



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

Naoko Ishii
CEO and Chairperson

February 06, 2018

Mr. Miguel Morales
Vice President/Managing Director
Conservation International
2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 500
Arlington VA, 22202

Dear Mr. Morales:

I am pleased to inform you that I have approved the medium-sized project detailed below. I have also approved the reimbursement of the project preparation grant.

Decision Sought:	Medium-sized Project (MSP) Approval
GEFSEC ID:	9959
Agency(ies):	CI
Focal Area:	International Waters
Project Type:	Medium-Sized Project
Country(ies):	Regional (Albania, Morocco, Tunisia)
Name of Project:	Long-term Financial Mechanism to Enhance Mediterranean MPA Management Effectiveness
GEF Project Grant:	\$908,275
Agency Fee:	\$81,745
PPG:	\$9,156
PPG Fee:	\$824
Funding Source:	GEF Trust Fund

This approval is subject to the comments made by the GEF Secretariat in the attached document. It is also based on the understanding that the project is in conformity with GEF focal areas strategies and in line with GEF policies and procedures.

Sincerely,

Naoko Ishii
Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson

Attachment: GEFSEC Project Review Document
Copy to: Country Operational Focal Point, GEF Agencies, STAP, Trustee



GEF-6 REQUEST FOR ONE-STEP MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECT APPROVAL

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEFTF

For more information about GEF, visit TheGEF.org

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	Long-term financial mechanism to enhance Mediterranean MPA management effectiveness		
Country(ies):	Regional Mediterranean Sea (pilot countries: Albania, Morocco, Tunisia)	GEF Project ID: ¹	9959
GEF Agency(ies):	CI (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	
Other Executing Partner(s):	Association for the Sustainable Financing of Mediterranean MPAs (M2PA)	Submission Date:	12/04/2017
GEF Focal Area(s):	International Waters	Project Duration (Months)	24
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Commodities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Food Security <input type="checkbox"/>		
Name of Parent Program:	[if applicable]	Agency Fee (\$)	81,745

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND PROGRAM²:

Focal Area Objectives/programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
			GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
IW-3 Program 6 (select) (select)	Outcome 6.1: Coasts in globally most significant areas protected from further loss and degradation of coastal habitats while protecting and enhancing livelihoods	GEFTF	908,275	9,692,183
(select) (select) (select)		(select)		
(select) (select) (select)		(select)		
(select) (select) (select)		(select)		
(select) (select) (select)		(select)		
(select) (select) (select)		(select)		
(select) (select) (select)		(select)		
(select) (select) (select)		(select)		
Total project costs			908,275	9,692,183

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To establish a Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) to enhance the management effectiveness of Mediterranean MPAs (MPAs) through improving their long-term financial sustainability

Project Components/ Programs	Financing Type ³	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing
Component 1: Establishment of a Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) for the Mediterranean MPAs	TA	Outcome 1.1: Conservation Trust Fund for Mediterranean MPAs established and operational	Output 1.1.1: Regional and national cooperation among members of the Association for the Sustainable Financing of the Mediterranean MPAs (M2PA) expanded and	GEFTF	686,865	6,980,682

¹ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC and to be entered by Agency in subsequent document submissions.

² When completing Table A, refer to the excerpts on [GEF 6 Results Frameworks for GETF, LDCF and SCCF](#) and [CBIT programming directions](#).

³ Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance.

			<p>consolidated</p> <p>Output 1.1.2: Financial needs assessed for current and potential participating Mediterranean MPAs and management effectiveness baseline established for 10 MPAs in Morocco, Tunisia, and Albania, totaling 106,100 hectares</p> <p>Output 1.1.3: CTF institutional strategy, governance structure, legal framework, financial structure, and asset management approach agreed upon by key stakeholders and adopted by the M2PA Board</p> <p>Output 1.1.4: CTF operational guidelines and policies developed and adopted by the M2PA Board</p>			
Component 2: Resource mobilization for the capitalization of the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) for the Mediterranean MPAs	TA	Outcome 2.1: Initial capitalization of the CTF completed (At least USD 1.5M from non-GEF resources)	Output 2.1.1: CTF Resource Mobilization and Communications Strategies developed and under implementation	GEFTF	138,840	2,631,501
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		

	Subtotal		825,705	9,612,183
	Project Management Cost (PMC) ⁴	GEFTF	82,570	80,000
	Total GEF Project Financing		908,275	9,692,183

For multi-trust fund projects, provide the total amount of PMC in Table B, and indicate the split of PMC among the different trust funds here: ()

C. SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE

Please include confirmed co-financing letters for the project with this form.

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
Donor Agency	Government of the Principality of Monaco	Grant	580,370
Donor Agency	Government of France (French Agency for Biodiversity [AFB] and French Ministry of the Environment):	In-kind	1,706,229
Recipient Government	Tunisian Agency for the Protection and Management of the Littoral	In-kind	1,700,000
Donor Agency	Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM)	Grants	1,741,110
Donor Agency	Conservatoire du Littoral	In-kind	320,147
CSO	IUCN Med	In-kind	258,836
CSO	Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation (FPA 2)	In-kind	1,541,700
CSO	FPA 2 Swiss Branch - Basel Zoo	Grants	99,820
CSO	FPA 2 American Branch - Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation	Grants	373,745
CSO	The Network of MPA managers in the Mediterranean - MedPan	In-kind	789,856
CSO	The Mediterranean RAC/SPA	In-kind	580,370
Total Co-financing			9692183

D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES), FOCAL AREA AND PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/Regional/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee ^{a)} (b)	Total (c)=a+b
CI	GEF TF	Regional	International Waters	(select as applicable)	908,275	81,745	990,020
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0

⁴ For GEF Project Financing up to \$2 million, PMC could be up to 10% of the subtotal; above \$2 million, PMC could be up to 5% of the subtotal. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project financing amount in Table D below.

Total Grant Resources	908,275	81,745	990,020
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a) Refer to the [Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies](#).

E. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS⁵

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares	157,070 hectares
2. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	120 million hectares under sustainable land management	hectares
3. Promotion of collective management of transboundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services	Water-food-ecosystems security and conjunctive management of surface and groundwater in at least 10 freshwater basins;	Number of freshwater basins
	20% of globally over-exploited fisheries (by volume) moved to more sustainable levels	Percent of fisheries, by volume
4. Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	750 million tons of CO _{2e} mitigated (include both direct and indirect)	metric tons
5. Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern	Disposal of 80,000 tons of POPs (PCB, obsolete pesticides)	metric tons
	Reduction of 1000 tons of Mercury	metric tons
	Phase-out of 303.44 tons of ODP (HCFC)	ODP tons
6. Enhance capacity of countries to implement MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and mainstream into national and sub-national policy, planning financial and legal frameworks	Development and sectoral planning frameworks integrate measurable targets drawn from the MEAs in at least 10 countries	Number of Countries:
	Functional environmental information systems are established to support decision-making in at least 10 countries	Number of Countries:

F. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A “NON-GRANT” INSTRUMENT? No

(If [non-grant instruments](#) are used, provide an indicative calendar of expected reflows to your Agency and to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/CBIT Trust Fund) in Annex B.

Not applicable

G. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)⁶

Is Project Preparation Grant requested? Yes No If no, skip item G.

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), TRUST FUND, COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS*

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					PPG (a)	Agency Fee ⁷ (b)	Total c = a + b
CI	GEF TF		International Waters	(select as applicable)	9,156	824	9,980
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0

⁵ Provide those indicator values in this table to the extent applicable to your proposed project. Progress in programming against these targets for the projects per the *Corporate Results Framework* in the [GEF-6 Programming Directions](#), will be aggregated and reported during mid-term and at the conclusion of the replenishment period. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF, SCCF and/or CBIT.

⁶ PPG of up to \$50,000 is reimbursable to the country upon approval of the MSP.

⁷ PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the Agency fee over the GEF Project Financing amount requested.

Total PPG Amount	9,156	824	9,980
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PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

1. *Project Description.* Briefly describe: a) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed; b) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects, c) the proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area⁸ strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project, d) [incremental/ additional cost reasoning](#) and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF/SCCF, CBIT and [co-financing](#); e) [global environmental benefits](#) (GEFTF), and [adaptation benefits](#) (LDCF/SCCF); and 6) innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

1. Project Description

1. The Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem is one of the most highly valued seas in the world. The region comprises a vast set of coastal and marine ecosystems that deliver valuable benefits to all its coastal inhabitants. These include estuaries, coastal plains, wetlands, sea grass meadows, coralligenous communities, seamounts, and pelagic systems. As a biodiversity hotspot⁹, the Mediterranean represents only 0.82% of the ocean surface, but contains nearly 17,000 known marine species or about 7-9% of the global marine biodiversity. The basin's threatened or endangered endemic species include the monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) and the seaweed *Rissoella verruculosa*. The Mediterranean provides vital areas for the reproduction of pelagic species such as for the Atlantic Bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*), the great white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*), and sea turtles such as the loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*).
2. The coastline of the 21 countries bordering the Mediterranean is experiencing heightened population and economic concentration and increased tourism activity (the Mediterranean attracts 30% of international tourism). All the traditional sectors of the maritime economy such as transportation, tourism, and aquaculture are growing exponentially and will continue to grow over the next 20 years, with the exception of professional fishing¹⁰.
3. These phenomena generate pollution and significant pressure on natural resources and coastal and marine ecosystems of the Mediterranean. They are exacerbated by the fact that the Mediterranean Sea is very sensitive and vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. This includes increasing seawater temperatures and in turn coastal erosion, which in turn alters salinity and currents, contributing to declines in biodiversity¹¹. This hampers the development of economic activities related to the exploitation of marine resources and reduces the quality of life of local residents.
4. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are recognized as effective tools to protect marine ecosystems and conserve biodiversity while contributing to their recovery and to the sustainable economic development of local communities. In the context of this project document, MPAs are any marine and/or inshore area (including lagoons permanently linked to the sea) that is protected through some legal means with the main objective to conserve its natural habitats, species, or specific natural features.

⁸ For biodiversity projects, in addition to explaining the project's consistency with the biodiversity focal area strategy, objectives and programs, please also describe which [Aichi Target\(s\)](#) the project will directly contribute to achieving.

⁹ The Mediterranean Sea is one of the 35 biodiversity hotspots identified by Conservation International. For more information, please see: <http://www.conservation.org/how/pages/hotspots.aspx>

¹⁰ Pianté C., Ody D. 2015. *Croissance bleue en Méditerranée : le défi du Bon état écologique*. Projet MedTrends : synthèse. WWF-France. 64 pages.

¹¹ Greenpeace International 2011, The Mediterranean and Climate Change's Impacts. Coastal Care, <http://coastalcare.org/2011/06/other-threats-in-the-mediterranean/>, accessed 3 November 2017.

5. The MPAs in the Mediterranean Sea cover a wide range of sites, established under various designations at different levels and with varying degrees of protection. There are currently 1,231 MPAs¹² in the Mediterranean, covering 179,798 km². This equates to a surface area of 7.14% under a legal designation (see Figure 1). These sites are established at national, regional, or international level under a wide variety of designations¹³. Figure 2 shows the significant increase in the establishment of MPAs in the last 20 years.
6. International designations of Ramsar sites, UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves, and UNESCO World Heritage Sites cover 0.13%, 0.06%, and 0.01% respectively. In addition, one Particularly Sensitive Sea Area was created by the International Maritime Organization in the Strait of Bonifacio and covers an area of 10,956 km² (0.44% of the Mediterranean). The Natura 2000 network of threatened habitats in Europe adds an additional 898 regionally designated sites and 186 nationally designated sites, representing 2.37% and 1.6% of the Mediterranean Sea respectively.

a. Global Environmental Problems

7. Despite these efforts in advancing the implementation of national strategies for establishing protected areas systems, the Aichi Target 11¹⁴ of 10% protection of coastal and marine areas by 2020 remains far from being achieved, and challenges to accomplish a well-representative regional MPA network remain. Although MPAs have increased in number and area, to achieve the quantitative component of the Aichi Target 11, an additional 2.86% (71,900 km²) of the Mediterranean Sea surface would need to be placed under protection.
8. Aggressive and uncontrolled use of coastal areas resulting in a multitude of forms of degradation of the coastal and marine environment has intensified over the past decades. Uncontrolled coastal development, population expansion and increasing coastal tourism, unregulated and unsustainable fishing, damming, and pollution are the greatest threats to the Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems.
9. The Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis for the Mediterranean Sea of 2005¹⁵ and the MedPartnership 2015 identified and analyzed the major environmental concerns in the Mediterranean Sea. The analysis pointed out, among other issues:
 - 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.
10. The state of biodiversity reflects the cumulative effects of these pressures affecting the Mediterranean coastal and marine environment. Although there is still high biodiversity in the Mediterranean, some species of reptiles, marine mammals, birds, and fish are reaching dangerously low abundance levels.

¹² There are 46 different designations of MPAs in the Mediterranean with very variable degrees of protection.

¹³ 2016 release of MAPAMED, the database on sites of interest for the conservation of the marine environment in the Mediterranean Sea, developed by MedPAN and UNEP/MAP-SPA/RAC. http://medpan.org/main_activities/mapamed/

¹⁴ **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.

¹⁵ Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity in the Mediterranean Region

Twenty-one out of the 83 cetacean species listed in the world have been identified in the Mediterranean. Many species are currently considered to be threatened in the Mediterranean and are listed in the annexes to the SPA/BD Protocol as threatened species or species whose exploitation must be regulated. This includes the endangered Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) and the endemic and endangered species Neptune grass or Mediterranean tapeweed (*Posidonia oceanica*), whose coverage has declined by 50% compared to its original distributions.

11. A joint IUCN-ACCOBAMS¹⁶ effort to assess the conservation status of populations belonging to ten cetacean species regularly occurring in the Mediterranean Sea for inclusion on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species determined that 60% are threatened (Critically Endangered, Endangered, and Vulnerable), and 40% are Data Deficient¹⁷.
12. Although variable in the representativeness of their habitats, most of the MPAs are largely coastal (53%) and located in the northern and western areas of the Mediterranean thanks in large part to Natura 2000 sites in the European Union (EU) and the Pelagos Sanctuary for Marine Mammals¹⁸ (see Figure 1). They are also predominantly small, with more than ¾ of them with an area less than 50 square kilometers. The MPAs in other parts of the Mediterranean do not provide for similarly strict restrictive measures.
13. About 90% of the total surface covered by MPAs and other areas that enjoy some form of protected status are found in European Union waters. Of the 15 ecologically or biologically significant marine ecosystems found in the Mediterranean, only three are well-represented (the North Western Mediterranean Benthic Ecosystem, the Akamas and Chrysochou Bay, and the North Aegean). A number of other coastal and marine ecosystems remain largely under-represented in the MPA network, including seagrass meadows, coralligenous habitats, upwelling zones, congregation areas for fishes, and deep-sea benthic habitats. About 40% of seagrass habitats and a third of Mediterranean coralligenous communities are now covered by the MPAs.
14. The 1,231 MPAs in the Mediterranean are characterized by a high degree of biodiversity. They are established at the national, regional (the European or Mediterranean scale) or international scales under a variety of designations. Nationally designated areas represent only 1.6% of the total surface of the Mediterranean, while no-go areas, no-take fishing, and no-fishing zones account for only 0.04%.

Barriers

15. While many of the most innovative MPA management categories have been established in the Mediterranean, they remain critically weak when measured against the goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Targets¹⁹. This is due in large part to an insufficiency of operational resources, particularly in non-European countries in the southern and eastern part of the Mediterranean, many of which lack dedicated management units, the necessary supporting regulations, and/or the means to enforce them. In fact, many MPAs are ‘paper parks’ with only a fraction of them having completed and/or updated their management plans.

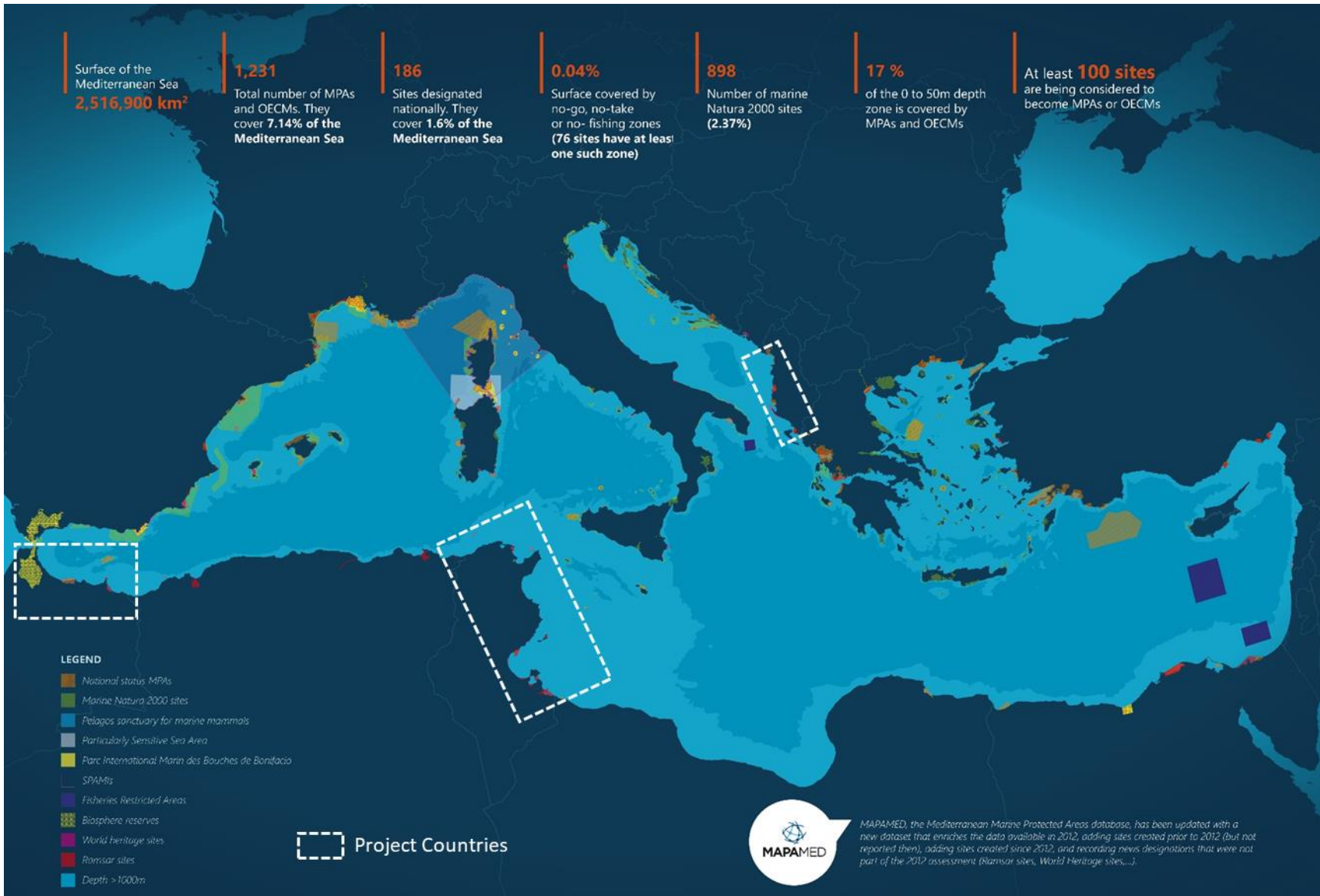
¹⁶ IUCN: International Union for the Conservation of Nature. ACCOBAMS: Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area

¹⁷ UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA. 2010. Fisheries conservation and vulnerable ecosystems in the Mediterranean open seas, including the deep seas. United Nations Environment Programme, Mediterranean Action Plan, Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/mar/obsaws-2014-03/other/obsaws-2014-03-submission-rac-spa-6-en.pdf>

¹⁸ MPAs in the western part of the Mediterranean represent 72.77% of the protected areas

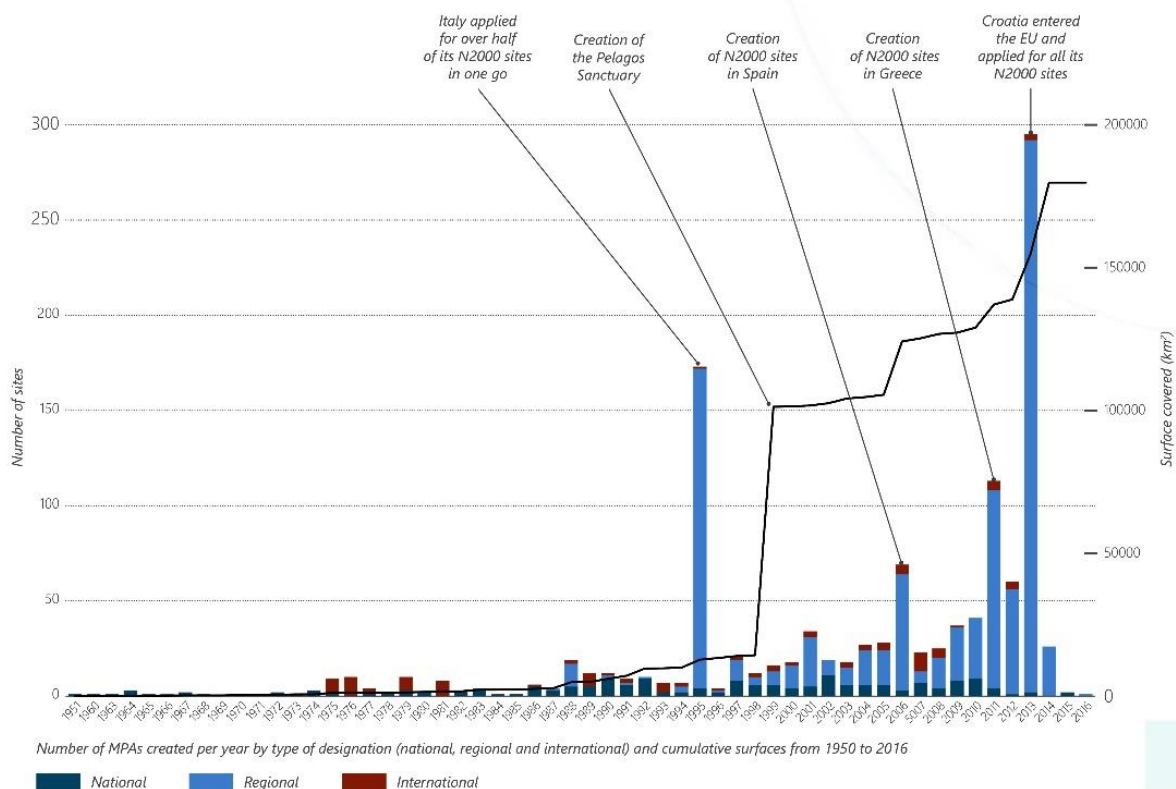
¹⁹ Convention on Biological Diversity COP Decision X/2 - October 2010

Figure 1: The Mediterranean MPA Network in 2016



Source: The 2016 status of MPAs in the Mediterranean. 2017. MedPAN & UNEP-MAP-SPA/RAC.

