

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
☐ NGI

Project Title
Build back a blue and stronger Mediterranean

Countries
Regional, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon, Montenegro

Agency(ies)
CI

Other Executing Partner(s)
The MedFund and the MedPAN

Executing Partner Type
Others

GEF Focal Area

International Waters

Taxonomy

Marine Protected Area, International Waters, Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Fisheries, Large Marine Ecosystems, Influencing models, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Private Sector, Capital providers, SMEs, Local Communities, Communications, Awareness Raising, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Beneficiaries, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Partnership, Participation, Consultation, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Gender results areas, Access to benefits and services, Participation and leadership, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Capacity Development, Knowledge Generation, Learning

Rio Markers**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 0

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 0

Duration

60 In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

450,000.00

Submission Date

9/25/2020

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
IW-1-1	GET	2,500,000.00	17,155,138.00
IW-1-2	GET	2,500,000.00	17,155,137.00
Total Project Cost (\$)		5,000,000.00	34,310,275.00

B. Indicative 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	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
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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 612,600 ha of nationally designated Marine protected areas and new MPAs under designation process</p> <p><i>Indicator 1.1.a MPAs management effectiveness and effectivity evolution (Target:improved management effectiveness and effectivity of 20 MPAs by 2026) – Joint indicator for both outcome 1.1 and outcome 2.1</i></p> <p><i>Indicator 1.1.b (GEF Core indicator 2.1): Marine protected areas newly created (target: 295,500 ha)</i></p> <p><i>Indicator 2.1 c (GEF Core Indicator 2.2):</i></p> <p><i>Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness (target: 317,100 ha)</i></p>	<p>Output 1.1.1</p> <p>20 nationally* designated MPAs and new MPAs under designation process core management costs supported by 2026, covering 612,600 ha</p> <p><i>*Albania will be included during the PPG phase. The engagement with Albania has already started and participation will be formalized with the OFP Letter of Endorsement during the PPG phase.</i></p> <p><i>Output 1.1.1 indicator: number of MPAs core management costs supported (target: 20 MPAs, covering 612,600 ha)</i></p>	GET	3,771,400.00	23,082,600.00
Component 2: Capacity building of MPAs managers and	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 2.1 Enhanced capacities of managers and other stakeholders to</p>	<p>Output 2.1.1</p>	GET	537,450.00	7,897,310.00

practitioners and knowledge sharing within the MPA community, for improved MPAs management effectiveness and financing

effectively and sustainably manage 20 nationally designated and under designation process Mediterranean MPAs

Managers and other stakeholders of 20 nationally designated and under designation process MPAs trained

Indicator 2.1.a MPAs management effectiveness and effectivity evolution (Target: improved management effectiveness and effectivity of 20 MPAs by 2026) – Joint indicator for both outcome 1.1 and outcome 2.1

Output 2.1.1 indicator:

Evolution of MPAs managers capacities (Target: capacities of 75 actors enhanced)

Output 2.1.2

MPA practitioners share MPA's management and financing solutions at Mediterranean level

Indicator 2.1 b (GEF Core Indicator 8): Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (Target: 35 685 metric tons of overexploited fisheries moves to more sustainable levels)

Output 2.1.2 indicator: Number of participants to the annual MedPAN sharing-experience workshop (Target: 400 MPA practitioners)

Indicator 2.1.c (GEF Core Indicator 7.4): Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products (target: 4)

Output 2.1.3

Three thematic working groups provide expertise to the MPA community

*Output 2.1.3 indicator:
Number of participants
to the 3 MedPAN
thematic working
groups (Target: 45 MPA
practitioners and
experts in total)*

Output 2.1.4

Key outreach materials
are accessible to the
Mediterranean MPA
community

*Output 2.1.4 indicator
Number of outreach
materials
(publications, studies,
tools) accessible and
promoted through the
online resource center
(Target: 100 outreach
materials)*

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. Shared regional operational mechanism to support the implementation of policy commitments towards MPAs in the Mediterranean, in particular the Barcelona Convention</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.1</i></p>	<p>Output 3.1.1 A Post-2020 MPA Roadmap follow-up and monitoring mechanism established</p> <p>Output 3.1.1 indicator: existence of an operational post-2020 MPA Roadmap follow-up and monitoring mechanism (Target:</p>	GET	405,435.00	1,114,850.00
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<p><i>Number of Post-2020 Mediterranean MPA Roadmap follow-up, monitoring and evaluation mechanism in place</i></p> <p><i>(target: 1)</i></p> <p>Outcome 3.2 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.a Number of stakeholders cooperating through networks (Target: TBD during PPG phase)</i></p>	<p>MPA Roadmap follow-up and monitoring mechanism)</p> <p>Output 3.1.2 4th edition of the MPA Forum (2024) & mid-term evaluation of the Post 2020 Mediterranean MPAs Roadmap</p> <p>Output 3.1.2 indicator: Number of Forum participants (Target: 400 participants)</p> <p>Output 3.2.1 Sub-regional and national networks of MPA managers established and/or strengthened</p> <p>Output 3.2.1 indicator a: Number of new national or sub-regional networks established (target: 2)</p> <p>Output 3.2.1 indicator b: number of national/sub-regional networks of MPA managers strengthened (target: 2)</p> <p>Output 3.2.2 MPA communication and policy tools developed and disseminated through networks</p>
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Outcome 3.3 International cooperation with other networks of MPA managers (e.g. Caribbean, West Africa, North America) as well as with conservation trust fund and trust fund networks, beyond the Mediterranean

Indicator 3.3.a Number of institutions engaging in cooperation with other networks of MPA managers and within the alliance of networks and trust funds (target: 20 institutions)

Output 3.2.2 indicator:
Number of MPA communication & policy tools produced (target: 2 key products)
Output 3.3.1
Key policy tools jointly produced by networks of MPA managers beyond the Mediterranean

Output 3.3.1 indicator:
Number of policy tools jointly produced by networks of MPA managers (target: 2 policy tools)

Output 3.3.2 An international alliance of networks of MPA managers and trust funds established

Output 3.3.2 Indicator:
Number of institutions engaged in the alliance (Target: 20 institutions)

Component 4: Monitoring and evaluation	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 4.1: Monitoring and evaluation program in place that assess overall progress and results of the project and facilitates adaptive management</p> <p>Indicator:</p> <p>% of required reports and evaluations completed (target: 100%)</p>	<p>Output 4.1.1: Monitoring and evaluation program developed.</p> <p><i>Output 4.1.1 Indicator: number of M&E programs developed (target: 1)</i></p> <p>Output 4.1.2: Monitoring and evaluation program implemented.</p> <p><i>Output 4.1.2 Indicator: number of M&E programs implemented (target: 1)</i></p> <p>Output 4.1.3: Results from monitoring and evaluation program compiled into a final report.</p> <p><i>Output 4.1.3 Indicator: number of final reports (target: 1)</i></p>	GET	47,620.00	500,000.00
Sub Total (\$)					4,761,905.00	32,594,760.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
GET					238,095.00	1,715,515.00
Sub Total(\$)					238,095.00	1,715,515.00

Total Project Cost(\$)

5,000,000.00

34,310,275.00

C. Indicative 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(\$)
Others	The MedFund*	Grant	Investment mobilized	7,080,000.00
Others	MedPAN** - Interreg 'MPANetworks'	Grant	Investment mobilized	333,278.00
Donor Agency	MAVA pêche MAVA tortue	Grant	Investment mobilized	2,179,710.00
Donor Agency	French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) – COGITO Project	Grant	Investment mobilized	389,400.00
Civil Society Organization	IUCN Med (PPI OSCAN 3)	Grant	Investment mobilized	3,304,000.00
Others	Fondation Prince Albert II : - Port Cros Inventories - BeMed (FPAll & MAVA) - Monk seal alliance - Pelagos - Tracking the movements and status of marine top predators in the Mediterranean & Black Sea - a Basin scale initiative	Grant	Investment mobilized	5,262,800.00
Donor Agency	French Office for Biodiversity (OFB)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	11,617,100.00
Recipient Country Government	Governments***	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	4,143,987.00
Total Project Cost(\$)				34,310,275.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Investment mobilized is defined new resources to projects, which have a specific time-frame an scope of work. All indicative investment mobilized are Grants.

*Past investments to the MedFund endowment fund **On-going project led by MedPAN ***According to The MedFund financial needs analysis conducted for 11

MPAs in 2019, corresponding to in-kind staff salaries of national staff within MPAs for 5 years (fix) - to be confirmed during the PPG phase *Albania will be included during the PPG phase. The engagement with Albania has already started and participation will be formalized with the OFP Letter of Endorsement during the PPG phase.

D. Indicative 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 GEF Resources(\$)					5,000,000.00	450,000.00	5,450,000.00

E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)
PPG Required



PPG Amount (\$)				PPG Agency Fee (\$)			
150,000				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	0.00	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	0.00	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)
			295,500.00			

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	0.00	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)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
MPA 1- MPA 20			317,100.00						




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			
Count	1	0	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				


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				

Indicator 7.3 Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministeral 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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Indicator 7.4 Level of engagement in IWLEARN throgth 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				

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			

Fishery Details

Fishery Details Sardina pilchardus 145,000 mt; Engraulis encrasicolus: 45,000mt; Merlucius 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			
Male	5,000			
Total	10000	0	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

Methodology to estimate Core Indicator 2 Target: The determination of Core Indicator 2 is based on updated 2020 data from MAPAMED Data Base (GIS SPA/RAC-MedPAN Database), which has determined the total coverage of potential nationally designated MPAs and new MPAs under designation process eligible to the MedFund funding in 5 countries (Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Montenegro, Tunisia) which will benefit from project interventions. These add up to approximately 612,600 ha (295,500 ha of newly created MPAs, and 317,100 ha of MPAs with improved management effectiveness) which covers 84.35% of the surface area of non-European Mediterranean MPAs.

Methodology to estimate core indicator 8 target: As data on fisheries at the MPA level is scarce, the methodology applied to provide the expected level at the PIF stage is the same as the one used by the FishEBM MED. It takes into account the total landings for each species in these countries (Algeria, Lebanon, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia) listed under Annex B multiplied by the percentage of stock assessed that are considered in overexploitation by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries (where also, among others, JRC scientists participate). This results in turn in an estimate of “overexploited tonnes” by priority species identified. Out of this “overexploited tonnes” amount, it is assumed at the PIF stage that the proposed project will be addressing roughly 15% in the 20 MPA which adds up to the total in table F. A specific study on fisheries in the 20 targeted MPAs will be conducted during the PPG phase in order to assess the total landings for each species in these 20 MPAs and adjacent fished areas.

Comment on Core Indicator 11 Targets: Data on the number of beneficiaries disaggregated by gender, at this stage estimated as 5,000 women and 5,000 men will be validated in the framework of a gender assessment that will be developed during the PPG phase.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

**Albania will be included during the PPG phase. The engagement with Albania has already started and participation will be formalized with the OFP Letter of Endorsement during the PPG phase.*

a) Global environmental problem

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. Amongst the foremost environmental concerns are:

- A decline of biodiversity due to over-fishing, conversion and degradation of critical habitats, introduction of alien species, and pollution;
- A decline in fisheries due to over-fishing, use of harmful fishing practice, and loss of shallow water habitats for some life stages of critical fisheries; and
- Degradation of coastal ecosystems and loss of related services due to growing demographic pressure and unregulated coastal development.

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*). 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%. Unhealthy marine ecosystems are unable to provide those functions and services for life underwater and people living with those marine resources.

Recovery of species population and improvement of marine habitats have been recorded, notably in marine protected areas (MPAs) and in no-take zones (NTZs) that are well managed and enforced. However, out of more than 1000 existing Mediterranean MPAs very few have shown an increase of fish biomass and biodiversity with benefits for local communities, plus only 0.04% (815 km²) of the basin is covered by NTZs^[1]. Moreover, roughly 90 percent of the scientifically assessed fish stocks are considered to be fished outside safe biological limits^[2].

