainable financing support to core management costs of MPAs in the Mediterranean

Component 1 aims to provide long-term financing to the core management costs of 20 MPAs (nationally designated and under designation process). GEF funding will be capitalized in a 5-year sinking fund and invested according to the MedFund?s responsible investment policy (cf. Appendix

XII). The initial capital and investment returns will be spent over the 5-year duration of the project. Component 1 has one immediate project outcome:

? **Outcome 1.1: The MedFund generates revenues from investments of an alliance of donors to support sustainable management effectiveness of 432,930 ha of nationally designated Marine protected areas and new MPAs under designation process.**

Indicator 1.1: MPAs management effectiveness and effectivity evolution ? Joint indicator for both outcome 1.1 and outcome 2.1

Baseline: As of 2020, The MedFund has raised EUR 1M from the FFEM and EUR 4M from AFD for its endowment fund, and a EUR 1M from Prince Albert II Foundation for its sinking fund. A five-year financing needs assessment conducted by The MedFund for 11 MPAs out of the 20 pre-selected for this project in 2019-2020 identified a lack of consistent and sustainable financing for MPA management costs. Management effectiveness baseline for these 11 MPA was assessed as well during this study. The available management effectiveness baseline for the 11 MPA is summarized in the table below, and more detail on the assessment is provided in Appendix XI. The management effectiveness baseline for the 9 other MPAs will be assessed at the GEF project start.

Table 5: Management effectiveness and effectivity baseline for 11 MPAs out of the 20 preselected MPAs

Country	MPA	Context	Effectiveness	Efficiency
Albania	Karaburun Sazan*	Favorable but can be improved	Good	Low, to improve substantially
Lebanon	Tyre	Favorable but can be improved	Low, to improve substantially	Low, to improve substantially
	Palm Island	Unfavorable, to improve substantially	Average; some parameters to strengthen	Low, to improve substantially
Morocco	Al Hoceima*	Favorable but can be improved	Average; some parameters to strengthen	Average; to strengthen
	Cap des trois fourches	Very unfavorable to good management; to strengthen seriously	Very low; to strengthen seriously	Very low; to strengthen seriously
	Jbel Moussa*	Unfavorable, to improve substantially	Low, to improve substantially	Low, to improve substantially
Tunisia	Kuriat*	Favorable but can be improved	Average; some parameters to strengthen	Low, to improve substantially
	Kerkenah	Favorable but can be improved	Very low; to strengthen seriously	Low, to improve substantially
	Kneiss*	Favorable but can be improved	Low, to improve substantially	Very low; to strengthen seriously

	La Galite*	Unfavorable, to improve substantially	Low, to improve substantially	Low, to improve substantially
	Zembra*	Unfavorable, to improve substantially	Low, to improve substantially	Low, to improve substantially

* MPAs already financially supported by the MedFund

End of project target: 20 MPAs show an improved management effectiveness and effectivity by 2026, using the management effectiveness and effectivity tracking tool developed by The MedFund during the first GEF project support it managed. For each MPA, the target will be to reach a minimum of 50%-75% score on the tracking tool (i.e. score ?Favorable but can be improved?) in each of the 3 categories context /effectiveness/efficiency.

As shown in the table above, some MPAs have a baseline assessment with low to very low scores (e.g. in Zembra in Tunisia, or Cap des trois Foruches in Morocco), while other MPAs (e.g. Karaburun Sazan in Albania) start with a more favorable baseline, so the required improvement leap will be different depending on the MPA.

In any case, an improvement from the baseline will be required for the beneficiary MPA, if the baseline assessment has shown a ?Favorable? (50%-75%) score, the target will be to reach the ?Good? 75%-100% score in the corresponding category.

The goal of the MedFund is to fund core management of MPAs on a long-term basis so that they can demonstrate their efficiency and deliver on the ground results in terms on biodiversity preservation, recovery of fish stocks, job creation to increase buy in and funding from national Government and other donors. GEF funding has a catalytic effect in this process. Outcome 1.1 will be achieved by means of the following outputs:

- *Output 1.1.1: Core management and fisheries management costs of 20 MPAs (nationally designated and new MPAs under designation process) covering 432,930 ha supported by 2026, to strengthen management effectiveness and effectivity, and generate socio-economic and ecological benefits.*

- *Indicator 1.1.1: Number of ha of MPAs with 5-year core management activities financially supported and implemented in collaboration with marine and land-based stakeholders.*

- *Target 1.1.1: 432,930 ha of MPAs with core management activities implemented*

Work under this output will support The MedFund in bridging the financial gaps Mediterranean MPAs are experiencing together with other financing mechanisms and government contributions.

The invested sinking fund capital and its revenues will be disbursed over a 5-year period to support the core management costs of 20 nationally designated MPAs and MPAs under designation process, covering 432,930 ha in 6 Mediterranean countries (Albania, Algeria, Lebanon, Montenegro, Morocco and Tunisia).

The table below modeled the disbursement modalities of the sinking fund capital and its revenues on the project 5 year basis.

		2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
GEF Sinking Fund	5 years sinking fund of USD 3,603 M	\$3.562.902					
	Investment rate	4%					
Disbursed capital			\$769.543	\$769.543	\$769.543	\$769.543	\$769.541
Capital remaining at the beginning of the year			\$2.793.359	\$2.135.550	\$1.451.429	\$739.944	\$0
Financial incomes			\$111.734	\$85.422	\$58.057	\$29.598	\$0
Capital remaining at the end of the year			\$2.905.093	\$2.220.972	\$1.509.487	\$769.541	\$0

USD 772,759 will therefore be disbursed to MPAs on a yearly basis. Two categories of Mediterranean MPA will be supported:

? 7 MPA that have already been selected through the MedFund procedure and governance mechanism (which are highlighted in tables 11 and 16 above), and that already have grant agreements with the MedFund: Kuriat, Kneiss, Zembra and La Galite in Tunisia; Al Hoceima and Jbel Moussa in Morocco, and Karaburun Sazan in Albania. (See Section 2-F for more details on the grant agreements). These MPAs will be supported from the first year of project implementation.

? 13 other MPAs - amongst the ones pre-identified during the PPG - will be selected through the MedFund's next calls for proposal. Out of these 13 MPAs, the management effectiveness and effectivity baseline of 4 MPAs has already been assessment, namely Tyre and Palm Islands in Lebanon, Cap des trois fourches in Morocco, and Kerkennah in Tunisia (See table 16). The management effectiveness and effectivity baseline for the 9 others will be conducted at the GEF project start, namely Cape of Redoni in Albania, Banc des Kabyles marine reserve, Habibas Islands complex, Gouraya National Park and Rachgoun Island in Algeria, Abbassieh in Lebanon, and Platamuni, Katic and Stari Ulcinj in Montenegro.

All MedFund grantees, including the MPAs that will receive funding from this project, follow the same process:

- 1) Annual call for interest in targeted countries, until commitment of all GEF funds (capital + interest) within the project timeframe.
- 2) Submission of funding request by the MPA.
- 3) Technical assessment of the requests by The MedFund grant award committee.
- 4) Final selection of beneficiaries by The MedFund board of directors.
- 5) Signature of a 5-year grant agreement.
- 6) First disbursement for the activities for one year.
- 7) Next disbursements are done annually upon approval of technical and financial reports of each grantee.
- 8) The use of the management effectiveness tracking tool is included in the agreement, is mandatory for receiving funding and is updated once a year.

Indicative activities under Output 1.1.1:

1.1.1.1: Sinking fund capitalized, invested and managed.

1.1.1.2: Selection, with the support of The MedFund Grant Award Committee, and contracting of 13 additional MPAs.

1.1.1.3: Annual disbursements of financial support to a total of 20 MPAs core management and fisheries management costs, and monitoring of their activities carried out using custom-made management effectiveness and efficiency tracking tool (developed under previous GEF project).

Component 2: Capacity building of MPAs managers and practitioners and knowledge sharing within the MPA community, for improved MPAs management effectiveness and financing.

Work under this component will provide technical, organizational and institutional assistance to the same 20 nationally designated and under designation process MPAs managers that will receive financial support from The MedFund, **providing together with the work under component 1, an integrated and cost-effective solution to the effective management of these 20 MPAs.** Component 2 has one immediate project outcome:

? **Outcome 2.1: Enhanced capacities of managers and other stakeholders to effectively and sustainably manage at least 20 Mediterranean MPAs (nationally designated and under designation process).**

Indicator 2.1.a: MPAs management effectiveness and effectivity - Joint indicator for both outcome 1.1 and outcome 2.1

Baseline: MPA managers lack the tools, knowledge (managers on sustainable fishery and climate change adaptation of MPAs, sustainable financing mechanisms, etc.) and organizational capacities to make informed management decisions and enhance their management effectiveness. In terms of management effectiveness, the baseline is the same as what is described for Outcome 1.1.

End of project target: Indicator 2.1 a is the same as for Outcome 1.1, the target is therefore also the same.

Indicator 2.1.b: Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products

Baseline: IW LEARN is the GEF International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network. It was established to strengthen transboundary water management globally by collecting and sharing best practices, lessons learned, and innovative solutions to common problems across the GEF International Waters portfolio. It promotes learning among project managers, country official, implementing agencies, and other partners. So far, there is no engagement of targeted MPA, The MedFund or MedPAN in IW Learn.

End of project target: Level of engagement of 4 in IWLEARN, meaning as per IW tracking tool: (i) participation in Biennial International Waters Conference, and submission of at least one Results & one Experience note, (ii) Website in line with IW LEARN guidelines and contributing spatial and other data to IWLEARN.net.

Outcome 2.1 will be achieved by means of the following outputs:

- *Output 2.1.1: Managers and other stakeholders (including small-scale fisheries actors as well as targeted administrations in charge of MPAs or fisheries management, depending on the countries situation and challenges) of at least 20 MPAs (nationally designated and under designation process) trained and capacitated in sustainable fisheries management, MPAs core management, mobile species conservation, local sustainable financing mechanism, and climate change adaptation.*

- *Indicator 2.1.1: Number of managers and other stakeholders (including small scale fishers) trained and capacitated*

- *Target 2.1.1: 75 managers and other stakeholders (including small-scale fishers) from at least 20 MPAs (50% of women and 50% of men)*

In 2012, WWF Mediterranean, SPA/RAC and MedPAN have worked with other partners to develop a long-term Regional Capacity Building Strategy for MPAs that seeks to build the capacities of groups and individuals involved in planning and managing MPAs. Aligned with this strategy, MedPAN together with key Mediterranean partners (SPA/RAC, WWF, IUCN, PIM, Conservatoire du Littoral, etc.) proposed to develop a permanent and operational training program through a range of training courses, with key thematic training modules, across several regular training centers (hosted by some MPAs) around the Mediterranean. Training courses on sustainable fisheries management (improve the sustainable management of fisheries in MPAs through better monitoring³, better involvement of small-scale fishers / co-management schemes), MPAs basic management, mobile species (marine turtles and cetaceans in particular) conservation, local sustainable financing mechanism, and climate change adaptation have been or are being developed and will be further implemented in training centers that will be operationalized under this component. A specific attention will be given to gender equity concerns in MPAs, including in the tourism and fisheries sectors, to address these issues in the proposed trainings.

Indicative activities under Output 2.1.1:

2.1.1.1: Training needs assessment to identify training needs for the different target audiences among the Mediterranean MPA community (MPA managers and other MPA-related stakeholders).

2.1.1.2: Development of the thematic training cursus and related modules (sustainable fisheries management, MPAs core management, mobile species conservation, local sustainable financing mechanism, and climate change adaptation, and other key topics if relevant).

2.1.1.3: Communicate and coordinate training offers (from MedPAN and from other Mediterranean partners) to Mediterranean MPA managers and other MPA-related stakeholders.

2.1.1.4: Implementation of at a total of 6 trainings in identified MPA hosting training centers and online.

2.1.1.5: Coordination of evaluation of trainings, compilation of feedbacks and lessons learnt, monitoring of trained stakeholders by MedPAN and by other partners in the Mediterranean.

- *Output 2.1.2: MPA practitioners and related stakeholders (tourism, fisheries, etc.) share MPAs management and financing solutions at Mediterranean level.*

- *Indicator 2.1.2: Number of participants to the annual experience-sharing MedPAN workshop*

- *Target 2.1.2: 400 MPA practitioners and related stakeholders (50% of women and 50% of men)*

One of the main missions of the MedPAN network is to foster experience and knowledge exchange between Mediterranean MPA managers to improve technical capacities. To this effect, the network organizes gatherings for managers at a regional level, better known under the name of Regional experience sharing workshops. These workshops promote the exchange of information, lessons learnt, expertise and experiences. Work under this component will support the organization of 3 annual sharing-experience workshops, bringing together MPA managers and related stakeholders from the

fisheries and tourism sectors for instance to take stock on a given subject, explore best practices, innovation and lessons learnt, and provide them an opportunity to exchange experience and build their capacities on some key topics (MPA management to better manage fisheries and tourism, restoration, evaluation of MPA management effectiveness, financing, co-management and governance including gender equity, and other relevant topics).

Indicative activities under Output 2.1.2:

2.1.2.1: Preparation and facilitation of 3 annual Mediterranean experience-sharing workshops

2.1.2.2: Development of workshops proceedings and dissemination

- *Output 2.1.3:* Three thematic working groups, with committed MPA managers, provide expertise to other MPA managers in the Mediterranean.

- *Indicator 2.1.3.a:* Number of MPA managers providing technical expertise and policy guidance through 3 thematic working groups.

- *Target 2.1.3.a:* 45 MPA managers provide technical expertise and policy guidance (50% of women and 50% of men)

- *Indicator 2.1.3.b:* Number of MPA managers receiving expertise and guidance.

- *Target 2.1.2.b:* 100 MPA managers receiving expertise and guidance (50% of women and 50% of men)

As part of its new strategy (2019-2023), the MedPAN decided to set up thematic working groups to increase the network's expertise and efficiency on a number of key management issues. The working groups are made of key experts (scientists, managers, other consultants) on each topic. The working groups are facilitated by MedPAN and coordinated by 2 members of each group. The objectives of MedPAN Thematic Working Groups are twofold: a) advise and provide technical support to MedPAN Secretariat for the development and implementation of the network's activities; and b) constitute a pool of experts that can be directly requested for technical support by MPAs of the network. MedPAN is currently leading 3 working groups on fisheries, mobile species and financing, while the French Biodiversity Office (*Office Français de la Biodiversité* - OFB) is managing a working group on Posidonia, and a future working group on climate change is planned and will be led by another Mediterranean partner. The three MedPAN working groups are supported by the Interreg Med project MPA NETWORKS over the 2019-2022 period. The proposed GEF project will take over in 2022 to ensure the working groups continuity. In 2022, 1 meeting per working group will be supported by the GEF project, and in 2023 and 2024, 2 meetings a year for each working group will be organized and supported by the GEF project; in 2025, 1 meeting per working group will be supported. These working groups will support development of key communication tools under components 2 and 3, especially by developing key policy arguments related to ecological and socio-economic benefits of well-managed MPAs and the importance of fully protected areas to contribute to sustainable fisheries resources.

Indicative activities under Output 2.1.3:

2.1.3.1: Making operational and facilitating the coordination of the 3 working groups (sustainable fisheries management, mobile species conservation, sustainable financing) and support the newly created working groups coordinated by Mediterranean partners (posidonia, climate change).

2.1.3.2: Organization of annual meetings of the 3 working groups to develop working group contributions (recommendations, presentations, expertise to some MPAs, communication messages, etc.) (1 meeting in 2022, 2 meetings in 2023 and 2024, 1 meeting in 2025).

- *Output 2.1.4:* Key technical outreach materials are accessible to all MPA practitioners in the Mediterranean to improve their management practices.

- *Indicator 2.1.4:* Number of outreach technical materials supporting MPA management practices (publications, studies, tools, guidelines) accessible and promoted through the online resource center, as well as for some of them through the IW:LEARN

- *Target 2.1.4:* 100 outreach materials

The outreach material produced will be disseminated through key channels supported by the project such as: trainings, working groups, the MedPAN's e-newsletter and social media, the regional experience sharing workshops and the Forum 2024-2025 as well partners communication channels.

This outreach material will be submitted to IW:LEARN, and MPA Mediterranean spatial data (available in MAPAMED) will be made available to IW:LEARN. Furthermore, MedPAN and/or the MedFund will participate to the biennial IWC. Their websites will also include a direct link to IW:LEARN. In total, the costs associated to developing and submitting outreach material to IW:LEARN is estimated at USD 58,727.

A specific attention will be given to gender equity, highlighting women's role in the MPAs, in order to increase stakeholder's understanding and acceptance of these concerns.

A knowledge management plan will be produced during the first year of implementation. It will identify the lessons learned from ongoing and prior initiatives to inform project interventions; support learning and training for Mediterranean MPA managers and other key stakeholders on key topics to strengthen effective management; and support knowledge and experience sharing for technical support and joint policy mobilization through networks within and beyond the Mediterranean, through a range of interventions including the link with IW:LEARN.

Indicative activities under Output 2.1.4:

2.1.4.1: Production of an overarching Knowledge Management Plan during the first year of implementation.

2.1.4.2: Development of relevant key outreach material to help MPA practitioners improve their management practices on some key topics.

2.1.4.3: Dissemination of outreach material to all MPA practitioners in the Mediterranean, and through the IW:LEARN, as well as MPA Mediterranean spatial data (available in MAPAMED)

Component 3: Stronger regional and national governance and cooperation & strategies to promote MPAs as solutions to address global changes and provide socio-ecological benefits.

Component 3 aims to strengthen global, regional and national governance and cooperation and strategies to promote MPAs as solutions to address global changes while providing socio-ecological benefits. It will create a supportive environment for implementing policy commitments towards MPAs in the Mediterranean, in particular the Barcelona Convention, Union for the Mediterranean and EU policies as well as the CBD and SDGs. By bringing together Mediterranean stakeholders, the project will establish a mechanism to promote, support and monitor the implementation of the Post-2020 Mediterranean MPAs Roadmap and will support the 4th edition of the MPA Forum. It will further promote the international, regional and national cooperation between MPA managers as well as with other CTF. Component 3 has three immediate project outcomes:

Outcome 3.1: Operational regional mechanism supports the implementation of policy commitments towards MPAs in the Mediterranean, in particular the Barcelona Convention

Indicator 3.1: Number of institutions engaged within the Post-2020 Mediterranean MPA Roadmap mechanism.

Baseline: Every four years, the Mediterranean MPA Forum gathers the whole MPA community to share practices and to develop recommendations for the development of MPAs in the region. The 2012 and 2016 MPA Forums editions formulated a 2020 MPA Roadmap that served as a basis of the Barcelona Convention 2020 MPA Roadmap. Its implementation between 2016-2020 has not been monitored regularly. A Post-2020 MPA Roadmap is currently being developed (2020-2021 MPA Forum) and will require an effective implementation and continuously harmonized monitoring and engagement approach, which was limited for previous Roadmaps.

End of project target: 300 institutions engaged within the Post-2020 Mediterranean MPA Roadmap mechanism.

As mentioned above, the 'Post-2020 MPA Roadmap' is currently being developed and will be complementary to the Barcelona Convention Post-2020 MPA strategy, aimed to achieve the post-2020 targets of the CBD and UN SDG 14. Beyond the promotion of a Mediterranean vision, the Roadmap will provide a limited number of targeted recommendations addressing the main limiting factors to support the achievement of the post-2020 MPA targets. To this end, the Post-2020 MPA Roadmap will prioritize sets of recommendations targeted by areas (groups of countries with similar limiting factors) and by topics (political, governance, institutional, social, economic, financial, technical etc.). Under this component, a harmonized approach, and tools for promoting, facilitating, coordinating and monitoring the implementation of this post 2020 MPA roadmap and its recommendations will be developed and put in place to engage all related stakeholders in the Mediterranean on a more permanent basis and continuously monitor this engagement. As for the 2020 MPA roadmap in 2016, this post-2020 roadmap will be evaluated at mid-term in 2024-2025; in relation with the 2024-2025 Mediterranean MPA Status Report developed on the basis of an updated MAPAMED and MedPAN databases, and updated during the 2024-2025 edition of the Mediterranean MPA Forum. Outcome 3.1 will be achieved by means of the following outputs:

- *Output 3.1.1: Post-2020 Mediterranean MPA Roadmap monitoring mechanism established and implemented, and engagement of stakeholders in the Roadmap's implementation facilitated.*
- *Indicator 3.1.1.a: Number of monitoring mechanism for the post 2020 MPA Roadmap*
- *Target 3.1.1.a: 1 monitoring mechanism*
- *Indicator 3.1.1.b: Number of organizations engaged in the follow-up coordination mechanism of the Roadmap.*
- *Target 3.1.1.b: 100 (universities, NGOs, Governmental agencies, fishermen, other networks, etc.)*

Indicative activities under Output 3.1.1:

3.1.1.1: Development and implementation of a continuous monitoring and follow-up framework for the Post 2020 Mediterranean MPA Roadmap.

3.1.1.2: Facilitating the engagement of stakeholders for the implementation of the Roadmap's recommendations together with other key Mediterranean partners (SPA/RAC, IUCN, WWF, MedFund, national and sub-regional MPA managers networks, etc.).

- *Output 3.1.2:* 4th edition of the Mediterranean MPA Forum (2024/2025) organized & mid-term evaluation of the Post 2020 Mediterranean MPAs Roadmap conducted.

- *Indicator 3.1.2.a:* Number of Forum participants, including land-based stakeholders, private sector and land-based polluting industries.

- *Target 3.1.2.a:* 400 participants (50% of women and 50% of men)

- *Indicator 3.1.2.b:* Number of mid-term evaluation of the Post 2020 Mediterranean MPAs Roadmap conducted

- *Target 3.1.2.b:* 1 mid-term evaluation based on updates of the MAPAMED and MedPAN databases

Indicative activities under Output 3.1.2:

3.1.2.1: Development of the program of the 4th Mediterranean MPA Forum together with the UN Environment -MAP / SPA-RAC and contribution from the MedFund.

3.1.2.2: Organization and facilitation of the 2024/2025 Mediterranean MPA Forum.

3.1.2.3: Mid-term evaluation of the Post 2020 Mediterranean MPA Roadmap, based on an update of the MAPAMED and MedPAN databases and update if relevant to set key priorities of actions to reach targets by 2030.