Figure 2: Number of MPAs Annually and Cumulative Area MPAs since 1950



Source: MedPAN et al. 2016. *Le Statut des Aires Marines Protégées de Méditerranée en 2016: Résultats principaux. Brochure MedPAN & PNUE/PAM-CAR-ASP.*

16. Monitoring and reporting on the achievements of MPAs in the Mediterranean are also inadequate. A comparison of their status reports between 2008 and 2012 does not indicate significant management improvements. There are also differences in management effectiveness among the MPAs. For example, patrolling, scientific monitoring, and the number of staff are not as strong in the MPAs of the south and east as those in the north and west. A 2012 survey reported that more than half of the MPAs in the south and east are lacking a scientific committee.
17. While new experiences with different governance and co-management approaches for MPAs in the southern and eastern parts of the Mediterranean are emerging, MPAs remain largely government-run with a traditional governance structure and minimal stakeholders' involvement. In addition, the full extent of local and traditional knowledge has not sufficiently been considered in the management of MPAs.
18. The main barriers to the cost-effective and long-term sustainable management of the Mediterranean MPAs are:

Barrier 1: Operational deficiencies of marine protected area management and weak individual capacity limits effective management

19. A major barrier for the consolidation of existing Mediterranean MPAs is an inadequate operational mechanism for effective management and protection. In general, in non-European Union countries,

governmental agencies, and other MPA management entities are under-staffed, under-equipped, and inadequately trained and under-funded

20. At the national level, the insufficient level of coordination between MPA entities and other institutions responsible for defining and implementing policies, guidelines, or regulations that directly or indirectly affect MPAs continues to be an important barrier in many countries. The centralization of the decision-making process further exacerbates the challenges to effective MPA planning and management.
21. The full range of tools necessary for effective MPA management is also lacking or are not adequately used in the absence of sustainable funding sources. For example, most of the MPAs do not have a marine assessment and monitoring strategy with clearly defined indicators that would inform sound decision-making processes or help in assessing the progress towards achieving biodiversity conservation goals. MPA managers and staff also lack the necessary skillsets for effective management, such as the formulation of management plans, budgeting and financial management, and strategic planning.
22. A review of capacity building initiatives in the Mediterranean undertaken in 2015²⁰ concluded that there are remain important knowledge gaps in MPA management. While some progress has been achieved in ecological monitoring and also participatory approaches, more efforts are still needed in building core competencies.

Barrier 2: Insufficient, unreliable, and irregular revenue streams cannot address the recurrent costs of MPAs

23. Establishing and maintaining effectively managed MPAs requires dedicated and predictable long-term financial support. Yet, the majority of MPAs in the non-European Union Mediterranean countries remain woefully under-funded. The insecure financial situation of MPAs sets off a cascade of management problems. These include the inability to hire the necessary staff to effectively manage and monitor the MPAs, to invest in and improve MPA infrastructure, and to carry out research on local species and habitats.
24. A study carried out in 2015 revealed that several hundred MPAs had no budget at all. Indeed, most Mediterranean MPAs suffer from a significant lack of finances to cover operational and recurrent costs, i.e., to hire staff, procure and maintain equipment, improve park infrastructure, and carry out important activities such as monitoring, research, training and management, boundary demarcation, and effective law enforcement.²¹
25. The study confirms that current resources cover only 12% of the financial needs for effective management of MPAs and that they largely remain under-staffed and under-equipped, and many times are paid for by temporary financing sources. Although specific data on the financial needs of each MPA is not available, the lack of a financial strategy specific to MPAs is limiting their ability to access diverse funding sources as efforts to this end are commonly tied.
26. There is also insufficient willingness from most of the countries to increase budgetary allocations for MPAs as they expect funding to come from external sources. This is further complicated because the financial planning capacities and skillsets usually reside in institutions outside of protected area management, and the strengthening of those capacities and skillsets is not adequately

²⁰ Binet, T., Diazabakana, A., Hernandez, S. 2015. Sustainable financing of MPAs in the Mediterranean: a financial analysis. Vertigo Lab, MedPAN, RAC/SPA, WWF Mediterranean. 114 pp.

²¹ *Ibid.*

budgeted for by external donors. For example, a 2012 study²² showed that the annual budgets of fully operational MPAs in the Mediterranean ranged from € 0 to 6.3M (USD 7.3M)²³ -the latter amount being for the Port-Cros National Park in France-, with a median of € 287,000 (USD 333,132). The operational budgets of MPAs in European countries were much greater than those of non-European countries (see Figure 3).

27. The financing for Mediterranean MPAs comes mainly from national public funds dedicated to the creation and management of MPAs, bilateral cooperation (e.g., the French Facility for the Global Environment (French GEF), Spanish Cooperation Agency for International Development, and GIZ), regional (e.g., EU, UNEP/MAP), and international funds (e.g., GEF), corporations or private foundations (e.g., MAVA Foundation, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation), and self-financing for certain MPAs²⁴.
28. However, these funds are characterized by significant unpredictability. For those Mediterranean MPAs receiving government financing, financial disbursements can vary significantly in amount and frequency from year to year. In a number of cases, committed financing may even fail to reach MPA managers, due in part to poor administrative and financial policies and procedures.
29. Projects that set out to establish MPAs are generally designed and negotiated to secure sufficient financing. However, these funds are almost always project-based, thus once the project concludes so too does the project financing. By the time the project comes to an end, the financial sustainability of MPA management is in doubt. Managers then devote an increasing amount of time to addressing this issue, often to the detriment of the daily management of the MPA and related activities. Managers also have difficulties in finding funds to cover MPA recurrent operating costs, given that donors tend to favor funding project activities and infrastructure rather than operating costs.
30. The current economic climate is one where budgets tend to be reduced, including the ministries of the environment and the main MPA funding agencies, making the development of sustainable financing mechanisms for MPA management of crucial importance. The development of and support for regional, national and local funding mechanisms has become a key issue to mobilize additional and diversified sources of financing for MPAs. The need “*for the establishment of trust funds and other financial support mechanisms for MPAs and MPA networks*” was emphasized and recognized by high level authorities and governments, international organizations, NGOs, and MPA managers in the ‘Call for Action’²⁵ from the 4th International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC 4) that recently took place Chile. More specifically, the ‘Call for Action’ states the following:

“We encourage funding organizations and governments to promote and support effective governance and management, coordinated institutional arrangements, partnerships and sustainable financing of MPAs and MPAs networks and other effective area-based conservation measures, and to include long-term sustainable funding mechanisms in support for efforts to create new MPAs and improve management of existing ones. We also call for the establishment of trust funds and other financial support mechanisms for MPAs and MPA networks” (Call for Action Marine Protected Areas: Bringing the Ocean and People Together Viña del Mar, September 9th, Chile 2017)

²² Gabrié C., Lagabrielle E., Bissery C., Crochelet E., Meola B., Webster C., Claudet J., Chassanite A., Marinesque S., Robert P., Goutx M., Quod C. 2012. Statut des Aires Marines Protégées en Méditerranée. MedPAN and RAC/SPA. Ed: MedPAN Collection. 260 pp

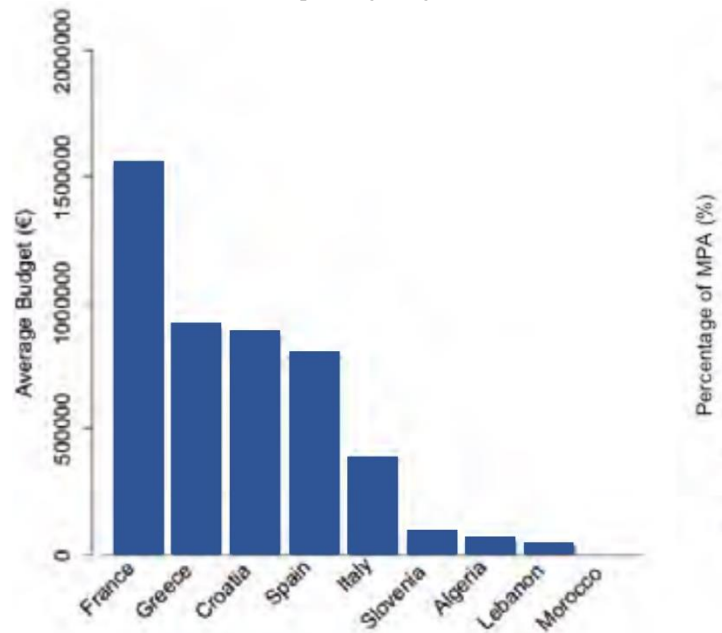
²³ Exchange rate used in this document is € 1 = USD 1.16074, as of October 31, 2017

²⁴ Binet et al. 2015

²⁵ http://www.IMPAC4.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/20171005_CALL-FOR-ACTION-IMPAC4-FINAL.pdf

Figure 3: Average MPA Operating Budget per Country

((Euros – an average taken from the total number of MPAs per country who responded; 40 MPAs – 50% with no information on operating budget))



Source: Gabrié C. et al. 2012. *Statut des Aires Marines Protégées en Méditerranée*. MedPAN & RAC/SPA. Ed: MedPAN Collection. 260 pp.

b. The Baseline Scenario

31. Advancing marine conservation, particularly through the establishment and management of MPAs, has been an important priority agenda in the Mediterranean, particularly for the past two decades. The 1995 Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean played an important catalytic role for a multitude of MPA initiatives.²⁶
32. However, current levels of investments are not enough and/or do not last long enough to secure the long-term and efficient management of existing MPAs. Presently, MPA management budgets in non-EU countries are heavily dependent upon external, project-based donor financing to support their activities. Moreover, the financial gap across the MPAs is significant and risks becoming pervasive, which may cause the loss of social and political confidence in the usefulness of MPAs as a conservation and sustainable development tool.
33. Presently, there is no long-term financial mechanism in place in the Mediterranean region to support MPA management, but the need for such tool have been long identified as a priority.
34. Thus, the Mediterranean MPA Forum (Antalya, Turkey) in 2012 highlighted the need to establish a regional financial mechanism to support the sustainable financing of the Mediterranean MPAs in accordance to the 2014 Athens Declaration of the Union for the Mediterranean²⁷ and to help countries meet their commitments under the Barcelona Convention. Following this

²⁶ Special attention was given to the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) and the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (SPA/BD).

²⁷ Declaration of the Union for the Mediterranean on Environment and Climate Change, 13 May 2014, Athens

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. The initiative to set up a sustainable financial mechanism received political support from the countries bordering the Mediterranean at the Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change in May 2014²⁸ and at the 19th Meeting of The Parties of the Barcelona Convention in February 2016²⁹.

35. In 2015, the **Association for the Sustainable Financing of the Mediterranean MPAs (M2PA)** was created to bring together States and civil society to lead the initiative. The Association is a cooperation platform that aims to set up a regional trust-fund. It is open to a) States that have confirmed their commitment to implementing an ambitious policy to support MPAs and explicitly shown their support for the initiative (to date, Albania, France, Monaco, Morocco, and Tunisia); and to b) regional organizations involved in the conservation of Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems (currently including the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC), Network of MPAs Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), WWF-Mediterranean, the IUCN Mediterranean Programme, and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation) and Conservatoire du Littoral (a French public agency for the preservation of the coastline).
36. At the second General Assembly of the M2PA, held in Paris in June 2016, the members approved the Strategy and the Action Plan of the Association laying out solid foundations to speed-up fundraising activities, targeting both public and private financial partners, and establish the legal architecture and financial strategy of the Fund, thus guaranteeing its full operationalization. The M2PA Strategy and the 2016-2017 Action Plan are organized around three main thematic areas:
 - Continued work on the legal and financial structure of a trust fund;
 - Intensified fundraising activities from public and private sources; and
 - Initiation of a pilot phase to support the first set of MPAs.
37. As described above, establishment of the M2PA initiative lays down the foundations for the creation of a CTF for Mediterranean MPAs.

Associated Baseline Projects

38. The most important multilateral donors in the region are the European Union (EU) and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). Between 1992 and 2009, they each invested an average of USD 14M annually in biodiversity conservation projects. Over the period 2010-2014, the region received financial support amounting to € 13.2M (USD 15.3M) channeled through bilateral Official Development Assistance (€ 7.4M – USD 8.6M) and the GEF (€ 5.7M – USD 6.6M).
39. Foundations and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are active donors and fundraisers for marine conservation in the region. Private and corporate foundations, such as the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, MAVA Foundation, Arcadia Fund, and the Rufford Foundation, support marine biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean.
40. This proposed project will build on the experiences and results of a number of important programs and projects. A key project is the **Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (MedPartnership)** implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme's Mediterranean Action Programme and the GEF between 2002 and 2006. The project included 81 on-the-ground pilot demonstrations aimed at testing the feasibility and the effectiveness

²⁸ http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/20140515_UfM_declaration_FINAL_compromiseeditorial-changes.pdf

²⁹ http://rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/doc_cop/decision_22.13_en.pdf

of applying management tools, practices, and technical measures in the region. Some of the pilot demonstrations focused on the conservation of biological diversity and management and financial sustainability of MPAs. The work done was instrumental to achieve promising results that includes a financial analysis for the establishment of new MPAs, three business plans for the MPAs, and support for the creation of new MPAs in Albania, Algeria, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro Morocco, and Tunisia.

41. The **Network of MPAs managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN)**, established in 2008, has set up a small project programme that aims to help MPAs provide effective protection of biodiversity, while ensuring the sustainable economic development of human-based activities. These small projects provide direct support to MPA managers for the implementation of concrete actions, which will improve management effectiveness, test pilot schemes, or put in place tools that can be useful to other MPAs. As of November 2017, MedPAN has launched five calls and leveraged € 600,000 (USD 696,444) with the financial support from the Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM), the MAVA Foundation, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, and the EU. To date, a total of 30 projects have been supported including building capacity to raise funding for MPA management activities. A new phase of this programme is under discussion for the period 2017-2019.
42. The Regional Project for the Development of a Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Protected Areas Network through the boosting of MPAs creation and management (MedMPAnet) was implemented by SPA/RAC within the framework of the UNEP/MAP-GEF “Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem” (MedPartnership) project (2010-2015). This regional project -which had a total budget of € 2.7M (USD 3.1M) with financial support from the EU, the Spanish Cooperation Agency for International Development (AECID), and the FFEM- 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. These efforts led seven marine sites (totalling a surface of 98,411 ha of marine waters) to be declared or in the process of declaration in six Mediterranean countries: Porto Palermo Bay (Albania), Réghaia (Algeria), Ras Chekaa and Naqoura (Lebanon), Ain Al-Ghazala (Libya), Cap des Trois Fourches (Morocco), and Kuriat Islands (Tunisia).
43. In collaboration with SPA/RAC and the WWF Mediterranean Programme Office, MedPAN developed a guide for sustainable financing of MPAs in the Mediterranean and held in 2015 a training session aiming to promote the development of MPA sustainable financing mechanisms, at local and national scale. It is expected that the capacity building aspect of this project will continue.
44. A partnership between the French Coastal Conservatory (Conservatoire du Littoral³⁰), the MedPAN Association and the WWF Mediterranean Programme is currently implementing a project of € 7.7 (USD 9M) based on the selection and support of Mediterranean MPAs as well as coastal and insular areas, each of which can illustrate at least one major problem facing these areas: tourism, fisheries, economic valorization, sustainable funding, management plans, and monitoring systems. The project objective is to strengthen and sustain the management and protection of these sites and to encourage exchanges of experience on the basis of concrete cases considered as pilots at the

³⁰ This French organization provides support for the protection of key coastal areas, lakeshores, and other bodies of water larger than 10 square kilometers.

Mediterranean level. One of the project's strengths is its regional coordination and bottom-up approach related to Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).

45. The "**Working Together for More Efficient Protected Marine Areas in the Mediterranean (MedPAN South)**" project was coordinated by the WWF Mediterranean Programme Office in Rome (WWF-MedPO) and financed by the European Commission (EuropeAid), the FFEM, and MAVA Foundation (budget € 3.8M or USD 4.4M). The project lasted for four years (2009 - 2012) and was implemented in close cooperation with the Secretariat of the newly established MedPAN Network and UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA). Involving 11 non-European countries, the project brought together more than 20 partners. Through a combination of initiatives at the regional and national level, the project 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.
46. The **Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)** is a global program that provides financial and technical support to protect critical ecosystems and biodiversity hotspots. CEPF invested USD 11.2M between 2012 and 2017, including the development of the *Mediterranean Basin Ecosystem Profile* and the provision of grants to 108 NGOs in 15 countries. The CEPF's investment was complemented by the financial and technical support of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and MAVA Foundation. A second phase of funding for 2017-2020 has been approved.
47. The project entitled "**Sustainable Economic Activities in MPAs of the Mediterranean**"³¹ is implemented by WWF and sets out to strengthen the management of fishing and tourism. The project takes a participatory approach to demonstrate the value of MPAs for the cost-effective management of marine economic resources. The project will also demonstrate best practices models of integrated coastal zone management.
48. The objective of the project "**Exemplary Management of Coastal Territories, Islands and Sea in the Mediterranean**" is to demonstrate best practices for integrated coastal zone management, to catalyze partnerships for cost-effective management, and to contribute to the overall conservation of sensitive coastal and marine areas. This project is a partnership of the Conservatoire du Littoral, MedPAN, and WWF Mediterranean (2013-2017), with financial support from the FFEM, the MAVA Foundation, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the EU, and the Water Agency Rhône-Méditerranée-Corse. The project provides support to the following Mediterranean countries: Albania, Algeria, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia, and Turkey.
49. A FFEM project entitled "**Integrated and Sustainable Management of Coastal, island, and Marine MPAs**" is expected to start in 2018 and last for four years. The partners of this project are MedPAN, Conservatoire du Littoral (CdL), WWF Mediterranean, and the Association Initiative pour les Petites Iles de Méditerranée (PIM). The objective of the project is to contribute to the consolidation of the integrated management and resilience process of the coastal, island and marine areas of the Mediterranean for the benefit of ecosystems and local communities, while integrating the issues of co-management of these territories.
50. Another FFEM project called "**Towards the Creation of a Conservation Trust Fund for Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas**" will be implemented by the M2PA from 2018 through 2022. The objective of this project is to contribute to the long-term management of Mediterranean MPAs by strengthening their financial sustainability, through the establishment of a Conservation

³¹ http://mediterranean.panda.org/about/marine/marine_protected_area/the_seamed_project/

Trust Fund. The project will support four components: 1) establishment and consolidation of the legal and financial structure of the trust fund; 2) development and implementation of the fundraising strategy targeting both public and private financial partners to contribute to the capitalization of the trust fund; 3) funding of some projects to support Mediterranean MPAs (pilot phase); and 4) development of partnerships, communication and management of the project and trust fund. This project is fully aligned with and complementary to the GEF project and will provide USD 1M for the initial capitalization of the CTF (Component 2) and provide funding for selected MPAs to pilot how to improve management effectiveness under the future CTF.

c. Proposed alternative scenario

51. The *objective* of this project is to establish a Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) to enhance the management effectiveness of Mediterranean MPAs through improving their long-term financial sustainability. The project will formally establish the CTF and initiate its capitalization, thus addressing the financial barriers identified in previous sections of this proposal.
52. Regional CTFs have existed for many years in other biodiversity hotspots and shown important successes. For example, the Micronesia Trust Fund (MTF), the Caribbean Biodiversity Trust Fund (CBF), and the Meso-American Reef Fund (MARFUND) are funds that currently represent more than USD 60M in capital investment. The success of these funds is a useful source of inspiration for the creation of a trust fund dedicated and adapted to the development and sustainable management of MPAs in the Mediterranean.
53. This project is aligned with Objective 3³² and Program 6³³ of the GEF International Waters (IW) Focal Area. More specifically, this project will contribute to advance Outcome 6.1³⁴ by providing long-term financial sustainability to and improving conservation of selected MPAs in the Mediterranean Sea, and therefore, reducing the loss and degradation of coastal ecosystems, as well as improving the livelihoods of people that depend of them
54. Whereas the long-term vision of the CTF is to provide a sustainable source of funding for as many Mediterranean MPAs as possible, this GEF project will focus on three initial countries -Albania, Morocco, and Tunisia- which are already formal members of the M2PA. However, during the life of this project, the M2PA will identify and work with three additional countries to join the M2PA (see Output 1.1.1 for details).
55. The area covered by MPAs in the three countries is 1,578.07 km² (157,807 hectares), as shown in Table 1 below. Maps showing the different MPAs in these three countries can be found in Annex J.