The term 'MPA' covers a wide range of sites, with various designations, at different levels and offering varying degrees of protection^[3]. According to the MAPAMED database^[4], there are 46 designations of MPAs in the Mediterranean Sea with very variable degrees of protection. The categories include national MPAs, Natura 2000 sites (EU), the Pelagos Sanctuary, Fisheries Restricted Areas (FAO – GFCM), PMIBB, PSSA (WMO), Ramsar Sites, SPAMI (SPA/RAC -


Barcelona Convention), World Heritage Sites (UNESCO), Biosphere Reserves (UNESCO), Critical Cetacean Habitats and Ecologically and Biologically Significant Marine Areas (CBD EBSA). According to the MAPAMED database, the coverage of MPAs in the Mediterranean has been steadily increasing, contributing to the Aichi Target 11^[5] with 6.81% of the Mediterranean Sea designated as MPAs by late 2019^[6].

Furthermore, most of these 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^[7]. 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 meagre 0.03% of the Mediterranean is covered by fully protected areas which are known to deliver ecological benefits^[8]. Moreover, in 2016, no-take zones represented 0.04% of the Mediterranean, while the Tangiers Declaration in 2015 recommended that no-take zones 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^[9].

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. Effectively managed MPAs can lead to a substantial increase in the fish stock (cf. Box 1). A review of 25 MPAs in the Mediterranean Sea showed that fully and partially protected MPAs have more and larger fish than areas outside the MPAs. Heavily fished species, such as dusky groupers and seabreams, are most abundant and biggest in fully protected areas. Compared to unprotected areas, fish biomass is 420% greater in fully protected areas and 146% greater in partially protected areas. Fish density is 111% greater in fully protected areas and 38% greater in partially protected areas^[10].

Increases in the number and size of fishes and invertebrates are most evident inside fully protected areas. However, some of these benefits may also connect MPAs with fished areas when eggs, larvae, and adults drift or move beyond MPA borders. As animals become more abundant inside a fully protected area and space becomes limited, some adults and juveniles may leave and move elsewhere. This process is called spillover. They also may leave because they need a different type of prey or habitat as they grow or reproduce. Spillover can help replenish fish and invertebrate populations in partially protected areas and outside MPAs, thereby enhancing local fisheries. Furthermore, many fishes and invertebrates release large numbers of eggs into the water. After fertilization, eggs hatch into tiny larvae. These early stages (eggs and larvae) can stay in open waters for days or months, sometimes traveling far from their origin in a process called dispersal. Some eggs or larvae produced in an MPA may remain inside, while others may settle and grow into adults far away. Through this export of early life stages, fully protected areas can help replenish fished areas.

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.

 Text Box: Box 1 - Examples of MPA ecological effects on fish stocks¹⁰ In Gokova MPA in Turkey, following the establishment of no-take zones, the fight against illegal fishing and small-scale fishing management measures (more selective gear to limit accidental catches, etc.) between 2013 and 2016, the abundance of fish increased by 27%, including 19% for brown grouper (*Epinephelus marginatus*) In Torre Guaceto MPA in Italy, scientific data indicates that the MPA shows clear reserve effects: higher fish biomass inside compared to unprotected sites outside the MPA's borders; spillover of adult fish biomass towards fished grounds; for some fish (e.g. sea breams), egg/larvae production is 15 times higher within the MPA than outside, which fuels both the replenishment of the MPA and export over long distances to possibly benefit local fisheries. In Port-Cros National Park in France, data indicates that populations of top predators have increased (e.g. dusky grouper, common dentex, barracudas), as well as populations of vulnerable species (brown meagre). Artisanal fishing has low impact on these species as they are rarely caught with fishing nets despite their relatively high abundance. In Brijuni National Park in Croatia, scientific research carried out by the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries of Split highlights that in 2008 the total abundance of fish was 55 % higher inside the National park area than in the nearby unprotected area, while in 2013 that figure was 166 % higher. In the well-enforced Tavolara-Punta Coda Cavallo MPA in Italy, fish density, size, and biomass of exploited species, such as the dusky grouper, are higher in fully protected areas than in adjacent fished areas. Invertebrates, such as the endangered and intensely harvested ribbed Mediterranean limpet, are larger in fully protected areas, especially in isolated locations. Other invertebrates, such as amphipods, are prey for numerous predators that benefit from protection.

b) Root causes

Poor management and co-management of MPAs

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. As stated above, only a very small fraction of Mediterranean MPAs are effectively managed. A small fraction have a management plan, and only about half of those are effectively implementing them. This 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^[11] 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. ^[12] 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 colonise nearby areas that could be pools of resources for fishers^[13]. 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[14]. In a period of 30 years, the catches in the Mediterranean have been reduced by 60%[15]. 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[16].

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[17]. 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 endeavours, 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[18]. Moreover, the fishing practices themselves can be particularly damaging, including for instance the fact that small-scale fisheries often target very specific species at high trophic levels (and thereby put excessive pressure on large individuals and affecting reproduction[19]), 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 are altering the classic features of coastal fishing and placing an 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[20]. 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[21]. 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[22].

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.

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, urbanisation ...) has created economic opportunities, but has also affected the local people's standard of living[23].

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 mechanism would exist.

Climate change

Climate change is already adversely impacting ecosystem functions in the Mediterranean, and the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (2013) highlights the region as being one of the most vulnerable regions in the world. According to the Network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC), the Mediterranean Region is warming 20% faster than the global average[24]. Species distribution, habitat features and ecosystems structure indicates that a serious alteration of biological and ecological patterns in marine biomes is already taking place and generating mostly negative impacts[25]. For example, changes in the abundance of warm and cold-water fish species, including the introduction of thermophilic non-native species (some of which are considered invasive alien species), is linked to sea warming, and is threatening native biological diversity[26].

c) Barriers preventing effective management of Mediterranean MPAs

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.[27]

A five-year financing needs assessment conducted by The MedFund for 14 MPAs in 5 countries in 2019-2020[28] identified a 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 is up to EUR 800,000 in the year to come and reach EUR 2 million annually for the following years. 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^[29]. 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 COVID19 crisis is putting an 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^[30], such as the following:

- 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.
- 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 COVID19 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^[31].

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 has insufficient or often inexistent M&E skills^[32], 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[33]. However, currently only 2% of the world's oceans are under integral protected areas and 0.03% in the Mediterranean Sea[34].

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[35]. One of the principal 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[36].

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 harmonized approach and dynamic “animation” to promote implementation and monitor the MPA Roadmap

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 a mid-term evaluation process of its implementation, carried out in 2016, and the recommendations issued from the 2016 MPA Forum held in Tangier (Morocco), with key operational and action-oriented steps inspired from the Tangier Declaration of the 2016 MPA Forum, complementary to the Antalya Declaration of the 2012 MPA Forum, to improve and help achieving the 2020 MPA Roadmap objectives by 2020. While the implementation of this roadmap will be evaluated in 2020, highlighting the main limiting factors and bottlenecks hindering its implementation and the achievement of 2020 MPA targets, and feeding into the development of a Post-2020 Roadmap for Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (i.e. “Post-2020 MPA Roadmap” – see below), its implementation between 2016-2020 was not monitored regularly. The 2020 MPA Roadmap provides recommendations for actions to be implemented at local, national and Mediterranean level under five strategic objectives and a sixth overall objective, however the extent to which these recommendations were materializing was not monitored using an harmonized approach and tools involving the whole MPA community. The development of the post-2020 MPA Roadmap in 2020-2021 gives the opportunity to develop in a participatory manner and put in place such an harmonized monitoring approach as well as to set-up a common framework to promote the roadmap implementation more actively.

1) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

2.a. Baseline scenario

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. However, while there has been significant progress in expanding the coverage of Mediterranean MPAs, current levels of engagement and investments are not sufficient to secure the long-term and efficient management of existing MPAs, being ineffective in reversing the trends of biodiversity loss and reduction of fish stocks. Only 1.27% of the Mediterranean is effectively protected. Indeed, unmanaged MPAs prevail. Regular monitoring activities are almost limited to a few MPAs mainly in some EU countries. Human, material and financial resources are inadequate, resulting in weak enforcement.

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 enough effective at maintaining or restoring the biodiversity they aim to protect. It appears that the human and financial means allocated to management are much too low and too sporadic thereby compromising successful conservation.

Considering the high pressures exerted on the Mediterranean marine environment with growing trends, it is crystal 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 policy-makers, 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.

Key partners involved in the baseline scenario include the following:

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

Recognizing the urgent financing issues identified above, the Mediterranean MPA Forum (Antalya, Turkey) in 2012 highlighted the need to establish a regional financial mechanism^[37] 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^[38] and at the 19th Meeting of The Parties to the Barcelona Convention in February 2016^[39].

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 a sustainable financing mechanism for Mediterranean MPAs according to the practice standards for CTF^[40] and its donors requirements (GFE and AFD among others): The MedFund (formerly known as M2PA). 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^[41] 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 is also a Mediterranean cooperation platform gathering together civil society and Mediterranean States. It currently has 15 members, including a) six member States: Albania, France, Monaco, Morocco, Spain, and Tunisia; as well as b) regional organizations involved in the conservation of Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems (e.g. Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC), UNEP-MAP, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, Network of MPAs Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), WWF-Mediterranean, the IUCN Mediterranean Programme, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Oceanographic Institute – Prince Albert 1st of Monaco Foundation, and Conservatoire du Littoral (a French public agency for the preservation of the coastline).

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.

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 a sustainable development and welfare of the Mediterranean people and societies. Its work is guided by its 2017 – 2020 Mediterranean Programme. IUCN Med is a board member of The MedFund.

WWF Mediterranean. WWF Mediterranean is part of WWF's global conservation network. It's aiming 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.

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.

MedPAN

The network of MPA managers in the Mediterranean, MedPAN, is a key player in the area. 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^[42]. 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 centre, virtual library, etc.), the small grants mechanism and experience-sharing events are all widely recognised and appreciated by members. 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 organisations 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 collaborate with thematic, national and sub-regional networks of MPA managers to enhance direct support to MPAs and policy impact. MedPAN is a board member of The MedFund.

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 (2012), as well as evaluating and updating (2016) 'The 2020 MPA Roadmap: Towards a comprehensive, ecologically representative, effectively connected and efficiently managed network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas by 2020'. In 2020, the Mediterranean MPA Forum will coordinate the development of a Post-2020 Roadmap for Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (i.e. "Post-2020 MPA Roadmap"). The development of this Post-2020 MPA Roadmap will be carried out through an online participatory process as well as during the face-to-face Forum edition to be held in 2021, aiming at the formulation of operational recommendations for Mediterranean MPAs, to effectively achieve the expected post-2020 targets, in line with the available information on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Similarly to the '2020 MPA Roadmap', the 'Post-2020 MPA Roadmap' 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 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

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

2.b. Associated baseline projects:

This proposed project will build on the experiences and results of a number of important programs and projects, which are described further below:

Baseline projects

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

In the same context as the one described above, 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.

MAVA Foundation - 'Conservation of Sea Turtles in the Mediterranean Region' 2020-2022

The overall objective of the project (led by SPA/RAC) 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*). Marine turtles are currently underrepresented in global and regional priority-setting schemes because there is thus far no such “go-to” global source for the information needed to allocate site protection. The new strategies of the project will contribute to this global effort, ensuring that Mediterranean Sea turtle populations are well represented.

The current and good data on sea turtles will also feed discussions with MPA managers and national/ local authorities to improve management strategies – especially within MPAs, while, the Partnership will facilitate the dissemination of the standardised 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, advocacy and awareness activities and allow us to scale-up successes to other important sites.

EC Interreg-Med 'MPA NETWORKS' - 'Support MPAs effectiveness through strong and connected networks in the Mediterranean' 2019-2022

The partners (including MedPAN as leader of the project) and associated partners of the project work together to build stronger MPA managers networks at all levels to contribute to the effectiveness of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas. The MPA NETWORKS project will focus 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.

