



Mediterranean  
Action Plan  
Barcelona  
Convention



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**Priority Actions Programme  
Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)  
Progress Report for 2022-2023**

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Split, April 2023

## INTRODUCTION

The main objective of this report is to summarise the activities implemented by [PAP/RAC](#) in 2022-2023. Putting together this overview of the main achievements and challenges in implementing the Programme of Work (PoW) approved by COP22 (Antalya, Türkiye, December 2021) for the current biennium will give PAP/RAC FPs a good insight into the progress made jointly by PAP/RAC, the Contracting Parties (CPs) and other partners in implementing Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in the Mediterranean Region.

The overview is structured according to the Main Themes and Outputs of the 2022-2023 PoW of UNEP/MAP, in line with the [UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy \(MTS\) 2022-2027](#) adopted by COP 22.

In order not to overburden the report with too many details, direct links are provided to all major projects implemented, documents produced and events organised. We kindly invite you to have a look at them and to contact PAP/RAC for any additional information you may need.

## MTS Programme 3: TOWARDS A CLIMATE RESILIENT MEDITERRANEAN

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### Outcome 3.1

Legal, policy and institutional framework strengthened at the regional and national level to efficiently address climate change related challenges (flooding, erosion, land degradation, pollution, disasters, etc.)

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### *GEF/SCCF project on adaptation to climate change*

The activities of this project, funded by a Special Climate Change Fund of GEF, are implemented in close relation with and in complement to the activities of GEF MedProgramme in Montenegro and Morocco (see MTS Theme 4). Presentations of the climate change issues were included in all meetings related to the preparation of the Coastal Plans for Boka Kotorska in Montenegro (launched in June 2022) and Tanger-Tetouan-Al Hoceima in Morocco (launched in March 2022), and national experts in the field have been recruited to work together with the other national team members.

The activities are being implemented in close cooperation with Plan Bleu. All workshops organised with national stakeholders (until now three in each country) used the “Climagine” participatory method to obtain their feedback.

The same approach will be followed until the end of the project foreseen for end of 2023.

One of the issues raised during these workshops was the idea to prepare a guidance document on possible nature-based solutions for adaptation taking into account different coastal typologies. This methodological work has started in early 2023 to be presented in its draft version at the FPs meeting and finalise as soon as possible.

### *CREATE project*

As a follow-up of the [AdriAdapt](#) project implemented in the previous biennium, a new EU Interreg Italy-Croatia project “[CREATE](#)” has started in June 2022, in which PAP/RAC is a partner.

In this one-year capitalization project, PAP/RAC has produced a communication strategy and organized monthly webinars (six by now) to promote the results and outputs of various climate change related projects in the Mediterranean, including those from GEF MedPartnership, MedProgramme and SCCF projects. Participants from all Mediterranean countries benefit from these webinars – the so called “Thursday CREATivE Talks” – which will continue until the closure of the project in June 2023.

## MST Programme 4: TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES INCLUDING CIRCULAR AND BLUE ECONOMY

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### Outcome 4.1

Sustainability of coastal and marine resources achieved through the synergetic implementation of planning and management approaches, including the adequate consideration of Land-Sea Interactions (LSI)

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#### *Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP)*

For decades now, CAMP projects remain the main PAP/RAC-led activity and one of the rare ones that actively involve other UNEP/MAP Components.

- *CAMP Bosnia and Herzegovina (CAMP B&H)*

In 2022 CAMP Bosnia and Herzegovina entered its final phase. All project deliverables were finalized and uploaded to the [CAMP B&H web site](#): legal analysis of national legislation vis-a-vis the ICZM Protocol and the proposal for the establishment of an institutional mechanism for ICZM (co-funded by MTF and GEF MedProgramme); report on adaptation to climate change; and results of monitoring of some of the IMAP indicators.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the CAMP Steering Committee took place in Sarajevo on 5 May 2022, with the objective to discuss and validate the project deliverables and discuss the follow-up activities. The Final Project Conference was held on 13 September 2022 in the coastal city of Neum together with the local celebration of the Mediterranean Coast.

- *Transboundary CAMP Otranto*

Procurement procedure was concluded and contracts with two national coordinators (Albania and Italy) were signed in March and April. Since then, regular meetings of the project team have been organized. Procurement for the recruitment of additional experts was also concluded

(communication expert, graphical design, feasibility study for the Area-Based Management Tools – ABMT, data management, implementation of the conceptual guidance and ICZM labelling) and all the activities were launched. Together with INFORAC, the preparation of the project web site has been initiated.

Steering Committee meetings was organized on 9 November (first part) and 21 December (second part). Meetings were organized online, with the participation of representatives from PAP/RAC, Ministry of Tourism and Environment (Albania) and Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (Italy). The progress report covering the period January-November was adopted and workplan until March 2023 agreed, including the organization of the first transboundary workshop and awareness raising events in Vlora and Puglia regions.

The Vlora event took place on 26 January 2023 as an opportunity for stakeholders and local actors (including prefecture, municipalities, academic institutions, local agencies, civil society) to be informed about the progress made so far, as well as tackling relevant topics like the recycling of fishing gear.

