



The MedProgramme

Child project 2.1: Mediterranean coastal zones: climate resilience, water security and habitat protection

**Report of the 1st sub-regional preparatory consultations
Tivat, Montenegro, September 26th, 2017**

**PAP/RAC
Split, October 2017**

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Background information

1. With its wide scope and large Global Environment Facility (GEF) grant of 45 million USD approximately, the Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security, represents the largest International Waters GEF-funded efforts implemented by the UN Environment/MAP and one of the biggest multi-focal area Programmes ever approved by the GEF. The MedProgramme has been endorsed by eight GEF eligible Mediterranean countries, namely: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco and Tunisia. The MedProgramme has seven Child projects spread among its four Components. These seven individual yet interlinked projects aim at achieving large-scale benefits for the global environment. Following the concept approval in 2017, efforts are now underway to prepare the documents of the Child projects in view of their submission to GEF in spring 2018. The present consultations were organized in the framework of the preparatory activities for the Child Project 2.1.
2. The main objectives of these consultations were: to present the MedProgramme Child Project 2.1; to assess the needs related to the Child Project objectives; and to present and discuss demonstration pilot opportunities. The Agenda of the consultations is provided in Annex 1 of this report. The consultations were organized back-to-back with the Coast Day celebration, this year hosted by Government of Montenegro, under the high patronage of Mr. Filip Vujanović, President of Montenegro and President of the National Council for Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Integrated Coastal Zone Management. These initial sub-regional preparatory consultations were held in Tivat, Montenegro on the 26th of September. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Lorenzo Galbiati, UN Environment/MAP Project Manager.

Attendance

3. The meeting was attended by 15 participants, including representatives of the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan (UN Environment/MAP); Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC); Plan Bleu (PB/RAC); Global Water Partnership Med (GWP-Med); the Albanian National Environmental Agency; the Bosnia and Herzegovina institutions (Ministry of Trade and Economic Relations and Hydro Engineering Institute); the Montenegrin institutions (Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism and Public Enterprise “Morsko Dobro”); as well as by consultants of the UN Environment/MAP, PAP/RAC and the BP/RAC. The full list of participants is provided in Annex II.

Opening of the meeting

4. The meeting was opened at 9:30 a.m. by Mr. Lorenzo Galbiati, UN Environment/MAP Project Manager, who welcomed the participants in the name of UN Environment/MAP. Ms. Željka Škaričić, PAP/RAC Director, greeted the participants on behalf of PAP/RAC and expressed her high expectations of this new GEF programme in the Mediterranean. The participants were invited to introduce themselves.

Setting the scene

5. Mr. Galbiati presented the background to the MedProgramme and the main achievements of the previous GEF investments in the region, including the Mediterranean Transboundary Diagnostic

Analysis (1997), SAP-MED (1997) and SAP-BIO (2003), as well as the MedPartnership (2009 – 2015) and the ClimVar & ICZM (2012 – 2015) projects. He reminded the participants of the National Action Plan (NAP) process and the EC Horizon 2020 Initiative. After presenting these regional initiatives, Mr. Galbiati spoke about the national initiatives, funded by the GEF in the three countries:

- Albania (Buna/Bojana Integrated Resources Management (IRM) Plan - together with Montenegro, Management of PCBs, Establishment and planning of a new Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Porto Palermo);
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (Management of coastal aquifers, PCB management); and
- Montenegro (Buna/Bojana IRM Plan - together with Albania, Development of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Strategy for Montenegro, Management of coastal aquifers and establishment of the new MPAs).

He concluded by informing the participants about the GEF decision to support the proposal made by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention and its partners to advance to the implementation phase which should be built on the above-mentioned preliminary assessments and preparatory work.

Presentation of the MedProgramme

6. Mr. Galbiati then presented the MedProgramme, pointing out that the MedProgramme fully reflected the priorities adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in the UNEP/MAP 2016-2021 Mid-term Strategy and other instruments, such as the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025. The MedProgramme is built on four components:
 - Reduction of Land-Based Pollution in Priority Coastal Hotspots, and Measuring Progress to Impacts;
 - Enhancing Sustainability and Climate Resilience in the Coastal Zone;
 - Protecting Marine Biodiversity; and
 - Knowledge Management and Programme Coordination.

In addition, these components are contributing to global benefits through the GEF Focal Areas of International Waters, Chemicals and Waste and Biodiversity. He presented the objectives of each of the components, their expected outcomes and targets. Mr. Galbiati also presented the project aims, implementing agencies, countries, funds, institutional setup and the timeline for the preparation of the Project Document. He concluded by introducing the Child Project 2.1, its partners, countries, grant amount and the expected outcomes.

Presentation of the draft logical framework of the Child Project 2.1.