FFEM - COGITO - 'Enhance integrated and sustainable management of coastal, insular and marine protected areas in the Mediterranean' 2018-2022

Overall objective: contribute to the support and consolidation of the integrated management and resilience process of Mediterranean coastal, island and marine protected areas, for the benefit of ecosystems and local communities, while integrating the challenges of co-management of targeted territories, in order to reproduce them, in the long term, on a larger scale. This project is led by MedPAN with involvement of 3 partners WWF Mediterranean, Conservatoire du Littoral and PIM.

Baseline GEF projects:

Blue Nature Alliance to expand and improve conservation of 1.25 billion hectares of ocean ecosystems (GEF ID 10375). 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. 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.

“Long-term Financial Mechanism to Enhance Mediterranean MPA Management Effectiveness” (2018-now; GEF ID 9959). 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 CTF (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.

Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security (concept approved; GEF ID 9607; GEF financing: USD 42,376,147; Albania, 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[43]. The MedProgramme objective is to 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.

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). 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.

Promoting Protected Areas Management through Integrated Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Protection in Coastal Area of Montenegro (GEF ID 9762). 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 subsystem⁴ of C / MPAs, and is improving the management effectiveness in the C / MPAs in Platamuni, Katici and Stari Ulcinj critical land/seascape.

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

3.a. The proposed alternative scenario

In the 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. This integrated support will strengthen the management effectiveness of Mediterranean MPAs by securing access to sustainable financing solutions for MPA management costs while providing technical, organizational, strategic and institutional support to 85% of non European Med Mpas designated and under designation.

This section presents the project's Theory of Change (ToC), which sets out the project's causal logic and relationships between the project's outputs (goods and services 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).

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; 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 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);
- 3: Insufficient knowledge and experience/practices sharing on successful models for sustainable fisheries and to guide effective MPA management (regional/global scales); and
- 4: Absence of harmonized approach and dynamic "animation" to promote implementation and monitor the MPA Roadmap.

It aims to achieve this through three interlinked approaches/strategies, supported by an adaptive project management and monitoring and evaluation approach. Each of these is reflected in a specific project Component ('areas of action') comprising sets of project activities and outputs that will deliver the following immediate project outcomes, and which mirror the main components of the project. The project also will 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).

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. This will be aligned with The MedFund fundraising strategy it is currently developing. Component 1 has two immediate project outcomes:

- **Outcome 1.1:** The MedFund generates revenues from investments of an alliance of donors to support sustainable management effectiveness of 612,600 ha of nationally designated Marine protected areas and new MPAs under designation process

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.

While providing sustainable financing solutions to cover MPAs core management costs under component 1, component 2 will address Barriers 2 and 3 by strengthening the capacities of MPA managers to effectively and sustainably manage MPAs and increasing knowledge and experience sharing on management/governance/local financing best practices and innovative solutions at national, regional and global levels for an holistic approach.

Outcome 1.1 will be achieved by means of the following outputs:

- Output 1.1.1: The MedFund endowment and sinking funds invested according to The MedFund investment strategy, generating annual revenues

Component 2 focuses on capacity building of MPA managers and practitioners and knowledge sharing within the MPA community for improved MPAs management effectiveness and financing to address global changes and to provide long-term socio-ecological benefits in the Mediterranean. This component has one immediate project outcome:

- **Outcome 2.1:** Enhanced capacities of MPA managers and other stakeholders to effectively and sustainably manage 20 nationally designated and under designation process Mediterranean MPAs

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

- Output 2.1.1: Managers and other stakeholders of 20 nationally designated and under designation process MPAs trained
- Output 2.1.2: MPA practitioners share MPA's management and financing solutions at Mediterranean level
- Output 2.1.3: Three thematic working groups provide expertise to the MPA community
- Output 2.1.4: Key outreach materials are accessible to the Mediterranean MPA community

Component 3 will address barriers 3 and 4 by strengthening regional and national governance and cooperation and strategies to promote MPAs as solutions to address global changes and provide socio-ecological benefits It will create a supportive environment for implementing policy commitments towards MPAs in the Mediterranean, in particular the Barcelona Convention. 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 and other CTF. Component 3 has three immediate project outcomes:

- **Outcome 3.1:** Shared regional operational mechanism to support the implementation of policy commitments towards MPAs in the Mediterranean, in particular the Barcelona Convention

Outcome 3.1 will be achieved by means of the following outputs:

- Output 3.1.1 A Post-2020 Mediterranean MPAs Roadmap follow-up and monitoring mechanism established -
- Output 3.1.2 4th edition of the MPA Forum (2024) & mid-term evaluation of the Post 2020 Mediterranean MPAs Roadmap- and national cooperation between MPA actors / MPA community to jointly promote needs for effective and sustainable MPAs

Outcome 3.2: Regional

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 and mutual cooperation between them and the regional network operationalized
- Output 3.2.2 MPA communication and policy tools developed and disseminated through networks
- **Outcome 3.3:** International cooperation with other networks of MPA managers (e.g. Caribbean, West Africa, North America) as well as with conservation trust fund and trust fund networks, beyond the Mediterranean. The alliance between a regional network of MPAs managers and a regional trust fund for MPAs could be replicated in other regional seas worldwide

Outcome 3.3 will be achieved by means of the following outputs:

- Output 3.3.1 Key policy tools jointly produced by networks of MPA managers beyond the Mediterranean
- Output 3.3.2 An international alliance of regional/national networks of MPA managers and trust funds/networks of trust funds established to deliver key joint policy messages on MPAs

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

- **Outcome 4.1:** Monitoring and evaluation program in place that assess overall progress and results of the project and facilitates adaptive management

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

- Output 4.1.1: Monitoring and evaluation program developed.
- Output 4.1.2: Monitoring and evaluation program implemented.
- Output 4.1.3: Results from monitoring and evaluation program compiled into a final report.

Several of these Outcomes interlink 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 in Figure 1). 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.

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 Figure 1), 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 to participate in project activities

A7 – Lessons learned and capacitated actors (e.g. MPA managers) with new knowledge will take forward and institutionalize 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 Figure 1), 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: a 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 – Countries 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 – Increased awareness among decision and policy makers at central and decentralised levels about the value of natural marine and coastal ecosystems and their role 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 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'.


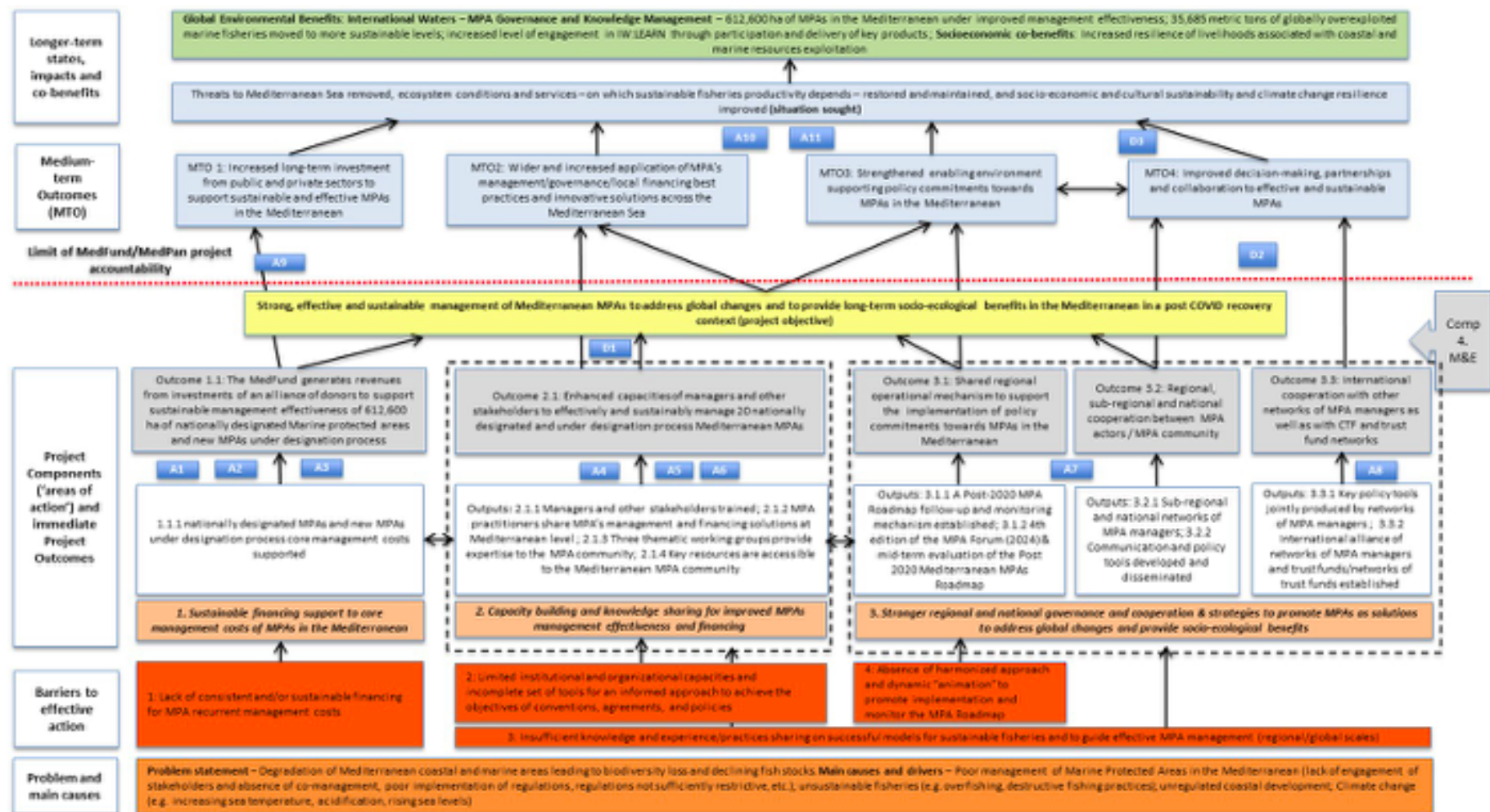
 Text Box: Box 2 – MPAs economic benefits A study on the economic benefits of MPAs conducted by the European Commission in 2017 shown existing evidence that MPAs can provide benefits to the fisheries and tourism sectors. The evidence of economic benefits from multi-use MPAs includes primarily increased revenue as a result of reduced competition for space and resources between fishermen within the border of MPAs. Typically, the benefits accrue to fishermen who are permitted to continue fishing within MPAs using static gears to target low-mobility species (EC, 2017). Regarding economic impacts of MPAs' management, this study reveals the higher their level of protection and the budget allocated to their management are, the greater the socio-economic benefits will be: when 1 k€ is spent on their management, 13 k€ are generated for the local economy (VertigoLab, MedPAN, 2019).

Figure 1. Proposed Theory of change



Key

Assumptions:

- 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 to participate in project activities
- A7 – Lessons learned and capacitated actors (e.g. MPA managers) with new knowledge will take forward and institutionalize good practice
- A8 – Willingness of other international stakeholders to collaborate and exchange knowledge and tools
- 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 – Countries continue to see the value of, and commit resources for, regional cooperation and collaboration to establish and effectively manage MPAs

Impact Drivers:

- D1 – Participatory MPA management/ co-management in place / promoted
- D2 – International legal obligations, such as commitments to the Barcelona Convention, SDGs, and CBD
- D3 – Increased awareness among decision and policy makers at central and decentralised levels about the value of natural marine and coastal ecosystems and their role in climate change adaptation and sustainable development

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

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

Since its creation, The MedFund has demonstrated over the years the following elements of added value:

- The first regional CTF dedicated to marine life in the Med sea that promotes job creation, gender equality, sustainable fisheries;
- A resilient tool design for long term time horizons;
- 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;
- A custom made tool dedicated to the mobilization of public and private actors for the sustainable financing of Mediterranean MPAs;
- The capacity of covering in the long term, along with national governments, the core management costs of Mediterranean MPAs[44];
- A proven ability to raise funds from public and private sources;
- Long-term support to institutional, organizational and technical capacity building of organizations involved in the management / co-management of MPAs;
- A long-term support to management-effectiveness monitoring of beneficiary MPAs;
- A capacity of advocacy with national, regional and international organizations for the development and sustainable management of Mediterranean MPAs;

- A networking capability, in complementarity and synergy with other regional organizations.