³² IW Objective 3: Enhance multi-state cooperation and catalyze investments to foster sustainable fisheries, restore and protect coastal habitats, reduce pollution of coasts and large marine ecosystems

³³ Program 6: Prevent Loss and Degradation of Coastal Habitats

³⁴ Outcome 6.1: Coasts in globally most significant areas protected from further loss and degradation of coastal habitats while protecting and enhancing livelihoods

Table 1: Total Area and Percentage of Protected Areas in Project Countries

Countries	EEZ Areas (km ²)*	TOTAL	
		Area (km ²)	%
Albania	11,151.96	181.45	1.63
Morocco	18,778.41	376.38	2.00
Tunisia	100,550.94	1,020.24	1.01
TOTAL	130,481.31	1,578.07	1.21

* Estimated using the World Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) V8 developed by the Flanders Marine Institute

56. This project is designed around two closely related and complementary components (see Annex A for full project results framework):

Component 1: Establishment of a Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) for Mediterranean MPAs

Component 2: Resource mobilization for the capitalization of the CTF for Mediterranean MPAs

57. While the first component will serve to formally establish the CTF, the second component will generate the initial capitalization of the CTF and lay the foundations to enable the future growth of the CTF's capital. All relevant stakeholders are expected to be actively engaged to ensure that the CTF is seen as a legitimate and relevant financial mechanism for current and future participating countries and their MPAs. Once the CTF is established and its initial capital secured, the M2PA will continue focusing on finding additional financial partners to further capitalize the CTF, and therefore fulfil its ultimate vision of providing long-term sustainable financing to Mediterranean MPAs.
58. The establishment of this CTF will follow the guidelines described in the "Practice Standards for Conservation Trust Funds"³⁵, the "Review of Conservation Trust Funds for Sustainable Marine Resources Management Conditions for Success"³⁶, and the "GEF Evaluation of Experience with Conservation Trust Fund"³⁷. Thus, this project will focus on areas that are considered essential for the development of effective CTFs, including governance, operations, administration, asset management, reporting, monitoring and evaluation (Component 1), and resource mobilization (Component 2).

³⁵ Conservation Finance Alliance (CFA). 2008. Rapid Review of Conservation Trust Funds. Prepared for the CFA Working Group on Environmental Funds by Barry Spergel and Philippe Taïeb

³⁶ Bladon, A., Mohammed, E., Milner-Gulland, E.J. 2014. A Review of Conservation Trust Funds for Sustainable Marine Resources Management: Conditions for Success. IIED, London.

³⁷ Global Environment Facility. 1998. GEF Evaluation of Experience with Conservation Trust Fund. Washington, DC.

COMPONENT 1: ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONSERVATION TRUST FUND (CTF) FOR MEDITERRANEAN MPAs

- 59. This component aims at generating the enabling conditions for the creation of the CTF and establishing the CTF itself as a legally independent grant-making entity, ready to mobilize and invest funds from a range of sectors, and to support MPA management in the Mediterranean.
- 60. This component includes one Outcome and five Outputs, which are described below.

Outcome 1.1: Conservation Trust Fund for Mediterranean MPAs established and operational

- 61. The establishment and operationalization of the CTF will entail the following aspects:
 - a. Expansion of partnerships and strengthening key stakeholders’ participation in the M2PA (*Output 1.1.1*);
 - b. Assessment of the financial needs and establishment management effectiveness baselines of participating MPAs (*Output 1.1.2*);
 - c. Development and adoption of the CTF Strategy, including its governance structure, legal framework, financial structure, and asset management approach (*Output 1.1.3*); and
 - d. Development and adoption of the CTF’s operational guidelines, including administration, operations, reporting, and monitoring and evaluation schemes (*Output 1.1.4*).
- 62. This outcome will be implemented through a participatory process and will consider relevant political, legal, and governance contexts, potential sources of funding, and linked to existing regional or national environmental strategies, and individual MPA management plans.
- 63. The target and indicator for this outcome are as follows:

Target	Indicator
Target 1.1.: CTF formally established and operational	Indicator 1.1.: CTF fully operational and ready for capitalization

Output 1.1.1: Regional and national cooperation among members of the Association for the Sustainable Financing of the Mediterranean (M2PA) expanded and consolidated

- 64. The creation of a CTF for Mediterranean MPAs is an endeavor that requires strong and continued political commitment of coastal States and key regional actors. Although the M2PA has already received strong political support, leading Morocco and Albania to join the initiative, additional political support is needed to ensure that other Mediterranean countries and organizations become part of this initiative.
- 65. Through the implementation of this output, the M2PA will engage additional regional organizations in the development of the CTF, thus ensuring proper coordination with the activities are already being implemented in the region. This will allow the M2PA to build on and add value to previous national and international investments, and reduce duplication of efforts. For example, the RAC/SPA works primarily on supporting initial activities such as the creation of MPAs, development of management plans, stakeholder engagement, etc. Once fully established and operational, the CTF is expected to build on the RAC/SPA interventions by providing sustainable

funding to ensure that the MPAs become functional and improve/maintain their management effectiveness.

66. Selection criteria for incorporating additional countries as part of the CTF will be developed/completed during the implementation phase of this project. Priliminarily, the following criteria has been identified: a) countries that show strong political commitment to improve the management of their MPAs and that have enacted appropriate policies to support them; b) countries that house the most threatened MPAs and where improving management is crucial and time sensitive for their long-term viability; and c) coutries where the CTF investments have high chances of success. For the pilot phase, the M2PA board has already prioritized that funding will be allocated to countries on the southern shores of the Mediterranean and along the Adriatic coast.
67. This output will allow the M2PA to:
 - a. Complete stakeholders’ analysis and mapping to identify gaps in the M2PA partnership and direct efforts to engage with key additional countries and institutions/organizations that work in the establishment and management of MPAs in the Mediterranean Sea. This exercise will also help to further understand and refine the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in the M2PA initiative;
 - b. Expand and strengthen the M2PA partnership by bringing additional high-level representatives and NGOs from participating countries to the M2PA initiative. Thus, the M2PA aims at obtaining additional support and participation from at least three countries and two NGOs; and
 - c. Achieve a high level of organizational independence and stakeholder representation on the M2PA Board. Given that the composition of the M2PA Board is critical to ensure that the CTF is managed and used for the fulfilment of the mission for which it is was created, the M2PA governing structure and regulatory documents (e.g. composition and terms of reference for the board, criteria for selecting members) will be further developed and adopted by the board during the life of this project.
68. This output will be implemented though regional consultative processes, which will be facilitated by the M2PA and its member organizations, and the creation of thematic working groups to complete specific deliverables and tasks.
69. In addition, technical support will be provided by the Conservation Finance Alliance (<http://www.conservationfinancealliance.org>) and lessons learned from other Trust Funds.
70. The targets and indicators for this output are as follows:

Targets	Indicators
Target 1.1.1.a: Roles and responsibilities of participating stakeholders in the M2PA agreed upon	Indicator 1.1.1.a: <i>Stakeholders roles and responsibilities approved by the M2PA Board</i>
Target 1.1.1.b: Support for and participation in the M2PA from 3 additional recipient countries and 2 key NGOs obtained	Indicator 1.1.1.b: <i>Number of additional countries and NGOs that formally join the M2PA</i>
Target 1.1.1.c: M2PA governing structure and regulatory documents developed and adopted	Indicator 1.1.1.c: <i>M2PA governing documents completed and approved</i>

Output 1.1.2: Financial needs assessed for current and potential participating Mediterranean MPAs and management effectiveness baseline established for 10 MPAs in Morocco, Tunisia, and Albania, totaling 106,100 hectares

71. The completion of this output will provide two critical pieces of information needed to appropriately design and manage the CTF for Mediterranean MPAs. First, the financial needs of current and potential participating MPAs will be assessed and the results will inform, among others, the capitalization target and the financial structure of the CTF. And second, the management effectiveness baseline of MPAs will be established and used to monitor and evaluate the contribution of the CTF in enhancing MPA management effectiveness once the CTF is fully operation and granting to MPAs.
72. Since the number of MPAs in the region is relatively large (1,231 areas) and due to the scope of this project, not all the Mediterranean MPAs will be assessed as part of this output. Consequently, priority will be given to MPAs in Albania, Morocco, and Tunisia, who are already members of the M2PA. The M2PA Action Plan (2018-2019) targets 3 MPAs assessment in Morocco, 4 in Tunisia, and 3 in Albania.
73. In addition, MPAs will be assessed in the 3 additional countries that join the M2PA as part of this project. As needed, other MPAs outside of these 6 countries will be included in the assessments to improve representativeness of the whole region.

Financial needs assessment

74. Over the last decade, several studies on the financial needs for Mediterranean MPAs have been conducted. However, the large number of countries assessed, the heterogeneity of situations and management ambitions, as well as the diversity of conservation categories complicate the analysis of the needs, available resources, and funding gaps for Mediterranean MPAs. For instance, the 2006 IUCN assessment on the sustainable funding sources for protected areas in the Mediterranean³⁸ underlines the difficulty in obtaining reliable and comparable data on resources and needs for managing protected areas, and thereby to accurately assess the funding needs.
75. In a study commissioned by MedPAN in 2012 and directed by Barry Spergel from the Conservation Finance Alliance³⁹, a first attempt to estimate the total financial requirements for Mediterranean MPAs was conducted. This study estimated that between € 7M and € 12M (USD 8.1M – USD 13.9M) per year are needed to reduce the gap in spending on recurrent costs of management of protected areas between the European and non-European Mediterranean countries.
76. Another assessment by Binet et al. (2015)⁴⁰ estimated that the financial gap between needs and available resources to achieve optimal management of MPAs in the Mediterranean would be around € 700M (USD 813M) per year.
77. However, these results should be taken with caution as they cover different time periods and realities, and used different methodologies. They are based on extrapolations and do not take account of the effective capacity of states and local actors to operationalize these management objectives.

³⁸ Arturo López y Sira Jiménez. 2006. Sources de financement durables pour les aires protégées de la Région Méditerranéenne. UICN, Gland, Suisse et Cambridge, Royaume-Uni, Fundación Biodiversidad, Madrid, Espagne et Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional du Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores y de Cooperación, Madrid, Espagne. 144 pages.

³⁹ Spergel B., 2012. Conservation Finance Alliance – Med PAN, Towards a long-term sustainable funding mechanism for MPAs in the Mediterranean.

⁴⁰ Binet, T., Diazabakana, A., Hernandez, S. 2015. Financement durable des Aires Marines Protégées en Méditerranée: analyse financière. Vertigo Lab, MedPAN, RAC/SPA, WWF Méditerranée. 118 pp.

78. Therefore, under this output, the M2PA will commission a study to estimate the financial gaps between available resources and financial needs to maintain "core management" activities in participating MPAs. "Core management" activities are defined as those needed to guarantee a minimum level of efficient management of the MPAs, including governance structure, staff, daily operations (equipment and vehicles, fuel, maintenance, capacity building, etc.) scientific studies, and monitoring and evaluation. The results of this study will help to further refine the capitalization target of the CTF and to develop its financial and resource mobilization strategies.

Management effectiveness baseline

79. As mentioned above, this project will conduct a management effectiveness baseline analysis of current participating MPAs. There are several available tools to assess management effectiveness, among them the Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Area Management (RAPPAM)⁴¹, the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT)⁴², and the Score Card to Assess Progress in Achieving Management Effectiveness Goals for MPAs⁴³.
80. A quick analysis for each tool will be conducted to select the most appropriate methodology for this assessment. All the reports produced, once approved by the M2PA Board, will be widely disseminated among relevant stakeholders. One of the characteristics of the CTF is that it will be developed to allow its structure, composition, and mandate to evolve and adapt with changing political, economic, social, and environmental conditions, be they local, national, or international in nature.
81. It is important to highlight here that with co-financing investments, especially from the FFEM⁴⁴, funding will be allocated towards piloting a range of on-the-ground strategies to strengthen the management effectiveness of MPAs and to test how future funding from the CTF may be invested in the three participating countries. The pilots are expected to be carried out in 3 MPAs in Morocco, 4 in Tunisia, and 3 in Albania, totaling 106,100 hectares, which represents 68% of the total 157,070 hectares of MPAs in these three countries. Under this outcome, the management effectiveness baseline of the MPAs will be assessed, which will be used to measure management changes in the future.
82. The findings of both assessments will be presented to key stakeholders during a feedback workshop at the beginning of the second year of the project.
83. The target and indicator for this output are as follows:

Target	Indicator
Target 1.1.2: MPA’s financial needs and management effectiveness baseline assessment reports approved by the M2PA Board	Indicator 1.1.2: <i>Final report approved and available for stakeholders</i>

⁴¹ Ervin, J. 2003. WWF: Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Area Management (RAPPAM) Methodology. WWF Gland, Switzerland.

⁴² World Bank and WWF. 2007. Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool. Reporting Progress at Protected Area Sites: Second Edition.

⁴³ Staub, F. and Hatzios, M.E. 2003. Score Card to Assess Progress in Achieving Management Effectiveness Goals for MPAs. The World Bank, Washington, DC, USA.

⁴⁴ Towards the Creation of a Conservation Trust Fund for Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas

Output 1.1.3: CTF institutional strategy, governance structure, legal framework, financial structure, and asset management approach agreed upon by key stakeholders and adopted by the M2PA Board

84. The aim of this output is to develop an overarching institutional strategy for the CTF and adopting the CTF’s governance structure, legal framework, financial structure, and asset management approach.
85. Based on the results of the previous outputs, the CTF’s Institutional Strategy -describing its vision, mission, scope, objectives, capitalization targets (short, medium and long terms), strategies, and action plan- will be developed and validated through a participatory process involving members of the M2PA and key stakeholders in the region.
86. Furthermore, the implementation of this output will enable the M2PA Board to make decisions about the following structural and operational aspects of the CTF:
87. ***Governance structure***: this includes the composition, functions and responsibilities of the CTF’s governing body (or bodies), as well as the content and role of its governing documents. Typically, the structure of a CTF is composed of a board (or steering committee), an administrative secretariat, a technical or advisory committee, a trustee, and an internal audit function. Depending on the needs, an independent unit might be also established to undertake the monitoring and evaluation function;
88. ***Jurisdiction of the CTF***: to determine the jurisdiction where the CTF will be set up. An Options Analysis will be conducted to compare tax benefits, governance restrictions, donor familiarity/comfort, etc., and make recommendations;
89. ***Legal framework***: which encompasses the selection of an Investment Manager (individual, company, government agency or organization) to manage the CTF’s assets, and the definition of CTF’s legal status and structure;
90. ***Financial structure***: CTFs are usually structured as endowments funds, sinking funds, revolving funds, or hybrid funds (a combination of the above) funds. The decision on the financial structure of the CTF will be defined by its objectives, capitalization targets, and funding needs of the participating MPAs; and
91. ***Asset management***: this includes defining the CTF’s investment strategies, fiduciary responsibilities, and relationships with investors. As part of this output, the M2PA will formulate the CTF’s investment principles - which must be aligned with the needs and objectives of the CTF-, and define the management structure and monitoring procedures of the CTF.
92. To make the appropriate decisions about the CTF’s governance, legal, financial, and operational aspects, the M2PA will commission one or more consultancies that will assess the CTF’s needs and options, and present different scenarios to the M2PA Board for final decision.
93. The target and indicator for this output are as follows:

Target	Indicator
Target 1.1.3.a: CTF Institutional Strategy developed in a participatory manner and validated by key stakeholders	Indicator 1.1.3.a: CTF Institutional Strategy adopted by the M2PA Board
Target 1.1.3.b: CTF governance structure, legal framework, financial structure, and asset	Indicator 1.1.3.b.: CTF governance structure, legal framework, financial structure, and asset

management approach options assessed	<i>management approach approved and adopted by the M2PA Board</i>
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Output 1.1.4: CTF operational guidelines and policies developed and adopted by the M2PA Board

94. The aim of this output is to develop and adopt the following operational guidelines and policies (others might be added during the implementation phase as needed) for the CTF:
95. *Administrative guidelines*: organizational roles and responsibilities, develop operations manuals, guide use of financial resources, and auditing procedures;
96. *Operational*: strategic planning, grant-making, interactions with government, and partnerships;
97. *Reporting, Monitoring, and Evaluation guidelines*: conservation impact monitoring and evaluation schemes; propose frequency, format, and content of technical and financial reporting to donors; and define knowledge management systems;
98. *Ethics and Conflict of Interest policy*: to ensure fairness and a high standard of ethical conduct in the CTF's decision-making processes, protect the reputation and integrity of the CTF and its interests, and guarantee broad public trust and confidence in the CTF's decision-making and grant-making activities;
99. *Environmental and Social Safeguards Management Framework*: to develop guidelines and procedures needed to promote the environmental and social sustainability of the CTF's investments by protecting people and their environment from potential adverse impacts, and enhancing benefits provided by the investments of the CTF (with special attention to gender equality). The Environmental and Social Management Framework of the CTF will follow international best practices and be aligned with the GEF Minimum Standards on Environmental and Social Safeguards;
100. *Donors Relations policy*: due diligence process for screening and determining donor eligibility, based on the CTF's principles and values; and
101. *Fund allocation and grant-delivery guidelines*: to define: i) the grant award process, including project eligibility criteria, selection process, and timeframe; ii) the guidelines for grantees, including reporting requirements, eligible costs, and financial obligations; and iii) the monitoring and reporting requirements.
102. Similar to the previous output, the M2PA will oversee the development of these guidelines and policies through one or more consultancies with qualified and experienced professionals.
103. The target and indicator for this output are as follows:

Target	Indicator
Target 1.1.4: CTF's operational guidelines and policies developed	Indicator 1.1.4: <i>CTF's operational guidelines and policies approved and adopted by the M2PA Board</i>

COMPONENT 2: RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FOR THE CAPITALIZATION OF THE CONSERVATION TRUST FUND FOR MEDITERRANEAN MPAS.

- 104. The M2PA recognizes that the capitalization of the CTFs is a major challenge to the successful establishment and operationalization of a regional trust fund. Thus, this component will help the M2PA develop a comprehensive fundraising approach, identify potential donors, and raise the initial funds for the CTF.
- 105. This component includes one Outcome and one Output, which are described below.