7. Ms. Daria Povh Škugor, PAP/RAC Senior Programme Officer, presented the PAP/RAC's role in the MedProgramme and in the Child Project 2.1. She explained the key achievements of PAP/RAC in ICZM, emphasizing the usefulness of this tool for the new GEF programme. She reminded the participants of the main threats for the coastal zones, coupled with the climate change impacts. Ms. Povh presented the "Order of outcomes" diagram, inviting countries to define the level of maturity of coastal management in their countries. She introduced the outcomes and targets and described potential activities, as proposed by PAP/RAC. She reminded the participants about Article 18 (National coastal strategies, plans and programmes), of the ICZM Protocol as well as the presentation of the National ICZM Strategy in Montenegro during the Coast Day event. She also introduced the Coastal plan and demonstrated some of its results. The Child Project 2.1 foresees preparation and implementation of the ICZM Strategies, plans and approaches in at least three countries. Ms. Škugor reminded the countries that their demand for these activities was of the utmost importance. She also presented the activities that may help in capacity

building and in awareness raising. Finally, she listed several issues for the discussion, as well as the selection criteria that should assist in taking decisions on the activities and locations for on-the-ground demonstrations in the Child Project 2.1. She introduced the first steps to be implemented, including a questionnaire that would be distributed in the project countries aiming to capture the latest state-of-the-art in ICZM. The questionnaire was briefly presented by Mr. Brian Shipman, PAP/RAC expert, who emphasized the importance of reflecting the most current information in the project baseline, to ensure that the right activities would be implemented to achieve the expected results of the future project.

8. Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos, GWP-MED, presented the Integrative Methodological Framework (IMF) for coastal, river basin and aquifer management. The Framework was developed by the present partners of Child Project 2.1 in the previous GEF project – the MedPartnership – and tested in the Buna/Bojana IRM Plan. The IMF provides guidelines on how to further integrate management practices, or how to “integrate the integrated”, taking the “source to sea” approach. He presented the findings of the IMF document through the practical case of Buna/Bojana. Taking the audience step by step, he guided participants through the application of the IMF approach, from establishment, analysis and futures, setting the vision, designing the future and finally realizing the vision. He explained all the challenges the team met and overcame during the preparation of the Buna/Bojana IRM Plan. Finally, he described how priority actions were established for 2020, with the corresponding measures, specific objectives and the general objectives. Questions were raised about the main lessons learned in the process, and Mr. Faloutsos pointed out that the institutional capacities of a country largely determined the project achievements; the importance of the availability of information, documentation and data; and finally, the importance of defining the appropriate boundaries. With respect to this final point, although the ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean uses administrative boundaries, there is a need to consider each issue individually and set boundaries accordingly, applying an ecosystem or river basin approach when appropriate. In the discussion that followed, the participants agreed that the countries that ratified the ICZM Protocol should have the priority for the implementation of the demonstration projects on the ground.
9. Mr. Antoine Lafitte, PB/RAC, presented the methodologies and tools that Plan Bleu undertook to support preparation of the ICZM strategies and plans. Plan Bleu has an important role in observation of the Mediterranean coast for the MAP. Monitoring and observation mechanisms and networks are part of the ICZM Protocol, being the topic of its Article 16. For observation, the role of indicators is one of the key ones. Mr. Lafitte presented the Climagine participatory method used during the preparation of the Coastal Plan in the previous GEF project, ClimVar & ICZM. He described three steps of the [Climagine process](#) in which stakeholders assist in understanding the territorial diagnosis and participate in prioritizing the issues, identifying institutions (data providers) and collecting the data. With the assistance of the stakeholders the indicators are selected that can define the sustainability of the project area. With the use of future scenarios, participants then jointly design the path to reach the equilibrium sustainability levels in future. Mr. Lafitte presented the potential Plan Bleu activities and outputs that may help in reaching the expected targets of the project and provide national benefits. Finally, he invited the participants to express their views on the proposed activities and asked for support in identifying “contact persons” relevant to: access data and technical information related to coastal monitoring/observation; identify stakeholders for the ICZM Strategy or plan, as well as identify national expertise related to indicators on climate change impacts on coastal zone.
10. Mr. Galbiati presented briefly UNESCO-IHP’s role in the project, emphasizing the importance of the work within the ClimVar & ICZM project that resulted with The regional action plan for aquifers. The plan was widely discussed with the countries, so that the MedProgramme would be a step forward in its implementation. The Action plan contains also the measures related to the further research, systematic mapping, compliance with human activities exploiting water balance. Finally, he concluded by inviting the participants to take into consideration this important component, and to provide support to the integrated management of these resources.