? **Outcome 3.2: Increased sub-regional and national cooperation between MPA actors to jointly promote benefits and needs for effective and sustainable MPAs.**

Indicator 3.2: Number of stakeholders cooperating through networks.

Baseline: At the regional level, MedPAN is fostering partnerships with all relevant marine conservation stakeholders and key regional organizations such as SPA/ RAC, WWF, IUCN, GFCM, ACCOBAMS and Conservatoire du Littoral. MedPAN is also fostering partnerships with all relevant conservation stakeholders, beyond marine issues (wetlands, islands, forests?), to have a more integrated approach; especially through the Mediterranean Biodiversity Consortium. MedPAN also supports the development and collaborates with national and sub-regional networks of MPA managers to enhance direct support to MPAs and policy impact (AdrionPAN in the Adriatic and Ionian Sea, Turkish, French, Croatian, Spanish networks, North Africa network?).

End of project target: At least 100 stakeholders (50% of women and 50% of men).

The work of the MedPAN network at Mediterranean level (component 2) as well as the Roadmap and Forum process will be complemented by establishing and/or strengthening sub-regional and national networks of MPA managers. Communication and policy tools will be disseminated to raise awareness

on needs and benefits of effectively and sustainably managed MPAs, on governance, sustainable financing, and on the importance of having a sufficient part of fully protected areas to contribute to sustainable fisheries resources and to climate adaptation, as well as on the value of networks of MPA managers. This will contribute to building a supportive environment for implementing policy commitments towards MPAs in the Mediterranean. The thematic working groups on fisheries, financing and mobile species (described in component 2) will also support the development of these communication and policy tools. Outcome 3.2 will be achieved by means of the following outputs:

- *Output 3.2.1: Sub-regional and national networks of MPA managers established and/or strengthened*

- *Indicator 3.2.1.a: Number of new national or sub-regional networks established.*

- *Target 3.2.1.a: 2 new networks*

- *Indicator 3.2.1.b: Number of national and sub-regional networks of MPA managers supported in terms of functioning, governance and actions*

- *Target 3.2.1.b: 2*

Indicative activities under Output 3.2.1:

3.2.1.1: Assessment of MPA managers' networks needs at national and sub-regional levels.

3.2.1.2: Technical and strategic support to existing sub-regional and national networks.

3.2.1.3: Support to establishment of new sub-regional and national networks where needed.

3.2.1.4: Identification of areas of cooperation between MedPAN (the regional network) and sub-regional and national networks of MPA managers.

3.2.1.5: Establishment of memorandum of cooperation between the national and sub-regional networks of MPA managers with the MedPAN (regional network).

3.2.1.6: Implementation of the memorandum of cooperation, including sharing of information, contacts, management data, news, best practices capitalization, communication tools, and strategic actions (policy support).

- *Output 3.2.2: MPA communication and policy tools targeting Mediterranean local stakeholders, including land-based stakeholders, developed and disseminated through regional, national and sub-regional networks, to promote benefits and needs of MPAs.*

- *Indicator 3.2.2: Number of MPA communication & policy tools (policy papers, videos, power-point, etc.) produced.*

- *Target 3.2.2: At least 3 key products (one per year)*

Indicative activities under Output 3.2.2:

3.2.2.1: Development of communication and policy tools (policy papers, videos, powerpoint, leaflets, publications etc.) targeting local, national, European and Mediterranean stakeholders

3.2.2.2: Dissemination of communication and policy tools through regional, national and sub-regional networks.

? **Outcome 3.3: Improved International cooperation between networks of MPA managers and conservation trust funds beyond the Mediterranean (e.g. Caribbean, West Africa, North America), to jointly promote benefits, needs and efficient mechanisms for effective and sustainable MPAs within key international policy-making processes.**

Indicator 3.3: Number of institutions cooperating together between networks of MPA managers and conservation trust funds and networks of conservation trust funds at international level.

Baseline: Major networks are active in the Mediterranean (e.g., Adriatic and Ionian Sea) and beyond (e.g., Caribbean, West Africa, North America). Through the EU projects (Transatlantic partnership of MPAs, Ocean Governance), a Transatlantic cooperation between regional networks of MPA managers has been developed since 2017; it is enlarged to South East Asia through the EU Ocean Governance that started in 2020. In 2021, a new global alliance for marine protection was prepared and will be launched at the IUCN WCC, gathering networks of MPA managers (MedPAN, NAMPAN, CaMPAM, RAMPAN?), conservation trust funds (MedFund, MarFund, Costa Rica por Siempre?) and networks of conservation trust funds (RedLAC, Caf?). Finally, a new regional networks of MPA managers started to be developed in 2021 in the Indian Ocean.

End of project target: 20 institutions cooperating together between networks of MPA managers, conservation trust funds and networks of conservation trust funds at international level.

To achieve Post 2020 MPA targets, it is crucial to ensure MPA's effective management and adequate and sustainable financing.

Conservation Trust Funds (Costa Rica por Siempre, MedFund, MAR Fund, etc.) are key to support MPAs' operations and recurring costs with a long-term perspective by providing key financial resources. Networks of Conservation Trust Funds (CTF) (such as RedLAC or Caf?) help build a learning community that shares best practices and pursues innovative finance mechanisms in order to foster conservation, environmental management, and sustainable development.

Networks of MPA managers (MedPAN, CaMPAM, NAMPAN, RAMPAN, etc.) are key to support effective management of MPAs by building communities of actors. They are successful in gathering MPA managers facing the same challenges. Networks generate creativity, problem solving skills, build capacities and share resources among MPAs. Networks also create the needed linkages between MPA actions on the ground and decision-making processes related to MPAs at national, regional and international levels.

The proposed project will support the international cooperation between regional networks of MPA managers as well as with conservation trust funds and networks of conservation trust funds beyond the Mediterranean (e.g., Caribbean, West Africa, North America, Indian Ocean, Southeast Asia) to jointly promote benefits, needs and efficient mechanisms for effective and sustainable MPAs within key international policy-making processes (CBD, UN SDG14, IMPAC5, IUCN WCC especially), and to create a global community of actors that support effectively managed and sustainably financed MPAs. This will contribute to on-the-ground implementation of the Post 2020 MPA targets. Outcome 3.3 will be achieved by means of the following outputs:

- *Output 3.3.1: Key recommendations on international policy-making processes are jointly produced by networks of MPA managers at international level*
- *Indicator 3.3.1: Number of strategic documents with key recommendations jointly produced.*
- *Target 3.3.1: 2 strategic documents*

Indicative activities under Output 3.3.1:

3.3.1.1: Sharing resources, establishing partnerships, building synergies between the networks to provide technical support to MPAs management effectiveness.

3.3.1.2: Developing joint recommendations and specific strategies to raise MPAs managers' networks voices at the international level at the occasion of key international events (IMPAC, CBD COP, UN SDG Ocean Conference, IUCN WCC, IUCN WPC, UN Ocean Conference, UNFCCC, etc.).

- *Output 3.3.2:* A global alliance of networks of MPA managers and conservation trust funds (MarFund?) and networks of conservation trust funds (RedLAC, Caf??) established beyond the Mediterranean.

- *Indicator 3.3.2:* Number of institutions engaged in the global alliance of networks of MPA managers and conservation trust funds and networks of conservation trust funds.

Several discussions undertaken during the PPG phase, specific to this output 3.3.2, allowed to foresee the formation of a global alliance of networks of MPA managers and conservation trust funds and ensure buy-in from organizations. A joint concept note was developed by several key networks of MPA managers (MedPAN, CaMPAM, NAMPAN?), trust funds (MedFund, Costa Rica por Siempre?) followed by an online meeting. The recruitment of an external expert to help developing the alliance was decided, and ToRs written with inputs from all potential members of the alliance and under the coordination of MedPAN.

The process of establishing the alliance was officially launched at the IUCN Congress, during a side-event jointly organized by MedPAN and RedLAC, with support from the MedFund and the EU Ocean Governance project and in the presence of several donors (FFEM, MAVA?), key partners (CFA) and future members of the alliance. A second event was held at the Finance Pavilion (coordinated by CFA/ Conservation Finance Alliance) during the Congress, to which the GEF was invited to share its vision of this new alliance. After the IUCN Congress, a dedicated meeting was held by MedPAN, RedLAC and the EU Ocean Governance project to identify the next steps, and a joint contribution was submitted for the IMPAC5 Congress. Through this global alliance, the proposed project will focus on strengthening the coordination between CTFs and MPA networks in other regional seas to ensure replicability and scalability of the approach.

- *Target 3.3.2:* 15 institutions

Indicative activities under Output 3.3.2:

3.3.2.1: Feasibility study and identification of additional networks of MPA managers and conservation trust funds and network of trust funds worldwide interested in joining the global alliance.

3.3.2.2: Establishment of an alliance agreement between the networks of MPA managers and conservation trust funds and network of trust funds worldwide; development of a joint strategy and implementation of a joint action plan.

Component 4: Monitoring and evaluation

Component 4 will promote adaptive management and project monitoring and evaluation. Component 4 has one immediate project outcome:

? **Outcome 4.1: Overall project implementation progress and results monitored, promoting adaptive management, and project knowledge managed, compiled and disseminated.**

Indicator 4.1: % of required reports and evaluations completed

Baseline: Project M&E system is not yet in place.

End of project target: 100% of required reports and evaluations are completed.

Outcome 4.1 will be achieved by means of the following outputs:

- *Output 4.1.1: Monitoring and evaluation system developed and implemented.*
- *Indicator 4.1.1: Number of operational M&E system*
- *Target 4.1.1: 1 Operational M&E system in place, assessing project progress towards expected results*

Indicative activities under Output 4.1.1:

4.1.1.1: Development of a performance framework (M&E plan) defining roles, responsibilities, and frequency for collecting and compiling data to assess project performance.

4.1.1.2.: Implementation of the project monitoring system throughout the duration of the project

4.1.1.3: Mid-term and final evaluation of the project

- *Output 4.1.2: Results from monitoring and evaluation program compiled into a final report.*

- *Indicator 4.1.2: number of final report*

- *Target 4.1.2: 1*

Indicative activities under Output 4.1.2:

4.1.2.1: Development of a final report compiling project results at the end of the project

Cost-effectiveness analysis of chosen alternative

In the chosen alternative scenario, the two partners (The MedFund and MedPAN) will join their strengths and added value to provide a global and integrated support to the management of Mediterranean MPAs.

As described above, the central problem the project seeks to address is the degradation of Mediterranean coastal and marine areas. This is causing the loss of marine and coastal ecosystems? goods and services, and global environmental values, which undermines livelihoods and potential for sustainable economic development for coastal inhabitants, leads to biodiversity loss, declining fish stocks, and further increases vulnerability to climate change. The main causes and drivers of this degradation are detailed in the section above but include: poor management of MPAs in the Mediterranean (lack of sustainable funding, lack of engagement of stakeholders and lack of co-management schemes, poor implementation of regulations, regulations not sufficiently restrictive, lack of monitoring framework etc.); unsustainable fisheries (e.g. overfishing, destructive fishing practices,

illegal fishing); unregulated coastal development; and climate change (e.g. increasing sea temperature, acidification, rising sea levels, invasive species).

The project seeks to secure the long-term effective management of existing MPAs in non-EU countries in the Mediterranean Sea, providing a global and integrated support to the management of Mediterranean MPAs. This integrated support will strengthen the management effectiveness of Mediterranean MPAs by securing access to sustainable financing solutions for MPA core management costs while providing technical, strategic, organizational, and institutional support. Specifically, the project aims to overcome the following four barriers preventing effective management of Mediterranean MPAs, and thereby contribute to address the threats to the Mediterranean Sea together with on-going and planned initiatives including the GEF funded MedProgramme and FishEBM MED:

- 1) Lack of consistent and/or sustainable financing for MPA core management costs;
- 2) Limited institutional, technical and organizational capacities of MPAs and incomplete set of tools for an individual and collective informed approach to achieve the objectives of relevant conventions, agreements, and policies in Mediterranean MPAs (including the Barcelona Convention and the CBD);
- 3) Insufficient knowledge and experience/practices sharing on successful models for sustainable fisheries and sustainable financing and to guide effective MPA management (at local/national/Mediterranean/global scales); and
- 4) Absence of harmonized approach and dynamic ?animation? to promote implementation and continuous monitoring of the Post-2020 Mediterranean MPA Roadmap.

It aims to achieve this through three interlinked components, supported by an adaptive project management and monitoring and evaluation approach. Each component comprises a set of project activities and outputs (described in section 3 below) that will deliver the immediate project outcomes. Component 1 will address Barrier 1 by providing long-term financing to 20 nationally designated and under designation MPAs core management costs, **together with other funding The MedFund will raise over this period**. Component 2 will address Barriers 2 and 3 by focusing on capacity building of MPAs managers and practitioners and knowledge sharing within the Mediterranean MPA community for improved MPAs management effectiveness and financing, to address global changes and to provide long-term socio-ecological benefits in the Mediterranean. Component 3 will address barriers 3 and 4 by strengthening global, regional and national cooperation and strategies to promote MPAs as solutions to address global changes and provide socio-ecological benefits.

The project will also contribute to wider development objectives and socio-economic and cultural co-benefits (e.g. support to resilient livelihoods; empowerment and sustainable access to fisheries by coastal communities; reduced vulnerability to economic and environmental shocks, with improved food and income security for coastal communities, especially women; and contribution to SDGs).

The chosen alternative scenario is developed in more detailed in Section 3: Project Strategy. The alternative scenario is considered cost-effective as it targets MPAs that are already designated or in the process of being designated, through a funding mechanism that is already in place ? The MedFund. Eligibility criteria for MPAs to access funding from the MedFund are as follow: (i) Be a formally established MPA or one in the advanced stages of establishment, (ii) Have a management policy document or legal documents, and (iii) Have a dedicated management body and team in place. Therefore, the project will only provide funding to MPAs that already exists and will not fund baseline studies or assessment, neither the development of management plans. By supporting the management effectiveness of existing MPAs through an established Conservation Trust Fund (CTF), project funding will directly contribute to conservation results. The GEF recognizes that previously funded projects have too often been focused on business plans and strategy development, with minimal project resources or time dedicated to actual implementation of the financing strategies. The proposed GEF

project focuses solely on this implementation, which will maximize chances to achieve significant conservation results on the ground. In this sense, the investment is deemed particularly cost-effective.

In addition, supporting the management of protected areas is not only a sound investment in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, but also provides significant additional socio-economic and environmental benefits beyond the existence value of biodiversity (see Section 3-E).

Part of the GEF funding will be channeled through a sinking fund managed by The MedFund. This means that the GEF grant will be invested in a fund where the entire capital and investment income will be disbursed over the duration of the projects (5 years) until it is completely spent and thus sinks to zero. Investing the GEF grant through a sinking fund will generate additional investment income that will be invested in the project, making the initial GEF grant even more cost-effective. In parallel of the sinking fund, the endowment will be able to grow and additional funds could be raised for the endowment fund.

4) Alignment with GEF Focal Area and/or Impact Program Strategies

The proposed project is fully aligned with the GEF-7 International Waters Focal Area Strategy. This project supports two programming directions:

- IW-1.1. Strengthen blue economy opportunities through sustainable healthy coastal and marine ecosystems
- IW-1.2. Strengthen blue economy opportunities through catalyzing sustainable fisheries management

Moreover, the project will contribute to strengthening Blue Economy opportunities by catalyzing regional processes in the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem, notably by advancing the Post-2020 Mediterranean MPAs Roadmap process.

The project will also contribute to the GEF International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network IW:LEARN, making available best practices, lessons learned, and innovative solutions collected and compiled through project component 2.

In addition, as mentioned in the GEF-7 Biodiversity strategy, *“GEF has been investing in improving financial sustainability of protected area systems for the past decade, but system-wide funding gaps remain at the national level in many GEF-eligible countries that have received GEF support. Restricted government budgets in many countries have reduced the financial support for protected area management and many are chronically underfunded and understaffed. Thus, new financing strategies for protected area systems are critical to reduce existing funding gaps and improve management. [?] The GEF-7 strategy prioritizes the development and implementation of comprehensive, system-level financing solutions. Previous GEF projects have too often been focused on business plans and strategy development, with minimal project resources or time dedicated to actual implementation of the financing strategies. In addition, GEF’s experience has demonstrated the need for a long-term plan for reducing the funding gap for protected area management, thus, individual GEF projects must be part of a larger sustainable finance plan and context, and countries may require a sequence of GEF project support over a number of GEF phases to achieve financial sustainability.”* The proposed approach consisting in investing GEF resources into a sinking fund managed by the MedFund is therefore in full compliance with the GEF’s current concern regarding the financing of protected areas.

The biodiversity strategy also mentioned that GEF will support the management effectiveness of existing marine protected areas in Large Marine Ecosystems, which exactly what the proposed project intends to achieve.

5) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SSC, CBIT and co-financing

The GEF resources will build upon and influence the baseline and associated investments. It will provide incremental value to the effective and sustainable management of Mediterranean MPAs, generating global environment benefits for marine and coastal resources (increase in abundance, biomass and fecundity, as well as a potential benefit for biodiversity) and reducing the degradation of Mediterranean coastal and marine areas.

Without GEF support, non-European Mediterranean MPAs will remain underfunded and with inadequate management and technical capacities. Their contribution in addressing global changes and in providing long-term socio-ecological benefits in the Mediterranean will remain low. The risk of use of maladapted management practices will remain, with limited opportunities for knowledge sharing, synergy and complementarity. MPAs under designation process will stay at paper park stage with no official designation as they will not be able to deliver tangible results on the ground.

The COVID-19 crisis will have an impact on national budget meaning that investment in environmental issues will be scarce.

The alternative scenario ? including GEF investment ? will expand the scope of baseline initiatives and assist GEF eligible Mediterranean countries in effectively and sustainably managing their coastal and marine protected areas. It will provide a holistic support ? financial, organizational, institutional, technical, enabling environment ? to Mediterranean MPAs and will secure their active role in reducing the degradation of the Mediterranean Sea.

GEF funding will contribute to the capitalization of the innovative financial mechanism for Mediterranean MPAs ? The MedFund ? created under a previous GEF project (*Long-term financial mechanism to enhance Mediterranean MPA management effectiveness* ? GEF ID 9959). There is a perfect continuity between both projects as one created the fund, and the other capitalizes it. The GEF will provide supplemental funding to the funds already raised by the MedFund, which will enable The MedFund to extend its support to the core management of 20 Mediterranean MPAs covering 432,930 ha.

As several initiatives and funding are coming to an end in 2022, the GEF resources will be able to build upon them to ensure the continuity and expand the activities and reach of the active network of Mediterranean MPA managers ? MedPAN. GEF funding will therefore strengthen key existing partnerships and networking initiatives in the Mediterranean (and beyond) to ensure their long-term support to Mediterranean MPAs.

In addition, the GEF incremental resources will finance an innovative approach integrating a financial as and technical support to Mediterranean MPA ? bringing together two crucial elements to effectively enhance MPA management.

Indicative total co-financing mobilized for the proposed project amounts to USD 38,162 million. The details on the sources of the co-financing, the scope and contribution to the achievement of the project objective are described in Section 7-B of the ProDoc.

6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)

The project will generate Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) in a number of impact areas, first and foremost by increasing the Mediterranean MPA areas under improved management effectiveness, in particular in non-EU countries (i.e., 432,930 ha). Well managed MPAs help maintain biodiversity and provide refuges for endangered, endemic, and commercial species, including the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*), sea turtles such as the loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), and leatherback (*Dermodochelys coriacea*), and the great white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*); the seaweed *Rissoella verruculosa* and the Neptune grass or Mediterranean tapeweed (*Posidonia oceanica*); and the Atlantic Bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*). They also protect critical habitats from damage by destructive fishing practices and other human activities and allowing them to recover.

In order to ensure that the selected MPAs will be delivering socio economic and environmental benefits, the project will build on the existing activities being conducted in the region regarding climate change adaptation in MPAs: T-Mednet, MPA Engage, MPA Networks project among others (see the Appendix XIII on Climate Change, section 3). The project integrates climate change challenges at the Mediterranean and at MPA level. Climate change will be included in training activities of MPA managers, to bring to MPA managers a better knowledge and capacity of potential climate change impacts and potential adaptation measures. Experience sharing activities on climate change adaptation actions, amongst the Mediterranean MPA community will be strongly encouraged in order to better address climate change issues at local, national and regional levels and enhance resilience at a Mediterranean level.

At MPA level, the MedFund supports activities related to climate change which are included in MPA management plans; and monitors the implementation of those activities; while engaging MPA-related stakeholders.

The project will therefore increase the adaptive capacity of MPA network at a MPA level; and at a regional level, which will in turn contribute to mitigate the negative consequences of adverse climate change impacts and contribute to ecosystem resilience.

Moreover, one Large Marine Ecosystem (the Mediterranean Sea) will benefit from improved cooperative management through the project interventions (Core indicator 7), in particular as it relates to the Post-2020 Mediterranean MPAs Roadmap, and the focus on knowledge management (including increasing the engagement with IW:LEARN).

Finally, the project will contribute to Core indicator 8: 18,058 metric tons of globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels, by supporting best management practices including no-take zones, co-management of MPAs, and sustainable management plans for fisheries in MPAs.

Table 6: Project targets for core indicators

<i>Project Core Indicators</i>	<i>PIF Submission</i>	<i>CEO Endorsement Submission</i>

1	<i>Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)</i>		
2	<i>Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)</i>	295,500 ha of newly created MPA 317,000 ha of MPA under improved management effectiveness	213,186 ha of newly created MPA 219,744 ha of MPA under improved management effectiveness
3	<i>Area of land restored (Hectares)</i>		
4	<i>Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (Hectares)</i>		
5	<i>Area of marine habitat under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (Hectares)</i>		
	<i>Total area under improved management (Hectares)</i>		
6	<i>Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric tons of CO2e)</i>		
7	<i>Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management</i>	1 large marine ecosystem (Mediterranean Sea) Level of Engagement of 4 in IW LEARN	1 large marine ecosystem (Mediterranean Sea) Level of Engagement of 4 in IW LEARN
8	<i>Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (thousand metric tons) (Percent of fisheries, by volume)</i>	35,685 metric tons	18,058 metric tons
9	<i>Reduction, disposal/destruction, phase out, elimination and avoidance of chemicals of global concern and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials and products (thousand metric tons of toxic chemicals reduced)</i>		
10	<i>Reduction, avoidance of emissions of POPs to air from point and non-point sources (grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ)</i>		

11	<i>Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment</i>	10,000	10,000 (50% of women and 50% of men)
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7) Innovativeness, sustainability, and potential for scaling up

Innovativeness

The proposed project will innovate by investing in The MedFund, a CTF that supports the establishment of innovative and sustainable financing mechanisms for conservation and channel additional financial resources to those that already exist.