Outcome 2.1: Initial capitalization of the CTF completed

- 106. Following the first year of the project, during which the CTF will be formally established, the capitalization phase will be initiated. The aim of this outcome is to develop and start the implementation of the CTF Resource Mobilization and Communications strategies, and complete the initial capitalization of the CTF.
- 107. The target and indicator for this outcome are as follows:

Target	Indicator
Target 2.1.: CTF capitalized with at least USD 1.5M from non-GEF resources	Indicator 2.1: Amount in USD raised for the capitalization of the CTF

Output 2.1.1: CTF Resource Mobilization and Communications Strategies developed and under implementation

- 108. To date, the project has mobilized € 500,000 (USD 580,370) from the Government of the Principality of Monaco and € 350,000 (USD 406,259) from the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation to support the development of the M2PA initiative. In addition, through a partnership agreement with the Basel Zoo and the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, the M2PA will receive additional funding from a percentage of every entrance fee and membership subscription from these institutions. These initial contributions and partnerships demonstrate the interest generated by the CTF among donors and the intention of the M2PA to develop a diversified portfolio of donors.
- 109. Through this output, the M2PA will develop and start implementing the Resource Mobilization and Communications Strategies for the CTF. These strategies will be informed by the MPA financial needs assessment and the capitalization targets in the short, medium and long terms.
- 110. The Resource Mobilization Strategy will consider the following aspects, among others:
 - a. Identifying potential donors from public and private sources;
 - b. Researching potential donors’ requirements, priorities, and available budgets for the region and for cross-cutting global themes such as climate change adaptation;
 - c. Branding the CTF as an attractive vehicle or mechanism for implementing key donors’ own strategic priorities and programs in the region; and
 - d. Assessing the most viable innovative sources of funding for the region, such as Biodiversity Offsets, Debt-for-Nature Swaps, Environmental Compensations, and Payments for

Environmental Services. This assessment will build on the recent publication “*Innovating conservation finance in West Africa and the Mediterranean*”⁴⁵

111. As part of the fundraising strategy M2PA will mobilize private financial partners for the capitalization of the Fund and will engage in dialogues with relevant marine/blue economy business initiatives that are being developed in the region, to proactively identify potential long-term sources of funding. It will also seek to initiate innovative financing partnerships, such as payments for ecosystem services, compensation systems, the creation of “green-blue” bonds, tax breaks, etc. with the private sector. The M2PA already partners with Private US-based Foundations and with Zoos and Aquariums from Switzerland and Monaco who will dedicate part of their entrance fees to the CTF. As shown in the co-financing section of this proposal, the M2PA has already demonstrated its ability to raise funding from a diverse portfolio of donors, including the private sector, and is committed to expanding it during the implementation of this project, and beyond.
112. To further engage the private sector in the CTF, this project will evaluate different entry points for private sector collaboration not only as potential donors, but a direct contributor towards improving MPA management and delivering socio-economic benefit to local stakeholders (recreational/commercial fishing, tourism, aquaculture, etc.). This will include identifying potential public-private partnerships suitable for MPAs in the region. Thus, during the implementation phase, the project will consider the development of a framework to enable/attract private sector participation and a due diligence process using international standards to evaluate the viability of private sector investments in places where the CTF is investing.
113. The M2PA will also develop and implement the Communications Strategy for the CTF, which will complement the Resource Mobilization Strategy described above. The purpose of the Communications Strategy is twofold: a) raise awareness, encourage support, and promote collaboration among governments and key stakeholders, to support the resource mobilization and the timely disbursement of funds; and b) integrate communications into the CTF’s business operations by using communications as a proactive tool to support the CTF’s objectives.
114. The Communications Strategy will be directed at several external audiences, including governments (beneficiary and contributing countries), MPA managers, development partners, private sector, civil society, opinion leaders, and the general public. As part of this strategy, the CTF’s brand identity will be created and guidelines developed.
115. Finally, as part of the implementation of the Resource Mobilization Strategy, the M2PA will identify potential and viable donors, and prepare and submit funding proposals for at least USD 10M. We expect that from these proposals, the CTF receives at least USD 1.5M as its initial capital during the life of this project.
116. The targets and indicators for this output are as follows:

Target	Indicator
Target 2.1.1.a: CTF Resource Mobilization and Communications Strategies developed and approved by the M2PA Board	Indicator 2.1.1.a: <i>CTF Resource Mobilization and Communications Strategies developed under implementation</i>
Target 2.1.1.b: Funding proposals for at least USD 10M submitted	Indicator 2.1.1.b: <i>Amount requested through funding proposals</i>

⁴⁵ Gobin, C. and Landreau, B. 2016. *Innovating conservation finance in West Africa and the Mediterranean*. MAVA Foundation.

d. Incremental Cost Reasoning

117. The GEF grant will provide the needed incremental investments required to design, establish, and operationalize a regional CTF for Mediterranean MPAs. As described above, the GEF resources will fund the design of the critical components required for the CTF, the creation of the fund itself as a legally independent entity, and enable its initial capitalization of at least USD 1.5M from non GEF resources.
118. Currently, most investments are directed at either the country or MPA level only, and are generally for a limited period of time. The GEF investment will change this by allowing to create a more reliable funding vehicle in the long-term and with the capacity to complement government investments (cover financial gaps).
119. Without the GEF support, the M2PA will not have enough resources to create and launch the CTF in less than 24 months, as the project proposes. Moreover, without the CTF, the business-as-usual scenario (baseline) for Mediterranean MPAs will continue and long-term funding will not be available to improve their management and improve their conservation effectiveness.
120. The GEF funding will also allow the M2PA to explore innovative mechanisms to secure the long-term financial viability of Mediterranean MPAs, which would have not been possible in the absence of the GEF grant.
121. Thus, the GEF incremental investment will generate additional global environmental benefits, described in Table 2 below and Section E of this document.

Table 2: Project Baseline, Alternative Scenarios, and Global Environmental Benefits

Baseline	Alternative Scenario	Global Environmental Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current baseline investments are insufficient to manage the existing MPAs effectively and lacks the diversified and innovative approaches needed to support expansion of the system. • MPA budgets are heavily dependent upon external, project-based donor financing to support their activities. • The financial gap across the MPAs is significant and risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project will enable the design and creation of a regional CTF and initiate its capitalization from co-financing resources • More specifically, the project aims at: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Expanding partnerships and strengthening key stakeholders' participation in the M2PA; b) Establishing management effectiveness baselines and financial needs of participating MPAs; c) Developing and adopting the CTF Strategy, including its governance structure, legal framework, financial structure, and asset management approach; d) Developing and adopting the CTF's operational guidelines, including administration, operations, reporting, and monitoring and evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased protection of critical marine and coastal ecosystems from damaging human activities and allowing them to recover; • Improved conservation of biodiversity (including globally endangered species) and maintenance of commercial species; • Provision of areas for fish reproduction, which can allow their populations to recover and repopulate depleted areas; • Augmentation of fish catches due to spill-over

becoming pervasive, which may cause the loss of social and political confidence in the usefulness of such management tool.	schemes; and e) Developing and implementing the CTF's Resource Mobilization and Communications Strategies, and realization of the initial capitalization of the CTF.	effects; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of environmental services to mitigate and adapt to climate changes; and • Maintenance of local cultures, economies, and livelihoods.
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Co-financing:

122. Co-financing for this project is estimated at € 8.35M (USD 9.69M) through a mix of grants and in-kind financing from governments, the private sector, foundations, and NGOs. Table 3 lists the donors and the amount of their contribution. Other donors have initially shown their interest in becoming contributing partners to the project, e.g. the European Union and the German bank KfW.

Table 3: Project Co-financing Information

#	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (€)	Amount* (USD)
01	Government of the Principality of Monaco: Support for the development of the M2PA initiative and establishment of the CTF	cash	500,000	580,370
02	Government of France (French Agency for Biodiversity [AFB] and French Ministry of the Environment): Support for the development of the M2PA initiative and establishment of the CTF	in-kind	1,470,000	1,706,289
03	Tunisian Agency for the Protection and Management of the Littoral: Support for the establishment of a network of MPAs in Tunisia	in-kind	1,464,583	1,700,000
04	Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM): Support for the creation of the CTF	cash	1,500,000	1,741,110
05	Conservatoire du Littoral: Support for the improvement of MPA management effectiveness in the Mediterranean	in-kind	275,813	320,147
06	IUCN Med: Activities in the Mediterranean Program	In-kind	223,000	258,836
08	Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation (FPA 2): Mediterranean Program and hosting of the M2PA Initiative	in-kind	1,328,250	1,541,700
07	FPA 2 Swiss Branch - Basel Zoo: Portion entrance fees to support the M2PA	cash	86,000	99,820
09	FPA 2 American Branch - Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation: Support of MPAs in the Mediterranean	cash	322,000	373,745
10	The Network of MPA managers in the Mediterranean - MedPan:	in-kind	680,500	789,856

	Co-financing comes from projects activities funded by FFEM, MAVVA Foundation and the European Commission			
11	The Mediterranean RAC/SPA: Co-financing comes from projects activities funded by MAVVA Foundation	in-kind	500,000	580,370
	TOTAL		8,350,146	9,692,183

* Exchange rate € 1 = USD 1.16074, as of October 31, 2017

E. Global Environmental Benefits

123. The establishment and operationalization of the CTF will directly benefit the financial status of 157,807 hectares of MPAs in Albania, Morocco, and Tunisia, as well as raising awareness of decision makers and government officials about the importance of MPAs in these countries. Moreover, during the life of this project, the co-financiers of this project will invest directly in 10 MPAs totalling 106,100 hectares (68% of the total) of eligible MPAs in these countries to improve their management effectiveness (please see paragraph 50 and 81 of this document for more details). As mentioned before, three additional Mediterranean countries are expected to join the CTF; thus, the area of MPAs will increase during the life of this project. In the medium and long terms, it is expected that the CTF will benefit most of the MPAs in the Mediterranean countries;
124. By providing a long-term source of finance, the CTF will enhance management effectiveness of MPAs in the region. MPAs that are effectively managed protect critical habitats, species, and ecological functions. They are also an essential tool for recovering, protecting, and restoring biodiversity, productivity, and resilience, and for securing environmental services for current and future generations.
125. Mediterranean MPAs provide a range of benefits for fisheries, local economies and the marine environment, including:
- a. Maintaining biodiversity and providing refuges for endangered, endemic, and commercial species, including the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*), sea turtles such as the loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), and leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), and the the great white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*); the seaweed *Rissoella verruculosa* and the Neptune grass or Mediterranean tapeweed (*Posidonia oceanica*); and the Atlantic Bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*).
 - b. Protecting critical habitats from damage by destructive fishing practices and other human activities and allowing them to recover;
 - c. Providing areas where fish can reproduce, spawn, and grow to their adult size;
 - d. Increasing fish catches (both size and quantity) in surrounding fishing grounds;
 - e. Building resilience to protect against damaging external impacts, such as climate change; and
 - f. Helping to maintain local cultures, economies, and livelihoods which are intricately linked to the marine environment.
126. MPAs often play a vital role in maintaining and improving tourism activities. Tourism is a major contributor to gross domestic product and employment in many coastal states in the region;

127. In addition, studies increasingly highlight the importance of the role of MPAs in climate change adaptation and mitigation. For instance, recently, Roberts et al. (2017)⁴⁶ found that well-managed marine reserves may help marine ecosystems and people adapt to five prominent impacts of climate change: acidification, sea-level rise, intensification of storms, shifts in species distribution, and decreased productivity and oxygen availability, as well as their cumulative effects. They also concluded that marine reserves are a viable low-tech, cost-effective adaptation strategy that would yield multiple co-benefits from local to global scales, improving the outlook for the environment and people into the future.
128. The CTF will help finance the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services that local communities depend on for their livelihoods and food security. Stronger commitment from local actors and representatives in and around MPAs will reduce conflicts over resource use and promote co-management of these territories. Outreach and communication with the local population, visitors, decision-makers, and all stakeholders will help raise awareness of the issues of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development and promote the emergence of citizens' initiatives.

f. Innovation, Sustainability, and Replicability

Innovation

129. In the Mediterranean region, only 8% of the funding needs for effective management of MPAs are covered by current resources, and there are no mechanisms to provide sustainable funding for these MPAs. Thus, the creation of a regional CTF to provide long-term financial support for MPAs is an innovative approach. It is expected that the CTF will encourage the development of complementary national financial mechanisms.
130. Currently, most of the funding for MPAs in the region comes from project-based sources. The establishment of the CTF will allow to move from a project-based approach to a sustainable funding mechanism not implemented in the region until now.
131. The project will undertake extensive engagement with potential development partners and experts to identify the best innovative source of funding for the region, including but not limited to biodiversity offset, debt-for-nature swaps, environmental compensation, and Payment for Environmental Services (PES), park bonds, some of which have not been implemented in beneficiary countries.
132. The project will support MPA co-management approaches between governments and civil society stakeholders, which have not been done in many countries of the region.

Sustainability

133. *Environmental sustainability*: the project will help ensure the proper financing and effective management of Mediterranean MPAs, thus, substantially increasing their long-term environmental sustainability. Increased funding for MPA management will enable better control, mitigation, and elimination of threats. Increased funding for, and training in implementing, dedicated research and monitoring programs will allow development and implementation of concrete, on-the-ground measures for globally threatened marine species.
134. *Institutional and financial sustainability*: institutional and financial sustainability is central to the vision of the CTF and this project. The ultimate goal of the fund is to provide a long-term

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<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/317366358> Marine reserves can mitigate and promote adaptation to climate change

sustainable source of funding for MPA management and to do so, the fund itself will have to be institutionally and financially sustainable in the long-term. The design of the organizational structure and financial framework of the CTF will ensure that it can last, ideally, in perpetuity. For example, the CTF will be housed within and part of the M2PA institutional structure currently based in Monaco. From the financial standpoint, the CTF will mobilize resources from a wide range of sources, including governments, regional organizations, foundations, and the private sector to fulfill its capitalization targets in the shortest time possible. As shown in the co-financing section of this proposal, the M2PA has already demonstrated its ability to raise funding from a diverse portfolio of donors and is committed to expanding it during the implementation of this project, and beyond.

135. In addition, it is expected that on-the-ground projects financed by the CTF will directly build local capacities among MPA managers and key stakeholders to implement income generation activities and conduct fundraising campaigns for their areas.
136. *Social sustainability*: the direct and indirect contributions of the project to social sustainability will be considerable. A variety of different stakeholders - from the MPAs local stakeholders, governments, and NGOs - will be engaged in the successful management of MPAs supported by the Fund.

Replicability of the Project

137. The potential for replication of this project is substantial. The regional CTF that will be established with the support from the GEF can be replicated in other regions of the world. The CTF will be built on the experience of other regional trust fund, many of which have also received support from the GEF.
138. Close coordination with the CFA network of experts will allow the sharing of these experiences and best practices, and encourage similar initiatives. At the Mediterranean level, the establishment of the CTF may encourage some governments to create their own national funds. In this case, the regional fund will be able to offer useful lessons and advice to these countries.

2. *Child Project?* If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

139. This is not a child project

3. *Stakeholders*. Will project design include the participation of relevant stakeholders from [civil society organizations](#) (yes /no) and [indigenous peoples](#) (yes /no)? If yes, elaborate on how the key stakeholders engagement is incorporated in the preparation and implementation of the project.

140. This project has been screened for environmental and social safeguards by the CI-GEF Project Agency (see Safeguards Analysis and Recommendations in Annex E), who recommended the preparation the following safeguard plans:
 - a. Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)
 - b. Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP)
 - c. Accountability and Grievance Mechanism

141. The first two plans will be prepared by the Executing Agency (EA) at the beginning of the implementation phase and must be approved by the Project Agency within the first quarter of the project.
142. The Accountability and Grievance Mechanism is already included in this document and can be found in Annex H.
143. Further to developing and implementing the above-mentioned safeguard plans, the EA will ensure that all applicable CI-GEF Project Agency safeguards are incorporated into the design and implementation of the Conservation Trust Fund itself (see Output 1.1.4). This will be done by developing and adopting the Environmental and Social Guidelines for the CTF.

Stakeholder engagement activities to date

144. The Association for the Sustainable Financing of Mediterranean MPAs (M2PA), a broad coalition of stakeholders in the Mediterranean region, was created in 2015 with the goal of establishing a CTF for Mediterranean MPAs.
145. The M2PA funding members are the Principality of Monaco, the Government of France, the Republic of Tunisia, and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. Today, the Association has 11 members, including the governments of Morocco and Albania, IUCN-Nature Med, WWF Mediterranean, the Conservatoire du Littoral, the RAC/SPA, and MedPan association. The composition of the association reflects a very wide range of relevant stakeholders and, thus, guarantees a very participatory approach for the creation and management of the CTF.
146. To date, the General Assembly of the Association has met three times and plans to meet regularly. During the implementation of this project, the M2PA expects to broaden its partnership to ensure that the most relevant stakeholders are involved in this initiative.
147. Besides M2PA members, the project will work in close collaboration with other stakeholders, some of which are identified in Table 4 below:

Table 4: Project Stakeholders

Stakeholder	Roles and responsibilities in the project
Regional institution(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) was established in Tunis in 1985 as part of a decision of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution (Barcelona Convention). • RAC/SPA’s mission is to assist Mediterranean countries in the implementation of their commitments under the SPA/BD Protocol, especially with regard to developing and promoting Specially Protected Areas (SPAs) and reducing the loss of marine and coastal biodiversity. RAC/SPA is a member of the M2PA and has a seat at its board.
Governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments are key stakeholder in the project. They provide political, financial, and technical support. To date, three non-EU Mediterranean countries are involved in the M2PA Board (Albania, Morocco, and Tunisia); other countries are expected to join the Association over the lifespan of the project. • In addition, the project will reach out to a broader public interested in conservation finance and MPA conservation, such as the CBD national focal

	points, and GEF and GCF focal points (GEF OFPs from Albania, Morocco, and Tunisia are already engaged in the preparation of this project)
National, local NGOs, MPA managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are key technical and professional partners of the project, as well as beneficiaries in the long-term. Thus, their engagement in the project and the CTF will be encouraged throughout time. • It is important to note that the M2PA is already collaborating with local NGOs. For instance, the Tunisian NGO Notre Grand Bleu and the Moroccan NGO AGIR are currently receiving funding from the M2PA.
International/regional NGOs, network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major NGOs and networks active in the Mediterranean are already members of the M2PA (MedPAN, WWF Mediterranean, and IUCN-Med). The project will enable the M2PA to further strengthen these relationships and bring additional regional NGOs to the initiative. • Their involvement in the project is important because they have on-the-ground experience and a large network of relevant local actors. • NGOs may have representation on the Board of the CTF.
International donor agencies/ development partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International donor agencies/development partners are potential donors to the CTF. Many of them, especially the ones from the EU have already been engaged by the M2PA. Additional agencies and partners will be consulted and engaged throughout the implementation of this project. • They may have a representation on the Board of the CTF.
Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The private sector will be an important financial partner of the CTF. • Contribution to the financing of the CTF in the form of environmental-related fees, fiscal offsets, biodiversity offsets, donations, and/or grants will be assessed. The private sector will be consulted as important stakeholders in the establishment and management of the CTF. • It is important to underline that some collaborations with the private sector are already in place. • The private sector may have representation on the Board of the CTF.

Stakeholder engagement during the implementation of the project

148. As mentioned before, the M2PA will develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) during the first quarter of the implementation phase. 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.
149. To develop the SEP, the M2PA will follow the guidelines provided by the CI-GEF Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) document, and include the following:
- a. Identification, mapping and prioritization of key stakeholder groups;
 - b. Development of a strategy and timetable for sharing information and consulting with each of these groups;
 - c. Description of resources and responsibilities for implementing stakeholder engagement activities; and
 - d. Description of how stakeholder engagement activities will be incorporated into a project management system.

4. *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.* Are [gender equality and women's empowerment](#) taken into account (yes /no)? If yes, elaborate how it will be mainstreamed into project implementation and monitoring, taking into account the differences, needs, roles and priorities of women and men.

150. Women are key stakeholders in many activities that occur within and adjacent to the MPAs. Thus, every effort will be made by the M2PA and the CTF, once established, to advance gender equality in the project. To ensure that the project meets the CI-GEF Project Agency's Gender Mainstreaming Policy, the M2PA will develop a Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP) during the first quarter of the implementation phase of the project. The GMP will be fully aligned with the GEF Gender Equality Action Plan. The aim of the GMP will be to identify needs and opportunities to mitigate potentially adverse effects of the project on men and women, as well as to promote gender equality an all aspects of the project.
151. The GMP will include an assessment of gender roles, responsibilities, uses, and needs relating to the environment/natural resources on which the project will be based (use patterns, women's participation in management, etc.), as well as both short-term and long-term costs and benefits of the project to men and women. It will also include potential roles, benefits, impacts, and risks for women and men of different ages, ethnicities, social structure, and status. Specific actions and activities will be identified to ensure that gender-related adverse impacts of this project are appropriately avoided, minimized, and/or mitigated.
152. The GMP will explicitly describe the actions and processes to be put in place during the implementation phase of this project, thus to ensure that women and men: a) receive culturally compatible social and economic benefits; b) do not suffer adverse effects during the development process; and c) receive full respect for their dignity and human rights. Finally, the GMP will provide specific indicators for monitoring and evaluating progress towards gender equality within the project.
153. The following is a list of examples of project elements that are particularly gender-sensitive and thus focal areas for the GMP. The project team will need to ensure that:
- All activities of the project integrate gender considerations, such as the incorporation and mainstreaming of gender issues to safeguard equitable opportunities for women to participate in the development of the CTF and in all stakeholder engagement activities;
 - The institutional architecture of the CTF (Board of Directors, committees, staff, etc.) call for equal representation of men and women;
 - The Operational Guidelines of the CTF mainstream gender considerations into the process of making and managing grants to the Fund's beneficiaries; and
 - All publications resulting from the project use gender sensitive language and are made equally accessible to men and women.
154. In addition, the Executing Agency is required to monitor and report on the following minimum gender indicators:
- Number of men and women that participated in project activities (e.g., meetings, workshops, consultations)
 - Number of men and women that received benefits (e.g., employment, income generating activities, training, access to natural resources, land tenure or resource rights, equipment, leadership roles) from the project; and if relevant
 - Number of strategies, plans (e.g., management plans and land use plans), and policies derived from the project that includes gender considerations.

5. *Benefits.* Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels. Do any of these benefits support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) and/or adaptation to climate change?

155. It is estimated that about 150 million people, one third of the population of the Mediterranean coastal states, live in coastal regions and islands. Thus, the population of the Mediterranean relies heavily on the benefits of the coastal and marine ecosystems.
156. The creation of a CTF will allow MPAs in the participating countries, and in the Mediterranean region in general, to be better managed by providing financial support to cover recurrent cost of management. Well-managed MPAs can contribute to reduce poverty alleviation and increase well-being by:
- Improving fish catches: several studies show that fish populations “spill over” from the no-fishing zones of the MPAs to areas where fishing is allowed, leading to increased catches and higher incomes for fishermen;
 - Creating new jobs (mostly in tourism): The MPAs’ greatest boost to household incomes can come from new jobs, especially in the tourism sector. In that regard, it is important to note that of the 220 million tourists to the region every year, over 100 million visit beaches. In less than 20 years, the annual number of tourists visiting the area is expected to increase to 350 million;
 - Benefiting women: MPAs can help empower women economically and in some cases socially. Usually, the development of alternative livelihoods to fishing, such as seaweed farming and the sale of artisanal products can provide new income opportunities for women. As a result, they can gain a stronger voice in community meetings.
157. The local beneficiaries of a well-managed MPA will be: artisanal fishermen, local tourism operators, and all local services related to tourism (such as diving centers and boat excursions, hotel near the MPA, restaurants, local shops, and the sale of artisanal products.
158. There are many examples within the Mediterranean region to underline these opportunities. For instance, in Algeria, engaging local fishermen in the booming tourist economy at Taza National Park helped to increase their income and build support for MPAs. The MedPAN small grants program has many success stories that can be replicated. The economic valuation of the Karaburun-Sazan Marine and Coastal Protected Area⁴⁷ (Albania) concluded that an optimal management of the MCPA will allow the preservation of marine ecosystems and the production of ecosystem services for many beneficiaries (artisanal fishermen, tourists, tourism operators, etc).