11. Mr. Andrea Merla, UN Environment/MAP expert, explained some of the MAP expectations for the countries. He invited the national representatives to inform and involve the necessary individuals. He furthermore explained that the implementation of activities on the ground related to management of aquifers and groundwater would be based on recommendations agreed upon by the countries in the regional action plan for coastal aquifers established under the MedPartnership. He invited all the partners to select documents of relevance and importance for the MedProgramme, since the MedPartnership produced a large number of outputs. Mr. Galbiati proposed to participants that he would open the Dropbox to share all the documents, and this proposal was welcomed by participants.

Round table – Countries’ feedback on the needs, proposals for demonstration areas, and ideas for implementation related to the proposed themes

12. In the round-table discussion, country representatives expressed their positions. Bosnia and Herzegovina representatives initiated the discussion stating that they need 3 weeks to discuss with different stakeholders in order to identify beneficiary activities. Mr. Senad Oprašić informed the participants that the NAP was sent to the Council of Ministers one week ago. Bosnia and Herzegovina is in the process of ratification of the Barcelona Convention amendments that would be followed by the ICZM Protocol ratification. He expressed his expectations that six months would be needed for the ratification of the Barcelona Convention amendments. As for the national contribution to the project, he pointed out that this must be defined with the Council of Ministers. Mr. Oprašić said that an assessment demonstrated that the transposition of the EU Directives in Bosnia and Herzegovina would cost about € 7.1 billion. He pointed out the importance of the Climate Change Adaptation and Low-Carbon Development Strategy for the country, amounting to USD 13 billion, and informed the participants that the total cost could be about € 20 billion. He emphasized the need to connect each output with the Sustainable Development Goals and to take into account the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian region. He informed the participants about the project in preparation that would be submitted to the EU Interreg ADRION Programme. Mr. Senad Oprašić pointed out the importance of the environmental and health issues for each country. He also suggested to enhance activities related to the integration of economic, social and environmental impacts on health issues. That has to be scope of work of any strategic documents, projects and programs, having in mind that the water and air are two mediums that most affect the human health. Finally, he informed that more consultations would be needed for Bosnia and Herzegovina to express interest for the activities related to MedProgramme. Mr. Tarik Kupusović informed about the European Environment Agency (EEA) on-going project for the six Balkan countries related to climate and water, aiming to fulfill millennium goals. He pointed out the need to avoid redundancy and to build synergies with this project to include health issues, as well as climate scenarios that investigate the quantity of water in rivers in future years. Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina asked for an additional 3 weeks to coordinate internally and to propose something feasible and suitable for the country.
13. The next country to report was Montenegro. Ms. Ivana Stojanović informed about a number of strategic documents prepared in the framework of the MedPartnership and the Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) Montenegro projects, stressing the need for the country to be assisted in implementing priorities and measures identified. She proposed the following:
 - Regarding the Programme Outcomes 4 (Output 4.3.1) and 5: the proposal is to proceed with the implementation of the following priority actions of the National Strategy (NS) for ICZM of Montenegro:
 - a detailed vulnerability assessment of the coast and the sea at the selected locations out of six priority locations proposed in NS ICZM;

- taking into account the general vulnerability assessment in the narrow coastal zone in the CAMP Montenegro project, these activities should be continued through the collection of missing data to insure accurate analysis and projections;
- taking into account the analysis under the previous point it is necessary to develop the local ICZM plans that integrate Climate Variability and Change (CVC) and projections. This local plan should be concrete enough to insure the increase of the resilience to climate change through the application of the ICZM tools. As a positive example, the Šibenik-Knin County Coastal Plan should be used.
- Regarding Output 4.2.2, on the basis of the Action Plan of the NS ICZM, the suggestion is to develop a coastal database (a coastal observatory) aiming to insure at least:
 - generation and collection of data for the selected ICZM priority indicators;
 - continuous monitoring through application of these indicators;
 - support of the ICZM coordination mechanism to ensure institutional coordination and cooperation needed for the unhindered functioning of this database.

Finally, she concluded by emphasizing the need for the capacity building related to ICZM, Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and CVC. She pointed out that several actions coming from the national strategy relate to outcomes and targets presented. As for the on-going projects, there is a need to consult the colleagues, particularly for the projects mentioned by Bosnia and Herzegovina representatives, since it is important to avoid overlaps, to establish synergies and identify co-financing.