The proposed project is also highly innovative by joining forces between a CTF and a network of protected area managers, bringing together their respective added value and complementarity for a more impactful action. Through this alliance, the project is implementing an integrated approach to effective and sustainable management of Mediterranean MPAs, including innovative financial mechanisms for MPAs core management costs as well as technical, organizational, institutional and strategic and policy support.

The project will ensure the promotion of innovative solutions and tools in its training courses in permanent training centers hosted by MPAs in different sub-regions of the Mediterranean and in its experience-sharing events. It will also set an emphasis on gender equity concerns in MPAs, an issue that has not been duly considered so far in the overall management of MPAs and the resources they aim to protect.

In addition, a number of innovative tools currently developed by the MedFund, (such as the five years financial needs analysis and the management effectiveness tool), and by the MedPAN (such as the guide on monitoring small-scale fisheries in MPAs; the guide on improving enforcement in MPAs, the guide on monitoring by snorkeling in shallow waters, among others), will be used throughout the proposed project.

The networks of MPA managers supported by the project, at national, sub-regional, regional and on some key themes is innovative as those networks offer operational and permanent solutions to support MPA effective management as well as unique mechanisms to better link activities on the ground and policy-making processes at higher level.

The new alliance to be set and implemented between CTFs, networks of CTFs and networks of MPA managers at global level is highly innovative, as it will enable promoting MPA needs, benefits, and offering a global and operational solution to the CBD and SDGs Post 2020 MPA targets effective implementation.

Sustainability

The financial, technical and institutional sustainability to ensure the long-term improvement of Mediterranean MPA management effectiveness are at the core of the project strategy.

Through its first component, by capitalizing The MedFund, the project directly contributes to the long-term financial sustainability of Mediterranean MPA. The MedFund serves indeed as a tool to enhance the financial security of MPAs in the Mediterranean, able to provide a financial bridge between projects, fill gaps in government contributions, and ensure long-term monitoring and evaluation of the impact of interventions even several years after a project has ended. The project will increase the reach and therefore the visibility of the MedFund, which will facilitate its ability to raise additional funding beyond the proposed project duration. The goal of the MedFund is to fund core management of MPAs on a long-term basis so that they can demonstrate their efficiency and deliver on the ground results in terms of biodiversity preservation, recovery of fish stocks, job creation to increase buy in and funding from national Government and other donors. The investment of GEF resources in a long-term sustainable financing instrument for Mediterranean MPA puts financial sustainability at the heart of the project.

Through its second component, the project will strengthen the capacities of actors and institutions in the Mediterranean regions. These strengthened capacities will remain available for Mediterranean MPA even beyond the end of the project as these actors and institutions will continue to remain active in the region, and work towards their common goal of improved management of Mediterranean MPAs.

Through its third component, the project will support the Mediterranean MPA Post 2020 Roadmap - a long-term operational mechanism (since 2012) embedded in well-established policy commitment. Indeed, the Post 2020 Roadmap will include operational recommendations for Mediterranean MPAs to effectively achieve the expected post-2020 targets and will serve as a basis for the Barcelona Convention Post-2020 strategy for MPAs, aimed to achieve the post-2020 targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework of the CBD. By supporting the monitoring and implementation of the Roadmap, the project will contribute to ensuring that the MPA implements recommendations on the ground, ensuring their long-term contribution towards achieving post-2020 international targets.

Within components 2 and 3, the project will also enable to reinforce key networking processes that will be then able to continue after the project: MedPAN thematic working groups in the Mediterranean, national and sub-regional networks of MPA managers (and their cooperation with the MedPAN network), cooperation beyond the Mediterranean at global level with other networks of MPA managers and other CTFs and networks of CTFs.

Replicability and Potential for Scaling Up

Even though the project focuses its funding and part of its capacity support on 20 MPAs, it supports region-wide partners and actors in the Mediterranean, which means that the project results could easily be replicated throughout the whole region, and beyond.

The MedFund is the only CTF for Mediterranean MPA and the GEF investments into a sinking fund could play a catalytic role for the MedFund to raise additional long-term investments for MPAs.

The alliance promoted by the project between a regional network of MPAs managers and a regional trust fund for MPAs could also be replicated in other regional seas worldwide.

The project, through the support to the MedPAN network and other networks at national and sub-regional levels, will support regional exchanges across MPA and related stakeholders which means that best practices and lessons learned from a few MPAs could be taken up and replicated throughout the whole Mediterranean network by MPA managers, by civil society but also by stakeholders from the fisheries and tourism sectors for instance. The potential for scaling up project results is significant.

In addition, the project will support the international cooperation with other networks of MPA managers as well as with conservation trust funds and networks of conservation trust funds beyond the Mediterranean (e.g., Caribbean, West Africa, North America, Indian Ocean, South East Asia). In this regard, the project will contribute to the worldwide promotion of benefits, needs and efficient mechanisms for effective and sustainable MPAs within key international policy-making processes. The project results could therefore be replicated across the world and contribute to on-the-ground implementation of the global Post 2020 MPA targets.

