



Process for the elaboration of the
"Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable
Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region" (Post-2020 SAP BIO)

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A NATIONAL EXPERT FOR ISRAEL

Context

The Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC) has as part of its mandate the assistance to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention¹ in the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol² adopted in 1995. In this context, following a request formulated by the Contracting Parties at their COP 21, it launched in 2020 the preparation of the "Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region" (Post-2020 SAP BIO).

The elaboration of the Post-2020 SAP BIO has been decided by the Contracting Parties considering the important changes occurred during the 15 years since the adoption of the SAP BIO in 2003 until its evaluation, delivered to the Contracting Parties in 2019, in particular regarding the status of species and ecosystems as well as in relation to new challenges for conservation policies. The Contracting Parties considered also the conclusions and recommendations issued by the evaluation of the implementation of the SAP BIO during the period 2004-2018.

The elaboration of the Post-2020 SAP BIO will be conducted through a participatory approach starting at national level (national processes) and involving the relevant authorities and other stakeholders. The national processes will be followed by subregional consultations. The final stage of the elaboration process will use the outcomes of the national processes and the sub-regional consultations and compile them to craft the draft Post-2020 SAP BIO to be submitted for consideration by COP 21 in 2021.

The central aim of the Post-2020 SAP BIO is to strengthen and streamline the implementation of the plans and strategies already adopted at national and international level in relation to biodiversity, providing for more emphasis on topics related to marine and coastal biodiversity. Special attention should be paid to the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation into all relevant environmental policies as well as relevant policies for the sustainable use of marine living resources, such as fisheries, tourism and other uses of the marine and coastal environment.

Object of the engagement of the national expert

The National Expert for Israel will assist the SAP BIO National Correspondents and/or the National Focal Points for SPA/BD in the preparation of a Marine and coastal biodiversity status diagnosis and conservation priorities identification document at national level.

¹ Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean

² Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean

Main Tasks:

The national expert will undertake the following tasks related to Israel:

- i. collect and compile the needed information for the analysis of the status of marine and coastal biodiversity and for the identification of national priorities,
- ii. prepare the draft national report containing a synthesis of the conclusions of the analysis and detailed annotations about the identified priorities,
- iii. provide support to the consultation meeting(s)/workshop(s) to be convened at national level on the subject and
- iv. finalise the national report considering the conclusions and recommendations of the consultation.

Specific Tasks:

The National expert for Israel will perform the following specific tasks:

- Identification of and contacts with stakeholders at national level to collect information and views in relation to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity. The contacts should include in particular (i) the institutions in charge of the conservation and management of marine and coastal biodiversity (species and habitat conservation, MPAs planning and management, marine living resource management, etc.), (ii) the marine research institutions, (iii) the national focal points of relevant international/regional agreements (CBD, CMS, CITES, ACCOBAMS, GFCM, etc.) and (iv) relevant NGOs.
- Assessment of the country's marine and coastal biodiversity in terms of conservation status, threats, governance system, challenges and priorities. The assessment will be based on the personal expertise of the expert, the collected information from the stakeholders and the analysis of relevant documents such as:
 - National Biodiversity Reports
 - SPA/RAC 2009 reports on Climate Change impacts on Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity
 - Reports to CBD
 - Reports and/or national strategies to Bern Convention
 - Reports to Bonn Convention (and subsidiary agreements ACCOBAMS, AEWA, etc...)
 - Reports to GFCM
 - Marine and coastal Biodiversity related National Action Plans
 - ICZM National Action Plans and Strategies
 - Reports on the implementation of Barcelona Convention and Spa/BD Protocol
 - Any other document of relevance for this assignment
- Identification of country needs for capacity building, networking and exchange of information/experience with other countries, including transboundary and/or sub-regional/regional actions related to biodiversity conservation and management.
- Timely completion of the elaboration of the national report containing the outcomes of the assessment undertaken and considering the opinions expressed during the consultation meetings(s)/workshops. The National Report should be scientifically based, built on concise realistic objectives and structured according to the template provided by SPA/RAC.



Deliverables and related timeline

- Draft National Report	15 August 2020
- Final National Report	10 days after the consultation meeting/workshop, but not later than 15 September 2020

Required qualifications

The National expert for Israel should have a deep knowledge of the marine and coastal environment context of the country and experience in diagnosis and planning processes in relation to biodiversity. They should also have skills in conducting consultations with stakeholders and drafting substantial reports in English.