Work under this component will support The MedFund in bridging the financial gaps Mediterranean MPAs are experiencing (a recent five-year financing needs assessment conducted by The MedFund for 14 MPAs in the Region showed that the MedFund contribution to core management costs could amount EUR 50,000 to 75,000 per MPA per year on average) together with other financing mechanisms and government contributions.

As mentioned above, as of 2020, The MedFund has already 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.

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.

Under this component, The MedFund sinking fund is further capitalized by additional USD 4 million from The GEF, and invested according to MedFund investment strategy. Thus The GEF will be one of the first donors along with AFD/FFEM and FPA2 to capitalize the fund.

The sinking fund and its revenues will be disbursed over a 5 years period to support 20 nationally designated MPAs and new MPAs under designation process core management costs, covering 612,600 ha in 7 Mediterranean countries[45]. The beneficiary MPAs will be selected according to predefined eligibility and selection criteria (such as cofinancing from Government) , with the support of the Grant Award Committee. The Executive Directorate will ensure the contracting and the monitoring of the activities carried out in order to guarantee the efficiency of the resource allocation and the achievement of the expected results by using custom made tools developed under the previous GEF funded project.

Component 2. Capacity building and knowledge sharing for improved MPAs management effectiveness and financing to address global changes and to provide long-term socio-ecological benefits in the Mediterranean

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 solution to the effective management of these 20 MPAs. Four specific mechanisms will be implemented:

- Managers and other stakeholders of 20 nationally designated and under designation process MPAs trained. 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[46]. Aligned with this strategy, MedPAN proposed to develop a range of training courses, through key thematic training modules, across several regular training centres (hosted by some MPAs) around the Mediterranean. Training courses on sustainable fisheries management (improve the sustainable management of fisheries in MPAs through better monitoring, better involvement of small-scale fishermen / co-management schemes), MPAs basic management, mobile species 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 operationalised under this component.
- MPA practitioners share MPA's management and financing solutions at Mediterranean level of the main missions of the MedPAN network is to foster experience and knowledge exchange between Mediterranean MPA managers. To this effect, the network organises gatherings for managers at a regional level, better known under the name of Regional experience sharing workshops. These workshops promote the exchange of information, expertise and experiences. Work under this component will support the organisation of 3 annual sharing-experience workshops, bringing together MPA managers to take stock on a given subject, the situation in the Mediterranean, and provide them an opportunity to exchange experience and build their capacities on some key topics[47].

- Three thematic working groups provide expertise to the MPA community. 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 (e.g. fisheries, marine turtles, marine mammals, sustainable financing, etc.). The objectives of MedPAN Thematic Working Groups is 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. Work under this component will support setting-up and operationalising these working groups. Those working groups will support development of key communication tools under component 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.
- access to MedPAN network online resource centers for Mediterranean MPAs that will gather up to 100 key resources on key topics (tools, publications, good practices...) from several MPAs or partners to enable their accessibility to the whole network. Contribution to IW:LEARN will be made.

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

As mentioned above, the 'Post-2020 MPA Roadmap' will be developed in 2020-2021 and will serve as a basis for the Barcelona Convention Post-2020 MPA strategy, aimed to achieve the post-2020 targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Beyond the promotion of a Mediterranean vision, the Roadmap will be declined in 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 sectors (political, institutional, social, economic, financial, etc.). Under this component, an harmonized approach and tools for promoting, animating/coordinating and monitoring the implementation of this 2020 MPA roadmap and its recommendations will be developed and put in place and, as for the 2020 MPA roadmap in 2016, this post-2020 roadmap will be evaluated at mid-term in 2024 and updated during the 2024 edition of the Mediterranean MPA Forum.

This work will be complemented by establishing and/or strengthening sub-regional and national networks of MPA managers (output 3.2.1) where communication and policy tools to raise awareness on needs and benefits of effectively and sustainably managed MPAs, as well as the importance of a sufficient part of fully protected areas to contribute to sustainable fisheries resources, will be disseminated; building a supportive environment for implementing policy commitments towards MPAs in the Mediterranean. Thematic working groups, on fisheries, financing and mobile species, described in component 2, will also support development of those communication and policy tools.

Enhanced international cooperation with other networks of MPA managers (e.g. Caribbean, West Africa, North America) as well as with conservation trust fund and trust fund networks, beyond the Mediterranean, will also be sought.

Component 4. Monitoring and evaluation program in place that assess overall progress and results of the project and facilitates adaptive management

Under component 4, the project will develop and implement an effective M&E programme, informing the adaptive project management.

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

The proposed project is well aligned with the GEF-7 International Waters Focal Area Strategy. It will directly support its Objective 1 (Strengthening national Blue Economy opportunities to reduce threats to marine and coastal waters) through its interventions aimed at supporting the effective management of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean. 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 and its ministerial endorsement.

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

GEFTF incremental finance 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 won't be able to deliver tangible results on the ground.

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 projects and assist GEF eligible Mediterranean countries in effectively and sustainably managing their coastal and marine protected areas. It will provide an 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. In addition to biodiversity benefits, the expected benefits of MPAs for coastal resources include an increase in 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[48]. The project will contribute to maintain frontline staff on the ground to secure the global environment assets of all the investment done in the Mediterranean sea in previous years.

Indicative total co-financing mobilized for the proposed project amounts to USD 34,310.275 million. The details on the sources of the co-financing, the scope and contribution to the achievement of the project objective are described in Table C and the accompanying text. During the PPG phase this co-financing level is expected to increase further (e.g. thanks, among others, to foreseen private sector contributions to The MedFund), among others. An indicative break-down of co-financing at the PIF stage (by source and component) is provided in Table 1 below (relevant currency USD).

Table 1. Project cofinancing

Source of cofinancing	Project components				PMC	Total of co-financing (USD)
	1. Sustainable financing support to core management costs of MPAs in the Mediterranean	2. Capacity building and knowledge sharing for improved MPAs management effectiveness	3. Stronger regional and national governance and cooperation & strategies	4. Monitoring and evaluation		

		and financing				
The MedFund existing endowment and sinking funds capitalization	6,080,000			500,000	500,000	7,080,000
MAVA pêche	616,610	616,610	616,610			1,849,829
MAVA tortue		164,940	164,940			329,881
Interreg 'MPANetworks'			333.278			333,278
COGITO		389,400				389,400
PPI OSCAN Phase 3	1,652,000	1,652,000				3,304,000
Port Cros inventories (FPAII)		885,000				885,000
BeMed (FPAII & MAVA)		1.593.000				1.593,000
Monk seal alliance		1,770,000				1,770,000
Pelagos	590,000					590,000
Tracking the movements and status of marine top predators in the Mediterranean & Black Sea - a B		424,800				424,800

asin scale initiative						
OFB	10,000,000	1,617,100				11,617,100
Governments	4,143,987					4,143,987
TOTAL	23,082,596	9,112,850	1,114,828	500,000	500,000	34,310,275

Details on the sources of the co-financing :

The MedFund existing endowment and sinking funds capitalization:

As part of its initial fundraising activities The MedFund raised EUR 1M from the Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM) and EUR 4M from Agence française de développement (AFD) for its endowment fund, and a EUR 1M from Prince Albert II Foundation for its sinking fund. As of 2020, MedFund has committed 1.8 million for MPA core management cost projects in Tunisia, Morocco and Albania. 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.

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

Duration: 30 months (2020-2022)

Total budget for 2022: EUR 1,567,652

In the same context as the one described above, 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.

The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) will mainly contribute to the NTZ-MPA project Strategy 1 (Prove effectiveness of MPAs and no take zone), Strategy 2 (Scaling-up at Mediterranean level) and Strategy 3 (Targeted policy and advocacy actions to ensure adequate regulatory framework and effective implementation).

Under Strategy 1, SPA/RAC will support the relevant national authorities of Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey, through a participatory approach, in updating, developing and implementing management plans for pilot marine protected areas (MPAs), to reduce the impact of fishing activities on species and habitats, based on the results of the MAVA-funded MedKeyHabitats I and II projects. Supporting national and local authorities in implementing MPA management plans

will involve several types of activities going from surveillance, monitoring, engaging local stakeholders, and establishing sustainable financing mechanisms to information, communication, awareness-raising, capacity-building, networking and exchange of experience, through twinning programmes, scientific events and stakeholder workshops.

Under Strategy 2, SPA/RAC will produce and disseminate technical manuals and process reliable cartographic data and disseminate it through the Barcelona Convention's Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform, and other national data platforms, as relevant. SPA/RAC will also organize the 2022 edition of the Mediterranean Symposium on Marine Habitats Conservation, involving the whole Mediterranean scientific community, and co-organize, with MedPAN and WWF, the 2020 Forum on MPAs in the Mediterranean, involving the whole Mediterranean MPA community.

Under Strategy 3, the concerned national authorities will be supported in elaborating and adopting National Actions Plans for the conservation of marine vegetation and coralligenous habitats. Based on a bottom-up approach, the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region" (Post-2020 SAP BIO) will develop several dedicated, innovative, and more ambitious measures to protect Mediterranean biodiversity, including ones related to MPAs and fisheries, to be adopted and implemented by the Mediterranean countries starting from 2022. The NTZ-MPA project will contribute to gather the input from the MPA community for the development of the Post-2020 SAP BIO. Thus, the Post-2020 SAP BIO will be among the strongest regional governance tools including measures aiming to guarantee the sustainability of national biodiversity conservation efforts by the 2035 horizon. Indeed, by adopting the Post-2020 SAP BIO at their COP 22 (2021), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention will agree to implement the Post-2020 SAP BIO strategic priorities and actions, and to provide the needed technical, human and financial resources for its successful implementation

MAVA Foundation - 'Conservation of Sea Turtles in the Mediterranean Region'

Duration: 30 months (2020-2022)

Total budget for 2022: EUR 279,560

The overall objective of the project (led by SPA/RAC) 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*). Marine turtles are currently underrepresented in global and regional priority-setting schemes because there is thus far no such "go-to" global source for the information needed to allocate site protection. The new strategies of the project will contribute to this global effort, ensuring that Mediterranean Sea turtle populations are well represented.

The current and good data on sea turtles will also feed discussions with MPA managers and national/ local authorities to improve management strategies – especially within MPAs, while, the Partnership will facilitate the dissemination of the standardised 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, advocacy and awareness activities and allow us to scale-up successes to other important sites.

EC Interreg-Med 'MPA NETWORKS' - 'Support MPAs effectiveness through strong and connected networks in the Mediterranean'

Duration: 32 months (2019-2022)

Total budget for 2022: EUR 282,439

The partners (including MedPAN as leader of the project) and associated partners of the project work together to build stronger MPA managers networks at all levels to contribute to the effectiveness of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas. The MPA NETWORKS project will focus 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.

Several types of activities will be led either sequentially or simultaneously. Nine pilot projects in 7 countries will be designed and implemented to address aspects of the challenges described above. Methodologies issued from previous projects (Programme Med and others) will be selected and tested in the field. Lessons learned will be shared among the Mediterranean MPA community. These experiences will also feed a permanent Mediterranean training programme on the selected subjects that was recently developed and that will be further matured with the MPA NETWORKS project. Specific networking activities between MPAs will also be organised for direct peer-to-peer support. On a wider level, regional, national or supra-national networks of MPA managers will be supported to build strong alliances of sites sharing similar characteristics or pressures. And finally, the joined forces of these networks will give rise to a coordinated MPA voice with shared recommendations to support pro-MPA policy-making at international, European, and national levels.