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

Figure 2: Albania

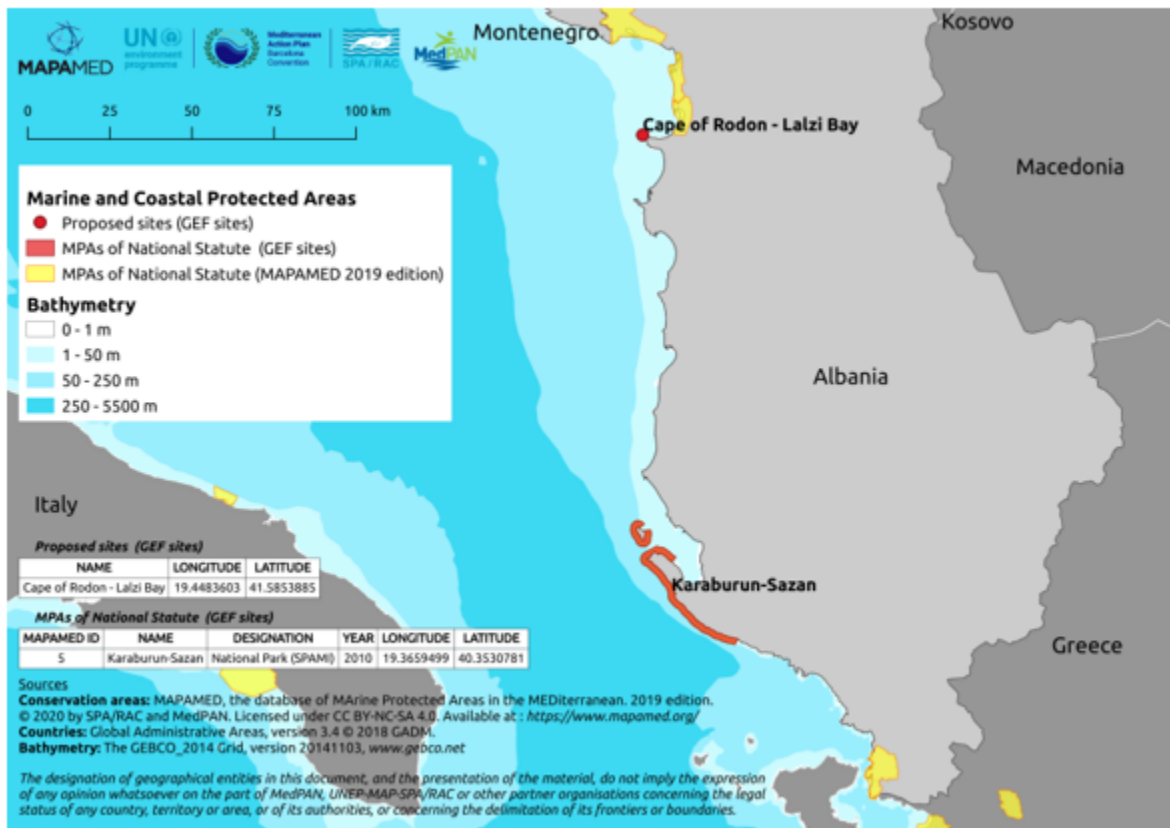


Figure 3: Algeria

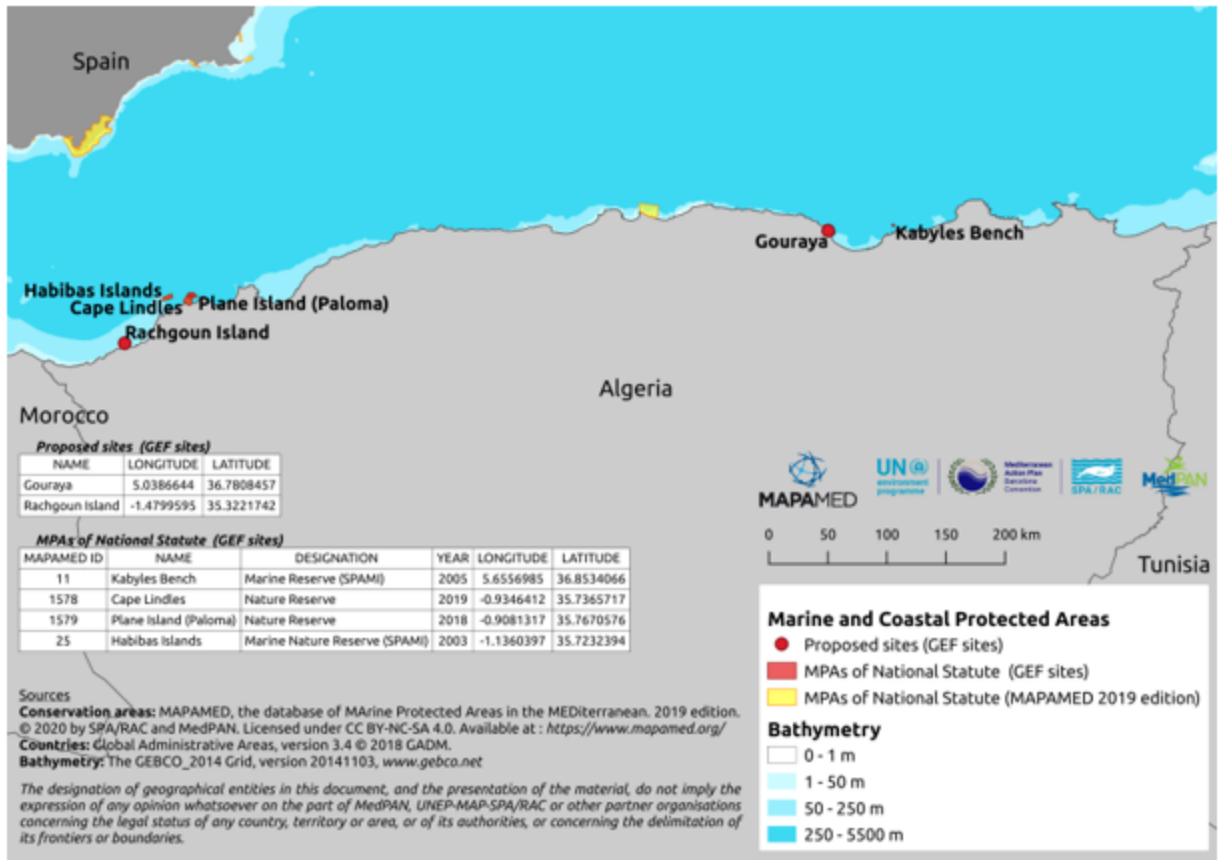


Figure 4: Lebanon

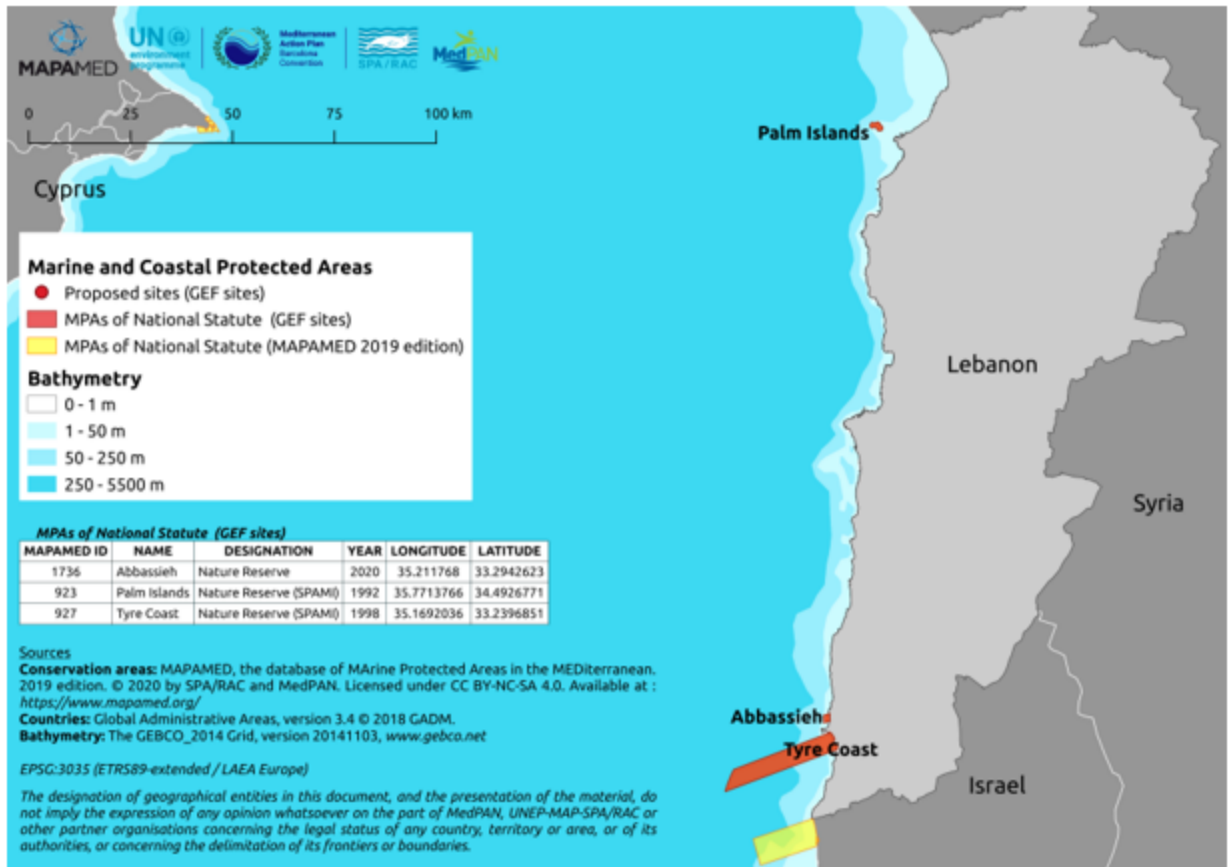


Figure 5: Montenegro

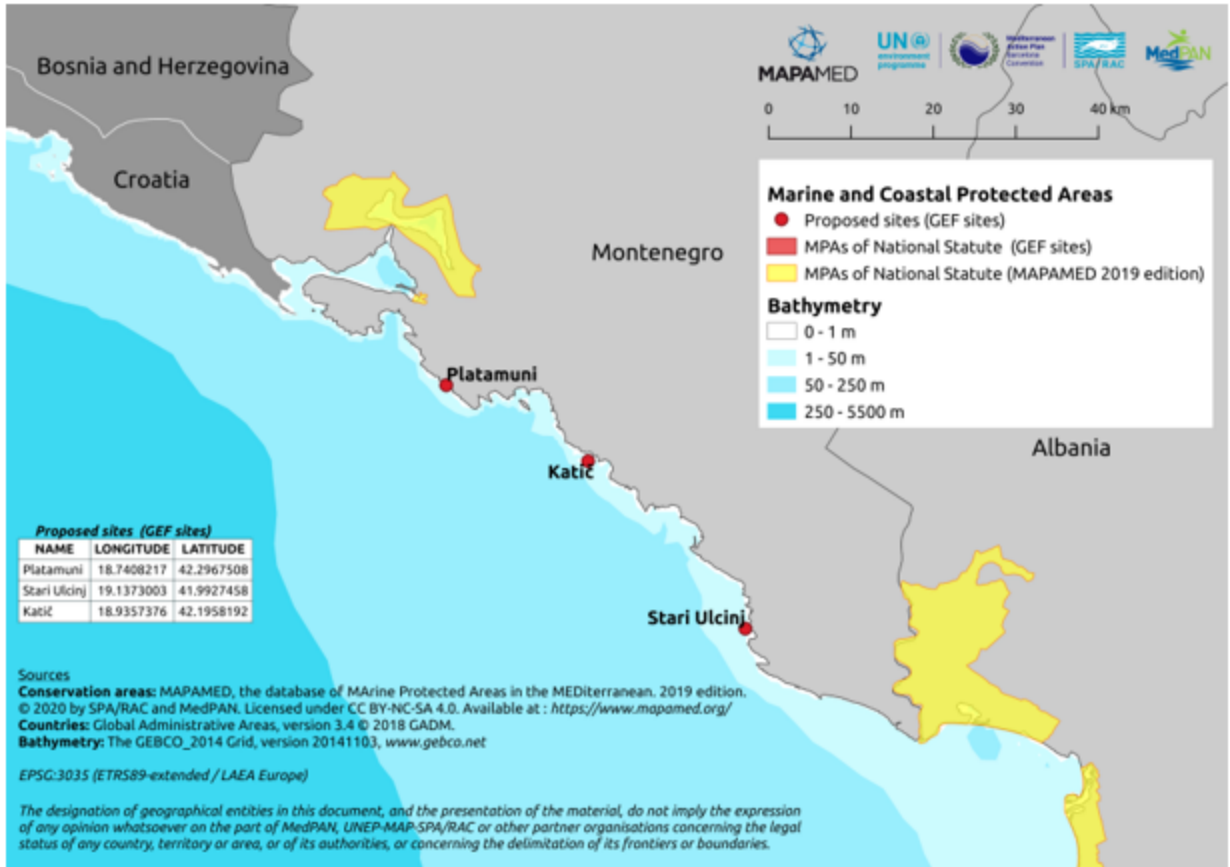


Figure 6: Morocco

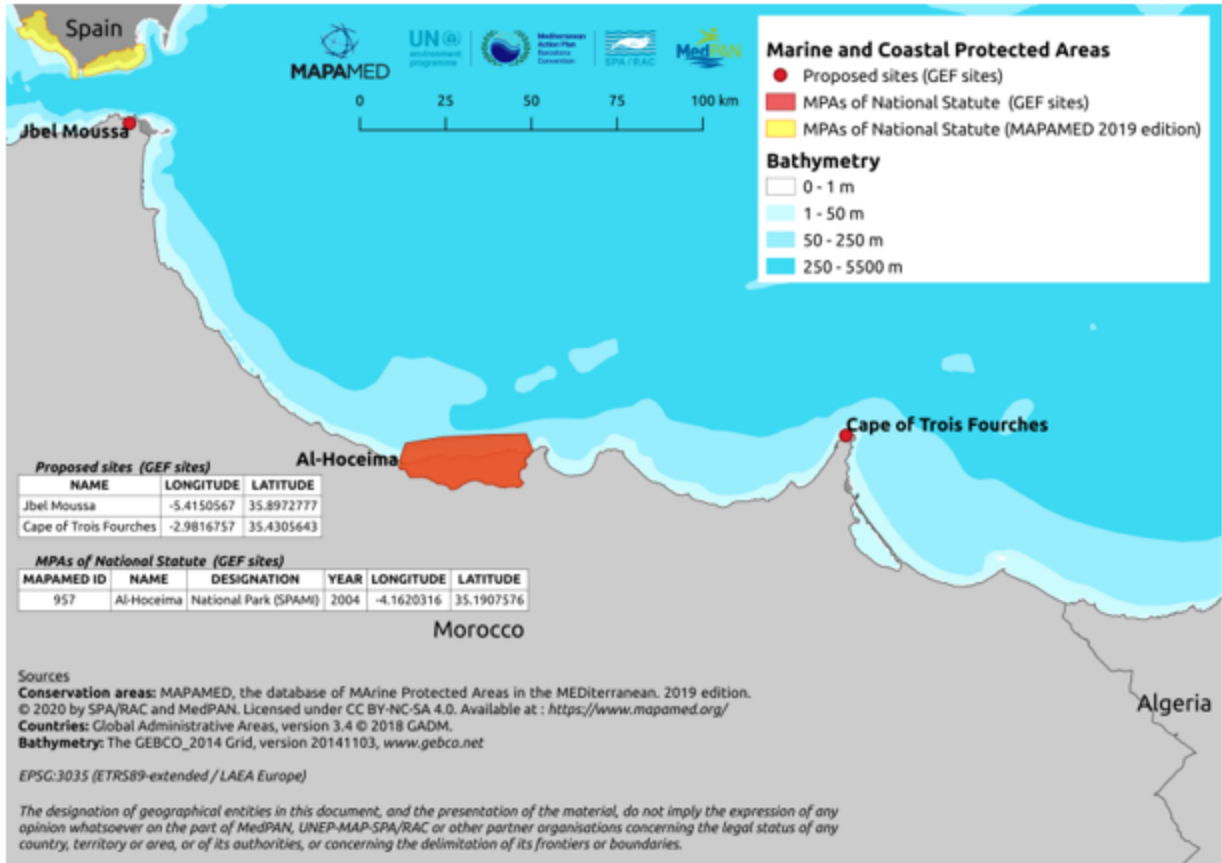


Figure 7: Tunisia

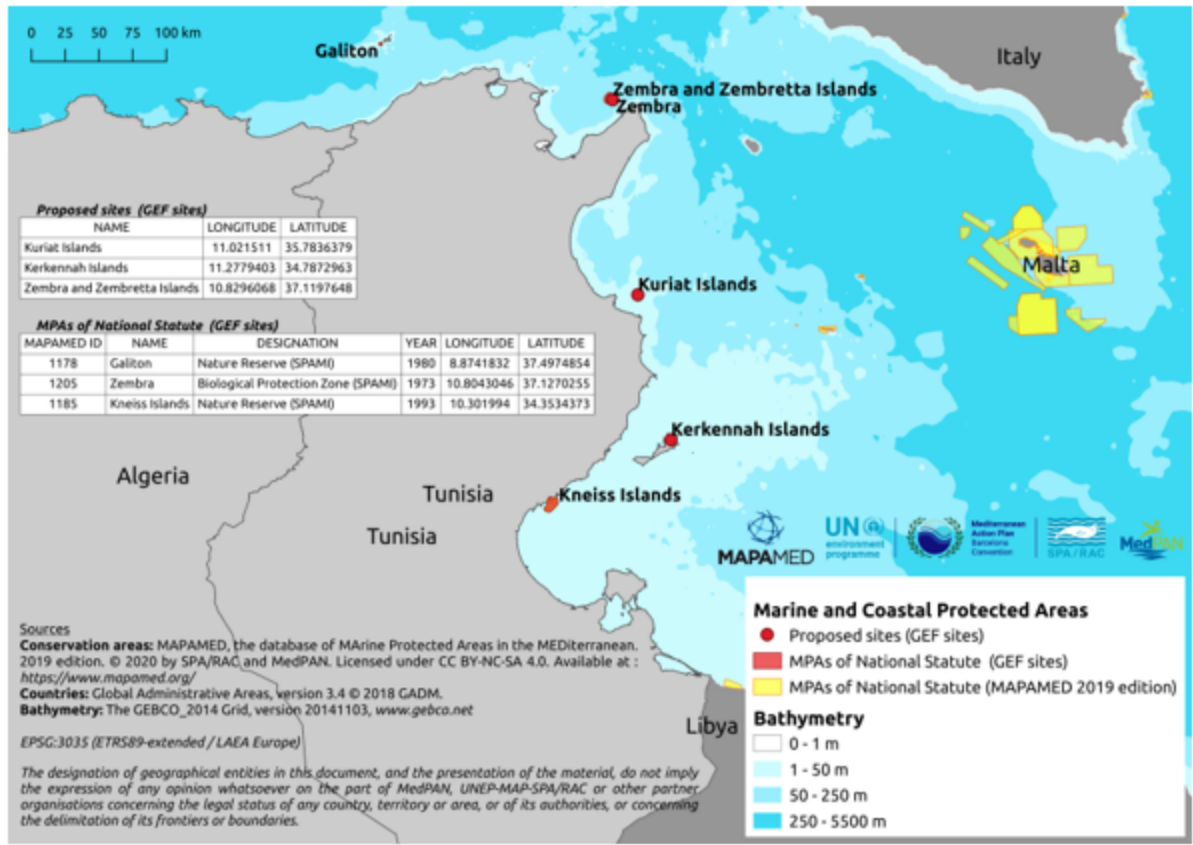
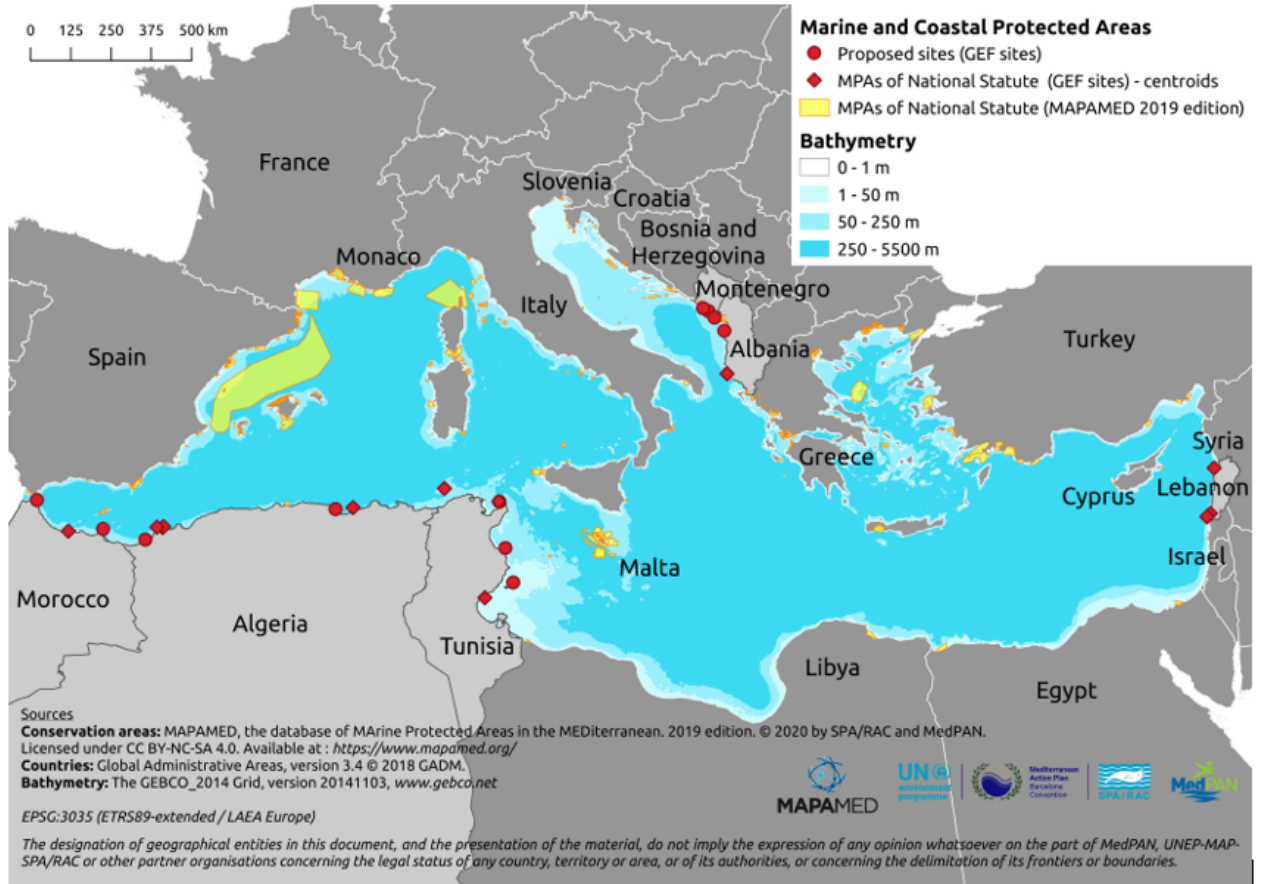


Figure 8: The 20 targeted MPAs in the Mediterranean Basin



1c. Child Project?

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

2. Stakeholders

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

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities No

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Stakeholder Engagement Plan provided below.

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

The SEP is joined in Appendix VI. The achievement of the project objectives highly rely on the support of different stakeholders of the region and of each country, coming from sectors such as: forestry and environment, agriculture and fisheries, land-use planning, tourism, regional and international development actors, private sector and academic sectors. The SEP indicates how the project will have impact on stakeholders and reversely, how the stakeholder can affect the project, taking in account risk management. The SEP shows the steps taken to obtain input from stakeholders from the genesis of the project, to make them real actors and partners in the implementation and monitoring, and in doing so, by strengthening their ownership of the expected results at different levels.

Stakeholders include i) national Governments (Ministries of Environment, Fisheries, Forests; National authorities in charge of MPA management) and local authorities (including Co-managers of MPAs). These stakeholders will contribute to the success of the project. They present a low to medium risk; ii) regional institutions (SPA/RAC, The MedFund, MedPAN, WWF). They will all contribute to the success of the project and they present a low risk; iii) local communities, local stakeholders and private sector (local associations involved in MPA management, local businesses carrying out fisheries activities, aquaculture sector, private tourism operators). They can contribute to the success of the project, but also hinder if not well involved in MPA management. They will be closely involved in MPA management processes to mitigate this risk; and iv) academia which will contribute to the success of the project.

SEP presents the stakeholders involved during the PPG (73 persons in total through 42 meetings/consultations) and presents how the targeted stakeholders will be engaged during the implementation phase.

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier; Yes

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

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

In the Mediterranean region, gender equality remains a key issue incurring high costs for the region and hampering the ability for sustainable economic growth and good governance. Recognizing the importance of gender issues, The MedFund developed in 2018-2019 and is now implementing its gender mainstreaming plan. This gender mainstreaming strategy is designed to ensure that both women and men:

- ? Receive culturally compatible social and economic benefits from the MedFund funded projects;
- ? Do not suffer adverse effects during the fund management and disbursement processes;
- ? Have equitable access to requesting and receiving the MedFund funds;
- ? Recognize and acknowledge management roles and responsibilities related to the governance, administration and disbursement of the MedFund funds; and
- ? Receive full respect for their dignity and human rights.

In accordance to this plan, gender considerations are mainstreamed into all aspects of the proposed project. During the PPG, a specific thematic study was conducted on gender to inform the development of a Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP) that aligns with CI-GEF policies and guidelines (provided in Appendix VI).

The following minimum gender indicators will be monitored and reported on: 1. Number of men and women who participated in project activities (e.g. meetings, workshops, consultations); 2. Number of men and women who received benefits (e.g. employment, income generating activities, training, access to natural resources, land tenure or resource rights, equipment, leadership roles); 3. Number of strategies, plans (e.g. management plans) and policies derived from the project that include gender considerations.

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

Yes

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

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

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

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

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

The GEF funds will be directly invested in the MedFund through a sinking fund. Private sector and public donors will be encouraged to invest in The MedFund's capital, in order to allow the MedFund to make investments for MPA sustainable management and for the protection of marine and coastal biodiversity and environments.

The project is taking into account the influence of private sector on the degradation of the environment and considers the importance of engaging private stakeholders in regional and national discussions to promote a more sustainable management of coastal and marine environments. As described in Output 3.1.2 of the project, the 4th edition of the MPA Forum (2024) will be an opportunity to engage private sector and land-based polluting industries and to obtain commitment from them to shift towards more sustainable practices.

Despite private sector engagement, risks related to the inability to shift private sector incentives driving destructive practices remain. For example, difficulties encountered concern the harmonization, at a regional level, of the framework regulating practices of private companies having a negative impact on the environment (bottom-trawling?). While regulation on this topic can be integrated at MPA level, private sector shift is less feasible at a Mediterranean level. In that goal, the project foresees to strengthen partnerships and support to GFCM and groups of NGOs such as Med Sea alliance, a network of organizations collaborating to tackle overfishing and destructive fishing in the Mediterranean.

Private sector stakeholders will be involved in advancing nature positive value chains and in contributing to the implementation of MPA management plans. First of all, investments made by the MedFund will generate interests and will contribute, by a responsible investment policy, to channel investments in socially responsible companies. Thus, the project will strengthen local governance processes associating all stakeholders, including the private sector. At local level, through management committees of the MPAs and consultations, representatives of the private sector (tourism/fishermen in particular) will be involved at their own scale in the implementation of management plans. At a Mediterranean level, networks of private stakeholders will also be engaged in the process of reinforcing MPAs, through the following initiatives:

- LIFE platform and Maghrebin platform that represents small-scale fishers in EU Med and in Maghreb ;
- Mediterranean Experience of Ecotourism (MEET) a network of tourism and conservation organizations aiming at developing ecotourism in the Mediterranean in alliance with ?industry partners? of which MedPAN is one of the founding organizations;

- Mediterranean Ecotourism Consortium (MEC) representing the interests and the political agenda of both the tourism and conservation departments, and in the process of being created.

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):

Table 6: Risks Assessment and mitigation planning

Risks	Rating [1]	Risk Mitigation Measures
Political instability in several countries in the region may result in government changes. This may lead to the reevaluation of government priorities and redirection of funding allocations away from MPAs	S	The MedFund and the MedPAN managers will follow closely potential changes in governments to readily design and implement risk management strategies, as needed.
Global economic and financial problems may lead to reduced funding from international donors, and causes consistently lower returns on the endowment and sinking funds over the long term	M	The CTF structure is one of the best mitigation responses to the high vulnerability to donor funding. Although interest rates and investment returns have been extremely low in recent years, historical data suggest that it is reasonable to assume an average 4% return on CTF investments over the long term. Possible fluctuations in future returns have been taken into account in the design of the investment and grant making strategies. In addition, funded MPAs should be able to develop business planning and self-funding mechanisms to become less dependent on the fund.
Weak management capacities for planning, management, and governance reduce project effectiveness	M	The risk will be reduced by working with and strengthening the relevant actors' skills and capacities, from the institutional (e.g., National PA agency) to local levels (MPA managers). The project will invest in addressing key capacity gaps at the institutional, organizational and individual levels.
The capital invested in the CTF sinking fund and the revenue generated are diverted from their purpose	L	The governance of the CTF, in line with CFA international standards, will guarantee independence and accountability. The MedFund developed and approved recently its 5 years strategic and financial plan, manual of administrative and financial procedures, operational manual, financing agreement template, and updated its internal rules to guarantee the transparency, accountability, traceability and control of its operations.

Global climate change impacts the MPAs negatively	M	Work with MPAs, regional institutions, and local organizations will encourage them to share experiences related to climate change adaptation programs. Moreover, more and more studies are highlighting the importance of the role of MPAs in climate change adaptation and mitigation. Finally, specific trainings will be supported to include adaptation to climate change in MPA management plans.
COVID-19 risk	S	See a detailed analysis of the short term, medium and long term impacts as well as mitigation measures below

Climate Risks:

Risk. The climate risks for the project have been rated moderate based on the projected changes, adaptive capacities, and project interventions. The projected changes include changes in precipitation, increased temperatures, acidification, increase in salinity and rising sea levels. The projected changes will adversely affect the Mediterranean Sea, which is considered one of the world's biodiversity hotspots. In terms of vulnerability of coastal communities, fisheries represent one of their main livelihoods. Fisheries are currently impacted mostly by overfishing and coastal development, but climate change and acidification may play an important role as well. At the regional and national levels governments are committing to a strategic approach, while at the local MPA level, MPA managers generally lack the knowledge on climate change adaptation, and climate change is rarely integrated into MPA management plans.

In terms of exposure, MPAs in the Mediterranean are highly exposed and will increasingly be exposed to climate change impacts. In terms of sensitivity, MPAs are likely to be adversely affected by climate change impacts as they directly affect the marine ecosystem MPA are supposed to protect. The adaptive capacity of the MPA targeted by the project is limited given that climate change is not fully considered in their management plans, there is in general limited knowledge amongst MPA management teams about climate change impacts and potential adaptation measures, and MPA's financial capacities to implement adaptation measures are limited. As a result, the overall vulnerability to climate change of the MPA targeted by the project is high and could impede their effective management.

Mitigation Measures. Targeted MPA could be affected by hazards caused by climate change as projections are indicating that the occurrence of such hazards is very likely to increase over a 50-to-100-year period. However, this increase might not be felt drastically during the shorter-term duration of the project. In addition, as the project focuses on the effective management of MPA, capacity building and governance mechanisms ? without implementing any on the ground activities or hard infrastructure - the project activities are not very likely to be adversely impacted if such hazard were to occur.

The project's objective is to support a strong, effective and sustainable management of MPA through supporting MPA management costs, strengthening capacities and governance mechanisms. By supporting MPA's management costs, the project will directly contribute to improving the adaptive capacity of MPA regarding adverse climate change impacts:

- MPAs with secured core management funding will be more able to implement adaptation measures to face climate change;

- Climate change will be included in training activities so MPA managers will have a better knowledge and capacity of potential climate change impacts and potential adaptation measures. The project will also support experience sharing activities, including on climate change adaptation actions amongst;
- The project will therefore increase the adaptive capacity of targeted MPA and beyond, which will in turn contribute to mitigate the negative consequences of adverse climate change impacts. Without the support of this project, the risks and consequences associated to climate change would be higher (see also APPENDIX XIII: Climate Change Assessment).

COVID Risk:

Risk. The ongoing outbreak of COVID-19 has been directly affecting the work of international organizations, including both the Implementing and Executing Agencies. Travel bans have been in place and meetings have been canceled or postponed. Should the situation continue, or should similar situations take place, the risk will be mitigated by trying to carry out relevant activities via remote work (e.g. video-conferences, telecommuting, recourse to national human resources in the countries, online courses, etc.). Project partners have already developed corrective measures and methods that were successfully implemented such as virtualization of events using adequate platforms and tools. The successful organization of the virtual 2020 MPA Forum Session on June 2nd-4th 2021 showed that large events can successfully be organized by project partners.

Short term impacts:

During the lockdown, MedPAN circulated a small survey throughout the network to assess how network members (i.e. MPAs managers and national organizations) were dealing with the impacts of the sanitary measures on the planning and management of their MPAs. The following highlights some of the responses received, among others:

- ? During the outbreaks, all resources are drawn towards health issues, local administrations and NGOs usually working for MPAs have been involved in the emergency response supporting local communities.
- ? In most MPAs, day to day operation activities have been restricted, postponed, or cancelled due to the lockdown and staff requested to work from home.
- ? Most of the MPAs have been closed following government instructions during the pandemic, although in a few MPAs, access was allowed but restricted (in numbers of people allowed or areas accessible).
- ? As a result of local lockdowns, the quieter and less polluted natural spaces have seen an increase of some species (birds, cetaceans) in some protected areas. In other areas, the 'need for nature' from the urban population just after the lockdown resulted in a more chaotic and unregulated frequentation. With the end of the lockdown, people will be coming back to the beach and the sea, which will increase noise, pollution and may thus disturb species that settled or used quieter areas during the lock down. MPA managers identified nesting species (birds & sea turtles) and monk seals as those that could be mostly affected by the end of the lockdown.

? Delays in the administration and funding disruption for NGOs have resulted in suspension or reduction of the surveillance activities in many marine protected areas. It is therefore expected that illegal activities (illegal fishing) may have increased during this period.

? MPAs had to prepare for re-scheduled fieldwork and had to purchase necessary gear (masks, gloves etc.). Some MPAs had to recruit locals and are preparing to adapt surveillance to the new situation and restrictions still in place: managing people on the beach, avoid overfishing and discussing with local fishermen, etc.

? Many awareness raising activities have been cancelled to respect social distancing.

? Tourism sector has been severely affected, thus the revenues expected for the local communities have been impaired. In most MPAs, local economy depends on tourism activities and thus suffered a lot with the closure of all hotels, restaurants, boat rentals, diving clubs, etc. Local fishers were affected by the absence of tourism activities. They generally reduced their activity and fish price dropped in many places.

? Despite all these challenges, a very good feedback has been reported from protected areas with a dynamic co-management unit, supported by sustainable funding (e.g., from the Medfund). The planned activities funded by the MedFund have been carried out throughout 2020, with minor adjustments, enabling an effective management and demonstrating the resilience of the conservation model. The MedFund secretariat gathers feedback from the grantees on the field to capitalize on the best practices.

? Networking activities (sharing-experience workshops, trainings, exchange visits) have been cancelled; some of them have been organized online when the topic enabled it; most of them have been postponed.

In the medium term:

? The MPAs? surrounding local communities are vulnerable to economic and social crisis. MPAs have to pave the way for a sustainable and inclusive development of these areas, demonstrating the opportunities and socio-economic benefits they can offer when they are well-managed.

? The recovery plans are being designed nationally and internationally, they will need to support ecosystems recovery as a condition for building resilient local communities.

? Concerning the operations, the shift to remote working, flexible teams, online meetings will remain a long-term trend. However, the need to have qualified people on-site to manage the MPAs will remain crucial for the effectiveness of the MPAs and to secure conservation assets.

? Several networking activities will have to be organized online (experience sharing technical events, trainings?) if the topic allows it (topic that does not require any field practice). Some trainings with small group of participants could be organized with flexible logistic options.

? Outbreak diseases will have to be mainstreamed within MPAs? management plans.

In the long term:

? There are a lot of uncertainties regarding the evolution of the pandemic in the next decade, much depends on what the governments will decide. However, the MPAs need to adapt, learn and develop crisis response mechanisms to be more resilient and ensure continuity in the conservation planning in the long term. On the long run there is a probability that national budgets dedicated to environmental issues become

scarce and that more private funds will be needed to support MPAs; public-private partnerships will have to be further developed (with appropriate legislation to be developed in Mediterranean countries). New innovative funding mechanisms may be necessary at local and national levels to support MPAs day to day operations and management.

Some changes in the operations of MPA are foreseen as a result from this pandemic:

? An effective co-management, associating national authorities and local NGOs, supported by communities, combines the strength of the regulatory framework and the reactivity and proximity to the field of NGOs, which has ensured a presence in MPAs even during the crisis and will help address the challenges brought by future crisis.

? Business models should be carefully designed while integrating revenues from tourism, instead securing long-term alternative and sustainable financing will be essential.

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.

Implementing Agency:

Conservation International GEF Project Agency (CI-GEF) will be the implementing agency for the proposed project. CI-GEF will support the project implementation by maintaining oversight of all technical and financial management aspects, which includes oversight of project execution to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with GEF standards and requirements. CI-GEF will monitor the project's implementation and achievement of project objectives, outcomes, and outputs, ensure proper use of GEF funds, and review/approve procurement plans, budgets and workplans. CI-GEF will approve quarterly technical and financial reports and, furthermore, the annual Project Implementation Reports (PIRs) prior to GEF submission. Finally, CI-GEF will make recommendations to optimize project performance and will arbitrate and ensure resolution of any execution conflicts.

Executing Agencies:

The project will be executed by two executing agencies, bringing their complementary expertise and added-value to the project execution. The MedFund will be the executing agency for components 1 and 4; MedPAN will be the executing agency for components 2, 3 and 4. Components 1 and 4 will be executed during a 5 years-period. Components 2 and 3 will be executed during a 3 year-period, but MedPAN will dedicate staff time to ensure monitoring and evaluation of project outcomes after this 3 year-period. Both agencies will sign a grant agreement with CI-GEF. They will be both responsible for:

- ? overall execution and management of their respective components
- ? ensuring that their respective project outcomes and outputs are achieved.
- ? effective coordination between the two executing partners.
- ? monitoring and evaluation of project interventions.

- ? ensuring that environmental and social safeguards are adhered to and that the Environmental and Social Management Framework is implemented; and
- ? effective and efficient use of GEF resources.