A two-day event in the Puglia region, including the third meeting of the CAMP Steering Committee, Mid-Term Conference and ICZM training, is planned for 10-11 May 2023.

- *CAMP Israel*

Procurement procedure and the additional “no-objection” procedure from UNEP for the engagement of the national CAMP coordinator were concluded in late June 2022. Since then, the online kick-off meeting with the CAMP Steering Committee was held on 26 July 2022 and regular monthly online meetings with PAP/RAC and MAP FPs in Israel have been organised, and the

activities have been progressing. The second Steering Committee meeting took place online on 7 November 2022 to discuss workplan and timeline until May 2023 and prepare the first face-to-face meeting, which took place in Tel Aviv, on 24-25 January 2023, to ensure the involvement and active participation of the coastal municipalities in the project.

This first face-to-face meeting included a training session on ICZM for coastal communities, focused on the basic principles of ICZM and an overview of the constraints and opportunities for implementing ICZM in coastal municipalities of Israel. The training, which raised great interest among local stakeholders and actors, was concluded with a session on Ecological Footprint (EF) as an opportunity to learn more about the EF concept and methodology, as one of the broadly used measures of humanity's effect upon the environment.

CAMP Israel was promoted during a side-event entitled 'Coastal cities at the forefront of climate change' organized on 17 November 2022 by Coastal Authorities Forum Israel and Tel Aviv University as part of the Mediterranean Pavilion at COP 27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. Its relevance for an improved management of the Israeli shores was highlighted by the Israeli Minister of Environmental Protection.

### **GEF MedProgramme**

In this biennium, the GEF-funded MedProgramme and its Child Project 2.1 "Mediterranean Coastal Zones: Water Security, Climate Resilience and Habitat Protection" were instrumental in contributing to the implementation of the ICZM Protocol, allowing to implement several major national-level activities, namely:

- ***Coastal Plan for the Boka Kotorska Region (Monténégro)***

The work on the Coastal Plan for the Boka Kotorska Region in Montenegro, launched in December 2021, has continued in this biennium. In line with the findings of the Scoping Report, a

team of national experts has been recruited to work on the next steps of the Coastal Plan preparation. A PAP/RAC delegation visited Kotor on 17 June 2022 in order to meet with local experts, discuss relevant topics and prevailing challenges in the region, including spatial development, tourism, climate change, waste and water resource management and pressures on marine environment, and to agree upon the structure of the Coastal Plan.

On 4th and 5th July 2022, a second workshop on the development of the Plan was held in Kotor, with the support of Plan Bleu. A lively discussion on priority challenges in the area ensued among more than 40 stakeholders present allowed to identify potential adaptation measures in the project area. Knowing the expected climate change impacts in Boka Kotorska Bay, such as coastal and flash floods, heat waves, droughts and forest fires, these discussions were of great importance.

- ***Coastal Plan for the Tanger-Tétouan-Al Hoceima Region (Morocco)***

The Coastal Plan for the Tanger-Tetouan-Al Hoceima (TTAH) Region in Morocco was launched during the Inception Meeting held in Tanger, on 13 March 2022. Attended by representatives of national and regional governments and relevant institutions, the meeting brought out the priority topics that the coastal plan will cover, and agreement on further actions.

On 17 May 2022, a PAP/RAC delegation visited the Moroccan partners at the Ministry of Energetic Transition and Sustainable Development to agree on the priority topics that the Plan will cover, thus allowing PAP/RAC to launch the call for national consultants.

The diagnostic workshop of the Coastal Plan (or, according to the national legislation, Schéma régional du littoral) of the TTAH region was successfully held on 29-30 September 2022. PAP/RAC, in collaboration with Moroccan partners, and with international partners Plan

Bleu and GWP-Med, organized the event in Tangier. Presentations of the priority themes, debates, a participatory Climagine workshop and sectoral presentations of the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus brought together more than 80 stakeholders, representatives of national and regional governments and relevant institutions. The diagnostic workshop is a milestone in the preparation of the Plan, which promotes ICZM values, works for a sustainable future for the region and represents an important step in Morocco's implementation of the ICZM Protocol.

Back-to-back with the Plan Bleu's workshop on coastal risks, held in Tangier on 7 December 2022, PAP/RAC organized, on 8 December 2022, a coordination meeting on the progress of preparation of the coastal management plan, along with more than 40 regional Moroccan stakeholders, as well as partners from Plan Bleu/RAC, GWP-Med and MedProgramme Coordinating Unit. Several coordination issues were clarified and good progress with all PAP/RAC-led activities could be stated.

- **National ICZM Strategy for Lebanon**

Launching of the National ICZM Strategy for Lebanon process was on hold for an entire year due to the difficult economic and financial situation in the country. Still, regular online exchanges with the GEF Operational FP and PAP FP were held, which finally allowed to join forces with colleagues from GWP-Med, IHP-UNESCO and Plan Bleu and hold a Multi-Stakeholder Consultations, in Beirut, on 27-28 February 2023. Wide and committed participation of the numerous stakeholders coming from different governmental and non-governmental organisations, academia and private sector allowed to discuss solutions, interlinkages and priorities for water, energy, food, and environment, including coastal zone and its aquifers.