14. The next country to report was Albania. Ms. Orjana Hanxhari thanked all the speakers, since the consultations helped to clarify the process, programme and the project. She pointed out that since there were no official representatives of Albania at the meeting, there was the need for consultations back at home. However, representatives shared their initial thoughts and ideas. They informed participants about the Draft Integrated Cross Sectorial Plan for the Coast from December 2015, still not adopted. The need was mentioned for harmonization of the strategic documents at the national level with the project, in order to avoid overlapping. Also, the need for instruments for implementation was pointed out, since there were good strategical documents in Albania, but their implementation was weak. As for future activities, both representatives emphasized the need for a participatory approach and for meaningful stakeholder identification and involvement. It was proposed to organize national consultations with a wide participation of the governmental and non-governmental organizations. The importance of such a meeting was pointed out, since it might assist in securing the best quality data and in accelerating the process of obtaining information. Also, it was proposed to build synergies between different existing projects at the regional or national level, particularly with reference to data collection. With that aim, Mr. Neritan Postoli mentioned the EEA technical report of future water use and other natural resources in the Balkan areas, including the Corine land-cover outputs that provide insight into the last 10 years of land-use change and of land cover. Both representatives from the National Environmental Agency confirmed that their agency could provide validated data, since they are mainly involved in monitoring issues, validating data and sending it to the EEA. It was pointed out that coordination with the right institutions was the asset that should be used. Finally, representatives emphasized that Albania has ratified the ICZM Protocol, and that this programme can help in implementing it, particularly in securing instruments needed to support implementation.
15. In the discussion that followed, the representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina proposed to establish a web platform where all data could be uploaded. Mr. Galbiati mentioned that such a platform was created during the MedPartnership, but most of the countries were not willing to provide data. It was also mentioned that some existing platforms could be expanded, such as the UN Environment project in Bosnia and Herzegovina related to the development of the information system for the three Conventions. This information system could be expanded to include data on the Barcelona Convention. The importance of information systems was particularly emphasized related to capacity building activities. The importance of networking

in the country was also emphasized, since it was of the utmost importance to find the right persons to contact. Mr. Lafitte noticed that as for the data collection, representatives of the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) from Albania were right contacts in their country, and the representatives of Albania agreed.

16. Country representatives asked for the possibilities to fund infrastructure from this GEF programme, but Mr. Galbiati pointed out that the aim of the technical project was to produce legal and policy reforms. It was mentioned that GEF does not invest funds in equipment, which it considers a national responsibility. It was also mentioned that one of the innovative aspects of this project was the involvement of two banks, the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The banks will invest € 600 million in the region as a part of this programme. Participation of the EIB and EBRD in this project opens the door for discussion related to funding infrastructure projects, if these were proposed by this project. However, it is important to understand that the banks were offering loans.
17. The final portion of the meeting was devoted to reviewing the activities planned in the next few months leading to the submission of the project document. Representatives of the countries were reminded that the questionnaire would be disseminated very soon, and that three weeks were foreseen for its completion. The logical framework matrix will be sent for comments, proposals and ideas. Partner institutions' representatives pointed out the need of the countries for the information on the on-going initiatives, in order to avoid overlaps and to create synergies. As for the contacts in the countries, for Bosnia and Herzegovina it was pointed out that the GEF Council of Ministers had a wider scope than the GEF NFP; in Albania, the contacts were Mr. Pellumb Abeshi, GEF NFP, and Ms. Klodiana Marika, MAP NFP (particularly related to strategies), Ms. Borana Antoni, PAP NFP, and Ms. Hanxhari and Mr. Postoli. The MedProgramme meeting for all project countries was announced for January 2018, the cost of which would be covered by the UN Environment/MAP, with the understanding that there were limited resources available to organize country missions. Finally, the endorsement letters were announced and countries were asked to complete these on time.
18. Mr. Galbiati thanked the participants for their fruitful work and closed the meeting at 15:45. He expressed his desire to work together in this process of preparation of possibly the largest GEF programme in the region.

Annex I

List of participants

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Annex II

Agenda of the consultations

- 09:00 – 09:30** **Registration**
- 09:30 – 10:00** **Opening: welcome speeches**
- *Lorenzo Galbiati, UN Environment/MAP*
 - *Željka Škaričić, Director, Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre*
- 10:00 – 10:30** **Setting the scene**
- *Lorenzo Galbiati, UN Environment/MAP*
- Presentation of the background to the MedProgramme and main achievements of the previous GEF investments in the region.
- 10:30 – 10:45** **Coffee break**
- 10:45 – 11:15** **Presentation of the MedProgramme**
- *Lorenzo Galbiati, UN Environment/MAP*
- Presentation of the main features of the MedProgramme and of the Child Project 2.1: *Mediterranean coastal zones: climate resilience, water security and habitat protection*, with focus on objectives, activities, indicators and targets approved by countries and the GEF Council
- 11:45 -13:00** **Presentation of draft logical framework of the Child Project 2.1.**
- *Daria Povh Škugor, PAP/RAC*
 - *Antoine Lafitte, BP/RAC*
 - *Dimitris Faloutsos, GWP-MED*
- 13:00 – 14:00** **Lunch break**
- 14:00 – 15:30** **Round table - Countries feedback on the needs, proposals for demonstration areas, ideas for implementation related to the proposed themes (to be continued).**
- 15:30 – 16:00** **Coffee break**
- 16:00 – 17:30** **Round table - Countries feedback on the needs, proposals for demonstration areas, ideas for implementation related to the proposed themes.**