Both agencies will be responsible for executing the project, including managing the various project related activities directly, managing sub-contracts, project staffing, and use of project funds. Both agencies will provide individual financial reports to CI-GEF on the project budgets that they will manage in delivering the outputs. Agencies will jointly report technically to CI-GEF. They will jointly elaborate the quarterly progress reports, the annual Project Implementation Report (PIR) and the Final Project Report. The MedFund will coordinate the development of these reports.

A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established and will comprise representatives from the national Governments (GEF OFP), SPA/RAC, IUCN Med, FPAN and OFB. This will be confirmed at project start. MedFund and MedPAN will organize and facilitate PSC meetings; and will sit in the PSC without voting rights. Representatives of beneficiary countries and key partners will also be invited. The PSC will meet annually and will be responsible for providing input to project planning, approving annual work plans and budgets, reviewing and approving any key project outputs and deliverables, and providing efforts to facilitate successful project execution, as appropriate.

The MedFund and MedPAN staff will play a core role in project execution by serving in the Project Management Units (MU) that will be established in both Agencies and that will be hosted in their respective headquarters (the MedFund being hosted by the Prince Albert II Foundation in Monaco and MedPAN in Marseille). The PMUs will be responsible for overall project management, supervising sub-grantees and consultants, ensuring project success, and liaising with and reporting to the CI-GEF Project Agency. Both Agencies will co-finance the positions that are part of the PMU and will have a similar structure in staffing, therefore the budget reflects similar positions which will be based in their respective offices.

At the MedFund, the PMU will be led by a MedFund Overall Lead who will be supported by the Administrative and financial executive assistant and a Technical Lead. The PMU at the MedFund will be responsible for day-to-day execution of the project activities including oversight of the sub-grantees that will implement activities in the MPAs through this GEF financial support.

At MedPAN, the PMU will be led by the MedPAN Overall Lead who will be supported by the MedPAN Financial Lead. The PMU at MedPAN will be responsible for day-to-day project technical and financial coordination. The PMU will be supported by dedicated MedPAN staff for executing the project activities under components 2 and 3, including an MPA support manager, a scientific manager, a communication and logistic support officer, a communication manager and a data officer.

Specific roles and responsibilities of staff that are charging to both components and PMC are defined in the Terms of Reference joined in Appendix IX.

Table 7: Roles and Responsibilities of organizations involved in the Project

Organization	Role and Responsibilities
CI GEF Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Provide technical and financial oversight ? Oversee mid-term evaluation (at 30 months), restructure project if necessary and report to GEF secretariat ? Supervise the preparation of annual Project Implementation Reports (PIR) ? Organize at least one supervision mission per year ? Oversee the annual and final project audits
PMUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Operational and technical management of the Project in conformity with the Project Document and the recommendations of the Steering Committee ? Coordination of the project execution ? Financial management of the project ? Compilation of workplans, reports and any other documents needed for the management of the project ? Supervision and technical monitoring of subgrants ? Communication of objectives, activities and results of the project ? Organize quarterly project monitoring meetings; review technical and financial reports ? Prepare Project Implementation Report
Steering Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Approve workplans and budgets proposed by PMU ? Supervision and provision of advice to the PMU ? Advocating on behalf of project if necessary

The MedFund Overall Lead and MedPAN Overall Lead will ensure that the GEF Operational Focal Points (OFPs) for Albania, Algeria, Lebanon, Montenegro Morocco and Tunisia are properly engaged in the project and that they participate in the inception workshop, thus ensuring country ownership of and engagement with the project, and regular communication with them during the project. They will also ensure engagement of key Mediterranean partners in the project to ensure synergies.

The CI-GEF Project Agency will provide project assurance, including supporting project implementation by maintaining oversight of all technical and financial management aspects, and providing other assistance upon request of the Executing Agency. The CI-GEF Project Agency will also monitor the project's implementation and achievement of the project objectives, outcomes and outputs, ensure the proper use of

GEF funds, and review and approve any changes in budgets or workplans. The CI-GEF Project Agency will arbitrate and ensure resolution of any execution conflicts.

Figure 9. Project execution organizational chart

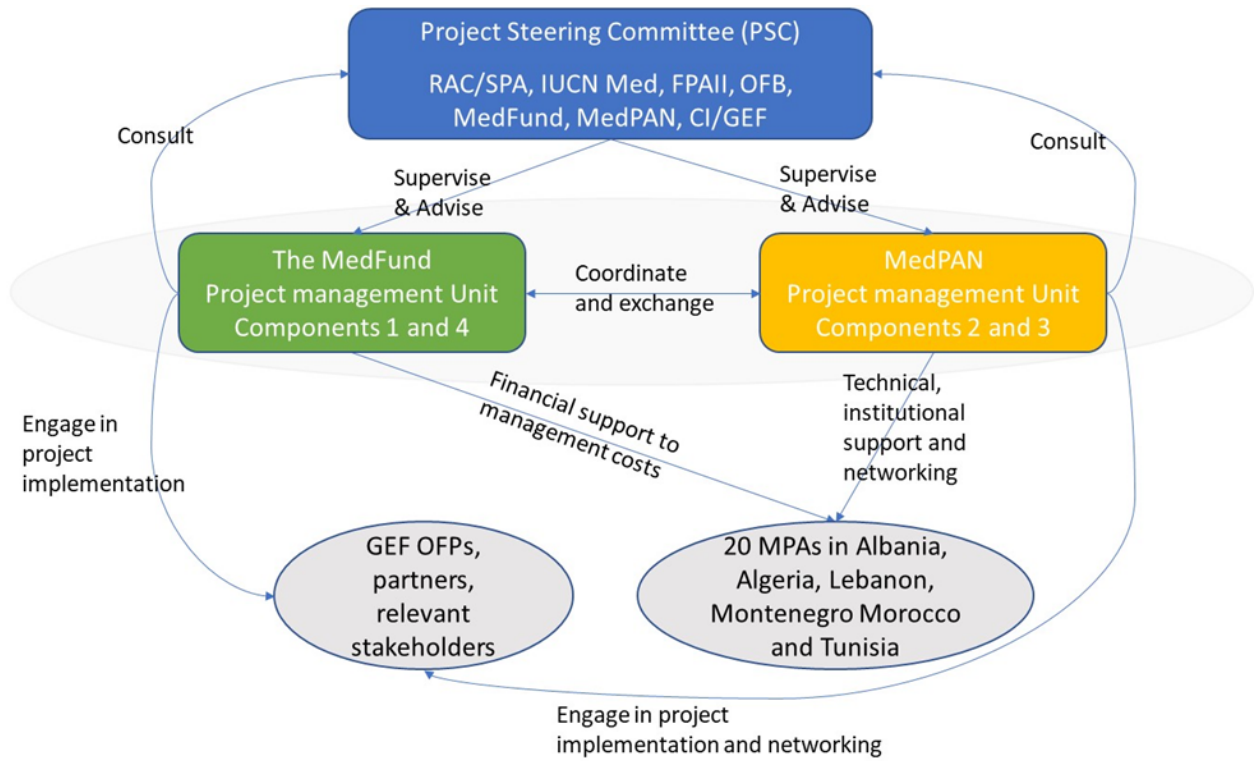
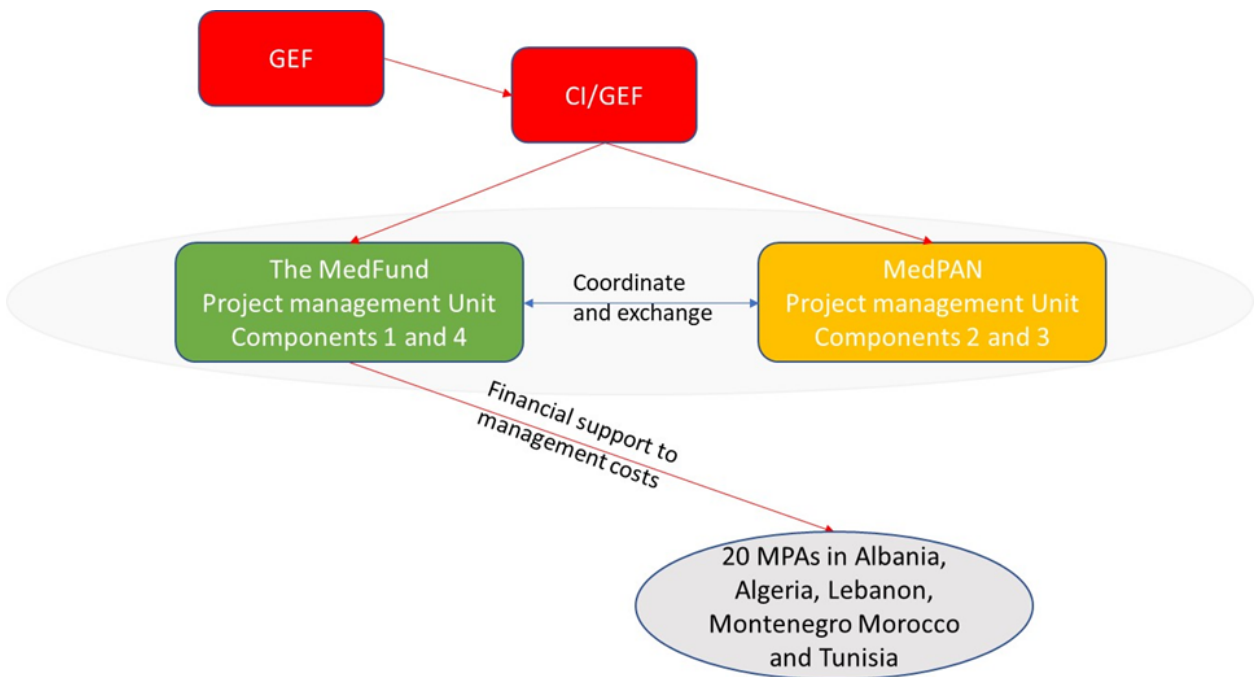


Figure 10. Financial flows



Coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives:

This project will coordinate closely with other ongoing GEF projects and other initiatives at the national, regional and international levels. Some of these projects are identified in the Table below.

Other Relevant Projects and Initiatives

GEF Projects Other Projects/Initiatives	Linkages and Coordination
<p>?Blue Nature Alliance to expand and improve conservation of 1.25 billion hectares of ocean ecosystems? global project (GEF ID 10375, PPG ongoing)</p>	<p>The Alliance aims to deploy the vast majority of project capital directly into the creation, expansion, or improved management of ocean conservation areas, inclusive of key biodiversity hotspots, coastal habitats, such as coral reefs, mangroves, and kelp forests, and open ocean ecosystems, including highly productive seamounts and essential fish habitat for ocean health and food security.</p> <p>This Alliance will be generating significant scientific information and other knowledge which can be capitalized upon in this proposed project, as well as create learning opportunities in particular for MPA practitioners and managers.</p>
<p>?Long-term Financial Mechanism to Enhance Mediterranean MPA Management Effectiveness? (2018-30 Sept 2021; GEF ID 9959).</p>	<p>The objective of this project was to establish a Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) to enhance the management effectiveness of Mediterranean MPAs through improving their long-term financial sustainability. The project formally established The MedFund and promoted its capitalization, having mobilized ?6M by mid-2019. The proposed project will be further capitalizing The MedFund, to address the sustainable financing of 20 Mediterranean MPAs. Moreover, it will leverage the lessons learnt from a key study launched by project ID 9959 on the financial needs and management effectiveness baselines of participating MPAs.</p> <p>The proposed project is a direct continuation of this previous GEF project.</p>

Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security (concept approved; GEF ID 9607; GEF financing: USD 42,376,147; Albania, **Algeria**, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco and Tunisia).

The Mediterranean countries have worked together with GEF IW support since the late 90's to set priorities related to national, as well as transboundary environmental concerns and have jointly agreed on the interventions needed to address these priorities in two Strategic Action Programs (SAPs): the Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land-Based Activities (SAP-MED); and the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP-BIO). Following the formal adoption by the Barcelona Convention of the two Strategic Action Programs (SAP-MED and SAP-BIO - 2005 and 2003), the Mediterranean countries translated the SAP priorities into National Action Plans (NAPs), and benefited from the GEF Funded MedPartnership programme (2007-2018; UNEP/MAP - GEF ID 2600) which supported countries in the initial implementation of the SAPs and of the newly developed ICZM Protocol, which was adopted in 2011.

The MedProgramme is a five-year project (2020-2024) funded by the GEF, coordinated by UNEP/MAP in partnership with UNESCO/IHP, EIB, IUCN Med, GWP Med, WWF Med and the UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centres [Plan Bleu](#) (France), [PAP/RAC](#) (Croatia), [SCP/RAC](#) (Spain) and [SPA/RAC](#) (Tunisia). The objective is to kick start the implementation of agreed upon priority actions to reduce the major transboundary environmental stresses affecting the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas, while strengthening climate resilience and water security, and improving the health and livelihoods of coastal populations. Its focus will be on hotspots of land-based pollution, harmful chemicals and wastes (POPs and Mercury), and excess nutrients; critical sections of the coastal zone particularly affected by climatic variability, freshwater stress and habitat degradation; the efficient and sustainable management of priority marine protected areas.

Linkages with this program will be made through regular information exchange as the MedProgramme also addresses a more efficient management of the sea and coastal zones by strengthening MPA networks and management. MedPAN is already a close partner of the UNEP/MAP SPA/RAC for coordinating several activities together; especially under the joint MAVA project on MPAs and no-take zones, and the joint MAVA project on marine turtles. In order to enhance synergies between projects, UNEP/MAP could be invited to the annual GEF (the MedFund/MedPAN project) steering committees.

<p>Fisheries and Ecosystem Based Management for the Blue Economy of the Mediterranean - (FishEBM MED) (PIF approved; GEF ID 10560; Albania, Algeria, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey).</p>	<p>Implemented by FAO/UNEP and executed by the GFCM, the project objective is 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.</p> <p>Linkages with this project will be made through information exchange, especially for activities related to small-scale fisheries, as the proposed project also targets this sector (Component 2). Existing connections between MedPAN and GFCM will facilitate exchanges, as MedPAN is part of the Friends of Small-Scale Fisheries platform, a regional network of actors sharing common interests and objectives for the sector, which is coordinated by the GFCM. MedPAN will be thus involved in the different activities developed by the GFCM on SSF (evaluation of the ROAP-SSF, SSF Forum 2022?) ; and in the GFCM 2030 strategy.</p> <p>In order to enhance synergies between projects, GFCM could be invited to the annual GEF (MedFund/MedPAN project) steering committees</p>
<p>Promoting Protected Areas Management through Integrated Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Protection in Coastal Area of Montenegro (GEF ID 9762).</p>	<p>This project aims to improve the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine biodiversity through effective management of the coastal and marine protected areas (C / MPAs) subsystem by addressing institutional and financial sustainability. Started in 2018, this project is protecting valuable coastal and marine biodiversity assets and is establishing the integrated subsystem of C / MPAs, and is improving the management effectiveness in the C / MPAs in Platamuni, Katici and Stari Ulcinj critical land/seascape.</p> <p>At the end of this GEF project ID 9762, as the three MPAs of Platamuni, Katici and Stari Ulcinj have been officially designated in 2021. The MedFund and MedPAN are now in a position to support them financially and technically, directly ensuring continuity with this GEF support.</p>

[4] Moreover, the MedPartnership programme supported the Regional Project for the Development of a Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Protected Areas Network through the boosting of MPAs creation and management (MedMPAnet), which was one of the first initiatives to address sustainable financing of MPAs in a systemic fashion. The MedMPAnet project: a) identified, listed, and ecologically assessed 24 priority areas of conservation interest for the creation of national MPA networks in Croatia, Lebanon, Morocco and Montenegro; b) provided support for ecological and socioeconomic characterization, zoning, and management planning of four new MPAs in Albania (Porto Palermo Bay), Algeria (R?ghaia), Morocco (Cap des Trois Fourches), and Tunisia (Kuriat Islands); and c) supported the financial sustainability of MPAs at three demonstration sites in Albania, Algeria, and Morocco.

It also supported the "Working Together for More Efficient Protected Marine Areas in the Mediterranean" (MedPAN South) project (2009-2012). The project, through a combination of initiatives at the regional and

national level, addressed several shortfalls that prevented MPAs from becoming operational. At the regional level, the project delivered on building the capacity of MPA practitioners and strengthening the network of MPAs in the region. At the national level, this project worked in five countries (Algeria, Croatia, Libya, Tunisia, and Turkey) to ensure that MPAs became operational through providing training, and equipment, developing standardized management plans, scientifically sound monitoring schemes, and financial strategies.

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.

Table 8: Consistency with International, Regional and National Priorities, Plans and Policies

Priorities, plans and policies	Project Consistency
International Level	
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	<p>The CBD sets conservation objectives to which Contracting Parties are committed. Specifically, during the 10th Conference of Parties of the CBD in 2010, the Aichi Biodiversity targets were adopted as part of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. Aichi Target 11 in particular states that "by 2020 at least 10 % of coastal and marine areas [...] are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area based conservation measures".</p> <p>By targeting the effective management of Mediterranean MPAs, the proposed project is fully aligned with the CBD, and Aichi Target 11. The project will make significant contributions to Aichi Target 11[1] by enhancing the effective management of Mediterranean MPAs.</p>

<p>2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</p>	<p>Sustainable development goal 14 recognizes the pivotal role of marine conservation: 'Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development'.</p> <p>The project, by supporting effective management of MPAs and their sustainable financing, as well as its work on bringing relevant knowledge to MPA managers and other key decision-makers, will contribute to multiple targets under SDG 14, including in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Target 14.2 aiming to 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; - Target 14.4 aiming to 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; - Target 14.5 aiming to 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; and - Target 14.6 aiming to prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation.
<p>Ramsar Convention</p>	<p>Aims to develop and maintain an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the ecological and hydrological functions they perform. Several MPAs to be supported by the project are also Ramsar sites. By supporting the effective management of Mediterranean MPA, the project is therefore aligned to the Ramsar Convention</p>
<p>World Heritage Convention</p>	<p>Aims to catalogue, name, and conserve sites of outstanding cultural or natural importance to the common culture and heritage of humanity. Several MPAs in the Mediterranean are also recognized as World heritage sites. By supporting the management of MPAs, the project will therefore indirectly contribute to the conservation of world heritage sites.</p>
<p>Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)/ Bonn Convention</p>	<p>Provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats. By supporting the effective management of Mediterranean MPA and in particular Mediterranean collaborative approach to better manage marine turtles and cetaceans, the project will contribute to the protection of key habitats and key migratory animals.</p>
<p>Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)</p>	<p>Aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. By supporting the effective management of MPA, the project will contribute to limiting illegal poaching in these areas, and therefore is fully aligned with CITES.</p>

<p>UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).</p>	<p>The ultimate objective of the Convention is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations "at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human induced) interference with the climate system." It states that "such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened, and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner."</p> <p>By supporting the effective management of MPAs and no-take zones, the project will strengthen their potential as carbon sinks and as an adaptation option. It is therefore fully aligned with both climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives</p>
<p>Regional Level</p>	
<p>Convention for Biological Diversity and Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (1995).</p>	<p>The project will support the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, and thereby support the Barcelona Convention's Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol). The Protocol envisages three main elements in order to ensure the safeguard of biological diversity in the Mediterranean: a) The creation, protection and management of Specially Protected Areas (SPAs); b) The establishment of a list of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs); and c) The protection and conservation of species.</p>
<p>SAP BIO (Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean region).</p>	<p>This project will directly contribute to the implementation of the SAP BIO in the Mediterranean Region, in particular the enhancement of management of existing Marine and Coastal Protected Areas, in terms of (i) devoting sufficient resources to funding the management of current Protected Areas; (ii) improving methods of management planning, implementation and monitoring of Marine and Coastal protected areas; and (iii) integrating specific protection measures at particular locations within wider management plans, as well as into large scale networks of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas.</p> <p>A Post-2020 SAP-BIO is under development.</p>

<p>Mediterranean MPAs Roadmap</p>	<p>In 2012 a Roadmap to establish a comprehensive and coherent network of Mediterranean MPAs was developed, and revised in 2016. The roadmap defines the steps that Mediterranean States, relevant organizations and other stakeholders could individually and/or jointly undertake to achieve, by 2020, the objectives set for the network of MPAs. It is not legally binding, although it intends to make contributions to decision-making processes under the following conventions, agreements, and policies: Barcelona Convention, Convention on Biological Diversity, European policies, Convention on Climate Change, Sustainable Development Goals, SAP BIO (Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean region). The Roadmap to 2020's Strategic Objectives were to: 1) Establish an ecological network of MPAs which is representative and connected; 2) Establish in Mediterranean MPAs an effective, efficient and sustainable management as well as a good governance; 3) Develop a Mediterranean MPAs governance which is integrated on a territorial level and with other sectors while promoting the sharing of environmental and socio-economic benefits; 4) Increase the allocation of financial resources to establish and maintain an ecological network of effectively managed MPAs; and 5) Strengthen and develop the role of MPAs as a marine spatial management tool in supporting ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation to climate change. The Roadmap is currently being revisited for the Post-2020 period, to which this project will make significant contributions, including regarding its monitoring follow-up and evaluation processes.</p> <p>It is noteworthy that the 2020 MPA Roadmap has served as a basis of the Barcelona Convention 2020 MPA Roadmap. The Post-2020 Roadmap will be complementary to the Barcelona Convention Post 2020 MPA Strategy.</p>
<p>General Fisheries Commission to the Mediterranean (GFCM) Mid-term strategy (2017-2020) towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries</p>	<p>The main objective of the GFCM is to ensure the conservation and the sustainable use, at the biological, social, economic and environmental level, of living marine resources as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean and in the Black Sea. It has the authority to adopt resolutions and binding recommendations for fisheries conservation and management in its area of application and plays a critical role in fisheries governance in the region. The project is well aligned with the mid-term strategy of the GFCM that has the following five targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Target 1. Reverse the declining trend of fish stocks through strengthened scientific advice in support of management; - Target 2: Support livelihoods for coastal communities through sustainable small-scale fisheries; - Target 3: Curb illegal unreported and unregulated fishing, through a regional plan of action; - Target 4: Minimize and mitigate unwanted interactions between fisheries and marine ecosystems and environment; and - Target 5: Enhance capacity-building and cooperation. <p>It will make particular contributions to Targets 1, 4, and 5 by enhancing knowledge sharing on sustainable fisheries to support management and support evidence-based GFCM regulations for fisheries management. In addition, it will make contributions to improving ecosystem health through more effective management of MPAs and addressing issues of sustainable fisheries. Finally, through its support for MPA networks at regional and international levels, it will contribute to enhancing cooperation for better management of fisheries. The GFCM is currently developing its 2030 vision and new strategy.</p>

Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea (RPOA-SSF, 2018).	This Plan of Action contains concrete actions to be carried out over the next 10 years (until 2028) aimed at increasing the long-term environmental, economic and social sustainability of small-scale fisheries
EU legislation	At European Union (EU) level, several instruments are important for marine conservation, with which the objective is fully aligned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Council of Europe's Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979), or Bern Convention which aims to protect both species and habitats and to bring countries together to decide how to act on nature conservation in Europe and some African States. - The Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive require EU Member States to protect important habitats and species by establishing protected areas known as Natura 2000 sites. - The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) aims to achieve the Good Environmental Status (GES) of European Union marine waters. - The Water Framework Directive sets the broad scope for action and ambitious goals for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater. - The EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) which sets rules for managing European fishing fleets and for conserving fish stocks. - The new EU Green Deal that includes targets on MPAs

At the national level, the project is well-aligned with the following national strategies and policies:

Albania

- Law for Protected Area (v.2, 2008)
- Law on Biodiversity Protection (2006)
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (1999)
- Law on Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution and Damage (2002)
- Law on Fishery (2012)
- Law on Environmental Protection (2011)
- Sector Strategy on Tourism 2007-2013

Algeria

- ? Coastal protection and conservation law (2002) which includes article 4 which encourages the classification of the sites presenting an ecological, landscape, cultural and tourist character in the coastal development strategic documents,
- ? Protected Area law 11-02 which set up the structure in charge of examining and validating the studies on the classification of protected areas
- ? National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (v.2, 2016)
- ? Plan AQUAPECHE 2020 (adopted in 2014 for a 5 year implementation period).