6. *Risks.* Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental future risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and if possible, propose measures that address these risks:

159. Key project risks and mitigation measures are summarized below.

⁴⁷ Binet, T., Diazabakana, A., and Keurmeur, N. 2016. Economic valuation of the Karaburun-Sazan Marine and Coastal Protected Area. VertigoLab. UNDP.

Table 5: Project Risks and Mitigation Measures

Risk	Rating	Risk Mitigation Measure
<p>Governments and other potential funding entities are not sufficiently engaged in capitalizing the proposed CTF</p>	<p>M/S</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The M2PA will continue working to expand its membership to ensure that key stakeholders participate and understand the purpose of the CTF, which will bring additional credibility to the initiative. • The continued exchange of information and ideas under the M2PA leadership will ensure that current and future partners are well informed about the CTF. • The CTF will be advised by experienced financial advisors to ensure that the innovative approaches for capitalization are explored by the fund’s managers
<p>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</p>	<p>M</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CTF will develop a broad base of donors and diversified sources of capital which should help to buffer the uncertainties that political changes may bring to the fund • The CTF managers will follow closely potential changes in governments to readily design and implement risk management strategies, as needed.
<p>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</p>	<p>M</p>	<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 5% 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.
<p>Weak management capacities for planning, management, and governance reduce project effectiveness</p>	<p>M</p>	<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 gaps. One aim of this project is also to build capacity within the MPA relevant stakeholders.
<p>The capital invested in the CTF endowment and the revenue</p>	<p>L</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The governance of the CTF, in line with CFA

generated are diverted from their purpose		international standards, will guarantee independence and accountability. In addition, the establishment of key documents such as the Guidelines and Procedures on Environmental and Social Safeguards or principles of the grant-making process will ensure appropriate use of the investments.
Global climate change impacts the MPAs negatively	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Biodiversity threats grow beyond background levels and thus demand still higher investments. In addition, more MPAs are created without funding. Thus, the level of funding needed will be higher than anticipated.	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular monitoring of the risk levels at the site level will be done in addition to financial needs. The project will maintain regular communications with national governments and funding entities to sensitize them to the need of ensuring that the CTF capital is sufficient to deal with possible aggravations of biodiversity risks. Further the project's Component 2 includes support to continued fund-raising, from as large a universe of potential donors as possible.

7. *Cost Effectiveness*. Explain how [cost-effectiveness](#) is reflected in the project design:

160. The support from the GEF to design, establish, and operationalize a regional CTF for Mediterranean MPAs represents a cost-effective use of the GEF funding by:
- a. Investing a relatively modest amount of funding to leverage the creation of a funding mechanism that will be several times larger than the initial investment and will provide long-term financial support to critical MPAs in eligible countries of the Mediterranean region;
 - b. Supporting the M2PA initiative, which brings together an extensive partnership of key regional and national stakeholders. This will allow for important synergies to be captured by reducing unnecessary duplication of efforts;
 - c. Leveraging at least USD 9.69M in co-financing, including the initial capitalization of the CTF and the implementation of a Resource Mobilization Strategy to further expand the capital of the fund; and
 - d. Helping countries to make progress in their commitments to several international conventions, such the Barcelona Convention, the CBD, and the UNFCCC.

8. *Coordination.* Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives [not mentioned in 1]:

161. This project will coordinate closely with other active GEF projects at the regional and national levels. The projects listed below are all key to the success of the CTF.

Table 6: Project Coordination with other GEF projects

Project	Objectives/Brief description of how it is linked to the project	Coordination
Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security (UNEP/ ID9607)	<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"> Information sharing and strengthening partnerships with key stakeholders. WWF Mediterranean Programme Office, IUCN, and RAC/ASP are already partners of the M2PA
Enhancing Financial Sustainability of the Protected Area System in Albania (UNDP/ ID9289)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase revenues for protected area systems and globally significant protected areas to meet total expenditures required for management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information sharing. This project will be crucial to inform the Albanian MPA financial needs during the CTF design process. A representative from the Albania Ministry of Environment is a current member of M2PA
Enhancing Regional Climate Change Adaptation in the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas (UNEP/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
Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand (GEF ID 5401)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To operate and expand the network of fisheries refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand for the improved management of fisheries and critical marine habitats linkages in order to achieve the medium and longer-term goals of the fisheries component of the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information sharing and learning, mainly from the experiences in managing fisheries and critical habitats, which will be applicable to the MPAs in the Mediterranean region.
Implementation of Ecosystem Approach in the Adriatic Sea through Marine Spatial Planning (GEF ID 9545)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To restore the ecological balance of the Adriatic Sea through implementation of the Ecosystem Approach and improve sub-regional management capacity through 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information sharing and learning from their experiences in implementing ecosystem approaches and marine spatial planning for MPAs. Their experiences can inform

	Marine Spatial Planning	the type of funding that the CTF can provide to Mediterranean MPAs
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162. Given that MPAs are instrumental tools for sustainable fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea, this project will liaise with and learn from Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), more specifically with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM-FAO), whose objectives are to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living marine resources in the Mediterranean. RFMOs also offer opportunities for scaling up the future impacts of the CTF.

9. *Institutional Arrangement.* Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation:

163. The CI-GEF Project Agency is the Implementing Agency (IA) for this project and the Association for Sustainable Financing of Mediterranean MPAs (M2PA) is an Executing Agency (EA). As such, the M2PA will be responsible for executing the project, including managing the various project-related activities directly, reporting on project progress, managing sub-contracts, project staffing, and use of project funds (see Figure 5 below).

164. A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established and will comprise representatives from the members of the M2PA, donors (CI-GEF and FFEM), as well as CTF directors and expert advisors. The PSC will meet annually and will be responsible for providing input to project planning, approving annual work plans and budgets, reviewing and approving any key project outputs and deliverables, and providing efforts to facilitate successful project execution, as appropriate.

165. The M2PA will establish a Project Management Unit (PMU) that will be hosted by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. The PMU will be responsible for overall project management, supervising sub-grantees (consultants), ensuring project success, and liaising with and reporting to the CI-GEF Project Agency. The PMU will develop the Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP), and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP).

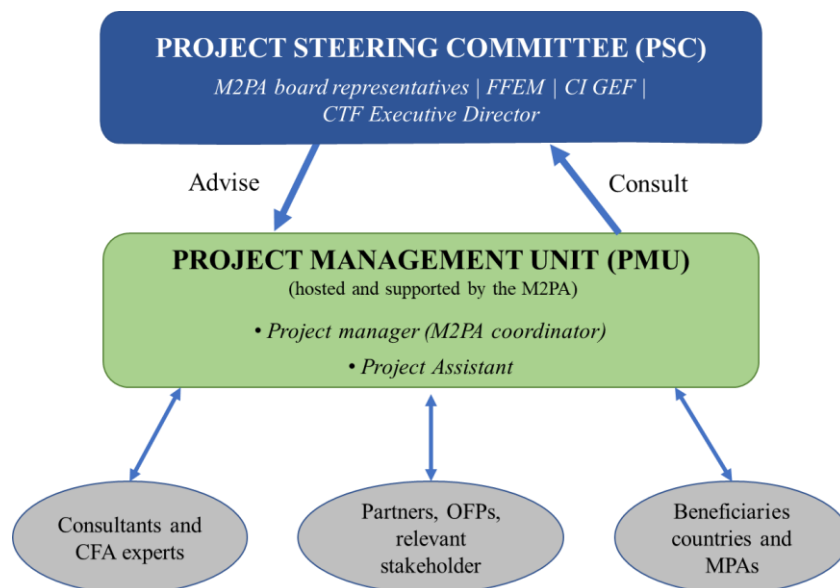
166. The CI-GEF Project Agency and the M2PA will hold quarterly conference calls to monitor project progress, supplemented by more frequent calls as needed.

167. The project execution will be directly supervised by the M2PA's project manager (PM), along with a project assistant. The PM will be responsible for implementation of the project as well as for the achievement of the overall project outputs. The PM and the project assistant are currently based in Monaco.

168. The M2PA staff will include the PM, Mr. Romain Renoux, who will provide overall project leadership. Mr. Renoux has over 15 years of experience in MPAs and 20 years of experience with project management. Before being the coordinator of the M2PA oversaw the EU funded BEST Initiative in the Caribbean region working with 15 overseas territories of the United Kingdom, Netherlands, and France to identify biodiversity conservation areas and to fund on-the-ground conservation projects through grants. BEST, the voluntary scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas, aims to support the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of ecosystem services including ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation in the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories. He was also the coordinator and local correspondent for the Agoa marine mammal sanctuary and chaired the French national network of MPA managers encompassing more than 100 MPA located

in different seas. His expertise will be an asset for the project. In addition, a project assistant will be recruited to work full time of the project and to assist the coordinator.

Figure 5: Project Organizational Structure



169. Due to the high level of expertise needed for most of the outputs, the work will be done by specialized consultants or organizations/agencies. The main role the PM and the assistant will be to prepare clear terms of reference with very precise deliverables and timelines, and ensure respect of the timeframe. The assistant will be the primary liaison with the project manager.
170. The PM and the assistant will oversee communications about the project, screen potential donors, prepare applications for grants, and liaise with all the partners. The PM and the project team will communicate with a variety of audiences and be in charge of keeping stakeholders informed of the progress overall and of the most important project events. The PM will be responsible for building and sustaining the countries commitment to the project and the involvement of project stakeholders. To do this, the PM will develop a communications strategy and will maintain a high level of transparency and openness throughout the project implementation. The M2PA’s promotional materials will be developed bearing the logos of all project partners. The same standard will also apply for all other written materials and publications and to all public events.
171. The PM will ensure that the GEF Operational Focal Points (OFPs) for Albania, Morocco, and Tunisia are properly engaged in the project and that they participate in the inception workshop, thus ensuring country ownership of and engagement with the project, and regular communication with them during the project. In addition, OFPs from other countries will be involved in the project to attract new countries to the M2PA partnership.
172. The CI-GEF Project Agency will provide project assurance, including supporting project implementation by maintaining oversight of all technical and financial management aspects, and providing other assistance upon request of the Executing Agency. The CI-GEF Project Agency will also monitor the project’s implementation and achievement of the project outputs, ensure the proper use of GEF funds, and review and approve any changes in budgets or work plans. The CI-GEF Project Agency will arbitrate and ensure resolution of any execution conflicts.

10. 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.

173. Results from the project will be widely disseminated within and beyond the project's geographic area through existing information sharing networks and forums. The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy-based, and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation through lessons learned.
174. The project will use communication tools developed by the M2PA to share progress and exchange information, such as its website, Facebook page, and Twitter account. It will also disseminate information through the communication tools of its close partners, including MedPAN, RAC/SPA, and IUCN-Med.
175. The project will join and participate in the IW-Learn platform (<http://iwlearn.net/>), hosted by the GEF International Waters focal area. Lessons learned will be identified, analysed, and shared regularly throughout the different means cited above. In this regard, the project will allocate at least 1% of its budget to participating in the IW-Learn platform, including the development of a web-based platform as part of the M2PA website to present and share experiences and participate in the International Waters Conference and relevant COPs.

11. Consistency with National Priorities. Is the project consistent with the National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions? (yes /no). If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, NBSAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NCs, TNAs, NCSA, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

176. This project is built on the political support that the M2PA initiative has already received from many Mediterranean countries and regional initiatives, such as the Union for the Mediterranean at the Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change in May 2014 and at the 19th meeting of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention in February 2016.
177. This project is fully aligned with and contributes to reaching the targets adopted under international and regional conventions, in particular:
 - The **Barcelona Convention's** roadmap to establish a comprehensive and coherent network of Mediterranean MPAs;
 - **Aichi Target 11**, adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity;
 - **Sustainable Development Goal 14** that calls for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources; and
 - The **Paris Agreement** of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that calls for countries to undertake efforts to limit the global temperature increase to below 2°C, an increase that would contribute to important negative marine impacts, such as ocean deoxygenation and acidification
178. By providing long-term financial sustainability to improve management of eligible MPAs in the Mediterranean, this project will also directly contribute to the implementation of the “**Strategic**

Action Programme for the conservation of Biological Diversity (SAP BIO) in the Mediterranean Region” and the National Action Plans (NAPs) of the Barcelona Convention's Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol). The SAP BIO list of priority actions states that the management of existing Marine and Coastal Protected Areas need to be enhanced, 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.

179. In addition, the 2012 and 2016 Forum of MPAs in the Mediterranean -gathering MPA managers, NGOs, local partners, and civil society- highlighted the need to establish a regional financing mechanism to support the sustainable financing of the M2PA.

12. M & E Plan. Describe the budgeted monitoring and evaluation plan.

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

Monitoring and Evaluation Roles and Responsibilities

181. The Project Management Unit on-the-ground will be responsible for initiating and organizing key monitoring and evaluation tasks. This includes the project inception workshop and report, quarterly progress reporting, annual progress and implementation reporting, documentation of lessons learned, and support for and cooperation with the independent external evaluation exercises.
182. The Executing Agency will be responsible for ensuring the monitoring and evaluation activities are carried out in a timely and comprehensive manner, and for initiating key monitoring and evaluation activities, such as the independent evaluation exercises.
183. The Executing Agency is also responsible for providing any and all required information and data necessary for timely and comprehensive project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary and appropriate.
184. The Project Steering Committee plays a key oversight role for the project, with regular meetings to receive updates on project implementation progress and approve annual work plans. The Project Steering Committee also provides continuous ad-hoc oversight and feedback on project activities, responding to inquiries or requests for approval from the Project Management Unit or Executing Agency.
185. The CI-GEF Project Agency plays an overall assurance, backstopping, and oversight role with respect to monitoring and evaluation activities.
186. The CI Internal Audit function is responsible for contracting and oversight of the planned independent external evaluation exercises at the mid-point and end of the project.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Components

187. This project's M&E Plan will include the following components (see Table 8 for details):

- a. **Inception workshop:** A project inception workshop will be held within the first three months of the project start with the project stakeholders. An overarching objective of the inception workshop is to assist the project team in understanding and taking ownership of the project's objectives and outcomes. The inception workshop will be used to detail the roles, support services, and complementary responsibilities of the CI-GEF Project Agency and the Executing Agency.
- b. **Inception workshop Report:** The Executing Agency should produce an inception report documenting all changes and decisions made during the inception workshop to the project's planned activities, budget, results framework, and any other key aspects of the project. The inception report should be produced within one month of the inception workshop, as it will serve as a key input to the timely planning and execution of project start-up and activities.
- c. **Project Results Monitoring Plan:** A Project Results Monitoring Plan (see Annex E) includes objective, outcome and output indicators, metrics to be collected for each indicator, methodology for data collection and analysis, baseline information, location of data gathering, frequency of data collection, responsible parties, and indicative resources needed to complete the plan. Annex E provides the Project Results Monitoring Plan table that will help complete this M&E component.

In addition to the objective, outcome, and output indicators, the Project Results Monitoring Plan table will also include all indicators identified in the Safeguard Plans prepared for the project, thus they will be consistently and timely monitored. The monitoring of these indicators throughout the life of the project will be necessary to assess if the project has successfully achieved its expected results.

- d. **GEF Focal Area Tracking Tools:** The relevant GEF Focal Area Tracking Tools will also be completed i) prior to project start-up, and ii) at the time of the terminal evaluation.
- e. **Project Steering Committee Meetings:** Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings will be held semi-annually. Meetings will be held to review and approve project annual budget and work plans, discuss implementation issues and identify solutions, and to increase coordination and communication between key project partners. The meetings held by the PSC will be monitored and results adequately reported.
- f. **CI-GEF Project Agency Field Supervision Missions:** The CI-GEF PA will conduct annual visits to the project countries and potentially to project field sites based on the agreed schedule in the project's Inception Report/Annual Work Plan to assess first hand project progress. Oversight visits will most likely be conducted to coincide with the timing of PSC meetings. Other members of the PSC may also join field visits. A Field Visit Report will be prepared by the CI-GEF PA staff participating in the oversight mission, and will be circulated to the project team and PSC members within one month of the visit.
- g. **Quarterly Progress Reporting:** The Executing Agency will submit quarterly progress reports to the CI-GEF Project Agency, including a budget follow-up and requests for disbursement to cover expected quarterly expenditures.
- h. **Annual Project Implementation Report (PIR):** The Executing Agency will prepare an annual PIR to monitor progress made since project start and in particular for the reporting period (July 1st to June 30th). The PIR will summarize the annual project result and progress. A summary of the report will be shared with the Project Steering Committee.
- i. **Final Project Report:** The Executing Agency will draft a final report at the end of the project.
- j. **Independent Terminal Evaluation:** An independent Terminal Evaluation will take place within six months after project completion and will be undertaken in accordance with CI and GEF

guidance. The Terminal Evaluation will focus on the delivery of the project’s results as initially planned (and as corrected after the mid-term evaluation, if any such correction took place). The Executing Agency in collaboration with the PSC will provide a formal management answer to the findings and recommendations of the terminal evaluation.

- k. **Lessons Learned and Knowledge Generation**: Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention area through existing information sharing networks and forums. The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy-based, and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation though lessons learned. The project will identify, analyze, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial in the design and implementation of similar future projects. There will be a two-way flow of information between this project and other projects with a similar focus.
- l. **Financial Statements Audit**: Annual Financial reports submitted by the executing Agency will be audited annually by external auditors appointed by the Executing Agency.

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

Table 7: Project M&E Plan Summary

Type of M&E	Reporting Frequency	Responsible Parties	Indicative Budget from GEF (USD)
a. Inception Workshop and Report	Within three months of signing of CI Grant Agreement for GEF Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Team • Executing Agency • CI-GEF PA 	28,320
b. Inception Workshop Report	Within one month of inception workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Team • CI-GEF PA 	Included in the PMU budget
c. Project Results Monitoring Plan (Objective, Outcomes and Outputs)	Annually (data on indicators will be gathered per the monitoring plan schedule. See Appendix IV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Team • CI-GEF PA 	Included in the PMU budget
d. GEF Focal Area Tracking Tools	i) Project development phase; ii) prior to project mid-term evaluation; and iii) project completion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Team • Executing Agency • CI-GEF PA 	Included in the PMU budget

e. Project Steering Committee Meetings	Annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Team • Executing Agency • CI-GEF PA 	23,600
f. CI-GEF Project Agency Field Supervision Missions	Approximately annual visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CI-GEF PA 	Included in CI-GEF Agency budget
g. Quarterly Progress Reporting	Quarterly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Team • Executing Agency 	Included in the PMU budget
h. Annual Project Implementation Report (PIR)	Annually for year ending June 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Team • Executing Agency • CI-GEF PA 	Included in the PMU budget
i. Project Completion Report	Upon project operational closure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Team • Executing Agency 	Included in the PMU budget
j. Independent External Mid-term Review	CI Evaluation Office Project Team CI-GEF PA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximate mid-point of project implementation period 	Not needed
k. Independent Terminal Evaluation	CI Evaluation Office Project Team CI-GEF PA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation field mission within three months prior to project completion. 	12,500
l. Lessons Learned and Knowledge Generation	At least annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Team • Executing Agency • CI-GEF PA 	Included in the PMU budget
m. Financial	Annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executing 	10,000


Statements Audit		Agency	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CI-GEF PA 	
n. IW Learn Activities	Annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executing Agency 	\$9,500

PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

A. Record of Endorsement⁴⁸ of GEF Operational Focal Point (S) on Behalf of the Government(S): (Please attach the [Operational Focal Point endorsement letter\(s\)](#) with this template. For SGP, use this [SGP OFP endorsement letter](#)).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Prof. Dr. Mr. Pellumb Abeshi	General Director of Environment	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM	08/16/2017
Mr. Mohamed Benyahia	GEF Operational Focal Point	MINISTRY OF ENERGY MINING, WATER & ENVIRONMENT	11/10/2017
Mrs. Sabria Bnoui	GEF Operational Focal Point	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT	11/22/2017

B. GEF Agency(ies) Certification

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies⁴⁹ and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for a medium-sized project approval under GEF-6.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Miguel Morales		12/04/2017	Miguel Morales	7033412637	mamorales@conservation.org

⁴⁸ For regional and/or global projects in which participating countries are identified, OFP endorsement letters from these countries are required even though there may not be a STAR allocation associated with the project.

⁴⁹ GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and CBIT

C. ADDITIONAL GEF PROJECT AGENCY CERTIFICATION (*Applicable only to newly accredited GEF Project Agencies*)

For newly accredited GEF Project Agencies, please download and fill up the required [GEF Project Agency Certification of Ceiling Information Template](#) to be attached as an annex to this project template.