FFEM - COGITO - 'Enhance integrated and sustainable management of coastal, insular and marine protected areas in the Mediterranean'

Duration: 2018-2022

Total budget for 2022: EUR 330,000

Overall objective: contribute to the support and consolidation of the integrated management and resilience process of Mediterranean coastal, island and marine protected areas, for the benefit of ecosystems and local communities, while integrating the challenges of co-management of targeted territories, in order to reproduce them, in the long term, on a larger scale. This project is led by MedPAN with involvement of 3 partners WWF Mediterranean, Conservatoire du Littoral and PIM.

French Office for Biodiversity

Duration: 2022 – 2026

Total anticipated budget for 2022 – 2026: EUR 9,845 million

The French Office for Biodiversity (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. Under its public policies in support of the management of MPAs in the 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, including the restoration and good state of conservation of marine habitats, the animation of the network of MPAs, and the raising of public awareness.

PPI OSCAN phase 3

Duration: 2022 – 2024

Total anticipated budget for 2022-2024: EUR 2,8 million

The Small Initiatives Program for Civil Society Organizations in North Africa, is a program for the strengthening of Civil Society in North Africa that helps young associations wanting to get involved in new environmental and sustainable development issues through innovative initiatives in the region (some initiatives are focusing on MPAs or are involving communities of potential MPA sites). The programme is funding small initiatives in Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Libya. The second phase will be ending in 2021 and the feasibility of the third phase will be conducted in first half of 2021.

Port-Cros National Park inventories

Duration : 2022 – 2025

Total budget for 2022 – 2025: EUR 750,000

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 object of the project will be 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 restitution 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 1,35 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 :

- Support and develop a network of Mediterranean stakeholders committed to curbing plastic pollution
- Implement effective and sustainable solutions and support the research of novel solutions
- Engage stakeholders and the public by raising awareness and disseminating best practices.

Monk seal alliance

Duration: 2022 – 2025

Total budget for 2022 -2025: EUR 1,5 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 Segré 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 87,500 sq. km subject to an agreement between Italy, Monaco and France for the protection of marine mammals, which live in it.

What makes the Pelagos Sanctuary for Mediterranean Marine Mammals unique is the fact that it 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. FPAll 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. This 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.

The results will contribute 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 characterise 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.

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. 612,600 ha, representing 84.35% of the surface area of non-EU MPAs). Moreover, one LME (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: 35 685 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.

7) Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

The proposed project will innovate through:

- Joining forces of a CTF and a network of protected area managers, bringing together their respective added value for a more impactful action;
- Implementing an integrated approach to effective management of Mediterranean MPAs, including innovative financial mechanisms for MPAs core management costs as well as technical, organisational, institutional and strategic and policy support;
- Promoting regular training courses in permanent training centers hosted by MPAs in different sub-regions of the Mediterranean.

- The alliance between a regional network of MPAs managers and a regional trust fund for MPAs could be replicated in other regional seas worldwide

In addition, a number of innovative tools currently developed by the MedFund, such as the five years financial needs analysis, 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^[49], will be used throughout the proposed project.

Sustainability of the proposed project outcomes will be achieved via:

- Providing sustainable financing solutions and leveraging co-financings from the private sector (Component 1);
- Capacity building of a wide range of actors and institutions, including MPA managers and national authorities (Component 2);
- Supporting the development of strategies towards securing alternative funding at the MPA level (Component 2).

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

- Work on enabling environment to implement the post-2020 MPA roadmap by bringing together a large number of stakeholders from the civil society, the private sector and the national and local authorities (Component 3);
- Synergies between public and private sectors;
- Linkages between international and regional networks and support to national and sub-regional networks (Component 3);
- Regional exchange of knowledge and experience (Component 2).

[1] MedPAN and SPA/RAC, 2019. The 2016 status of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean. By Meola B. and Webster C. Ed SPA/RAC & MedPAN. Tunis 222 pages

[2] GFCM. 2016. Mid-term strategy (2017–2020) towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries (Mid-term strategy)

[3] Oregon State University, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, Marine Conservation Institute, National Geographic Society, and UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (2019) An Introduction to The MPA Guide. <https://www.protectedplanet.net/c/mpa-guide>

[4] MAPAMED (2017) the database on Sites of interest for the conservation of marine environment in the Mediterranean Sea <https://www.MedPAN.org/SIG/MAPAMEDvisualisation.html>

[5] Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape.

[6] MedPAN and SPA/RAC, 2019. The 2016 status of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean. By Meola B. and Webster C. Ed SPA/RAC & MedPAN. Tunis 222 pages

- [7] Gill, D., Mascia, M., Ahmadi, G. et al. Capacity shortfalls hinder the performance of marine protected areas globally. *Nature* 543, 665–669 (2017)
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- [16] Tudela, S. Ecosystem effects of fishing in the Mediterranean: an analysis of the major threats of fishing gear and practices to biodiversity and marine habitats. *Studies and Reviews. General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean*. No. 74. Rome, FAO. 2004. 44p.
- [17] Bellido J.M., Quetglas A.C., Garcia M., Garcia T. and González M. 2014. The obligation to land all catches - Consequences for the Mediterranean. European Parliament, Directorate-General for Internal Policies, Policy Department B: Structural and Cohesion Policies, Fisheries. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/studies>.
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[23] MedPAN

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[37] Declaration of the Union for the Mediterranean on Environment and Climate Change, 13 May 2014, Athens

[38] http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/20140515_UfM_declaration_FINAL_compromiseeditorial-changes.pdf

[39] http://rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/doc_cop/decision_22.13_en.pdf

[40] Spergel B., Mikitin K. Practice Standards for Conservation Trust Funds. Conservation Finance Alliance.

[41] The MedFund. Strategic and Financial Plan 2020 - 2025

[42] MedPAN network strategy for 2019-2023 and beyond MedPAN

[43] 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 (Réghaia), 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.

[44] Administration and operation of MPAs; salaries (excluding administrative salaries); equipment and infrastructure maintenance, and small equipment purchases; surveillance; capacity building; governance of MPAs; day to day monitoring (ecological and socio-economic); and awareness raising and communication.

[45] GEF funding will support MPAs in the following 5 countries: Algeria, Lebanon, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia; MPAs in Turkey will be supported by the MedFund co-financings

[46] Di Carlo G., Lopez A., Staub F., 2012. Capacity building strategy to enhance the management of MPAs in the Mediterranean Sea. Commissioned by WWF MedPO / MedPAN / UNEP/MAP/RAC/SPA. 19 pages + Annexes

[47] Last regional workshop was held in Turkey in November 2019 and focused on Managing highly mobile species across Mediterranean MPAs

[48] Marengo et al., 2015

[49] Other tools developed by MedPAN available at http://MedPAN.org/main_activities/management-tools/

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

The project will take place in MPAs in the 5 countries: Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Montenegro^[1], Tunisia. Under component 1, the beneficiary MPAs will be selected according to predefined eligibility and selection criteria, with the support of the MedFund Grant Award Committee. Under components 2 and 3, beneficiaries will involve all MPAs related stakeholders from the seven countries.

The below maps displayed the actual established MPAs in th5countries.

Figure 2. MPAs in Algeria

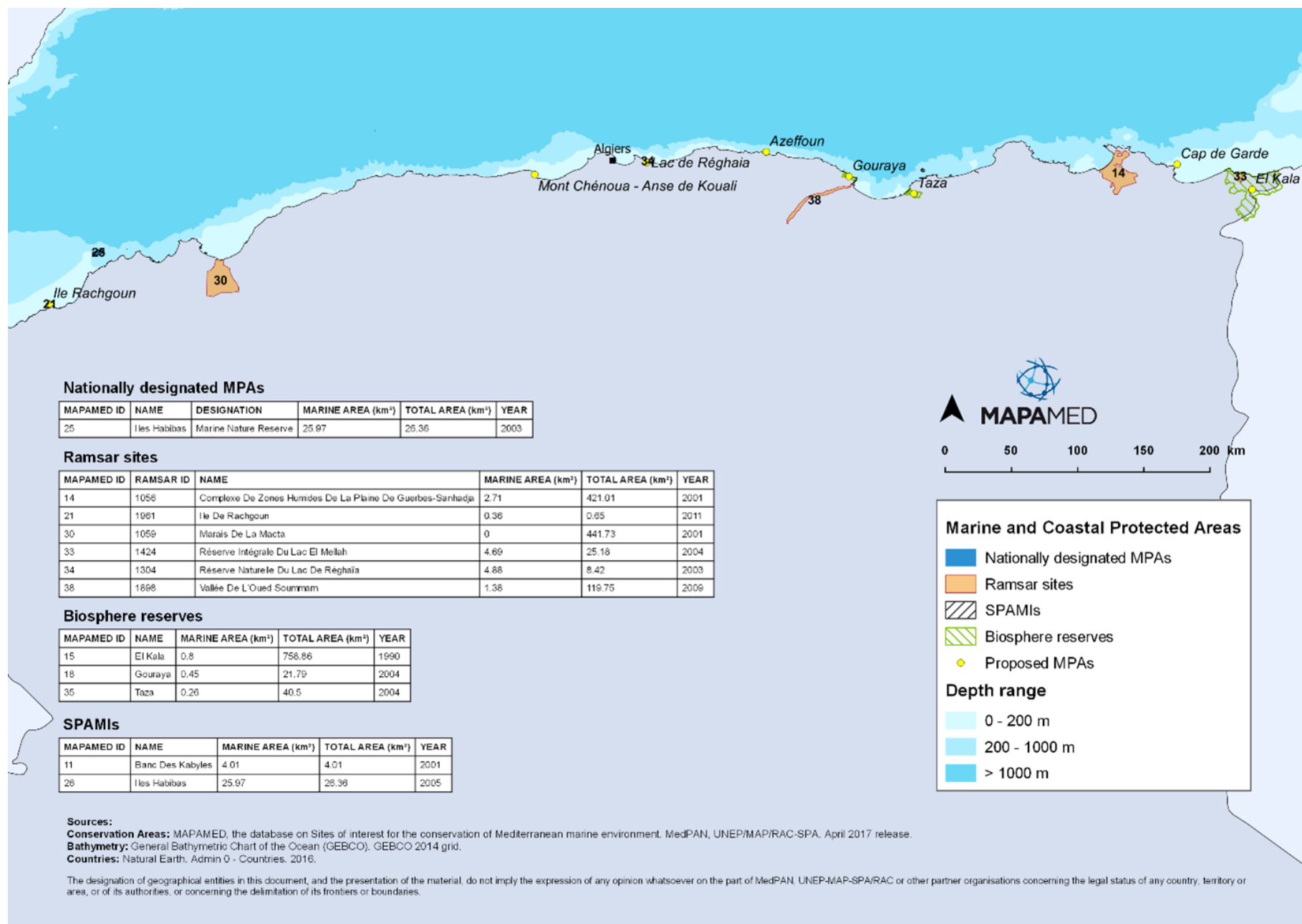


Figure 3. MPAs in Lebanon

0 25 50 75 100 km

Nationally designated MPAs

MAPAMED ID	NAME	DESIGNATION	MARINE AREA (km ²)	TOTAL AREA (km ²)	YEAR
923	Palm Islands	Nature Reserve	3.91	4.17	1992
927	Tyre Coast	Nature Reserve	36.89	38.88	1998

Ramsar sites

MAPAMED ID	RAMSAR ID	NAME	MARINE AREA (km ²)	TOTAL AREA (km ²)	YEAR
925	1079	Palm Islands Nature Reserve	3.91	4.17	2001
926	980	Tyre Beach	1.07	2.8	1999

SPAMIs

MAPAMED ID	NAME	MARINE AREA (km ²)	TOTAL AREA (km ²)	YEAR
924	Palm Islands	3.91	4.17	2012
928	Tyre Coast	36.89	38.88	2012