Lebanon

? Protected Areas Framework Law? issued in April 2019. The law defined four categories of protected areas; establish the creation, governance, management and budget of nature reserves; and establish sanctions for violations of the nature reserves system

? Lebanon?s Marine Protected Area Strategy, developed in 2012. This Strategy defines the following goal: The establishment of a network of marine protected areas, established and managed within an integrated marine management framework, that contributes to the health of Lebanon?s sea and marine environment.

? National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (v.2, 2016)

Montenegro

? Law on Nature Protection (2008), aiming to transpose the key EU legislation in this area, such as Habitats and Birds Directives. It had several subsequent changes and amendments.

? Law on National Parks (No56/09 and 28/2014). The Law defines the borders, level of protection, development limitations within natural parks, permitted resource uses and how the national parks should be managed

? Law on Public Maritime Domain (OG 14/92), regulating the management of the narrow coastal strip designated as public maritime domain, its use, improvement and protection.

? National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (v.2, 2017)

? Fisheries strategy of Montenegro 2015-2020 with an Action plan for transposition, implementation and enforcement of EU regulations

Morocco

? Protected area law 22-07/2010: Defines the 5 categories of PAs, which can be terrestrial and/or marine (Box 1); Describes the management of PAs in multiple zones; Introduces the procedure for creation (with consultation of the authorities and the public) and management (with development plan); Provides for the delegation of partial or total management of the protected area; Settles property rights; Provides for infractions and sanctions

? Coastal zone law 81-12/2015, establishing a framework for integrated management including: a National Coastal Plan and regional plans; a 100-meter coastal non-constructible Zone; impact study for coastal projects and infrastructures.

? Strategy for the Development of MPAs for fisheries

? Protected areas Master Plan (1996)

? National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (v.3, 2016)

Tunisia

? Marine and coastal protected areas Law 2009-49, defining marine and coastal protected areas, their establishment, management, governance and legal issues

- ? Application decrees
- ? National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (v.3 ? 2017)
- ? National Strategy for the Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Tunisia by 2020
- ? National Adaptation Plan

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.

Communication and knowledge management is central to the project strategy, as it is embedded directly in Components 2 (Mediterranean level) and 3 (national, sub-regional, and global levels). The approach will overall rely on the following building blocks:

- ? identifying and using the lessons learned from ongoing and prior initiatives to inform project interventions;
- ? support learning and training for Mediterranean MPA managers and other key stakeholders on key topics to strengthen effective management; and
- ? knowledge and experience sharing for technical support and joint policy mobilization through networks within and beyond the Mediterranean, through a range of interventions including the link with IW:LEARN.

A knowledge management plan will be produced during the first year of implementation, including budget and timeline. It will be integrated under Output 2.1.4.

Most of the activities proposed under Component 2 are related to knowledge management:

- ? Activities under output 2.1.1 will include the development of trainings.
- ? Activities under output 2.1.2 will include the organization of 3 annual Mediterranean experience sharing workshops.
- ? Activities under output 2.1.3 will include the operationalization of thematic working groups that will communicate and generate knowledge for the whole network of Mediterranean MPAs.
- ? Activities under output 2.1.4 will focus on developing and disseminate outreach material.

Knowledge management costs of a total of USD 322,530 include:

- Part of MedPAN communication and logistic support officer staff time: USD 34,524
- Part of MedPAN communication manager staff time: USD 23,477
- Consultant fees to develop training modules: USD 36,300

- Consultant fees to develop outreach material: USD 35,250
- Training sessions: USD 65,400
- Annual Mediterranean experience sharing workshops: USD 72,515
- Thematic working groups sessions: USD 55,064

Several outputs under Component 3 are related to communications:

- ? Activities under output 3.1.2 will include the organization of the 2024/2025 Mediterranean MPA forum that is a key area for communicating and generating knowledge and commitment amongst the MPA community.
- ? Activities under output 3.2.1 will include memorandum of cooperation to share information, contacts data, best practices etc. between national and sub-regional networks and the MedPAN.
- ? Activities under output 3.2.2 will focus on developing communication pieces for Mediterranean stakeholders to promote benefits and needs of MPA.
- ? Activities under output 3.3.1 will include sharing knowledge and resources between MPA and CTF networks beyond the Mediterranean.

Knowledge gathered through Outcome 3.1 activities relating to the follow-up and monitoring of the Post-2020 Mediterranean MPAs Roadmap will contribute to better inform decision-making and better implementation of policy commitments.

Extensive knowledge gathered through Components 2 will be further shared across networks through different platforms, including a link with IW:LEARN. Outreach material will be submitted to IW:LEARN, and MPA Mediterranean spatial data (available in MAPAMED) will be made available to IW:LEARN. Furthermore, MedPAN and/or the MedFund will participate to the biennial IWC. Their websites will also include a direct link to IW:LEARN. In total, the costs associated to developing and submitting outreach material to IW:LEARN is estimated at USD 58,727.

Online platforms will be particularly relevant to enable effective communication while allowing for social distancing, in the context of COVID-19.

The knowledge management and communication approach of the project will capitalize on the specific skills and capacities of women and other vulnerable groups, to ensure they can also be agents of change in decision-making processes. This will be enabled through participatory approaches, including encouraging good practices for the co-management of MPAs, and continued engagement with the communities and vulnerable groups throughout project implementation.

The project will also ensure coordination with other initiatives to avoid overlap, share good practices, and generate knowledge products.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

Project monitoring and evaluation will be conducted in accordance with established Conservation International and GEF procedures by the MedFund PMU, with support from MedPan, and the CI-GEF Project Agency. The project's M&E plan will be presented and finalized at the project inception workshop, including a review of indicators, means of verification, and the full definition of project staff M&E responsibilities.

A. Monitoring and Evaluation Roles and Responsibilities

The MedFund Project Management Unit will be responsible for initiating and organizing key monitoring and evaluation tasks, with support from MedPAN PMU. This includes the project inception workshop and report, quarterly progress reporting, annual progress and implementation reporting, documentation of lessons learned, and support for and cooperation with the independent external evaluation exercises.

The MedFund PMU, with support from MedPAN, will be responsible for ensuring the monitoring and evaluation activities are carried out in a timely and comprehensive manner, and for initiating key monitoring and evaluation activities, such as the independent evaluation exercises.

Key project executing partners are responsible for providing any and all required information and data necessary for timely and comprehensive project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary and appropriate.

The Project Steering Committee plays a key oversight role for the project, with regular meetings to receive updates on project implementation progress and approve annual workplans. The Project Steering Committee also provides continuous ad-hoc oversight and feedback on project activities, responding to inquiries or requests for approval from the Project Management Units or Executing Agencies.

The CI-GEF Project Agency plays an overall assurance, backstopping, and oversight role with respect to monitoring and evaluation activities.

The CI General Counsel's Office with the Grants and Contracts Unit are responsible for contracting and oversight of the planned independent external evaluation exercises at the mid-point and end of the project.

B. Monitoring, Evaluation and Project Management Costs Activities

The Project M&E Plan includes the following components (see M&E Table 9 for details).

a. Inception workshop

Project inception workshop will be held within the first three months of project start with the project stakeholders. An overarching objective of the inception workshop is to assist the 2 project teams in understanding and taking ownership of the project's objectives and outcomes. The inception workshop will be used to detail the roles, support services and complementary responsibilities of the CI-GEF Project Agency and the Executing Agencies.

b. Inception workshop Report

The Executing Agencies, under the coordination of The MedFund, will produce an inception report documenting all changes and decisions made during the inception workshop to the project planned activities, budget, results framework, and any other key aspects of the project. The inception report will be produced within one month of the inception workshop, as it will serve as a key input to the timely planning and execution of project start-up and activities.

c. Project Results Monitoring Plan (Objective, Outcomes, and Outputs)

A Project Results Monitoring Plan will be developed by the Executing Agencies, coordinated by The MedFund, which will include objective, outcome and output indicators, metrics to be collected for each indicator, methodology for data collection and analysis, baseline information, location of data gathering, frequency of data collection, responsible parties, and indicative resources needed to complete the plan. Appendix IV provides the Project Results Monitoring Plan table that will help complete this M&E component.

In addition to the objective, outcome, and output indicators, the Project Results Monitoring Plan table will also include all indicators identified in the Safeguard Plans prepared for the project, thus they will be consistently and timely monitored.

The monitoring of these indicators throughout the life of the project will be necessary to assess if the project has successfully achieved its expected results.

d. GEF Core Indicator Worksheet

The relevant section of the GEF Core Indicator Worksheet was updated for the CEO endorsement submission. This worksheet will also be updated i) prior to mid-term review, and ii) prior to the terminal evaluation.

e. Project Steering Committee Meetings

Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings will be held annually. Meetings will be held to review and approve project annual budget and work plans, discuss implementation issues and identify solutions, and to increase coordination and communication between key project partners. The meetings held by the PSC will be monitored and results adequately reported.

f. CI-GEF Project Agency Field Supervision Missions

The CI-GEF PA will conduct annual visits to project field sites based on the agreed schedule in the project's Inception Report/Annual Work Plan to assess firsthand project progress. Oversight visits will most likely be conducted to coincide with the timing of PSC meetings. Other members of the PSC may

also join field visits. A Field Visit Report will be prepared by the CI-GEF PA staff participating in the oversight mission, and will be circulated to the project team and PSC members within one month of the visit.

g. Half yearly Progress Reporting

The Executing Agencies, under the coordination of The MedFund, will submit joint half yearly progress reports to the CI-GEF Project Agency, including a budget follow-up and requests for disbursement to cover expected half yearly expenditures.

This half yearly progress reporting will be complemented by quarterly partner meetings where The MedFund, MedPAN and CI-GEF will discuss the progress in project implementation and any challenges faced during the past quarter.

h. Annual Project Implementation Report (PIR)

The Executing Agencies, under the coordination of The MedFund, will prepare a joint annual PIR to monitor progress made since project start and in particular for the reporting period (July 1st to June 30th). The PIR will summarize the annual project result and progress. A summary of the report will be shared with the Project Steering Committee.

i. Final Project Report

The Executing Agencies, under the coordination of The MedFund, will draft a joint final report at the end of the project.

j. Independent External Mid-term Review

The project will undergo an independent Mid-term Review within 30 days of the mid-point of the grant term. The Mid-term Review will determine progress being made toward the achievement of outcomes and will identify course correction if needed. The Mid-term Review will highlight issues requiring decisions and actions, and will present initial lessons learned about project design, implementation and management. Findings and recommendations of the Mid-term Review will be incorporated for adaptive management, to secure maximum project results and sustainability during the second half of project implementation.

k. Independent Terminal Evaluation

An independent Terminal Evaluation will take place within six months after project completion and will be undertaken in accordance with CI and GEF guidance. The terminal evaluation will focus on the delivery of the project's results as initially planned (and as corrected after the mid-term evaluation, if any such correction took place). The Executing Agencies in collaboration with the PSC will provide a formal management answer to the findings and recommendations of the terminal evaluation.

l. Financial Statements Audit

Annual separate Financial reports submitted by the executing Agencies will be audited annually by external auditors appointed by the Executing Agencies. This is part of the PMC budget.

The Terms of References for the evaluations will be drafted by the CI-GEF PA in accordance with GEF requirements. The procurement and contracting for the independent evaluations will be handled by CI's General Counsel's Office. The funding for the evaluations will come from the project budget, as indicated at project approval.

Table 9: M&E Plan Summary

Type of M&E	Reporting Frequency	Responsible Parties	Indicative Budget from GEF (USD)
<i>a. Inception workshop</i>	Within three months of signing the CI Grant Agreement for GEF Projects	? Executing Agencies	USD 4,678
		? CI-GEF PA	
<i>b. Inception workshop Report</i>	Within one month of inception workshop	? Executing Agencies (lead The MedFund)	
		? CI-GEF PA	
<i>c. Project Results Monitoring Plan (Objective, Outcomes and Outputs)</i>	Annually (data on indicators will be gathered according to monitoring plan schedule shown on Appendix IV)	? Executing Agencies (lead The MedFund)	USD 37,209
		? CI-GEF PA	
<i>d. GEF Indicator Tracker</i>	i) Project development phase; ii) prior to project mid-term evaluation; and iii) project completion	? Executing Agencies (lead The MedFund)	USD 6,201
		? CI-GEF PA	
<i>e. CI-GEF Project Agency Field Supervision Missions</i>	Approximately annual visits	? CI-GEF PA	<i>*Included in CI-GEF Agency fees</i>
<i>f. Annual Project Implementation Report (PIR)</i>	Annually for the fiscal year ending June 30	? Executing Agencies (lead The MedFund)	USD 12,403
		? CI-GEF PA	
<i>g. Project Completion Report</i>	Upon project operational closure	? Executing Agencies (lead The MedFund)	USD 6,201
<i>h. Independent External Mid-term Review</i>	Approximate mid-point of project implementation period	? CI Evaluation Office	USD 30,000
		? Executing Agencies (lead The MedFund)	

		? CI-GEF PA	
<i>i. Independent Terminal Evaluation</i>	Evaluation field mission within three months prior to project completion.	? CI Evaluation Office	USD 30,000
		? Executing Agencies (lead The MedFund)	
		? CI-GEF PA	
Summary M&E total			USD 126,693

Table 10: Project Management Costs (PMC) Summary

<i>Type of PMC</i>	<i>Reporting Frequency</i>	<i>Responsible Parties</i>	<i>Indicative Budget from GEF (USD)</i>
<i>a. Project Steering Committee Meetings</i>	Annually	? Executing Agencies (lead The MedFund)	USD 5,000
		? CI-GEF PA	
<i>b. Quarterly Financial Progress Reporting</i>	Quarterly	? Executing Agencies (lead The MedFund) Personnel costs per budget in the excel	USD 195,595
<i>c. Financial Statements Audit</i>	Annually	? Executing Agencies	The MedFund: USD 6,000 annually (USD 30,000 in total) MedPAN: USD 2,500 annually (USD 7,500 in total)
		? CI-GEF PA	
Summary PMC total			USD 238,095

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 (LDCF/SCCF)?

By improving the management effectiveness of 20 Mediterranean MPAs, the project is expected to generate a wide range of benefits for local economies and population that are inherent to well managed MPAs.

In addition to biodiversity benefits, the expected benefits of MPAs for coastal resources include an increase in fish abundance (net emigration of adults and juveniles across borders, termed 'spillover?'), biomass and fecundity (the increased production and exportation of pelagic eggs and larvae), which finally affect positively small-scale fisheries. A 2019 study on the evaluation of the socio-economic benefits of the Mediterranean MPAs showed that MPAs benefit local populations and economies, especially the fishing and tourism sectors. The study concludes that well-managed MPAs produce environmental benefits for the fishing resource (in terms of stock regeneration, density, diversity, weight, body size, fecundity and reproduction), and spillover effect. The ecosystem services they provide, benefit local populations by supporting local economies, supporting small-scale fishing, the growth of sustainable tourism and job creations. MPAs also play a vital role in maintaining and improving tourism activities. Tourism is a major contributor to gross domestic product and employment in many coastal states in the region. MPAs also help maintain local cultures, economies, and livelihoods which are intricately linked to the marine environment.

Regarding the overall economic impacts of MPAs' management, the 2019 Vertigo Lab study reveals the higher their level of protection and the budget allocated to their management are, the greater the socio-economic benefits will be. Case studies in Al Hoceima National Park and Kuriat Island showed that when EUR 1,000 is spent on their management, EUR 13,000 are generated for the local economy. To evaluate economic impacts of an effectively managed and enforced Mediterranean MPAs network, Vertigo Lab applied this latter result to the budget needed to effectively manage such a network in the Mediterranean Sea. This amount has been evaluated by Binet et al. (2015) and equals 754.5 M?. Thus, the study concludes that when effectively managed and enforced, a Mediterranean MPA network could generate in total 9,808.5 M? in the area.

In addition, studies increasingly highlight the importance of the role of MPAs in climate change adaptation and mitigation. For instance, research by Roberts et al. (2017) found that well-managed marine reserves may help marine ecosystems and people adapt to five prominent impacts of climate change: acidification, sea-level rise, intensification of storms, shifts in species distribution, and decreased productivity and oxygen availability, as well as their cumulative effects. They also concluded that marine reserves are a viable low-tech, cost-effective adaptation strategy that would yield multiple co-benefits from local to global scales, improving the outlook for the environment and people into the future.

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	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.

Following approval of the PIF, all the proposed activities underwent a safeguard screening to determine eligibility under CI-GEF ESMF policies, the type of ESIA that they are subject to and if proposed project activities triggered any of the safeguards policies. The CI-GEF safeguards screening form was completed by The MedFund and MedPAN. Based on this and other available information, the CI-GEF Project Agency completed its safeguards analysis on 30 August 2021.

The Table below provides a summary of the environmental and social policies and standards that were triggered by the project and the justification of the screening results.

Table 11: Safeguard Screening Results

Environmental & Social Standard (ESS)	Triggered (Yes/No)	Justification
ESS 1: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)	No	No significant adverse environmental and social impacts that are sensitive, diverse, or unprecedented is anticipated.
ESS 2: Protection of Natural Habitats and Biodiversity Conservation	No	The Project is not proposing to alter natural habitats.
ESS 3: Resettlement and Physical and Economic Displacement	No	The Project is not proposing involuntary resettlement or restriction of access/use of natural resources.
ESS 4: Indigenous Peoples	No	The Project does not plan to work in lands or territories traditionally owned, customarily used, or occupied by indigenous peoples.