PART IV: ANNEXES

Annex A: Full Project Results Framework

Annex B: Full Project Budget

Annex C: Project Timeline

Annex D: Safeguard Screening Results

Annex E: Project Results Monitoring Plan

Annex F: GEF Tracking Tool

Annex G: Safeguard Compliance Plan

Annex H: Co-Financing Commitment Letters

Annex I: GEF Operational Focal Point Endorsement Letters

Annex J: Map of MPAs in the Participating Countries

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

Objective:	To establish a Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) to enhance the management effectiveness of Mediterranean (MPAs) through improving their long-term financial sustainability
Indicator(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. CTF fully operational and ready for capitalization b. CTF capitalized with at least USD 1.5M from non-GEF resources

Expected Outcomes and Indicators	Project Baseline	End of Project Target	Expected Outputs and Indicators
Component 1: Establishment of a Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) for Mediterranean MPAs			
<p>Outcome 1.1: Conservation Trust Fund for the Mediterranean MPAs established and operational</p> <p><i>Indicator 1.1.: CTF fully operational and ready for capitalization</i></p>	<p>No Trust Fund for the Mediterranean MPAs exists</p> <p>In the Mediterranean region only 8% of the financing needs for effective management of MPAs are covered by current resources.</p>	<p>CTF formally established and operational</p>	<p>Output 1.1.1: Regional and national cooperation among members of the Association for the Sustainable Financing of the Mediterranean MPAs (M2PA) expanded and consolidated</p> <p>Targets 1.1.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Roles and responsibilities of participating stakeholders in the M2PA agreed upon b. Support for and participation in the M2PA from 3 additional recipient countries and 2 key NGOs obtained c. M2PA governing structure and regulatory documents developed and adopted <p>Indicators 1.1.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Stakeholders roles and responsibilities approved by the M2PA Board b. Number of additional countries and NGOs that formally join the M2PA c. M2PA governing documents completed and approved by M2PA Board <p>Output 1.1.2: Financial needs assessed for current and potential participating Mediterranean MPAs and management effectiveness baseline established for 10</p>

			<p>MPAs in Morocco, Tunisia, and Albania, totaling 106,100 hectares</p> <p>Target 1.1.2: <i>MPA's financial needs and management effectiveness baseline assessment reports approved by the M2PA Board</i></p> <p>Indicator 1.1.2: <i>Final financial needs and management effectiveness baseline reports approved and available for stakeholders</i></p> <p>Output 1.1.3: CTF institutional strategy, governance structure, legal framework, financial structure, and asset management approach agreed upon by key stakeholders and adopted by the M2PA Board</p> <p>Targets 1.1.3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>CTF institutional strategy developed in a participatory manner and validated by key stakeholders</i> b. <i>CTF governance structure, legal framework, financial structure, and asset management approach options assessed</i> <p>Indicators 1.1.3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>CTF institutional strategy adopted by the M2PA Board</i> b. <i>CTF governance structure, legal framework, financial structure, and asset management approach approved and adopted by the M2PA Board</i> <p>Output 1.1.4: CTF operational guidelines and policies developed and adopted by the M2PA Board</p> <p>Target 1.1.4: <i>CTF's operational guidelines and policies developed</i></p> <p>Indicator 1.1.4: <i>CTF's operational guidelines and policies approved and adopted by the M2PA Board</i></p>
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Component 2: Resource mobilization for the capitalization of the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) for Mediterranean MPAs			
<p>Outcome 2.1: Initial capitalization of the CTF completed</p> <p><i>Indicator 2.1: Amount in USD raised for the capitalization of the CTF</i></p>	<p>Zero capitalization funding for the CTF</p>	<p>CTF capitalized with at least USD 1.5M from non-GEF resources</p>	<p>Output 2.1.1: CTF Resource Mobilization and Communications Strategies developed and under implementation</p> <p>Targets 2.1.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. CTF Resource Mobilization and Communications Strategies developed and approved by the M2PA Board b. Funding proposals for at least USD 10M submitted <p>Indicators 2.1.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. CTF Resource Mobilization and Communications Strategies developed and under implementation b. Amount requested through funding proposals

ANNEX B: FULL PROJECT BUDGET

Detailed GEF Project budget				Version (date)		12/3/2017							
GEF Project ID:													
Project Title:				A financial mechanism to enhance Mediterranean MPA management effectiveness									
Executing Agencies :				M2PA									
Project Amount GEF-funded (USD) :				308,215		Indicative Project starting date :		March 1 2018					
Project Amount co-financing (USD) :				3,692,183		Indicative Project end date :		February 28 2020					
Total Project Amount (USD) :				10,600,458		Duration (in years):		2 years					
Component 1 description :				Establishment of a Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) for the Mediterranean MPAs									
Component 2 description:				Resource mobilization for the capitalization of the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) for the Mediterranean MPAs									
Component 3 description:													
GEF FUNDED BUDGET				Project budget by component (in USD)					Project budget per year (in USD)				
EXPENSES TYPE	DESCRIPTION	DETAILED DESCRIPTION	OUTPUTS	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Project Management at Cartr	Total	TR1	TR2	TR3	TR4	TOTAL
Salaries and benefits	General Coordinator	Overses the project, and safeguards plans	All outputs of the component 1 and 2	14,245	13,500		11,800	39,545	19,773	19,772			39,545
Salaries and benefits	Assistant (100%)	Technical and administrative support, and safeguard plans	All outputs of the component 1 and 2	30,000	30,000		55,770	115,770	57,885	57,885			115,770
Total Personnel Salaries and benefits				44,245	43,500	-	67,570	155,315	77,658	77,657	-	-	155,315
Consultants fees - International	Development of a communication strategy, including all the related tools, including a graphic charter, logo	1 consultancy for a communication agency - duration 12 months	Output 2.1.1 + all outputs lump sum	97,940	0		-	97,940	82,600	15,340			97,940
	Translations into English and/or French and/or Arabic of the project deliverables, and communication tools + press kit + organization of side events...	Development of various translations for on year	All outputs of the component 1	8,260	8260		-	16,520	8,260	8,260			16,520

Consultants fees - International	<i>Development of a fundraising strategies and implementation</i>	<i>Various consultancies</i>	<i>Outputs 2.1.1. and 2.1.2.</i>	-	59000	-	59,000	47,200	11,800		59,000
	<i>Development of the Trust Fund capital</i>		<i>Output 1.1.5.</i>	41,300	0	-	41,300	-	41,300		41,300
	<i>Development of the operational guidelines and procedures for the</i>		<i>Output 1.1.4.</i>	70,800	0	-	70,800	35,400	35,400		70,800
	<i>Establishment of the Fund including studies on institutional, legal, and financial structure</i>		<i>Output 1.1.3.</i>	160,000	0	-	160,000	80,000	80,000		160,000
	<i>Study on the MPA management effectiveness of the MPAs and needs assessment in Tunisia</i>		<i>Output 1.1.2</i>	17,000	0	-	17,000	17,000	-		17,000
	<i>Study on the MPA management effectiveness of the MPAs and needs assessment in Morocco</i>		<i>Output 1.1.2</i>	17,000	0	-	17,000	17,000	-		17,000
	<i>Study on the MPA management effectiveness of the MPAs and needs assessment in Albania</i>		<i>Output 1.1.2</i>	17,000	0	-	17,000	17,000	-		17,000
	<i>analysis of the different evaluation tools available and the one to be use on the context of</i>		<i>Output 1.1.2</i>	3,440	0	-	3,440	3,440	-		3,440
	<i>Study on the MPA management effectiveness of the MPAs and needs assessment. Country to</i>		<i>Output 1.1.2</i>	17,000	0	-	17,000	-	17,000		17,000

	Study on the MRA management effectiveness of the MRAs and needs assessment. Country to		Output 1.1.2	17,000	0	-	17,000	-	17,000	17,000			
	Study on the MRA management effectiveness of the MRAs and needs assessment. Country to		Output 1.1.2	17,000	0	-	17,000	-	17,000	17,000			
	Study on the MRA management effectiveness of the MRAs and needs assessment. Country to		Output 1.1.2	17,000	0	-	17,000	-	17,000	17,000			
	Final evaluation		All outputs of the component 1 and 2	6,250	6,250	-	-	-	12,500	-			
Auditing fees	Annual financial project audit		All outputs of the component 1 and 2	-	-	10,000	10,000	5,000	5,000	10,000			
				-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Total Professional Services				495,990	73,510	-	10,000	579,500	318,900	260,600	-	-	579,500
International Transportation	Promotion of the cooperation at the national and regional level / field visits	Meetings with stakeholders at the national and regional level - About 10 missions over the course of the project for PMU staff	output 1.1.1										
				8,260			8,260	5,782	2,478				8,260
Lodging / meals / per diem	Promotion of the cooperation at the national and regional level / field visits	Meetings with stakeholders at the national and regional level - About 10 missions over the course of the project for PMU staff	output 1.1.1										
				4,130			4,130	2,831	1,299				4,130

Local transportation	<i>Promotion of the cooperation at the national and regional level / field visits</i>	<i>Meetings with stakeholders at the national and regional level - About 10 missions over the course of the project for PMU staff</i>	output 1.1.1	3,540			3,540	2,478	1,062	3,540	
International Transportation	<i>Inception workshop for about 50 persons</i>	<i>LOCATION TBD</i>	<i>All outputs of the component fund 2</i>	17,700			17,700	17,700	-	17,700	
Lodging / meals / per diem	<i>Inception workshop for about 50 persons</i>	<i>LOCATION TBD</i>	<i>All outputs of the component fund 2</i>	10,620			10,620	10,620	-	10,620	
International Transportation	<i>Participation at international events (i.e. CBD COP) - 5 events</i>	<i>For project coordinator</i>	<i>All outputs of the component fund 2</i>	10,620			10,620	7,080	3,540	10,620	
Lodging / meals / per diem	<i>Participation at international events (i.e. CBD COP) - 5 events</i>	<i>For project coordinator</i>	<i>All outputs of the component fund 2</i>	3,540			3,540	2,360	1,180	3,540	
International Transportation	<i>Steering Committee meeting - about 10 persons (2 meetings)</i>	<i>LOCATION TBD</i>	<i>All outputs of the component fund 2</i>	11,800			11,800	5,300	5,300	11,800	
Lodging / meals / per diem	<i>Steering Committee meeting - about 10 persons (2 meetings)</i>	<i>LOCATION TBD</i>	<i>All outputs of the component fund 2</i>	11,800			11,800	5,300	5,300	11,800	
International Transportation	<i>Participation at the restitution workshop from output 1.1.2 - about 50 persons</i>	<i>presentation of the finding from the different needs assessment and MPA management effectiveness</i>	output 1.1.2	17,700			17,700	-	17,700	17,700	
Lodging / meals / per diem	<i>Participation at the restitution workshop from output 1.1.2 - about 50 persons</i>	<i>presentation of the finding from the different needs assessment and MPA management effectiveness</i>	output 1.1.2	15,930			15,930	-	15,930	15,930	
Total Travel and Accommodations				115,640	-	-	-	115,640	60,711	54,929	115,640
Catering	<i>Inception workshop</i>	<i>50 pax x 2 days x 50</i>	<i>All outputs of the component fund 2</i>	3,000			3,000	3,000		3,000	

ANNEX C: PROJECT TIMELINE

OUTCOMES/OUTPUTS	TIMELINE							
	YEAR 1				YEAR 2			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Component 1: Establishment of a Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) for the Mediterranean MPAs								
Outcome 1.1.: Conservation Trust Fund for Mediterranean MPAs established and operational								
Output 1.1.1: Regional and national cooperation among members of the Association for the Sustainable Financing of the Mediterranean MPAs (M2PA) expanded and consolidated								
Output 1.1.2: Financial needs assessed for current and potential participating Mediterranean MPAs and management effectiveness baseline established for 10 MPAs in Morocco, Tunisia, and Albania, totaling 106,100 hectares								
Output 1.1.3: CTF institutional strategy, governance structure, legal framework, financial structure, and asset management approach agreed upon by key stakeholders and adopted by the M2PA Board								
Output 1.1.4: CTF operational guidelines and policies developed and adopted by the M2PA Board								
Component 2: Resource mobilization for the capitalization of the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) for the Mediterranean MPAs								
Outcome 2.1: Initial capitalization of the CTF, with at least USD 1.5M from non-GEF resources, completed								
Output 2.1.1: Initial capitalization of the CTF completed								

ANNEX D: SAFEGUARD SCREENING RESULTS



CI-GEF PROJECT AGENCY SCREENING RESULTS AND SAFEGUARD ANALYSIS

(To be completed by CI-GEF Coordination Team)

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country: Mediterranean Region (Albania, Morocco, Tunisia)	GEF Project ID:
Project Title: Long-term financial mechanism to enhance Mediterranean Marine Protected Area (MPA) management effectiveness	
Executing Agency: Association for the Sustainable Financing of Mediterranean MPAs (M2PA)	
GEF Focal Area: International Waters	
GEF Project Amount: USD\$1,000,000	
Reviewer(s): Ian Kissoon	
Date of Review: October 26, 2017	
Comments: Analysis completed and approved	

B. Project Objective:

To establish a Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) to enhance the management effectiveness of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) through improving their long-term financial sustainability.

C. Project Description:

Even though the Mediterranean Basin is one of the most highly valued seas in the world, the marine biodiversity is at risk. Currently, for the region, only 8% of the financing needs for effective management of MPAs are covered by current resources, and there are no mechanisms to provide sustainable funding for these MPAs. The project will address the:

- Operational deficiencies of MPA management and weak individual capacity limiting effective MPA management.
- Insufficient and unreliable revenue streams that cannot address the recurrent expenditure costs of MPAs.

The project will be implemented under the following components:

- Component 1 (Establishment of a Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) for the Mediterranean MPAs). This component will focus on establishment Trust Fund mechanism: development of the institutional, legal and financial structures and strategy, adoption of the operational manual and management system. In addition, this component will aim at strengthening and enlarging the national and regional cooperation among members of the Association for the Sustainable Financing of the Mediterranean MPAs (M2PA). Finally, 2 studies related to MPA management effectiveness and assessment of funding will be implemented.
- Component 2 (Resource mobilization for the capitalization of the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) for the Mediterranean MPAs). This component will focus on the capitalization of the fund by

developing a fundraising and communication strategies and submitting proposals to capitalize the fund (for at least USD 10 million)

D. Project location and biophysical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis:

The project will cover the whole Mediterranean but will focus on the 3 following countries: Albania, Morocco, Tunisia.

The Mediterranean Basin is one of the most highly valued seas in the world. The region comprises a vast set of coastal and marine ecosystems that deliver valuable benefits to all its coastal inhabitants, including estuaries, coastal plains; wetlands; nearshore coastal areas; sea grass meadows; coralliferous communities; frontal systems and up-wellings; seamounts; and pelagic systems. The Mediterranean is one of the "hotspots" of global biodiversity. Although representing less than 1% of the surface of the world's oceans, the Mediterranean brings together almost 10% of global marine biodiversity and has a high level of endemism. It contains a remarkable diversity and is a vital breeding area for many key pelagic species.

The coastline of the countries bordering the Mediterranean is experiencing heightened population and economic concentration and a growing tourist attraction (the Mediterranean attracts 30% of international tourism). According to Med Trends report, all the traditional sectors of the maritime economy such as transport, tourism, aquaculture or other, grow exponentially and will continue to grow over the next 20 years, with the exception of professional fishing.

These phenomena generate pollution and significant pressure on natural resources and coastal and marine ecosystems of the Mediterranean. They are exacerbated by the fact that the Mediterranean is a sea of the most sensitive to changing world of climate change, which further increases their vulnerability. Multiple damage hampers the development of economic activities related to the exploitation of these resources and degrade the quality of life of local residents.

Finally, the Mediterranean countries must also face significant economic difficulties (economic crisis, political instability, situations of concern on migration, etc.) leading institutions and civil society to adapt.

E. Executing Agency's Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies:

The EA did not indicate any experience in applying safeguard policies.

II. SAFEGUARD AND POLICIES

Environmental and Social Safeguards:

Safeguard Triggered	Yes	No	TBD	Date Completed
1. Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)		X		
<i>Justification: No significant adverse environmental and social impacts that are sensitive, diverse, or unprecedented is anticipated</i>				
2. Natural Habitats		X		
<i>Justification: The project is not proposing to alter natural habitats</i>				
3. Involuntary Resettlement		X		
<i>Justification: The project is not proposing involuntary resettlement or restriction of access/use of natural resources.</i>				
4. Indigenous Peoples		X		
<i>Justification: The project does not plan to work in lands or territories traditionally owned, customarily used, or occupied by indigenous peoples</i>				
5. Pest Management		X		
<i>Justification: There are no proposed activities related to pest management</i>				
6. Physical & Cultural Resources		X		
<i>Justification: There are no proposed activities related to physical and cultural resources</i>				
7. Stakeholder Engagement	X			
<i>Justification: The project is required to engage stakeholders</i>				
8. Gender mainstreaming	X			
<i>Justification: The project is required to mainstream gender at all levels</i>				
9. Accountability and Grievance Mechanisms	X			
<i>Justification: As a publicly funded GEF project, a Grievance Mechanism is required.</i>				

III. KEY SAFEGUARD POLICY ISSUES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:

From information provided in the Safeguard Screening Form, this project has triggered three safeguard policies. These are:

- I. Stakeholder Engagement,*
- II. Gender Mainstreaming, and*
- III. Grievance Mechanism.*

2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area:

No indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities are foreseen at this time.

3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts:

The proposed approach of the project is expected to avoid or minimize adverse impacts. As such, no better alternative can be conceived at this time.

4. Describe measures to be taken by the Executing Agency to address safeguard policy issues.

I. Grievance Mechanism

To ensure that the project meets CI-GEF Project Agency's "Accountability and Grievance Mechanism Policy #7", the Executing Agency is required to develop an Accountability and Grievance Mechanism that will ensure people affected by the project are able to bring their grievances to the Executing Agency for consideration and redress. The mechanism must be in place before the start of project activities, and also disclosed to all stakeholders in a language, manner and means that best suits the local context.

In addition, the Executing Agency is required to monitor and report on the following minimum accountability and grievance indicators:

1. *Number of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism; and*
2. *Percentage of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism that have been addressed.*

II. Gender Mainstreaming

To ensure that the project meets CI-GEF Project Agency's "Gender Mainstreaming Policy #8", the Executing Agency is required to prepare a Gender Mainstreaming Plan during the first quarter of implementation.

In addition, the Executing Agency is required to monitor and report on the following minimum gender indicators:

1. *Number of men and women that participated in project activities (e.g. meetings, workshops, consultations);*
2. *Number of men and women that received benefits (e.g. employment, income generating activities, training, access to natural resources, land tenure or resource rights, equipment, leadership roles) from the project; and if relevant*
3. *Number of strategies, plans (e.g. management plans and land use plans) and policies derived from the project that include gender considerations.*

III. Stakeholder Engagement

To ensure that the project meets CI-GEF Project Agency's "Stakeholders' Engagement Policy #9", the Executing Agency is required to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan during the first quarter of implementation.

In addition, the Executing Agency is required to monitor and report on the following minimum stakeholder engagement indicators:

1. *Number of government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, indigenous peoples and other stakeholder groups that have been involved in the project implementation phase on an annual basis;*
2. *Number persons (sex disaggregated) that have been involved in project implementation*

- phase (on an annual basis); and
3. Number of engagement (e.g. meeting, workshops, consultations) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase (on an annual basis)

IV. Conservation Trust Fund (CTF)

Further to developing and implementing these safeguard plans during the life of this project, the Executing Agency will ensure that all applicable CI-GEF Project Agency safeguards -see the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for details¹- are incorporated into the design and implementation of the CTF itself.

IV. PROJECT CATEGORIZATION

PROJECT CATEGORY	Category A	Category B	Category C
Justification: The proposed project activities are likely to have minimal or no adverse environmental and social impacts.			