Areeda Estuary

925

Enfeh Peninsula

Ras Chekaa cliffs

Batroun Phoenician wall

Medfoun rocky area

Byblos

Nahr Ibrahim Estuary

Beirut Port outer platform

Raoucheh cliffs and caves

Beirut

Damour Estuary

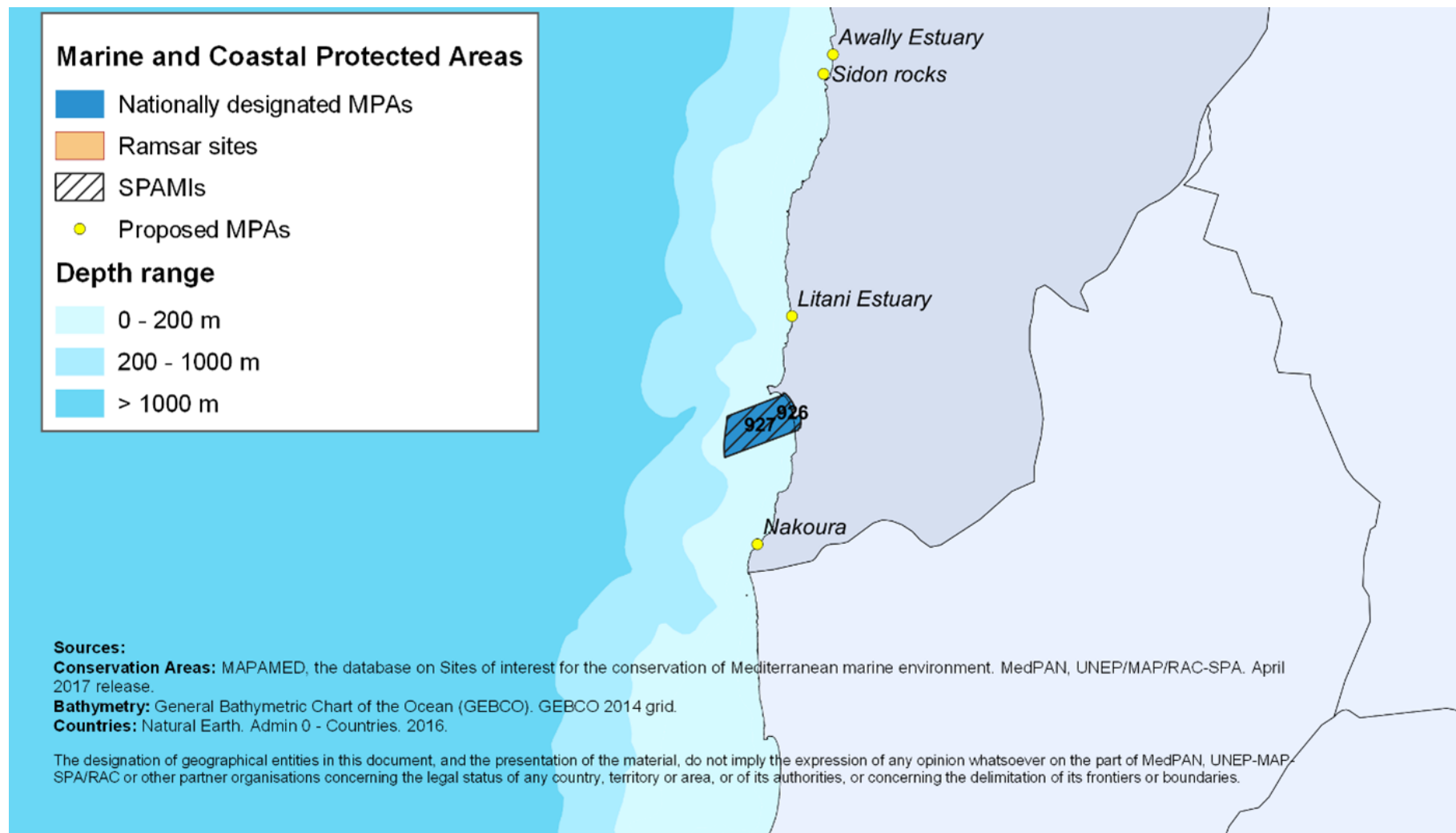


Figure 4. MPAs in Morocco

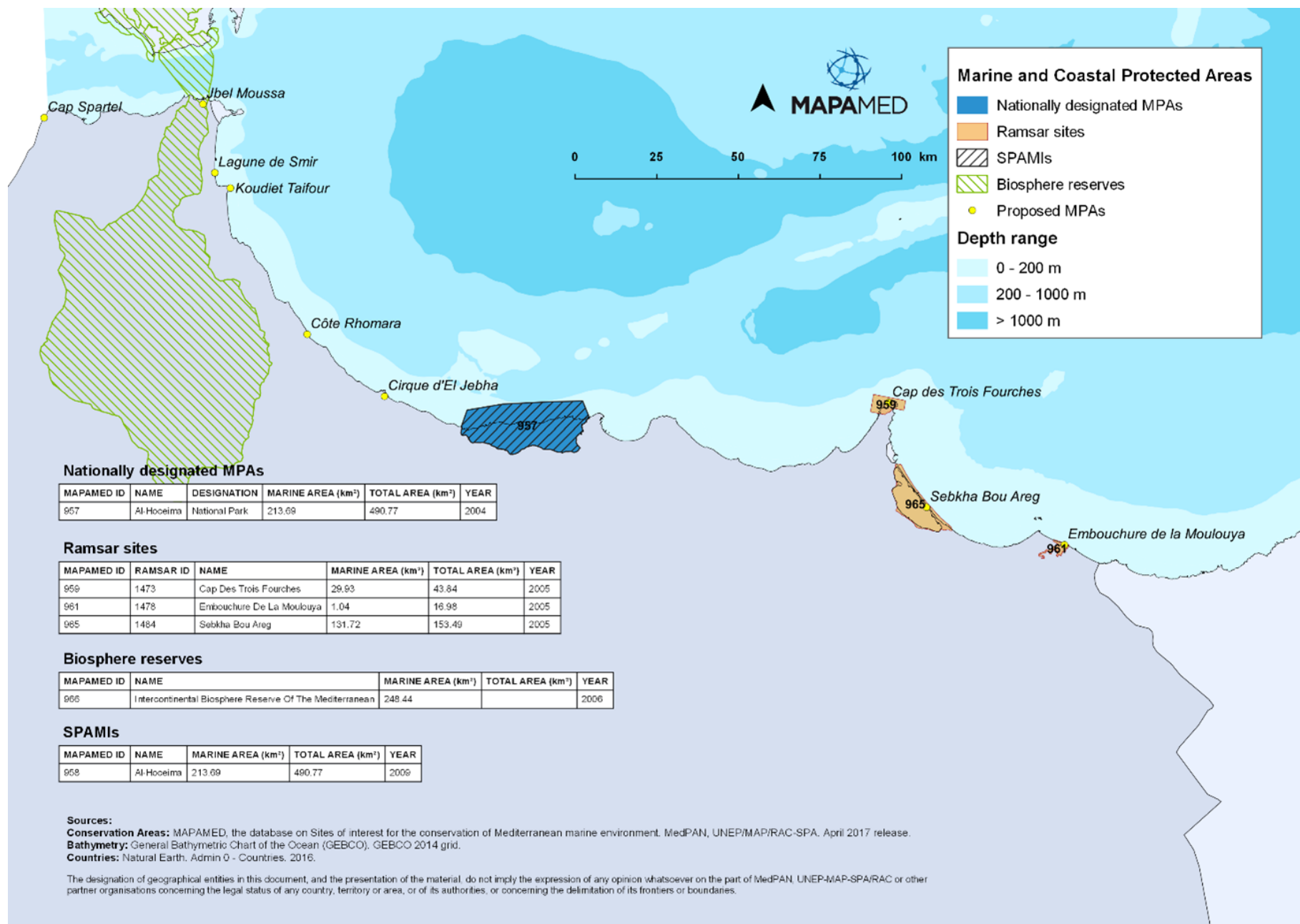


Figure 5. MPAs in Montenegro

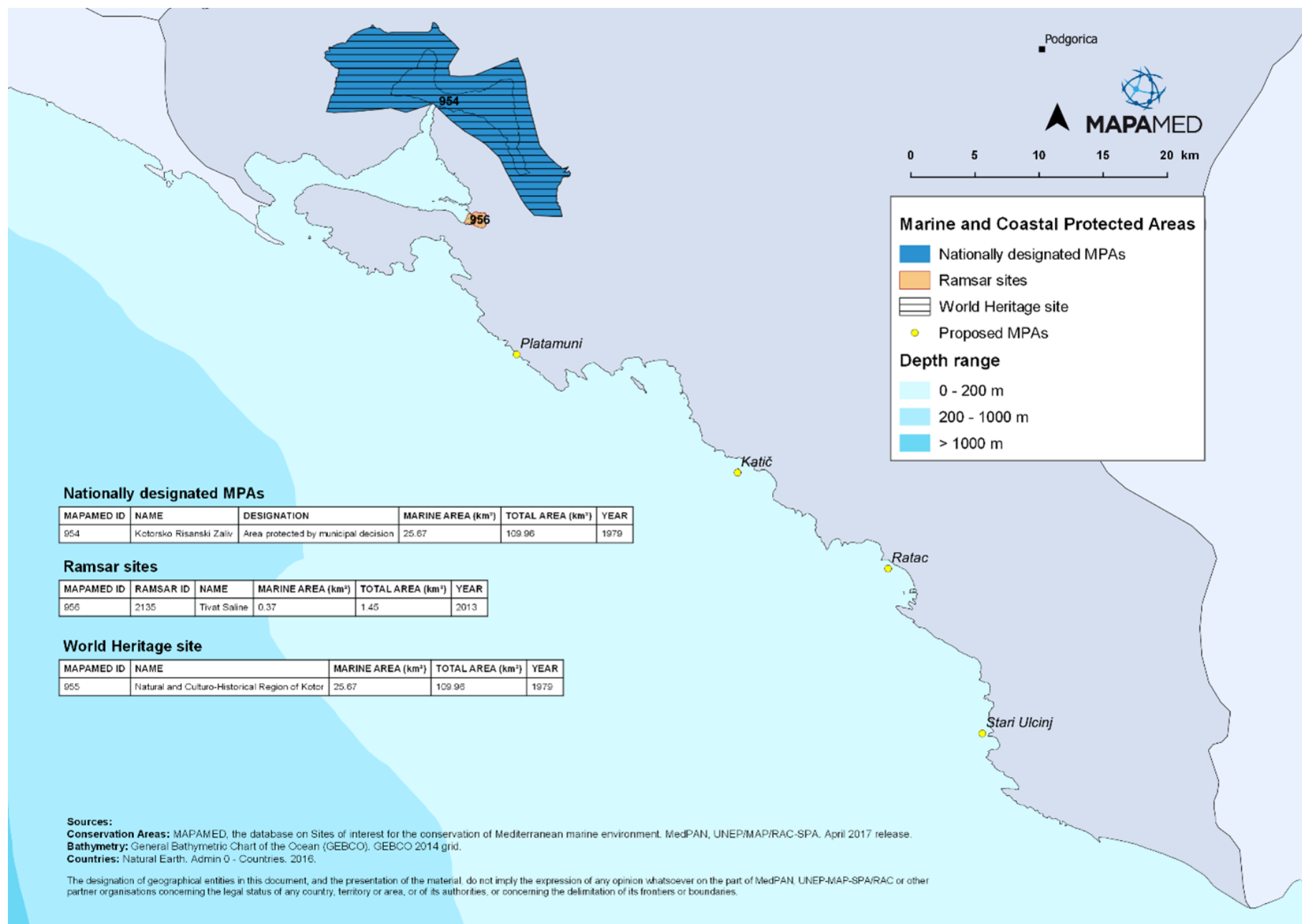



Figure 6. MPAs in Tunisia

0 25 50 75 100 km


Marine and Coastal Protected Areas

 Nationally designated MPAs


 Ramsar sites


 SPAMIs


 Biosphere reserves

 Proposed MPAs

Depth range

 0 - 200 m

 200 - 1000 m

 > 1000 m

Nationally designated MPAs

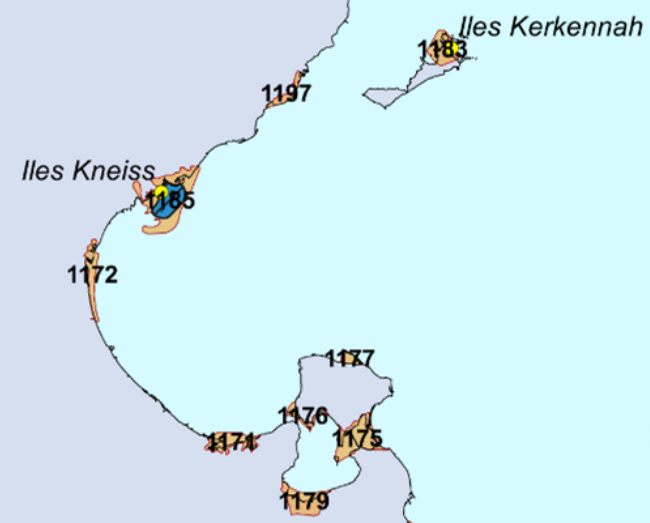
MAPAMED ID	NAME	DESIGNATION	MARINE AREA (km ²)	TOTAL AREA (km ²)	YEAR
1178	Galiton	Nature Reserve	4.65	4.82	1980
1185	Iles Kneiss	Nature Reserve	74.7	77.72	1993
1205	Zembra	Biological Protection Zone	50.67	50.82	1973