<p>ESS 5: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The project will not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) promote the trade in or use of any substances listed under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, or other chemicals or hazardous materials subject to international bans, restrictions or phaseouts due to high toxicity to living organisms, environmental persistence, potential for bioaccumulation, or potential depletion of the ozone layer, consistent with relevant international treaties and agreements; (b) generate wastes and effluents, and emissions of short- and long-lived climate pollutants; (c) involve pest management measures, Integrated Pest Management or Integrated Management of Vectors and Intermediate Hosts; (d) procure pesticides; or (e) use energy, water and other resources and material inputs, where significant water consumption is involved and would cause adverse impacts on communities, other water users, and the environment
<p>ESS 6: Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The project will not implement activities that affect cultural heritage</p>
<p>ESS 7: Labour and Working Conditions</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The MedFund and MedPAN have in place the necessary policies, procedures, systems and capabilities related to labour and working conditions</p>
<p>ESS 8: Community Health, Safety and Security</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No community health, safety and security threats that could be caused by the project have been identified</p>
<p>ESS 9: Private Sector Direct Investment and Financial Intermediaries</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The GEF funds will be directly invested in the MedFund through a sinking fund. The MedFund is committed to only make socially responsible investments, in alignment with its values and mission. As per its investment policy (attached in Appendix XII), the MedFund's investments must take into account environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria; in general, the extra-financial performance of assets must be fully integrated into the investment decision. In addition, it will be important to ensure that the investments made do not undermine other environmental objectives, by respecting the "do no significantly harm" principle.</p> <p>The Board of Directors adopts criteria in order to favour ethical and transparent investments that meet environmental, social or sustainable development objectives. The AFD/FFEM Group's exclusion list is an integral part of the investment strategy.</p>

ESS 10: Climate Risk and Related Disasters	Yes	The project identified moderate risks and planned risk mitigation/adaptation measures during the PPG
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Based on the safeguard screening process, the project is not expected to have any adverse environmental or social effects. Indeed, the nature of the activities being supported (more effective and sustainable MPA management) are intended to have positive environmental and social impacts.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
20211124 MedFund_MedPAN Secondary Safeguard Screening Analysis Results_revised	CEO Endorsement ESS	
20211124 MedFund_MedPAN Secondary Safeguard Screening Analysis Results	CEO Endorsement ESS	
20201013 Climate risk screening _medpan medfund	Project PIF ESS	
20200917 MedFund_MedPAN Preliminary Safeguard Screening Analysis Results	Project PIF ESS	

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

Objective:	Strong, effective, and sustainable management of Mediterranean MPAs to address global changes and to provide long-term socio-ecological benefits in the Mediterranean in a post COVID recovery context		
Indicator(s):	<p>a. (GEF Core indicator 2.1): Marine protected areas newly created (target: 213,186 ha)</p> <p>b. (GEF Core Indicator 2.2): Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness (target: 219,744 ha)</p> <p>c. (GEF Core Indicator 8): Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (Target: 18,058 metric tons of overexploited fisheries moves to more sustainable levels)</p>		
Expected Outcomes and Indicators	Project Baseline	End of Project Target	Expected Outputs and Indicators
Component 1: Sustainable financing support to core management costs of MPAs in the Mediterranean			

Expected Outcomes and Indicators	Project Baseline	End of Project Target	Expected Outputs and Indicators
<p>Outcome 1.1: The MedFund generates revenues from investments of an alliance of donors to support sustainable management effectiveness of 432,930 ha of nationally designated Marine protected areas and new MPAs under designation process.</p> <p><i>Indicator 1.1: MPAs management effectiveness and effectivity evolution ? Joint indicator for both outcome 1.1 and outcome 2.1</i></p>	<p>As of 2020, The MedFund has raised EUR 1M from the FFEM and EUR 4M from AFD for its endowment fund, and a EUR 1M from Prince Albert II Foundation for its sinking fund.</p> <p>A five-year financing needs assessment conducted by The MedFund for 14 MPAs in 2019-2020 identified a lack of consistent and sustainable financing for MPA management costs. Management effectiveness baseline for these 14 MPA was assessed as well during this study. The management effectiveness baseline for the 6 other MPA will be assessed at the GEF project start.</p>	<p>20 MPAs show an improved management effectiveness and effectivity by 2026, using the management effectiveness and effectivity tracking tool developed by The MedFund during the first GEF project support it managed</p>	<p>Output 1.1.1: Core management and fisheries management costs of 20 MPAs (nationally designated and new MPAs under designation process) covering 432,930 ha supported by 2026, to strengthen management effectiveness and effectivity, and generate socio-economic and ecological benefits.</p> <p><i>Indicator 1.1.1: Number of ha of MPAs with 5-year core management activities financially supported and implemented in collaboration with marine and land-based stakeholders.</i></p> <p>Target 1.1.1: 432,930 ha of MPAs with core management activities implemented</p>

Expected Outcomes and Indicators	Project Baseline	End of Project Target	Expected Outputs and Indicators
Component 2: Capacity building of MPAs managers and practitioners and knowledge sharing within the MPA community, for improved MPAs management effectiveness and financing			

Expected Outcomes and Indicators	Project Baseline	End of Project Target	Expected Outputs and Indicators
<p>Outcome 2.1: Enhanced capacities of managers and other stakeholders to effectively and sustainably manage at least 20 Mediterranean MPAs (nationally designated and under designation process)</p> <p><i>Indicator 2.1.a: MPAs management effectiveness and effectivity - Joint indicator for both outcome 1.1 and outcome 2.1</i></p> <p><i>Indicator 2.1.b (GEF Core Indicator 7.4): Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products</i></p>	<p>MPA managers lack the tools, knowledge (managers on sustainable fishery and climate change adaptation of MPAs?) and organizational capacities to make informed management decisions and enhance their management effectiveness. Management effectiveness baseline for these 14 MPA was assessed as well during this study. The management effectiveness baseline for the 6 other MPA will be assessed at the GEF project start.</p> <p>No engagement in IWLEARN so far</p>	<p>20 MPAs show an improved management effectiveness and effectivity by 2026, using the management effectiveness and effectivity tracking tool developed by The MedFund during the first GEF project support it managed.</p> <p>Level of engagement of 4 in IWLEARN, meaning as per IW tracking tool:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation in IWC, and submission of at least one Results & Experience note - Website in line with IW LEARN guidelines and contributing spatial and other data to IWLEARN.net 	<p>Output 2.1.1.: Managers and other stakeholders (including small-scale fisheries actors as well as targeted administrations in charge of MPAs or fisheries management, depending on the countries situation and challenges) of at least 20 MPAs (nationally designated and under designation process) trained and capacitated in sustainable fisheries management, MPAs core management, mobile species conservation, local sustainable financing mechanism, and climate change adaptation.</p> <p><i>Indicator 2.1.1: Number of managers and other stakeholders (including small scale fishers) trained and capacitated</i></p> <p>Target 2.1.1: 75 managers and other stakeholders (including small-scale fishers) from at least 20 MPAs (50% of women and 50% of men).</p> <p>Output 2.1.2: MPA practitioners and related stakeholders (tourism, fisheries, etc.) share MPAs management and financing solutions at Mediterranean level</p> <p><i>Indicator 2.1.2: Number of participants to the annual experience-sharing MedPAN workshop</i></p> <p>Target 2.1.2: 400 MPA practitioners and related stakeholders (50% of women and 50% of men).</p> <p>Output 2.1.3.: Three thematic working groups, with committed MPA managers, provide expertise to other MPA managers in the</p>

Expected Outcomes and Indicators	Project Baseline	End of Project Target	Expected Outputs and Indicators
Component 3: Stronger regional and national governance and cooperation & strategies to promote MPAs as solutions to address global changes and provide socio-ecological benefits			

Expected Outcomes and Indicators	Project Baseline	End of Project Target	Expected Outputs and Indicators
<p>Outcome 3.1: Operational regional mechanism supports the implementation of policy commitments towards MPAs in the Mediterranean, in particular the Barcelona Convention.</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.1: Number of institutions engaged within the Post-2020 Mediterranean MPA Roadmap mechanism.</i></p>	<p>Every four years, the Mediterranean MPA Forum gathers the whole MPA community to share practices and to develop recommendations for the development of MPAs in the region.</p> <p>The 2012 and 2016 MPA Forums editions formulated a 2020 MPA Roadmap which has served as a basis of the Barcelona Convention 2020 MPA Roadmap. Its implementation between 2016-2020 has not been monitored regularly.</p> <p>A Post-2020 MPA Roadmap will be developed with an effective implementation and an harmonized monitoring approach.</p>	<p>300 institutions engaged within the Post-2020 Mediterranean MPA Roadmap mechanism.</p>	<p>Output 3.1.1: A Post-2020 MPA Roadmap follow-up and monitoring mechanism is established.</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.1.1.a: Number of monitoring mechanism for the post 2020 MPA Roadmap</i></p> <p><i>Target 3.1.1.a: 1 monitoring mechanism</i></p> <p><i>Indicator 3.1.1.b: Number of organizations engaged in the follow-up coordination mechanism of the Roadmap.</i></p> <p><i>Target 3.1.1.b: To be determined during the PPG</i></p> <p>Output 3.1.2: 4th edition of the MPA Forum (2024) organized & mid-term evaluation of the Post 2020 Mediterranean MPAs Roadmap conducted.</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.1.2.a: Number of Forum participants, including land-based stakeholders, private sector and land-based polluting industries.</i></p> <p><i>Target 3.1.2.a: 400 participants (50% of women and 50% of men).</i></p> <p><i>Indicator 3.1.2.b: Number of mid-term evaluation of the Post 2020 Mediterranean MPAs Roadmap conducted</i></p> <p><i>Target 3.1.2.b: 1 mid-term evaluation</i></p>

Expected Outcomes and Indicators	Project Baseline	End of Project Target	Expected Outputs and Indicators
<p>Outcome 3.2: Increased regional, sub-regional and national cooperation between MPA actors to jointly promote benefits and needs for effective and sustainable MPAs.</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.2: Number of stakeholders cooperating through networks.</i></p>	<p>At the regional level, MedPAN is fostering partnerships with all relevant marine conservation stakeholders and key regional organisations such as SPA/RAC, WWF, IUCN, GFCM, ACCOBAMS and Conservatoire du Littoral.</p> <p>MedPAN supports the development and collaborates with thematic, national and sub-regional networks of MPA managers to enhance direct support to MPAs and policy impact.</p>	<p>To be determined during project inception phase</p>	<p>Output 3.2.1 Sub-regional and national networks of MPA managers established and/or strengthened.</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.2.1a: Number of new national or sub-regional networks established.</i></p> <p>Target 3.2.1.a: 2 new networks</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.2.1.b: Number of national and sub-regional networks of MPA managers supported in terms of functioning, governance and actions (target: 2)</i></p> <p>Target 3.2.1.b: 2 networks</p> <p>Output 3.2.2: MPA communication and policy tools targeting Mediterranean local stakeholders, including land-based stakeholders, developed and disseminated through regional, national and sub-regional networks, to promote benefits and needs of MPAs</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.2.2: Number of MPA communication & policy tools (policy papers, videos, power-point, etc.) produced.</i></p> <p>Target 3.2.2: At least 3 key products (one per year)</p>

Expected Outcomes and Indicators	Project Baseline	End of Project Target	Expected Outputs and Indicators
<p>Outcome 3.3: Improved International cooperation between networks of MPA managers and conservation trust funds beyond the Mediterranean (e.g. Caribbean, West Africa, North America), to jointly promote benefits, needs and efficient mechanisms for effective and sustainable MPAs within key international policy-making processes.</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.3: Number of institutions cooperating with other networks of MPA managers and conservation trust funds at International level</i></p>	<p>Major networks active in the Mediterranean (e.g. Adriatic and Ionian Sea) and elsewhere (e.g. Caribbean, West Africa, North America)</p>	<p>20 institutions cooperating with other networks of MPA managers and conservation trust funds at International level</p>	<p>Output 3.3.1: Key recommendations on international policy-making processes are jointly produced by networks of MPA managers at international level.</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.3.1: Number of strategic documents with key recommendations jointly produced.</i></p> <p>Target 3.3.1: 2 strategic documents</p> <p>Output 3.3.2: A global alliance of networks of MPA managers and conservation trust funds (MarFund?) and networks of trust funds (RedLAC, Caf??) established beyond the Mediterranean</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.3.2: Number of institutions engaged in the global alliance of networks of MPA managers and conservation trust funds.</i></p> <p>Target 3.3.2: 20 institutions</p>

Expected Outcomes and Indicators	Project Baseline	End of Project Target	Expected Outputs and Indicators
Component 4: Monitoring and evaluation			
<p>Outcome 4.1: Overall project implementation progress and results monitored, promoting adaptive management, and project knowledge managed, compiled and disseminated.</p> <p><i>Indicator 4.1: % of required reports and evaluations completed</i></p>	<p>Project M&E system not in place</p>	<p>100% of required reports and evaluations are completed</p>	<p>Output 4.1.1: Monitoring and evaluation system developed and implemented.</p> <p><i>Indicator 4.1.1: Number of operational M&E system</i></p> <p><i>Target 4.1.1: 1 Operational M&E system in place, assessing project progress towards expected results.</i></p> <p>Output 4.1.2: Results from monitoring and evaluation program compiled into a final report.</p> <p><i>Indicator 4.1.2: number of final report</i></p> <p><i>Target 4.1.2: 1</i></p>

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).

o **GEF-Secretariat comment:**

?The output indicators are okay at this point, but it is expected that at CEO endorsement they are much sharper. Eg on output indicator of "Evolution of MPAs managers capacities" is simply too loose and nearly impossible to measure if it will have been achieved.?

Response: During the PPG phase, the project framework results have been sharpened with tangible qualitative and quantitative indicators and targets. In particular, the output 2.1.1. indicator mentioned in the comment above has been replaced by ?Number of managers and other stakeholders (including small scale fishers) trained and capacitated, with the target of 75 managers from at least 20 MPAs (including 50% of women and 50% of men).

o **Council comments:**

France:

Coordination with other projects, for instance financed by the FFEM:

? Project presented and supported jointly by MedFUND (financed by FFEM and AFD) and MedPAN (which FFEM has been helping to organize for more than ten years).

Response:

The project will be in synergy with several projects financed by the FFEM, as described in the section 3.B ?Associate Baseline Projects? above and as follows:

- PPI OSCAN 3, which objective is to support CSOs and local communities in African countries that are active in the protection of biodiversity and the fight against climate change, through the financing of small-scale projects.

- RESCOM, funded by the AFD (EUR 4 million) and the FFEM (EUR 1,4 million) aiming at increasing the social and environmental resilience of vulnerable marine and coastal areas in the Mediterranean.

Moreover, the project will also capitalize on lessons learnt from the COGITO project supported by the FFEM.

Germany

Germany appreciates the proposal to build back a blue and stronger Mediterranean, which supports the Barcelona Convention and builds on existing projects in the region.

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

? We request to revise the Theory of Change as to adequately demonstrate the effectiveness of programme activities in terms of impacts, e.g. successful accomplishment of project indicators in terms of overfishing and degradation of marine ecosystems. The main activity is the investment in the MedFund to generate revenues for further grants. From the ToC it is not clear how the programme will improve the main global environmental problems such as decline of biodiversity, decline in fisheries and degradation of coastal ecosystems and loss of related services.

? To do so, both the ToC and indicators should be revised to clarify how the programme will reach the core indicators of 612,000 ha of MPA under new or improved management. Also, a well evidenced sound reasoning needs to be provided to show how project activities will impact the core global environmental problems such as decline of biodiversity and fisheries, degradation of coastal ecosystems and loss of its services can be efficiently addressed.

? Lastly, we would like to stress that setting-up an M&E system should not be an outcome on its own. Please revise Component 4 and its outputs and provide further information on how the impacts of the

programme's will be measured, including relevant baseline indicators. This revision should also include a detailed strategy on knowledge management to improve the sustainability and durability of project outcomes.

Response:

? The ToC, indicators and targets of the project have been updated during the PPG Phase. In order to offset overfishing and degradation of marine ecosystems, the project will train and enhance capacities of managers and other stakeholders (including small-scale fisheries actors as well as targeted administrations in charge of MPAs or fisheries management, depending on the countries situation and challenges) of at least 20 MPAs in sustainable fisheries management, MPAs core management, mobile species conservation, local sustainable financing mechanism, and climate change adaptation (Component 2). Good practices for local MPA management will be shared at a larger scale (national, regional and Mediterranean scale) through networks, thereby fostering MPA actors' cooperation and supporting ecosystem preservation in the longer term.

? The programme target concerning the number of hectares of MPA under new or improved management (Component 1) has been updated following the selection of the 20 MPAs of the area of intervention. Core management and fisheries management costs of 20 MPAs (nationally designated and new MPAs under designation process) covering 432,930 ha will be supported by 2026, to strengthen management effectiveness and effectivity, and generate socio-economic and ecological benefits. Through improved management practices, trainings and capacity-building, the efficiency of the 20 MPAs of the area will be improved and therefore contribute to reduce overfishing, decline of biodiversity, and degradation of coastal ecosystems.

? Component 4 will promote adaptive management and project monitoring and evaluation allowing to monitor overall project implementation progress and results, promoting adaptive management, and project knowledge management, compilation and dissemination.

Switzerland:

?This GEF proposal is of great importance considering that the question of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) does not meet the necessary priority by the concerned Governments. However, it is not clear from the proposal how the project is complementary with other similar initiatives (e.g. by UNEP) nor to what extent the concerned countries are adhering to the project. Please further clarify this in the course of the project preparation.?

Response:

The project will be complementary to UNEP projects, especially UNEP/MAP as the regional platform for cooperation addressing challenges of marine environmental degradation. The UNEP/MAP-SPA/RAC assists Mediterranean countries in implementing the Barcelona Convention and its Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean. Therefore, the

proposed project will be in line with UNEP/MAP activities and objectives, as some of these Specially Protected Areas - being particularly important for the conservation of Mediterranean biodiversity, containing ecosystems specific to the Mediterranean area, or being of scientific, aesthetic, cultural or educational interest. The project will also be in line and contribute to the SPA/BD Protocol, the SAP-BIO Post 2020 (under finalization) and the Post 2020 strategy for MPAs and OECMs (under finalization). For the six countries of the project intervention, national governments have been consulted, and are directly collaborating to the project through co-financing (Tunisia and Albania).

o **STAP:**

-Risks identified are incomplete. Sources of ecosystem decline beyond climate change should be considered, including risks related to inability to shift private sector incentives driving destructive practices.

- Good country maps provided, but geo coordinates missing.

Response:

? The project is taking into account the influence of private sector on the degradation of the environment and considers the importance of engaging private stakeholders in regional and national discussions to promote a more sustainable management of coastal and marine environments. As described in Output 3.1.2 of the project, the 4th edition of the MPA Forum (2024-2025) will be an opportunity to engage private sector and land-based polluting industries and to obtain commitment from them to shift towards more sustainable practices.

? Updated country maps are now providing geographic coordinates in Appendix X.

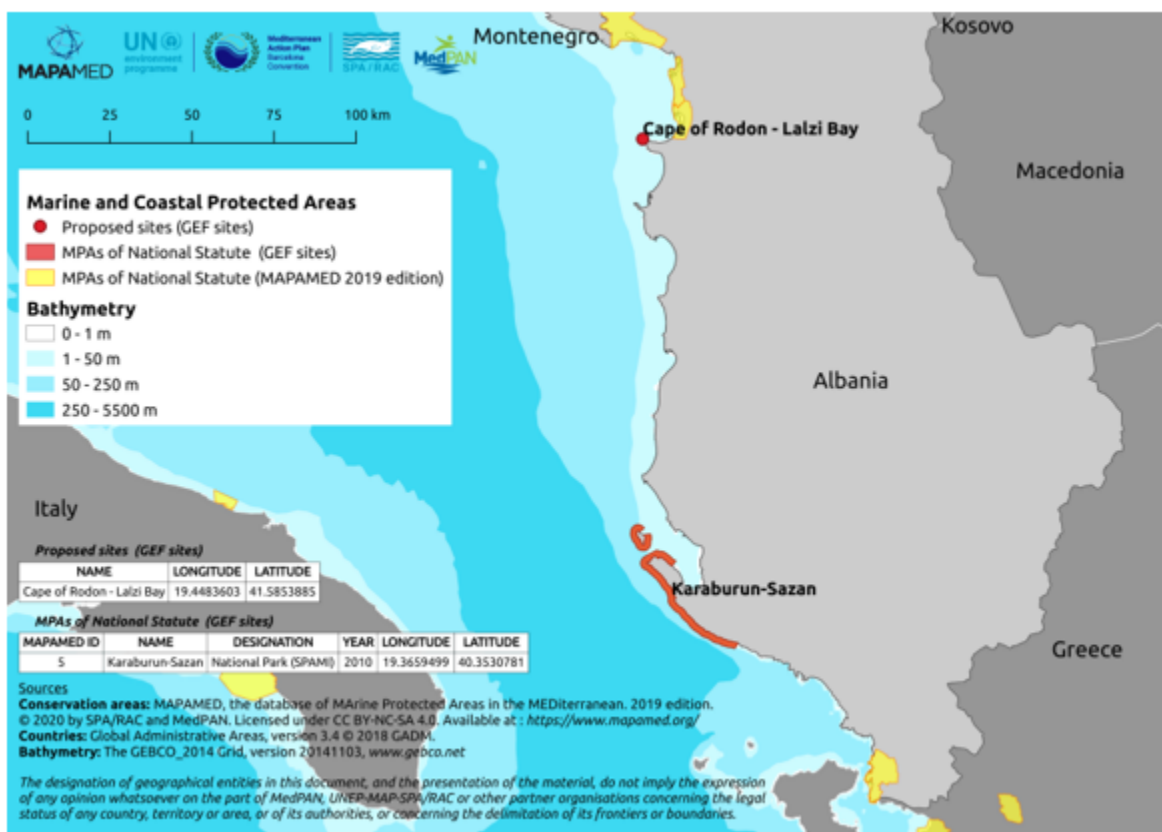
ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG).
(Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status
in the table below:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: \$150,000			
<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>
Personnel- Project design and coordination	38,468	31,867	6,601
International Consultant- ProDoc Development and Gender Plan	103,449	81,048	22,401
Workshops	8,027	5,610	2,417
Office Supplies	56	367	-311
Total	150,000	118,892	31,108

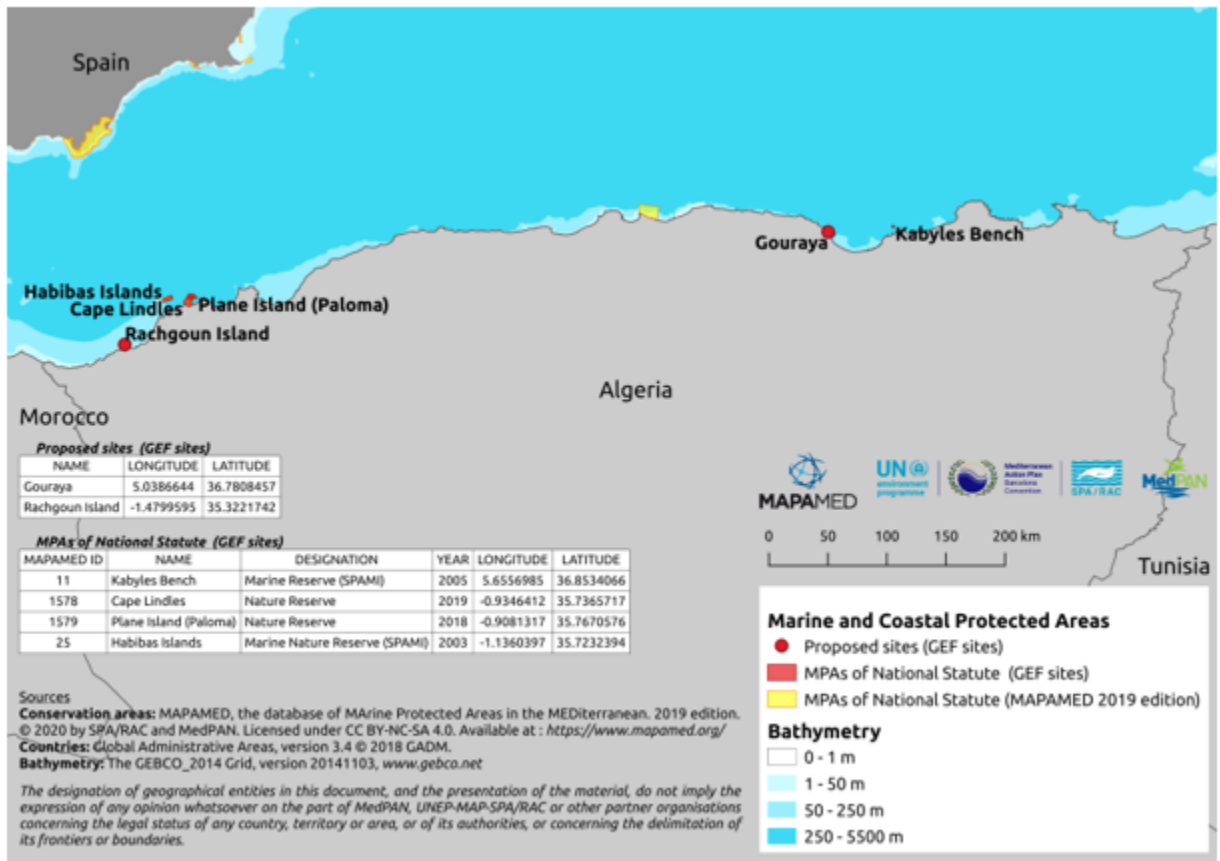
ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