V. EXPECTED DISCLOSURE DATES

Safeguard Plan	CI Disclosure Date	EA Disclosure Date
Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)	NA	NA
Environmental Management Plan (EMP)	NA	NA
Voluntary Resettlement Action Plan (V- RAP)	NA	NA
Process Framework for Restriction of Access to Natural Resources	NA	NA
Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP)	NA	NA
Pest Management Plan (PMP)	NA	NA
Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)	<i>Within 15 days of CI-GEF approval</i>	<i>Within 30 days of CI-GEF approval</i>
Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP)	<i>Within 15 days of CI-GEF approval</i>	<i>Within 30 days of CI-GEF approval</i>
Accountability and Grievance Mechanism	<i>Within 15 days of CI-GEF approval</i>	<i>Within 30 days of CI-GEF approval</i>

VI. APPROVALS

Signed and submitted by:

¹ [https://www.conservation.org/gef/Documents/CI-GEF%20Environmental%20and%20Social%20Management%20Framework%20\(ESMF\)%20version%2006.pdf](https://www.conservation.org/gef/Documents/CI-GEF%20Environmental%20and%20Social%20Management%20Framework%20(ESMF)%20version%2006.pdf)

Sr. Director Project Development & Implementation: 	Name: Free de Koning	Date: 2017-10-26
Approved by:		
Safeguard Manager: 	Name: Ian Kissoon	Date: 2017-10-26
Project Manager: Vice-President, CI-Project Agency  GEF	Name: Miguel Morales	Date:

ANNEX E: PROJECT RESULTS MONITORING PLAN

Indicators	Target	Metrics	Methodology	Baseline	Location	Frequency	Responsible Parties	Indicative Resources (USD)
Objective: To establish a Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) to enhance the management effectiveness of Mediterranean MPAs (MPAs) through improving their long-term financial sustainability								
<i>Indicator a: CTF fully operational and ready for capitalization</i>	CTF formally established and operational	CTF legally established and with organization structures in place	Use reports from output 1.1.1, 1.1.3, 1.1.4 and 1.1.5	None at project inception date	Monaco (M2PA office)	Y2 Q2	Executing Agency	3,000
<i>Indicator b: CTF capitalized with at least USD 1.5M from non-GEF resources</i>	At least USD 1.5M from non-GEF resources	Amount of funding in CTF capital	Use report from output 2.1.2	None at project inception date	Monaco (M2PA office)	Y2 Q4	Executing Agency	1,500
Component 1: Establishment of a Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) for the Mediterranean MPAs								
<i>Outcome Indicator 1.1: CTF fully operational and ready for capitalization</i>	CTF formally established and operational	CTF legally established and with organization structures in place	Use reports from output 1.1.1, 1.1.3, 1.1.4 and 1.1.5	None at project inception date	Monaco (M2PA office)	Y2 Q2	Executing Agency	3,000
<i>Output Indicator 1.1.1.a. Stakeholders roles and responsibilities approved by the M2PA Board</i>	a. Roles and responsibilities of participating stakeholders in the M2PA agreed upon	Number of guidance documents Number of partners identified	Use report from output 1.1.1	None at project inception date	Monaco (M2PA office)	Y1 Q4 / Y2 Q4	Executing Agency	2,000
<i>Output Indicator</i>	b. Support for and	Number of new countries and	Letters of agreements	None at project inception date	Monaco (M2PA office)	Y1 Q2 / Y1 Q4	Executing Agency	1,000

Indicators	Target	Metrics	Methodology	Baseline	Location	Frequency	Responsible Parties	Indicative Resources (USD)
<i>1.1.1.b. Number of additional countries and NGOs that formally join the M2PA</i>	participation in the M2PA from 3 additional recipient countries and 2 key NGOs obtained	NGOs that joined the M2PA						
Output Indicator <i>1.1.1.c. M2PA governing documents completed and approved by M2PA Board</i>	c. M2PA governing structure and regulatory documents developed and adopted	Number of guidance documents	Use report from output 1.1	None at project inception date	Monaco (M2PA office)	Y1 Q4 / Y2 Q4	Executing Agency	2,000
Output Indicator 1.1.2: <i>Final financial needs and management effectiveness baseline reports approved and available for stakeholders</i>	MPA's financial needs and management effectiveness baseline assessment reports approved by the M2PA Board	Number of MPA assessed for: a) funding needs; and b) management effectiveness baseline completed	Use reports from output 1.1.2	None at project inception date	Targeted countries: Albania, Morocco, Tunisia + Monaco (M2PA office)	Y1 Q4	Executing Agency + MedPAN	6,000
Output Indicator <i>1.1.3.a. CTF institutional strategy adopted by the M2PA Board</i>	a. CTF institutional strategy developed in a participatory manner and validated by key stakeholders	Number of guidance documents Number of proposed advisory committees	Use report from output 1.1.3 / review of the ToR for the committees	None at project inception date	Monaco (M2PA office)	Y2 Q2	Executing Agency	2,000

Indicators	Target	Metrics	Methodology	Baseline	Location	Frequency	Responsible Parties	Indicative Resources (USD)
Output Indicator 1.1.3.b. CTF governance structure, legal framework, financial structure, and asset management approach approved and adopted by the M2PA Board	b. CTF governance structure, legal framework, financial structure, and asset management approach assessed	Number of guidance documents	Use report from output 1.1.3	None at project inception date	Monaco (M2PA office)	Y2 Q2	Executing Agency	2,000
Output Indicator 1.1.4: CTF's operational guidelines and policies approved and adopted by the M2PA Board	CTF's operational guidelines and policies developed	Number of guidance documents	Use report from output 1.1.4	None at project inception date	Monaco (M2PA office)	Y2 Q2	Executing Agency	2,000
Component 2: Resource mobilization for the capitalization of the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) for the Mediterranean MPAs								
Outcome Indicator 2.1: Amount in USD raised for the capitalization of the CTF	CTF capitalized with at least USD 1.5M from non-GEF resources	Amount of funding raised	Use letter of commitments	None at project inception date	Monaco (M2PA office)	Y2 Q3	Executing Agency	1,000
Output Indicator 2.1.1.a. CTF Resource	a. CTF Resource Mobilization and	Number of promotional and fundraising documents	Review the communication tools and strategies	None at project inception date	Monaco (M2PA office)	Y2 Q3	Executing Agency	1,000

Indicators	Target	Metrics	Methodology	Baseline	Location	Frequency	Responsible Parties	Indicative Resources (USD)
<i>Mobilization and Communication Strategies developed under implementation</i>	Communication s Strategies developed and approved by the M2PA Board		developed					
Output Indicator <i>2.1.1.a. Amount requested through funding proposals</i>	b. Funding proposals for at least USD 10M submitted	Number of proposal submitted and total amount requested	Use letter of confirmation of funding	None at project inception date	Monaco (M2PA office)	Y2 Q4	Executing Agency	1,000

ANNEX F: GEF TRACKING TOOL BY FOCAL AREA
(Please see IW Tracking Tool attached in an MS Excel file)

ANNEX G: GRIEVANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM

Stakeholders may raise a grievance at all times to the Executing Agency (M2PA) about any actions instigated by the project and the application of its safeguard frameworks. Affected stakeholders should be informed about this possibility and contact information of the respective organizations will be made available on-line, during the project start-up workshop and/or during project related meetings where most relevant. The project Executing Agency will be the first point of contact in the accountability and grievance mechanism.

In the first instance, any grievance should be addressed directly with the Executing Agency (M2PA) and where possible resolved between the Executing Agency and the project-affected party. Stakeholders may also contact Conservation International (CI) as the Implementing Entity with any grievance addressed in an unsatisfactory manner with the Executing Agency. CI will be responsible for informing project-affected stakeholders about the Grievance provisions described in the Safeguard Policies and Processes section of the CI- ESMF shall apply.

EXECUTING AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:

Electronic email: contact@m2pa.org

Phone number: +377 98 98 87 97

Mailing address:

M2PA
Villa Girasole
16, Boulevard de Suisse – 98 000 Monaco

CI-GEF PROJECT AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:

Electronic email: GEFAccountability@conservation.org

Mailing address:

Direction of Compliance
Conservation International
2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 500
Arlington, VA 22202, USA

In addition, grievances can be filed using the CI-GEF Project Agency website:
<http://www.conservation.org/gef/pages/grievance-mechanism.aspx>

ANNEX H: CO-FINANCING COMMITMENT LETTERS

Letter	Name of Co-financier
---------------	-----------------------------

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Government of the Principality of Monaco |
| 2 | Government of France (French Agency for Biodiversity [AFB] and French Ministry of the Environment) |
| 3 | Tunisian Agency for the Protection and Management of the Littoral |
| 4 | Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM) |
| 5 | Conservatoire du Littoral |
| 6 | IUCN Med |
| 7 | Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation (FPA 2)
FPA 2 Swiss Branch - Basel Zoo
FPA 2 American Branch - Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation |
| 8 | The Network of MPA managers in the Mediterranean - MedPan |
| 9 | The Mediterranean RAC/SPA |

NP/

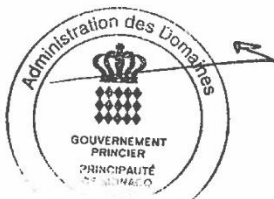
CONVENTION

ENTRE L'ETAT

ET

**Association pour le financement durable des AMP
de Méditerranée**

ANNEE 2016





IL EST CONVENU CE QUI SUIT :

ARTICLE 1 : OBJET DE LA CONVENTION

La présente Convention a pour objet de définir les modalités de soutien mises en œuvre par l'ETAT au profit du BENEFICIAIRE dans le cadre de l'initiation et du développement de ses activités en 2016 et au-delà, relevant de l'objet social défini précédemment.

ARTICLE 2 : DOCUMENTS A FOURNIR PAR LE BENEFICIAIRE

Le BENEFICIAIRE, au titre de l'objet mentionné précédemment, présente à l'appui de sa demande, les éléments suivants annexés à la présente Convention :

- une copie des statuts de l'association,
- un relevé des décisions de la réunion du Bureau tenue le 24 mars 2016, précisant notamment le budget prévisionnel 2016,
- une plaquette de présentation des objectifs de l'association,
- un relevé d'identité du compte bancaire à créditer,

ARTICLE 3 : ENGAGEMENTS DE L'ETAT

Afin de permettre au BENEFICIAIRE de réaliser l'objectif défini à l'Article 1, l'ETAT s'engage à allouer au BENEFICIAIRE une aide financière sur fonds publics d'un montant de CINQ CENT MILLE EUROS (500 000 €).

ARTICLE 4 : MODALITES DE VERSEMENT DE LA SUBVENTION

L'ETAT procède, une fois la présente Convention signée par les Parties et sur demande écrite du BENEFICIAIRE, au versement de l'aide financière mentionnée à l'Article 3 d'un montant de CINQ CENT MILLE EUROS (500 000 €).

Le versement est effectué sur le compte bancaire du BENEFICIAIRE dont les coordonnées sont jointes en annexe à la présente Convention.

MA



dont la passation avec un fournisseur ou un prestataire déterminé est rendue obligatoire en vertu des règles régissant l'activité du BENEFICIAIRE.

ARTICLE 8 : RESPONSABILITE - SUIVI DES ACTIVITES

8.1 : RESPONSABILITES

L'ETAT ne peut être tenu pour responsable en cas de dommage matériel ou corporel survenant au cours de l'exécution de la présente Convention.

Le BENEFICIAIRE est responsable de la bonne gestion du financement accordé par l'ETAT.

8.2 : SUIVI DES ACTIVITES

Le représentant de l'ETAT, membre fondateur de l'Association pour le financement durable des AMP de Méditerranée, au sein du Conseil d'Administration et du Bureau Exécutif de cette association est responsable du suivi des activités relevant de l'utilisation de l'aide financière apportée par l'ETAT dans le cadre de la présente Convention.

ARTICLE 9 : SANCTIONS

En cas d'inexécution de ses engagements par le BENEFICIAIRE, la Convention peut être suspendue en tout ou partie par décision du Ministre d'Etat à l'expiration d'un délai de quinze (15) jours après envoi d'une lettre recommandée avec demande d'avis de réception postal valant mise en demeure.

La présente Convention peut en outre être résiliée par décision motivée du Ministre d'Etat si la mise en demeure mentionnée au précédent alinéa est restée infructueuse au terme du délai imparti ou si le BENEFICIAIRE :

- méconnaît les obligations résultant de la présente Convention ou de la Loi ;
- refuse de présenter les documents ou pièces requis dans les délais mentionnés à l'Article 6 ou de communiquer les informations sollicitées ;
- tarde, sans motif légitime, à présenter ces documents ou pièces ou à communiquer ces informations ;
- fait opposition ou entrave à l'exercice des contrôles exercés par le Contrôleur Général des Dépenses.

Préalablement à la décision prévue au précédent alinéa, le BENEFICIAIRE est entendu en ses explications ou dûment appelé à les fournir par le Contrôleur Général des Dépenses et l'Etat.

De surcroît, la restitution totale ou partielle des sommes versées peut être demandée dans l'un des cas de figure visé au second alinéa.



13 JUL. 2016

Dans les bureaux de l'Administration des Domaines,
En trois exemplaires,
Sur huit (8) pages, annexes en sus,

Et lecture faite, S. E. Monsieur Bernard FAUTRIER, ès-qualités, a signé avec
Monsieur Rémy ROLLAND, ès-qualités.

Les jours, mois et an susdits.

Pour le Gouvernement de
S.A.S. le Prince de Monaco

Pour l'Association pour le financement
durable des AMP de méditerranée



Monsieur Rémy ROLLAND
Administrateur des Domaines

S. E. Monsieur Bernard FAUTRIER
Trésorier

Sans renvoi
Ni mot rayé nul ./.



MINISTÈRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT,
DE L'ÉNERGIE ET DE LA MER

MINISTÈRE DU LOGEMENT
ET DE L'HABITAT DURABLE

Secrétariat général

Paris, le 10 NOV. 2017

Direction des Affaires européennes et internationales
Sous-direction du changement climatique et du développement durable
Bureau des Affaires globales

Objet : Soutien au co-financement du projet de mise en place d'un mécanisme financier à long terme pour renforcer l'efficacité de la gestion des aires marines protégées en Méditerranée

Monsieur le Vice-président,

Par la présente, je vous confirme que le Ministère français de la Transition Ecologique et Solidaire (MTES) apporte une contribution, **équivalant à un montant total de 1,47 million d'euros**, au co-financement du projet de «*Mécanisme financier à long terme pour renforcer l'efficacité de la gestion des aires marines protégées (AMP) en Méditerranée*», à financer par le Fonds pour l'Environnement Mondial. Ce projet est porté par l'Association pour le financement durable des AMP en Méditerranée (M2PA).

Ce cofinancement provient de l'Agence Française pour la Biodiversité et de la Direction des Affaires Européennes et Internationales du MTES, en soutien aux composantes 1 et 2 du projet susmentionné, durant la période 2018 / 2020 (projet de deux ans).

Cette contribution, telle que décrite ci-dessus, a vocation à être considérée comme un cofinancement si la proposition de projet aboutit.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur le Vice-président, l'expression de mes salutations distinguées.

L'adjoint à la Directrice des Affaires européennes et internationales La directrice des Affaires européennes et internationales

Philippe GEIGER

Virginie DUMOULIN-WIECZORKIEWICZ

Mr Miguel Morales
Vice President,
CI-GEF Project Agency
2011 Crystal Drive
Suite 500
Arlington, Virginia 22202 - USA

Unofficial translation

Mr Miguel Morales
Vice President,
CI-GEF Project Agency
2011 Crystal Drive
Suite 500
Arlington, Virginia 22202
USA

Subject: Co-Financing support for "Long-term financial mechanism to enhance Mediterranean MPA management effectiveness" project

Dear Mr Morales,

On behalf of the French Ministry for Ecological and Inclusive Transition (MTES), I am pleased to commit an amount equivalent to 1,47 million euros in co-financing to Association for the Sustainable Financing of Mediterranean MPAs (M2PA) in support of the GEF funded project " *Long-term financial mechanism to enhance Mediterranean MPA management effectiveness*".

This co-financing is from the **French Agency for Biodiversity and the Directorate of European and International Affairs of MTES**, in support of the Component 1 of the project -Establishment and management of a Conservation Trust Fund during the period of 2018/2020 (two-year project).

This contribution as described above is intended to qualify as co-financing should the project proposal be successful

Sincerely,



D- 1733/2017

Tunis November 8th 2017

10 NOV 2017

Mr. Miguel Morales
Vice President, CI-GEF Project Agency
2011 Crystal Drive
Suite 500
Arlington, Virginia 22202
USA

Subject: Co-Financing support for " Long-term financial mechanism to enhance Mediterranean MPA management effectiveness "project

Dear Mr. Morales,

On behalf of The Coastal Zone Management Agency of Tunisia , I am pleased to commit \$ 1.7 million in Kind in co-financing to Association for the Sustainable Financing of Mediterranean MPAs (M2PA) in support of the GEF funded project " Long-term financial mechanism to enhance Mediterranean MPA management effectiveness".

This co-financing is from the tunisian national budget and the donation of a French GEF project and will support the second Component of the project " Resource mobilization for the capitalization of the Conservation Trust Fund for the Mediterranean MPAs" during the period of 2018/2020 (two-year project).

This contribution as described above is intended to qualify as co-financing should the project proposal be successful

Sincerely,

Abdelmajid BETTAIEB
General Director
Coastal Zone Management Agency



2, نهج محمد رشيد رضا - 1002 تونس البليديير
الهاتف: (+216) 71 906 577
الفاكس: (+216) 71 908 640
البريد الإلكتروني: boc@apal.nat.tn
موقع الويب: www.apal.nat.tn
2, Rue Mohamed Rachid Ridha
1002 Tunis Belvédère
Tél.: (+216) 71 906 577
Fax: (+216) 71 908 460



**FONDS FRANÇAIS POUR
L'ENVIRONNEMENT MONDIAL**

Mr. Miguel Morales
Vice President, CI-GEF Project Agency
2011 Crystal Drive
Suite 500
Arlington, Virginia 22202
USA

Paris, November 8th of 2017

N/REF: 2017/IRS/FEM-CCB/JDB/ n°196

Subject: Co-Financing support for “Long-term financial mechanism to enhance Mediterranean MPA management effectiveness” project

Dear Mr. Morales,

On behalf of FFEM Secretariat, I am pleased to confirm that FFEM is currently conducting due diligence with a view to committing one million five hundred thousand (1 500 000) EUR in co-financing to Association for the Sustainable Financing of Mediterranean MPAs (M2PA), in support of the GEF funded project “Long-term financial mechanism to enhance Mediterranean MPA management effectiveness”.

This co-financing will be implemented during the period of 2018/2022 (four-year project).

This contribution as described above is intended to qualify as co-financing should the project proposal be successful.

Sincerely,

François-Xavier DUPORGE
Secrétaire Général du Fonds Français
pour l'Environnement Mondial

République française



**Conservatoire
du littoral**

Délégation Europe et International

Aix-en-Provence, le 10 Novembre 2017

Mr. Miguel Morales
Vice President, CI-GEF Project Agency
2011 Crystal Drive
Suite 500
Arlington, Virginia 22202
USA

Subject : Co-Financing support for “Long-term financial mechanism to enhance Mediterranean MPA management effectiveness “project

Dear Mr. Morales,

On behalf of the Conservatoire du littoral, I am pleased to commit 275 813 euros in co-financing to Association for the Sustainable Financing of Mediterranean MPAs (M2PA) in support of the GEF funded project “ Long-term financial mechanism to enhance Mediterranean MPA management effectiveness”.

This co-financing is from Conservatoire du littoral (in kind human ressources) and fundings from projects (FFFEM, French Water Agency RMC and City of Marseille), and will support component 1 « Establishment of a Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) for the Mediterranean MPAs » (156 613 euros) and component 2 « Resource mobilization for the capitalization of the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) for the Mediterranean MPAs » (119 200 euros) during the period of 2018/2020 (two-year project).

This contribution as described above is intended to qualify as in-kind co-financing should the project proposal be successful

Sincerely,

Fabrice BERNARD
Europe & International Head-
Officer
Conservatoire du littoral



Bastide Beaumanoir
3 rue Marcel Arnaud
13100 Aix-en-Provence
Tel : 04 42 91 28 36
Fax : 04 42 91 6411
f.bernard@conservatoire-du-littoral.fr
www.conservatoire-du-littoral.fr



The 23 of October 2017

Mr. Miguel Morales
Vice President, CI-GEF Project Agency
2011 Crystal Drive
Suite 500
Arlington, Virginia 22202
USA

Subject: Co-Financing support for “Long-term financial mechanism to enhance Mediterranean MPA management effectiveness “project

Dear Mr. Morales,

On behalf of the **Center for Mediterranean Cooperation of the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN-Med)**, I am pleased to inform you that IUCN-Med will contribute with a support in kind equivalent to an amount of 223.000 euros to co- finance the GEF funded project “Long-term financial mechanism to enhance Mediterranean MPA management effectiveness” to be implemented by the Association for the Sustainable Financing of Mediterranean MPAs (M2PA). This amount correspond to the activities to be implemented by IUCN Med during the years 2018-2019 under its Mediterranean program that could be aligned with the activities defined in the above mentioned project.

This co-financing will support the following component 1 and 2 during the period of 2018/2020 (two-year project)

This contribution as described above is intended to qualify as co-financing should the project proposal be successful

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Antonio Troya Panduro', enclosed within a blue oval scribble.

Antonio Troya Panduro – Director
UICN-Med Calle Marie Curie 35
29590 Campanillas Málaga



Mr. Miguel Morales
Vice President, CI-GEF Project
Agency
2011 Crystal Drive
Suite 500
Arlington, Virginia 22202
USA

Monaco, November 14th, 2017

Ref: BF/RC-SL/

Subject: Co-Financing support for "Long-term financial mechanism to enhance Mediterranean MPA management effectiveness" project

Dear Mr. Morales,

On behalf of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation (PA2F), I am pleased to inform you that the PA2F will contribute with a support in kind equivalent to an amount of 1,328,250 € and in cash an amount of 408,000 €, representing a cumulative total of 1,736,250 € or 2,014,050 USD (using the conversion rate of 1€ to 1.16 USD) in co-financing to Association for the Sustainable Financing of Mediterranean MPAs (M2PA) in support of the GEF funded project " Long-term financial mechanism to enhance Mediterranean MPA management effectiveness".