SPAMIs

MAPAMED ID	NAME	MARINE AREA (km ²)	TOTAL AREA (km ²)	YEAR
1165	Archipel De La Galite	82.94	91.16	2001
1186	Iles Kneiss	74.7	77.72	2001
1206	Zembra Et Zembretta	77.33	81.89	2003

Biosphere reserves

MAPAMED ID	NAME	MARINE AREA (km ²)	TOTAL AREA (km ²)	YEAR
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MAPAMED ID	NAME	MARINE AREA (km ²)	TOTAL AREA (km ²)	YEAR
1188	Iles Zembra et Zembretta	77.33	81.89	1977



Ramsar sites

MAPAMED ID	RAMSAR ID	NAME	MARINE AREA (km ²)	TOTAL AREA (km ²)	YEAR
1166	1697	Bahiret El Bibane	360.6	468.33	2007
1171	2100	Complexe Des Zones Humides De Sebkhet Oum Ez-Zessar Et Sebkhet El Grine	45.36	74.37	2013
1172	2076	Complexe Des Zones Humides Des Chott El Guetayate Et Sebkhet Dhreia Et Oueds Akarit, Rekhamma Et Meleh	42.09	58.58	2012
1173	2096	Complexe Lac De Tunis	0.47	24.68	2013
1175	1700	Djerba Bin El Ouedian	91.81	121.84	2007
1176	1701	Djerba Guellala	20.7	24.22	2007
1177	1702	Djerba Ras Rmel	17.11	18.97	2007
1179	2008	Golfe De Boughrara	24.53	88.01	2012
1183	2012	Iles Kerkennah Ou L'Archipel De Kerkennah	32.17	68.15	2012
1187	1704	Iles Kneiss Avec Leurs Zones Intertidales	165.56	220.58	2007
1192	1706	Lagune De Ghar El Melh Et Delta De La Mejerda	54.84	101.23	2007
1194	1707	Lagunes Du Cap Bon Oriental	0	5.67	2007
1197	1709	Salines De Thyna	3.17	27.24	2007
1200	2006	Sebkhet Halk Elmanzel Et Oued Essed	0	16.55	2012
1201	1713	Sebkhet Soliman	0.37	7.11	2007

Sources:

Conservation Areas: MAPAMED, the database on Sites of interest for the conservation of Mediterranean marine environment. MedPAN, UNEP/MAP/RAC-SPA. April 2017 release.

Bathymetry: General Bathymetric Chart of the Ocean (GEBCO). GEBCO 2014 grid.

Countries: Natural Earth. Admin 0 - Countries. 2016.

The designation of geographical entities in this document, and the presentation of the material, do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of MedPAN, UNEP-MAP-SPA/RAC or other partner organisations concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

[1] Lebanon and Montenegro are finalizing internal approval processes of the PIF and may join the project during the PPG phase

2. Stakeholders

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

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Private Sector Entities

If none of the above, please explain why:

During the identification phase, consultations were duly undertaken with a range of stakeholders, including in particular national policy makers, national authorities in charge of MPAs management as well as local NGOs who act as MPA co-managers, several regional institutions and networks, and donor organisations. This was possible due to the networks in the Mediterranean both The MedFund and the MedPAN have access to, as well as their institutional nature which both rely on broad stakeholders participation within their decision-making bodies.

The table below lists how key stakeholders have been engaged during the identification phase.

TABLE 2. STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED DURING THE IDENTIFICATION PHASE

Stakeholder	Means of consultation/involvement during project execution	The means and timing of engagement	The means of information dissemination
MPA managers : national authorities in charge of MPA management and local NGOs who act as co-managers in the Mediterranean	MPA managers are key beneficiaries of the project. Financial gaps assessment study has been conducted in 2019 in 4 Mediterranean countries (Albania, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia) to estimate the financial needs to cover their core management costs MPA managers, belonging to the MedPAN network have been consulted in the framework of the MedPAN Steering Committee for the permanent training mechanism development as well as the MedPAN thematic working groups (on financing, fisheries and mobile species) and the MedPAN Board of Directors (made of several MPA managers).	PIF preparation stage and before	Consultations, focus groups, steering committee, working groups, MedPAN Board of Directors,
National governments	National governments (Algeria, Le	PIF preparation stag	Consultations, The MedFu

	<p>banon, Morocco, Montenegro, Tunisia) are key stakeholders in the project, and have provided political, financial, and technical support. French government has also been involved especially through the OFB (French Biodiversity Agency) in charge of MPAs.</p>	e	nd and MedPAN Board meetings
Regional institutions	<p>Several regional institutions have been consulted to provide inputs to the project identification. This includes the UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan - Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC) which assists Mediterranean countries in the implementation of their commitments under the SPA/BD Protocol. SPA/RAC is a board member of The MedFund and of MedPAN. Other key regional institutions consulted include: WWF Mediterranean, IUCN Med, PIM (Mediterranean Small Islands Initiative), ACCOBAMS, Conservatoire du Littoral, GFCM. Those partners were especially mobilized within the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean MPA Roadmap process. Some of them are also part of the MedFund Board and the MedPAN Advisory Committee</p>	PIF preparation stage and before	<p>The MedFund and MedPAN Board meetings ; MedPAN Advisory Committee ; Steering Committee of the Mediterranean MPA Roadmap process; Participation in regular meetings; project activities.</p>
National, Regional, International MPA networks	<p>Major networks active in the Mediterranean (e.g. Adriatic and Ionian Sea) and elsewhere (e.g. Caribbean, West Africa, North America) will contribute to the knowledge sharing aspects of the project, and will contribute to scaling up of the pro</p>	PIF preparation stage and before	<p>International meetings, consultationsworkshops, written documentation,</p>

	ject interventions; especially in terms of policy support. This collaboration is already effective and has been mobilized within the framework of MPA NETWORKS project started in 2019 as well as the Transatlantic twinning between regional networks of MPA managers started in 2016.		
International development agencies/donors	International donor agencies/development partners have been consulted to explore synergies with other ongoing projects in the region namely Agence Française de Développement (French Development Agency) and FFEM	PIF preparation stage	Consultations

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement.

The project will design a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) that aligns with CI-GEF policies and guidelines during the PPG phase. The SEP will provide more information on the stakeholders consulted in the PIF and PPG phases and the stakeholders that will be involved in project implementation. The purpose of the SEP is to: a) ensure that stakeholder views and concerns are taken into account by the project and are known by key decision makers; and b) continue consultations throughout project implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, as necessary, to ensure project adaptive management and proper implementation of environmental and social safeguard plans.

At this time, it is anticipated that the following stakeholders will have been consulted during the PPG phases, as well as during project implementation:

Table 2. Stakeholders that will be consulted during PIF and PPG phases

Stakeholder	Means of consultation/involvement during project execution	The means and timing of engagement	The means of information dissemination
MPA managers, related actors and their networks in the Mediterranean	MPA managers are key beneficiaries of the project. Thus, their engagement in the project will be central to ensure the achievement of its objectives relating to improved MPA management.	Throughout PPG preparation consultations will be done to assess actual needs. Active engagement throughout project implementation through project activities.	Consultations, focus groups, project trainings, workshops, written documentation, online resources.
National governments	National governments (Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Montenegro, Tunisia) are key stakeholders	PIF preparation stage, PPG, and throughout project implementation	Consultations, focus groups, project trainings, workshops, written documentation

	...; memorandum; rationale; are key stakeholders in the project, and are expected to provide political, financial, and technical support.	d throughout project implementation	trainings, workshops, written documentation, online resources; The MedFund Board meetings;
Regional institutions	Several regional institutions will be consulted and partnerships established for the effective delivery of activities (e.g. outreach, trainings, advocacy). This includes, for instance, the UN Environment Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC) which assists Mediterranean countries in the implementation of their commitments under the SPA/BD Protocol. SPA/RAC is a board member of The MedFund. Other key regional institutions: WWF, IUCN Med, PIM, GFCM	PIF preparation stage, PPG, and throughout project implementation	The MedFund Board meetings; Participation in regular meetings; project activities
Trust fund networks (regional/international)	Trust fund networks will be leveraged to lobby at the regional and international levels on issues relating to the sustainable financing of MPAs, and will contribute to knowledge sharing initiatives.	PPG and throughout project implementation	International meetings
National, Regional, International MPA networks	Major networks active in the Mediterranean (e.g. Adriatic and Ionian Sea) and elsewhere (e.g. Caribbean, West Africa, North America) contribute to the knowledge sharing aspects of the project, and contribute to scaling up the project interventions.	PPG and throughout project implementation	International meetings, consultations, focus groups, project trainings, workshops, written documentation, online resources
NGOs	NGOs are key technical and professional partners of the project, in particular with regards to knowledge sharing initiatives, as well as beneficiaries in the long-term.	PPG and throughout project implementation	Consultations, focus groups, project trainings, workshops, written documentation, online resources
International development agencies/donors	International donor agencies/development partners will be consulted to further explore synergies with other ongoing projects in the region, as well as capitalize on lessons learnt.	PPG and throughout project implementation	Consultations, focus groups, project trainings, workshops, written documentation, online resources
Private sector	The private sector will be an important financial partner of the project, and is expected to provide political, financial, and technical support.	PPG and throughout project implementation	Consultations, focus groups, project trainings, workshops, written documentation, online resources

	ai partner or the project	mplementation	rainings, workshops, written documentation, online resources
CSOs	CSOs will be direct beneficiaries of the project, and will contribute to the dissemination of knowledge generated through the project.	PPG and throughout project implementation	Consultations, focus groups, project trainings, workshops, written documentation, online resources
Coastal and marine resources dependent vulnerable groups	The project will make every effort to engage with these groups, and increase their access to trainings, etc. Representatives from small-scale fisher organizations, amongst others, will be active participants in the project activities and their members will directly benefit from the improvements in the sustainable management of MPAs.	PPG and throughout project implementation	Consultations, focus groups, project trainings, workshops, written documentation, online resources, outreach through representatives of participating community-based organizations

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).

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.

The MedFund will:

1. Develop core gender competencies through training and mentoring to integrate gender into trust fund policies, projects and activities, and raise awareness among The MedFund members and key stakeholders;
2. Establish functional systems and procedures for governance committee members, implementing agency staff and grantees to promote gender considerations in programs;
3. Create a gender accountability system to collect gender mainstreaming indicators.