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

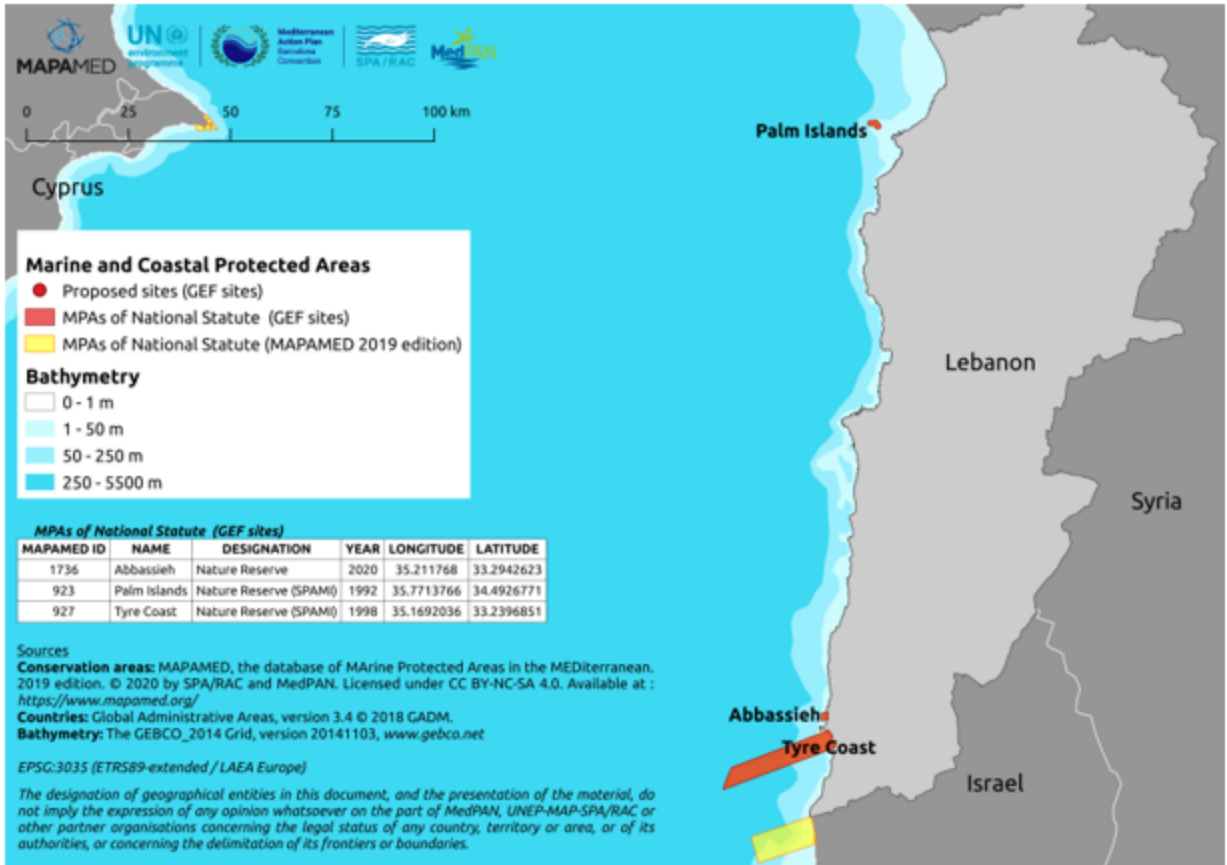
Albania



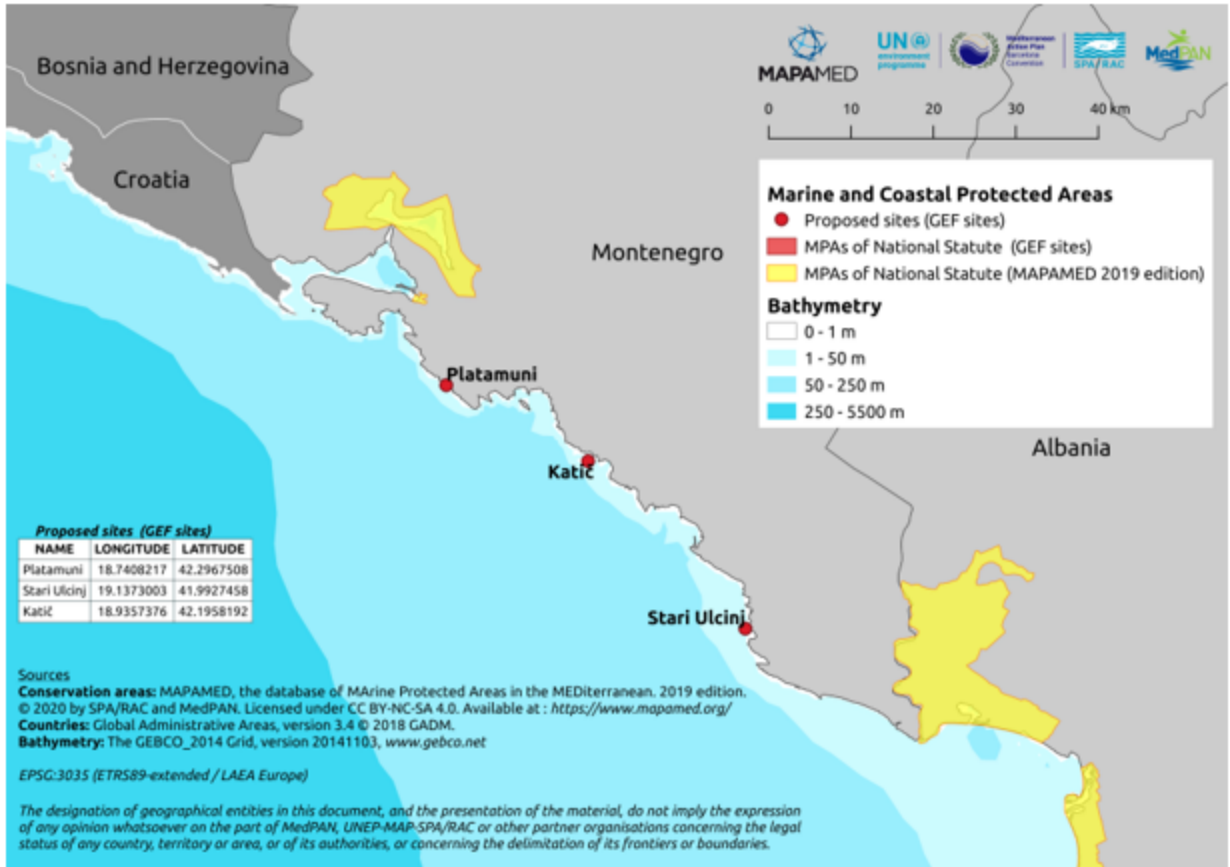
Algeria



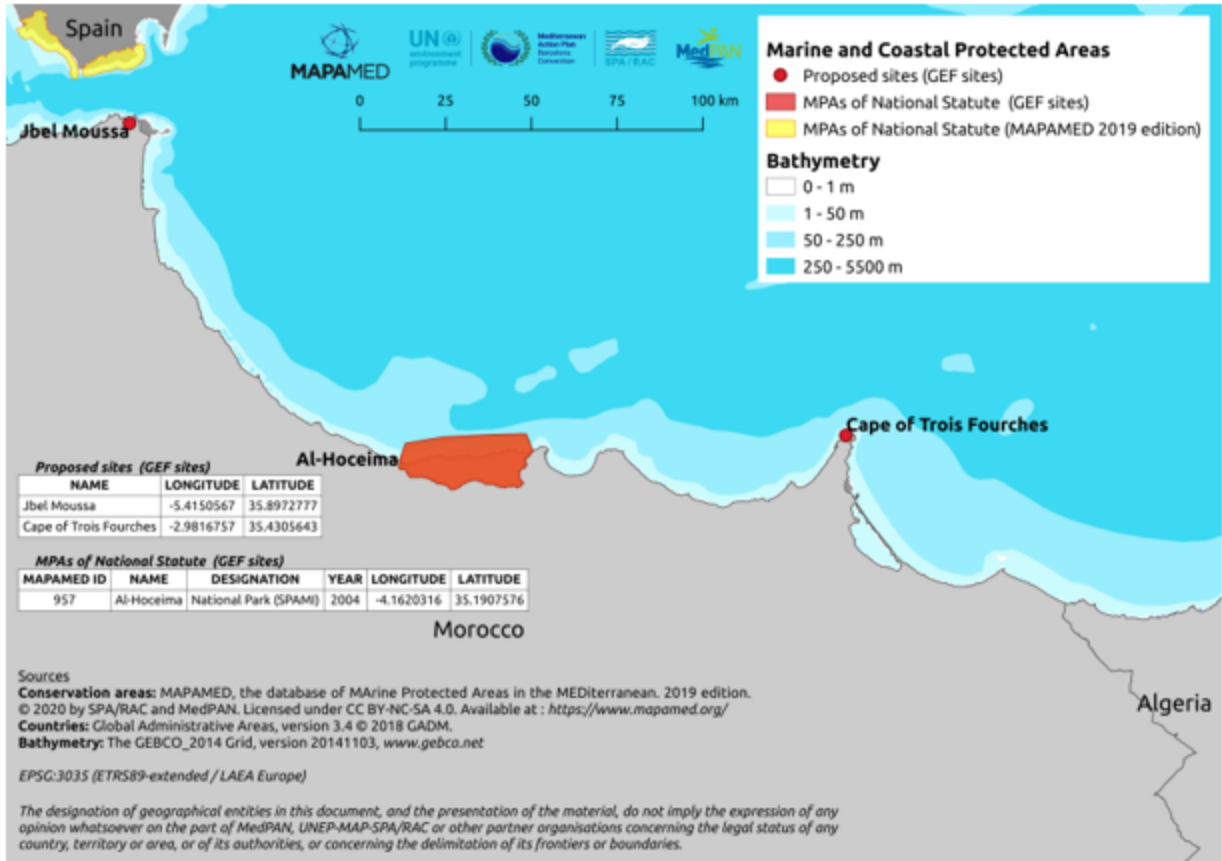
Lebanon



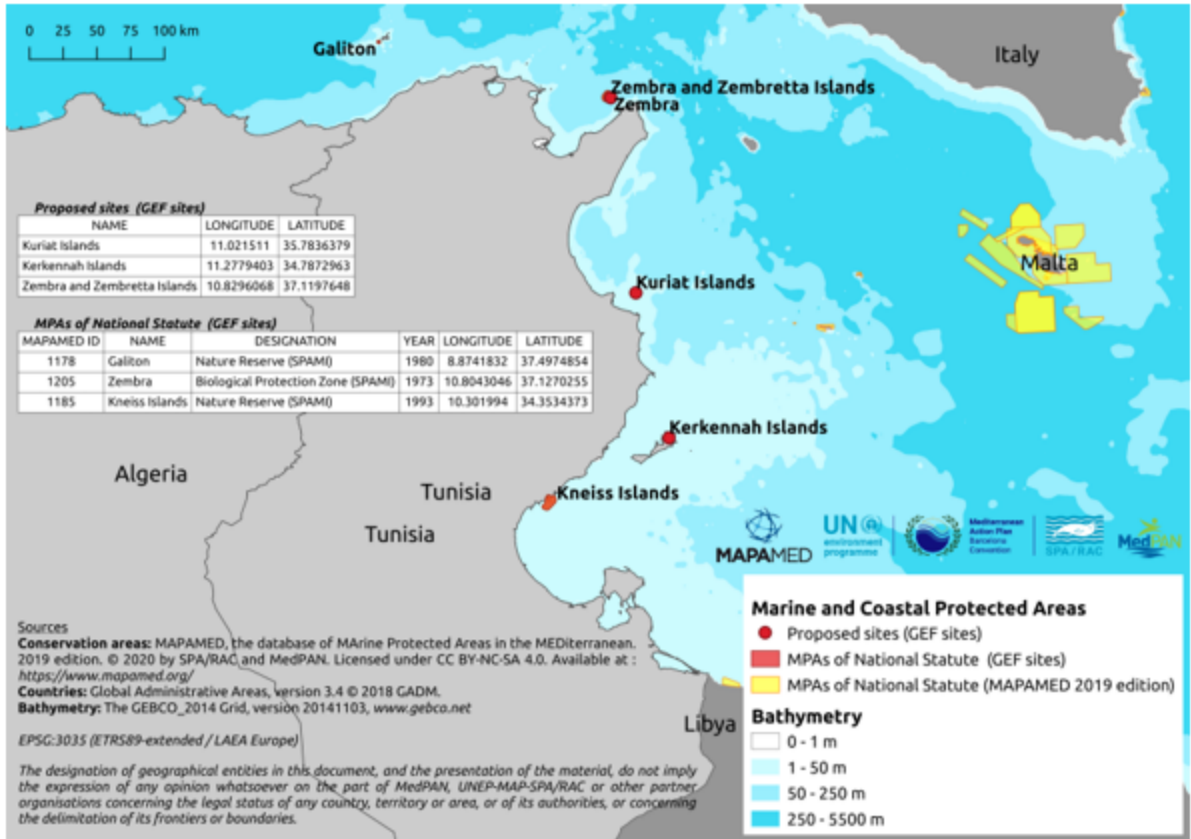
Montenegro



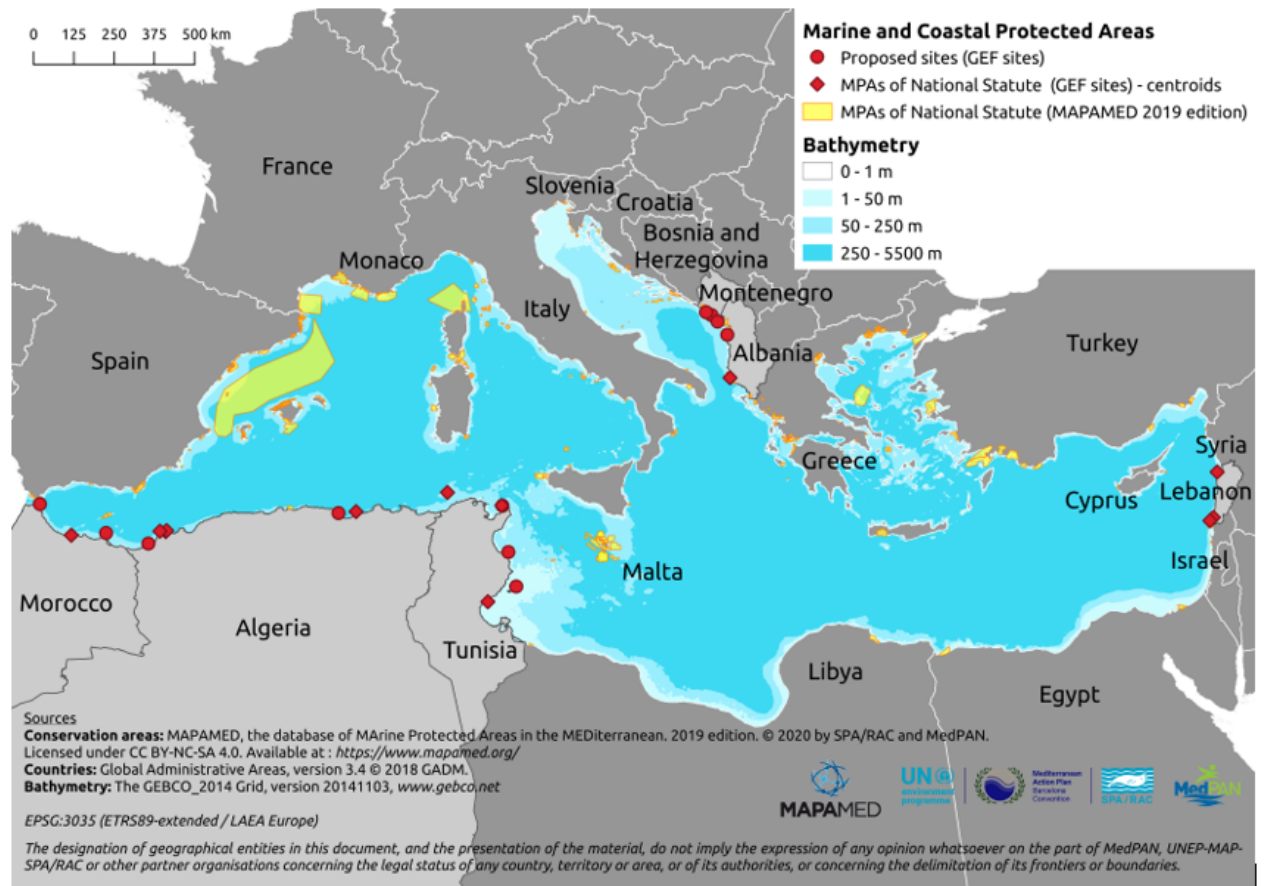
Morocco



Tunisia



The 20 targeted MPAs in the Mediterranean Basin



ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (US\$eq.)							Sub-Total	M&E	PMC	Total (US\$eq.)	Responsible Entity <small>(Executing Entity receiving funds from the GFF)</small>
		Component 1	Component 2	Component 3		Component 3							
		Outcome 1.1	Outcome 2.1	IM	Outcome 3.1	Outcome 3.2	Outcome 3.3						
Personnel and Professional Services	The MedFund Overall Lead	53,362	-	-	-	-	-	53,362	11,285	96,298	160,925	The MedFund	
	The MedFund Finance and Grants Lead	29,860	-	-	-	-	-	29,860	-	60,626	90,486	The MedFund	
	The MedFund Technical Lead	87,967	-	-	-	-	-	87,967	7,649	-	95,616	The MedFund	
	MedPAN Overall Lead	-	-	-	-	21,515	23,532	45,047	8,068	14,119	67,235	MedPAN	
	MPA Support Manager	-	86,807	-	11,800	11,800	17,633	128,040	7,596	-	135,636	MedPAN	
	Scientific Manager	-	28,243	-	17,707	11,510	23,639	81,099	7,437	-	88,536	MedPAN	
	Communication and Logistic Support Officer	-	34,524	34,524	11,804	-	-	80,852	-	-	80,852	MedPAN	
	Communication Manager - IW/LEARN management	-	-	33,477	5,869	14,285	11,738	55,370	-	-	55,370	MedPAN	
	Data Officer	-	-	-	11,951	-	-	11,951	-	-	11,951	MedPAN	
	MedPAN Financial Lead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24,552	24,552	MedPAN	
		Training needs assessment	-	12,100	-	-	-	-	12,100	-	-	12,100	MedPAN
		Development of training modules	-	-	36,300	-	-	-	36,300	-	-	36,300	MedPAN
		Audit The MedFund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,000	30,000	The MedFund
		Audit MedPAN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,500	7,500	MedPAN
		Key outreach material and submission to IW/LEARN	-	-	35,250	-	-	-	35,250	-	-	35,250	MedPAN
		Development of collaborative website for follow-up and monitoring framework	-	-	-	22,980	-	-	22,980	-	-	22,980	MedPAN
		Mid-term evaluation and uptake of Post-2020 Med MPA roadmap	-	-	-	18,000	-	-	18,000	-	-	18,000	MedPAN
		Assessment of MPA managers networks and development of Memorandum of Cooperation	-	-	-	-	12,000	-	12,000	-	-	12,000	MedPAN
		Development of communication & policy tools	-	-	-	-	22,980	-	22,980	-	-	22,980	MedPAN
		Development of joint recommendations and specific strategies	-	-	-	-	-	12,000	12,000	-	-	12,000	MedPAN
		Feasibility study and identification of additional networks of MPA managers and conservation trust funds for joining the global alliance	-	-	-	-	-	12,000	12,000	-	-	12,000	MedPAN
		Gender mainstreaming in activities under outcomes 2 and 3	-	16,800	-	6,300	2,100	-	25,200	-	-	25,200	MedPAN
	Independent mid-term review	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,000	-	30,000	The MedFund	
	Terminal evaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,000	-	30,000	The MedFund	
	Sub-total	171,189	178,474	129,551	106,412	96,191	100,542	782,359	102,015	233,095	1,117,469		
Travel, Meetings and Workshops	Workshop-inception	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,678	-	4,678	The MedFund	
	Workshop-Training sessions (6 over life of project)	-	-	65,400	-	-	-	65,400	-	-	65,400	MedPAN	
	Workshop-Mediterranean experience-sharing workshops (annually, years 1-3)	-	-	72,515	-	-	-	72,515	-	-	72,515	MedPAN	
	Workshop-Thematic working groups sessions (9 over life of project)	-	-	55,064	-	-	-	55,064	-	-	55,064	MedPAN	
	Workshop-4th Mediterranean MPA Forum and final workshop	-	-	-	36,972	-	-	36,972	-	-	36,972	MedPAN	
	MPA networking travel	-	-	-	-	12,000	-	12,000	-	-	12,000	MedPAN	
	MPA communication and policy tools travel	-	-	-	-	24,000	-	24,000	-	-	24,000	MedPAN	
	Mobilization of regional networks	-	-	-	-	-	12,000	12,000	-	-	12,000	MedPAN	
	Travel for global Alliance	-	-	-	-	-	12,000	12,000	-	-	12,000	MedPAN	
	Project steering committee meetings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000	The MedFund	
	Travel M&E, baseline assessments, etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	-	20,000	The MedFund	
	Sub-total	-	-	192,979	36,972	36,000	24,000	289,951	24,678	5,000	319,629		
Grants & Agreements	Sub-grants to MPAs - The MedFund Sinking Funds	3,562,903	-	-	-	-	-	3,562,903	-	-	3,562,903	The MedFund	
	Sub-total	3,562,903	-	-	-	-	-	3,562,903	-	-	3,562,903		
	Grand total	3,734,092	178,474	322,530	143,384	132,191	124,542	4,635,212	136,693	238,095	5,000,000		

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.

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

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

with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

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

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies' capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).