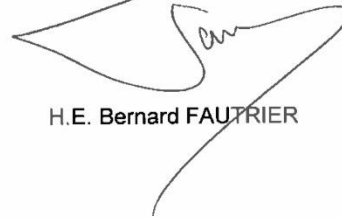
This co-financing will support during the period of mid-2018/mid-2020 (two-year project):

- Component 1 "*Establishment of a Conservation Trust Fund (CTF)*" with 1,328,250 €. This amount corresponds to the activities to be financed by PA2F under its Mediterranean program and by supporting the secretariat of M2PA.
- Component 2 "*Resource mobilization for the capitalization of the CTF*" through
 - o The Basel Zoo and the PA2F-Switzerland with 86 000 €,
 - o The Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation and the PA2F-USA with 322 000 €.

This contribution as described above is intended to qualify as co-financing should the project proposal be successful

Sincerely,

Vice-President Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bernard Fautrier', is written over a large, stylized, abstract signature line that forms a wide, sweeping shape.

H.E. Bernard FAUTRIER



18 October 2017

Mr. Miguel Morales
Vice President, CI-GEF Project Agency
2011 Crystal Drive
Suite 500
Arlington, Virginia 22202
USA

Subject: Co-Financing support for "Long-term financial mechanism to enhance Mediterranean MPA management effectiveness" project

Dear Mr. Morales,

On behalf of the Mediterranean Protected Areas Network - MedPAN, I am pleased to commit 680 500 euros in co-financing to Association for the Sustainable Financing of Mediterranean MPAs (M2PA) in support of the GEF funded project "Long-term financial mechanism to enhance Mediterranean MPA management effectiveness".

This co-financing is from FFEM, Mava Foundation, European Commission and will support component 1 "Establishment of a Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) for the Mediterranean MPAs" and component 2 "Resource mobilization for the capitalization of the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) for the Mediterranean MPAs" during the period of 2018/2020 (two-year project).

This contribution as described above is intended to qualify as co-financing should the project proposal be successful

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Canals", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Purificacio Canals, President of MedPAN, 58 quai du Port, 13002 Marseille, France



United Nations
Environment Programme



Mediterranean Action Plan
Barcelona Convention



Tunis, 14 November 2017

Mr. Miguel Morales
Vice President, CI-GEF Project Agency
2011 Crystal Drive
Suite 500
Arlington, Virginia 22202
USA

Subject : Co-Financing support for "Long-term financial mechanism to enhance Mediterranean MPA management effectiveness "project

Dear Mr. Morales,

On behalf of the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC), I am pleased to commit € 500,000 (five hundred thousand Euros) in co-financing to the Association for the Sustainable Financing of Mediterranean MPAs (M2PA) in support of the GEF funded project "Long-term financial mechanism to enhance Mediterranean MPA management effectiveness".

This co-financing is from the MAVA Foundation and will support Component 1 "Establishment and management of a Conservation Trust Fund (CTF)" and Component 2 "Resource mobilization for the capitalization of the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) for the Mediterranean MPAs", during the period of 2018/2020 (two-year project).

This contribution as described above is intended to qualify as co-financing should the project proposal be successful.

Sincerely,

Khalil ATTIA
SPA/RAC Director

ANNEX I: OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT

	Country
1	Albania
2	Morocco
3	Tunisia



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

Blvd. Zhan D'Ark , Nr. 23, Tirana/Albania - Tel: 2 270 621, Fax: 2 270 627 - www.mjedisi.gov.al

August 16, 2017

To: Dr. Miguel Morales Conservation International 2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 500,
Arlington, VA 22202 USA

Subject: Endorsement for "Long-term financial mechanism to enhance Mediterranean MPA management effectiveness".


In my capacity as GEF Operational Focal Point for Albania, I confirm that the above project proposal (a) is in accordance with my government's national priorities and our commitment to the relevant global environmental conventions; and (b) was discussed with relevant stakeholders, including the global environmental convention focal points.

I am pleased to endorse the preparation of the above project proposal with the support of the GEF Agency listed below. If approved, the proposal will be prepared and implemented by the Association for the Sustainable Financing of Mediterranean MPAs (M2PA). I request the GEF Agency to provide a copy of the project document before it is submitted to the GEF Secretariat for CEO endorsement.

The total financing from the GEFTF (International Waters) being requested for this project is US\$1,000,000, inclusive of project preparation grant (PPG), if any, and Agency fees for project cycle management services associated with the total GEF grant. The financing requested for Albania is detailed in the table below.

Source of Funds	GEF Agency	Focal Area	Amount (in US\$)			
			Project Preparation	Project	Fee	Total
GEFTF	CI	International	50,000	867,431	82,569	1,000,000
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
Total GEF Resources			50,000	867,431	82,569	1,000,000

Sincerely,


Prof. Dr. Mr. Pellumb Abeshi
General Director of Environment
Ministry of Environment and Tourism
Blvd. Zhan D'Ark, No. 23
Tirana, Albania



Secrétariat d'Etat auprès du Ministre de
l'Energie, des Mines, et du Développement
Durable, chargé du Développement Durable

Le Secrétaire Général

كتابة الدولة لدى وزير الطاقة والمعادن والتنمية
المستدامة، المكلفة بالتنمية المستدامة

الكاآب العام

To: Dr. Miguel Morales
Conservation International
2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 500,
Arlington, VA 22202USA

10 NOV. 2017

Subject: Endorsement for "Long-term financial mechanism to enhance Mediterranean MPA management effectiveness".

In my capacity as GEF Operational Focal Point for Morocco, I confirm that the above project proposal (a) is in accordance with our government's national priorities and our commitment to the relevant global environmental conventions; and (b) was discussed with relevant stakeholders, including the global environmental convention focal points.

I am pleased to endorse the preparation of the above project proposal with the support of the GEF Agency listed below. If approved, the proposal will be prepared and implemented by the Association for the Sustainable Financing of Mediterranean MPAs (M2PA). I request the GEF Agency to provide a copy of the project document before it is submitted to the GEF Secretariat for CEO endorsement.

The total financing from the GEFTF (International Waters) being requested for this project is US\$1,000,000, inclusive of project preparation grant (PPG), if any, and Agency fees for project cycle management services associated with the total GEF grant. The financing requested for Morocco is detailed in the table below.

Source of Funds	GEF Agency	Focal Area	Amount (in US\$)			
			Project preparation	Project	Fee	Total
GEFTF	CI	International Water	50,000	867,431	82,569	1,000,000
Total GEF Resources			50,000	867,431	82,569	1,000,000

Sincerely,

The GEF Operational Focal Point

Le Secrétaire Général

BENYAHIA Mohamed

REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA
 —○—
 MINISTRY OF LOCAL AFFAIRS
 AND ENVIRONMENT
 —○—



Tunis,

November 22nd, 2017

To: **Dr. Miguel Morales**
Conservation International
2011 Crystal Drive, Suite
500, Arlington, VA 22202
USA

Subject: Endorsement for “Long-term financial mechanism to enhance Mediterranean MPA management effectiveness”.

In my capacity as GEF Operational Focal Point for Tunisia, I confirm that the above project proposal (a) is in accordance with my government’s national priorities and our commitment to the relevant global environmental conventions; and (b) was discussed with relevant stakeholders, including the global environmental convention focal points.

I am pleased to endorse the preparation of the above project proposal with the support of the GEF Agency listed below. If approved, the proposal will be prepared and implemented by the Association for the Sustainable Financing of Mediterranean MPAs (M2PA). I request the GEF Agency to provide a copy of the project document before it is submitted to the GEF Secretariat for CEO endorsement.

The total financing from the GEFTF (International Waters) being requested for this project is US\$1,000,000, inclusive of project preparation grant (PPG), if any, and Agency fees for project cycle management services associated with the total GEF grant. The financing requested for Tunisia, Albania and Morocco (the three targeted countries) is detailed in the table below.

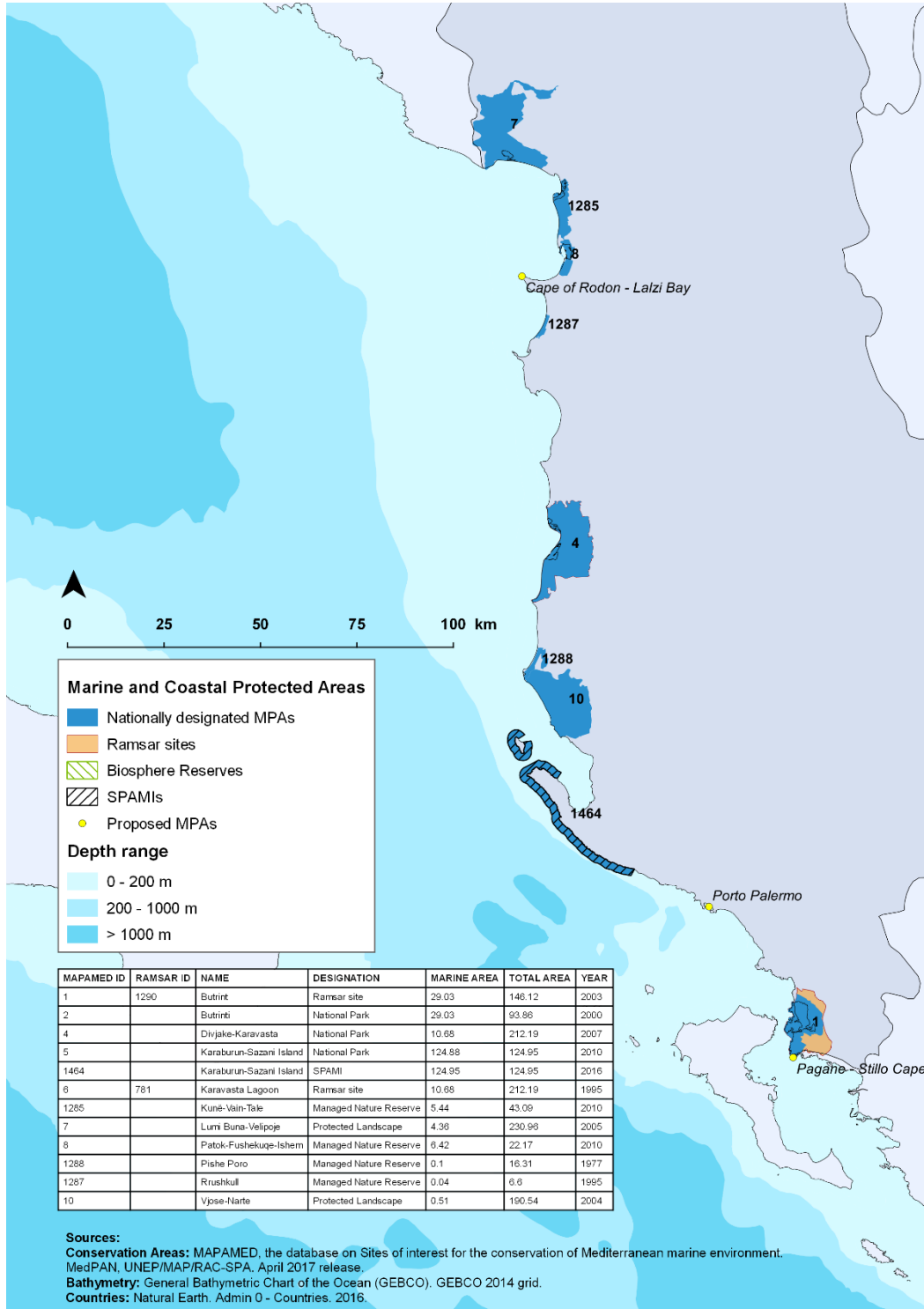
Source of Funds	GEF Agency	Focal Area	Amount (in US\$)			
			Project Preparation	Project	Fee	Total
GEFTF	CI	Conservation International	50,000	867,431	82,569	1,000,000
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
Total GEF Resources			50,000	867,431	82,569	1,000,000

Sincerely,

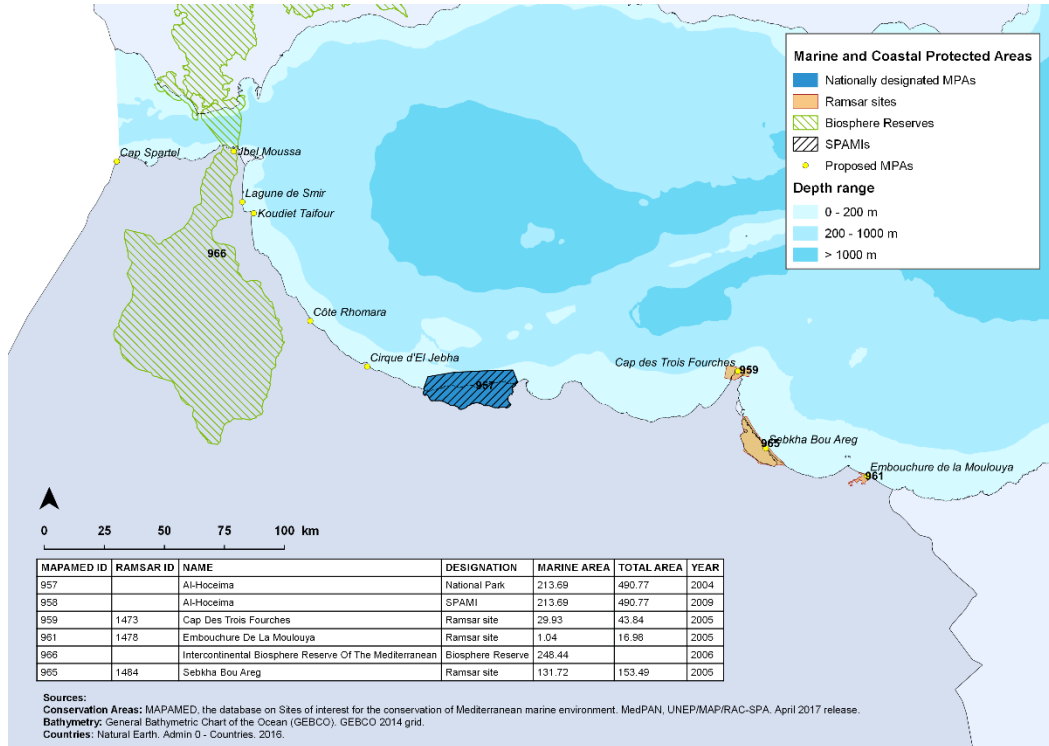
Sabria Bnoui
 GEF Operational Focal Point

ANNEX J: MAP OF MPAs IN THE PROJECT TARGET COUNTRIES

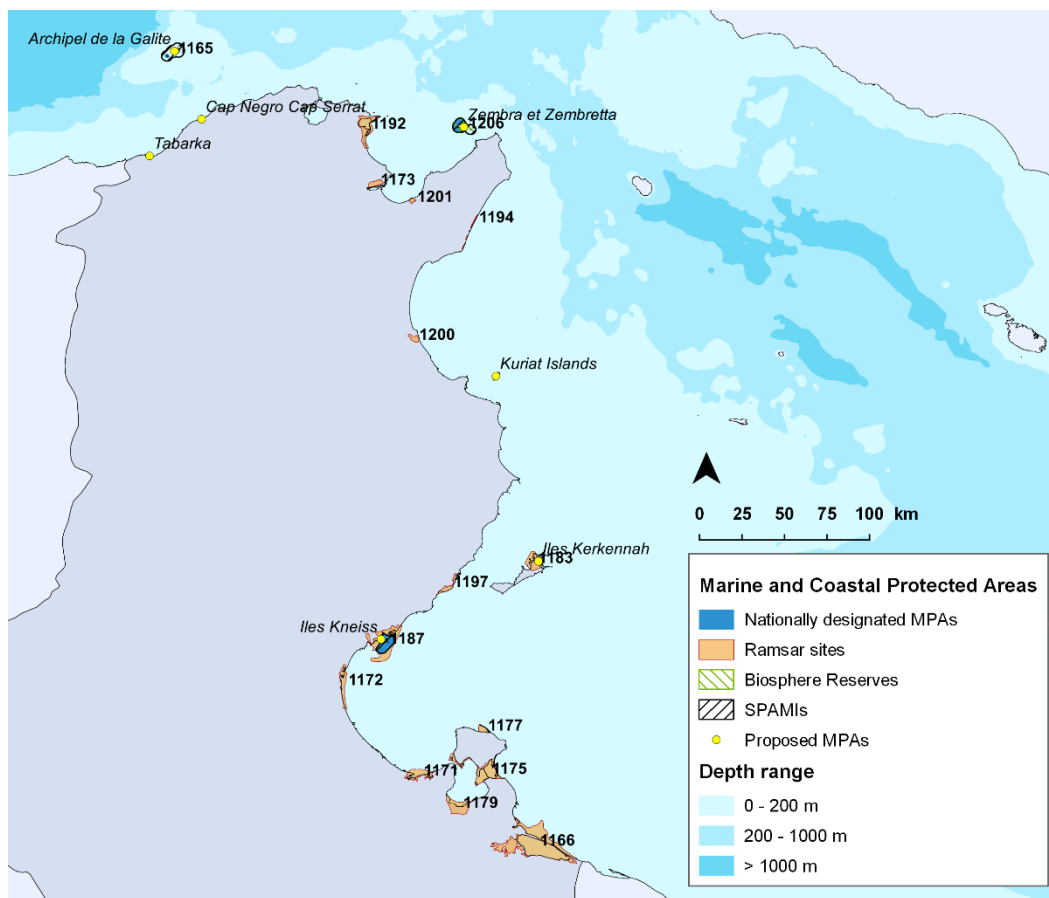
MPAs in Albania



MPAs in Morocco



MPAs in Tunisia



MAPAMED ID	RAMSAR ID	NAME	DESIGNATION	MARINE AREA	TOTAL AREA	YEAR
1165		Archipel De La Galite	SPAMI	82.94	91.16	2001
1196	1697	Bahiret El Bibane	Ramsar site	360.6	468.33	2007
1171	2100	Complexe Des Zones Humides De Sebkheth Oum Ez-Zessar Et Sebkheth El Grine	Ramsar site	45.36	74.37	2013
1172	2076	Complexe Des Zones Humides Des Chott El Guetayate Et Sebkheth Dheia Et Oued Akarit, Rekhama Et Meleh	Ramsar site	42.09	58.58	2012
1173	2096	Complexe Lac De Tunis	Ramsar site	0.47	24.68	2013
1175	1700	Djerba Bin El Ouedian	Ramsar site	91.81	121.84	2007
1176	1701	Djerba Guellata	Ramsar site	20.7	24.22	2007
1177	1702	Djerba Ras Rmel	Ramsar site	17.11	18.97	2007
1178		Gallton	Nature Reserve	4.65	4.82	1980
1179	2008	Gofe De Boughrara	Ramsar site	24.53	88.01	2012
1183	2012	Iles Kerkennah Ou L'Archipel De Kerkennah	Ramsar site	32.17	68.15	2012
1185		Iles Kneiss	Nature Reserve	74.7	77.72	1993
1186		Iles Kneiss	SPAMI	74.7	77.72	2001
1187	1704	Iles Kneiss Avec Leurs Zones Intertidales	Ramsar site	185.56	220.58	2007
1188		Iles Zembra et Zembretta	Biosphere Reserve	77.33	81.89	1977
1192	1706	Lagune De Ghar El Melh Et Delta De La Mejerda	Ramsar site	54.84	101.23	2007
1194	1707	Lagunes Du Cap Bon Oriental	Ramsar site	0	5.67	2007
1197	1709	Salines De Thyna	Ramsar site	3.17	27.24	2007
1200	2006	Sebkheth Halk Elmanzel Et Oued Essed	Ramsar site	0	16.55	2012
1201	1713	Sebkheth Soliman	Ramsar site	0.37	7.11	2007
1205		Zembra	Biological Protection Zone	50.67	50.82	1973
1206		Zembra Et Zembretta	SPAMI	77.33	81.89	2003

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.

**ANNEX K: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES
AND THE USE OF FUNDS**

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: N/A (ONE STEP MSP SUBMISSION)			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GEF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
Consultant to write the Prodoc		9156	9156
Total	1	9156	9156

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACCOBAMS	Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area
AECID	Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
APAL	Agence de Protection et d'Aménagement du Littoral (Tunisia)
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBF	Caribbean Biodiversity Fund
CDL	Conservatoire du Littoral
CEPF	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
CFA	Conservation Finance Alliance
CI	Conservation International
COP	Conference of the Parties
CTF	Conservation Trust Fund
EBSA	Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas
EC	European Commission
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EU	European Union
FFEM	Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (French Global Environment Facility)
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IMPAC	International Marine Protected Areas Congress
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IW	International Waters Focal Area of the GEF
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW Development Bank)
M2PA	Association for the Sustainable Financing of Mediterranean MPAs
MAPAMED	Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (GIS database)
MARFUND	Mesoamerican Reef Fund
MedPAN	Network of Marine Protected Areas Managers in the Mediterranean
MPA	Marine Protected Area

MTF	Micronesia Trust Fund
NGB	Notre Grand Bleu
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OECM	Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures
PA	Project Agency
PES	Payments for Ecosystem Services
PIM	Petites Iles de Méditerranée (Mediterranean Small Islands Initiative)
PMU	Project Management Unit
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PSSA	Particularly Sensitive Sea Area
RAC/SPA	Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas
RAPPAM	Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Area Management
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEAMed	Sustainable Economic Activities in Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas
SGP	Small Grants Program
SPA/BD	Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean
SPAMI	Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance
UNEP	United Nations Environment
UNEP/MAP	UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
WWF MedPO	WWF Mediterranean Programme