In accordance to this plan, gender considerations will be mainstreamed into all aspects of the proposed project. The project will design a Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP) that aligns with CI-GEF policies and guidelines during the PPG phase, with the aim of will be identifying needs and opportunities to mitigate potentially adverse effects of the project on men and women, as well as to promote gender equality in all aspects of the project. The GMP, fully aligned with the GEF Gender Action Plan (GAP), will elaborate on the gender dimensions for the project, including a gender assessment, differentiated reporting of output indicators and additional measures. It will ensure that both women and men equitably participate in, and receive benefits from, the project activities.

The proposed project has the potential to play a role in advancing women's equitable access to financial resources, thereby contributing to sustainable marine conservation, as well as increase women's participation and decision-making as it relates to MPA management. Project elements which are particularly gender-sensitive and will be considered in the GMP include, amongst others:

- All activities of the project contribute to gender mainstreaming, and integrate gender considerations (e.g. when possible participants in project activities and events call for equal representation of men and women);
- Project generated knowledge products use gender sensitive language and are made equally accessible to men and women, and may therefore vary in form to convey information more effectively to meet the needs of different groups; and

- In a COVID-19 recovery context, it will be important to acknowledge the disproportionate impacts of the pandemic on the socio-economic status of women and their ability to participate in decision-making processes, and effectively address these through the project interventions/design choices.

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; and/or Yes

generating socio-economic benefits or services for women. Yes

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

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.

At this stage, it is anticipated that the private sector will play important roles at two levels through the project. First, under Component 2 and at MPA level, the project will explore partnerships with the private sector to identify appropriate alternative financing options. This may include exploring options for certifications of small scale fisheries, establishing anchoring fees, various revenue opportunities from tourism activities, the development of revenue generating activities in MPAs, etc.

At the global level, The MedFund will strive to continue to mobilize private financial partners, such as aquariums and philanthropies for instance. Moreover, The MedFund will continue to work at the regional level with the tourism industry, as well as other private sector stakeholders that rely on a healthy Mediterranean sea to support their business, to leverage contributions to its regional MPA financing mechanism, through environmental-related fees, fiscal offsets, biodiversity offsets, donations, and/or grants.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the Project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the Project design (table format acceptable)

Risk	Rating	Risk Mitigation Measure
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 over the long term	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 exceedingly 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 will be 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 become less dependent on the fund.
Weak management capacities for planning, management, and governance reduce project effectiveness	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 institutional, organizational and individual gaps.
The capital invested in the CTF sinking fund and the revenue generated are diverted from their purpose	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with MPAs, regional institutions, and local organizations will encourage th

vely	iv	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 implemented to include adaptation to climate change in MPA management plans.
Outbreak of diseases in the region and beyond (Covid-19)	S	See a detailed analysis of the short, medium and long term impacts as well as mitigation measures below.

Climate Risks:

The climate risks for the project has been rated medium to substantial based on the projected changes, adaptive capacities, and project interventions. The projected changes include changes in precipitation, increased temperatures, acidification, 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 Marine Protected Area (MPA) level, MPA managers generally lack the knowledge on climate change adaptation, and climate change is rarely integrated into MPA management plans. The project will support cost-effective and long-term sustainable management in 20 MPAs, build the capacities of MPA managers and other MPA related actors through trainings related to integration of climate change adaption within MPA management plans, and commit the Mediterranean MPA community to implement appropriate actions to better address climate change issues at local, national and regional levels. During the PPG Phase, the project will conduct a detailed climate vulnerability assessment and identify risk management options which are to be incorporated into the design of the project.

COVID 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.).

Short term impacts :

During the lockdown, MedPAN circulated a small survey throughout the network to assess how network members ie MPAs managers and national organisations 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 lockdown. 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 field-work and had to purchase necessary gear (masks, gloves etc). Some MPAs had to recruit some 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 badly 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 of 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 allow 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.

We foresee some changes in the operations that will results from this pandemic :

- An effective co-management, associating a powerful national authority and a reactive association, supported by community led approaches 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. Coordination

Outline the institutional structure of the project including monitoring and evaluation coordination at the project level. Describe possible coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

The GEF Implementing Agency for this project is Conservation International, (CI-GEF). The two executing agencies are The MedFund and MedPAN.

The MedFund will be the leading Executing Agency for Components 1 and 4, and the MedPAN will be the leading Executing Agency for Components 2 and 3. They will be in charge of coordinating the implementation of the activities under the proposed project components and ensure coordination with other on-going and/or planned GEF projects to ensure synergies, most notably the MedProgramme and the FishEBM MED, and with investments and initiatives funded by other donors in the Mediterranean.

The MedFund and the MedPAN will manage the proposed project funds and will be supervised by CI-GEF to make sure that all fiduciary standards are being met. In their capacities as Executing Agencies, the MedFund and the MedPAN will also be responsible for the regular monitoring of the proposed project results and the reporting of such results (through joint 6-monthly progress reports, technical and financial reports, Project Implementation Reports for instance) to the Implementing Agency, as need be and according to a calendar that would be adopted during the inception phase.

A Project Steering Committee (PSC), involving the Implementing Agency, the Executing Agencies, and representative of the countries, will act as an advisory mechanism to maximize synergies and ensure the successful design and implementation of the proposed project, including the approval of the yearly project work programs. Other partners, such as international organizations, NGOs and the private sector, will be involved as necessary. This project will liaise with, and learn from, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM-FAO), whose objective is to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living marine resources in the Mediterranean. The main role of the PSC will be to provide a coordination forum and a monitoring platform during the implementation phase of the proposed project. It will also provide an overall, high-level, coordination of the technical alignment and synergy between the proposed project components. It will meet face-to-face once a year, and virtually more often if required. It could be organized back to back with The MedFund general assembly meeting.

Finally, 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.

Table 3 Project Coordination/links with ongoing GEF projects and other initiatives

Project	Objectives/Brief description of how it is linked to the project	Coordination
Blue Nature Alliance to expand and improve conservation of 1.25 billion hectares of ocean ecosystems (GEF ID 10375)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The project 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.

Fisheries and Ecosystem Based Management for the Blue Economy of the Mediterranean - (FishEBM MED) (GEF ID 10560)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of the FishEBM MED project 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a regional project with intervention areas overlapping fisheries activities of the proposed project. The data and knowledge generated through the project, including monitoring of environmental status and biodiversity, could be used to enhance the effective management of MPAs targeted by the proposed project.
Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security (GEF ID 9607)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To accelerate the implementation of agreed upon priority actions to reduce the major transboundary environmental stresses affecting the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas while strengthening climate resilience and water security, and improving the health and livelihoods of coastal populations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project will capitalize on the knowledge generated through, and the lessons learned from, this now completed project.
Enhancing Regional Climate Change Adaptation in the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas (GEF ID9670)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist countries to increase the resilience of the Mediterranean marine and coastal areas to the impacts of climate change with the view to influencing wider development processes in the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information sharing. This project will be crucial in providing baseline information about MPA management effectiveness and financial needs
Empowering the legacy: Scaling up co-managed and financially sustainable No-Take Zones/Marine Protected Areas (MAVA Foundation, 2020-2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through a new regional partnership to boost the work on MPAs and create long-lasting mechanisms towards a resilient Mediterranean Sea, the project intends to create new no-take zones and improve the management of MPAs which have the greatest impact potential and can inspire and engage other sites in the Mediterranean. It will build capacity, exchange lessons learned, and promote networking among other MPA managers and fishers around the Mediterranean, and increase the financial sustainability of local conservation initiatives. It will work with decision-makers to replicate and sustain local solutions and develop an ambitious and effective policy plan to protect the Mediterranean marine biodiversity within the Barcelona Convention. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The two projects intend to support effective MPA management, and close coordination will be done to ensure best approaches can be shared and scaled out.
Promoting Protected Areas Management through Integrated Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Protection in Coastal Area of Montenegro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project will help officially establish and designate 3 MPAs in Montenegro which could then be supported by The MedFund and MedPAN.

o (GEF ID 9762)	and financial sustainability. Started in 2018, this project is protecting valuable coastal and marine biodiversity assets and is establishing the integrated subsystem4 of C / MPAs, and is improving the management effectiveness in the C / MPAs in Platamuni, Katici and Stari Ulcinj critical land/seascape	
EC Interreg-Med 'MPA NETWORKS'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The MPA NETWORKS project will focus 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The project 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

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Is the Project consistent with the National Strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions

Yes

If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc

- National Bio Strategy Action Plan (NBSAP)
- CBD National Report
- Cartagena Protocol National Report
- Nagoya Protocol National Report
- UNFCCC National Communications (NC)
- UNFCCC Biennial Update Report (BUR)
- UNFCCC National Determined Contribution
- UNFCCC Technology Needs Assessment
- UNCCD Reporting
- ASGM National Action Plan (ASGM NAP)
- Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA)
- Stockholm National Implementation Plan (NIP)
- Stockholm National Implementation Plan Update
- National Adaptation Programme of Action Update
- Others

The proposed project is fully aligned with and makes key contributions to international and regional conventions, agreements, and policies as described below:

Mediterranean MPAs Roadmap. 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 organisations 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 are: 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 set to be revisited for the Post-2020 period, to which this project intends to make significant contributions, including for its monitoring and evaluation.

It is noteworthy that the 2020 MPA Roadmap has served as a basis of the [Barcelona Convention 2020 MPA Roadmap](#). During their 19th ordinary meeting (Athens, Greece, February 2016), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted the "Roadmap for a Comprehensive Coherent Network of Well-Managed MPAs to Achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean" as guidance to update and implement the "Regional working programme for the coastal and marine protected areas in the Mediterranean including the High Sea" (Decision IG.22/133).

Convention for Biological Diversity and Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (1995). 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. Moreover, the project will make significant contributions to Aichi Target 11^[1] by enhancing the effective management of Mediterranean MPAs.

SAP BIO (Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean region). 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.

Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development). 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 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; 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; 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 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

GFCM Mid-term strategy (2017–2020) towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries. The project is well aligned with the mid-term strategy of the GFCM. The mid-term strategy of the GFCM has the following five targets: 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. 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.

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 artisanal fisheries.

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

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

[1] By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape.

8. Knowledge Management

Outline the Knowledge management approach for the Project, including, if any, plans for the Project to learn from other relevant Projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.

The approach to knowledge management of the proposed project, will both ensure its sustainability and its complementarity with other initiatives. Indeed, knowledge management is central to the project strategy, and 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: (i) identifying and using the lessons learnt from ongoing and prior initiatives to inform project interventions; (ii) support learning and training for Mediterranean MPA managers and other key stakeholders on key topics to strengthen effective management; and (iii) knowledge and experience sharing for technical support and joint policy mobilization through networks in and beyond the Mediterranean, through a range of interventions including the link with IW:LEARN.

Knowledge gathered through Outcome 3.1 activities relating to the M&E of the Post-2020 Mediterranean MPAs Roadmap will contribute to better inform decision-making.

Extensive knowledge gathered through components 2 and 3 will be further shared across networks through different platforms, including a link with IW:LEARN. Online platforms will be particularly relevant to enable effective communication while allowing for social distancing, in the context of COVID-19.

The KM 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 of good practices.

9. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

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

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF

CEO Endorsement/Approval MTR

TE

Low

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Provide preliminary information on the types and levels of risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and describe measures to address these risks during the project design.

See safeguard screening analysis and climate risk screening documents attached.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Submitted
20201013 Climate risk screening _medpan medfund	
20200917 MedFund_MedPAN Preliminary Safeguard Screening Analysis Results	

Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And Gef Agency(ies)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).

Name	Position	Ministry	Date
Sabria Bnoui	GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Local Affairs and Environment	
Mme Samira Hamidi	GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Environment	
Rachid Firadi	GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Environment	
Dimyanos Kattar	Minister of Environment	Ministry of Environment	9/30/2020
Ivana Vjinovic	GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism	10/7/2020

ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project intervention takes place