One day before, on 26 February 2023, PAP/RAC team held a progress meeting to discuss several other MedProgramme activities contributing directly to the National ICZM Strategy i.e. comparative assessment of the coastal legislation in Lebanon, preliminary calculations of the land cover change, and the findings of the ICZM Strategy scoping phase.

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### Outcome 4.3

#### Innovative environmental management and economic instruments implemented for the protection and efficient use of coastal and marine resources

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Building upon the results of the phase 1 of the MAVA project focused on the management of coastal wetlands, implemented in 2017-2019, its phase 2 (2020-2022) focused on improving local sites management.

In this context, MAVA grants were allocated to two NGOs for the coastal wetland of Buna Velipoje Protected Landscape. With the support of PAP/RAC and IUCN, in 2022 the activities were completed in: Cukali (rehabilitation of natural habitats and infrastructure in the service of sustainable tourism; rehabilitation of fire-fighting roads and cleaning of the protected area from urban waste; rehabilitation of degraded surfaces by purchasing of 2-year soft pine seedlings and their planting in the area; installing informative boards); and in the Dajç protected area (field investments by installing 7 metal gates for water management, modern irrigation of 300 hectares of agricultural land of the area with direct benefit for 242 farmers in reducing the phenomenon of floods from rainfall for 140 families, in improving habitats for many protected species found in the area, in the diversification of agricultural crops and in a more sustainable development of these villages), all accompanied by a series of information and awareness raising sessions.

## MTS Programme 5: GOVERNANCE

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### Outcome 5.1

Effective implementation and enforcement by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, MAP policies, including Ecosystem Approach related COP decisions, the MSSD and Programme of measures achieved at regional and national levels

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With the support of the GEF MedProgramme, a legal analysis of national legislation vis-a-vis the ICZM Protocol was prepared in B-H and presented to the CAMP B-H Steering Committee (Sarajevo, 5 May 2022). This analysis provides valuable recommendations regarding the development of the Coastal and Sea Law for the country to be done in the next phase of MedProgramme.

The analysis of the legal and institutional framework in the domain of relevance to the ICZM was done for Algeria, France, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. Based on the national inputs submitted, a comparative analysis has been contracted and the work on it is on-going.

The biggest achievement within this MTS Programme is the ratification of the ICZM Protocol by Tunisia, on 29 November 2022. All those who helped achieving this success, starting with the members of the Ministry of the Environment and those of the Coastal Protection and Planning Agency (APAL) have to be congratulated for this major step towards a more sustainable coastal zone.

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### Outcome 5.2

Systemic strengthening and effective functioning and delivery of MAP decision-making and advisory bodies ensures, and efficiency enhanced with new digital approaches

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With the support of GEF MedProgramme, a proposal for the establishment of an institutional mechanism for ICZM in B-H was prepared and submitted to national stakeholders for comments.

Stakeholder analysis was concluded and presented at the Multi-Stakeholder Consultation held in February 2022 in Beirut. At that occasion, preparatory consultations regarding the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) in Lebanon have been launched.

Several on-line consultations with Tunisian partners were organized in 2022 to provide support for their Inter-Ministerial Committee and for the adoption of their National ICZM Strategy.

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### Outcome 5.5

Coordinated approaches implemented to strengthen public institutions capacities for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

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#### MedOpen

Over the years the [MedOpen](#) virtual training course has become one of the main instruments for enhancing the constituency of the state-of-the-art expertise needed for the implementation of ICZM. The interest for it is growing to the extent that PAP/RAC has to constantly update the material and develop additional modules. In the current biennium, the following was done:

- MedOpen educational material was made available by PAP/RAC for 4 training courses on ICZM and MSP organized in September-October 2022 by the German Agency for International Development Cooperation (GIZ) in 4 Algerian coastal wilayas. By making MedOpen material available and helping with the drafting of terms of reference and the selection of consultants, PAP/RAC was happy to contribute to the training of 200 people.
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- A PAP/RAC representative organized a maritime spatial planning game session for the inter-ministerial committee responsible for the implementation of the national ICZM strategy from 23 to 26 October 2022. The session, which benefited from the financial support from the GIZ, enabled 23 members of the committee to deepen their knowledge on the subject of MSP, as well as on climate change.

### **MSP Workspace**

A Mediterranean [MSP Workspace](#) was published in English and French in June 2022 with the objective to give planners and policy makers quick access to rapid assessment tools purely focused on Mediterranean MSP. Rapid assessment and planning tools take users through the MSP seven stage preparation process, setting milestones and giving practitioners specific actions to be adapted to their local context. By using a simple traffic light system, the tools, in the form of a checklist, allow users to measure their own progress and identify gaps and priorities. The planning tools can be used for assessing and strengthening governance, climate action, ecosystem approach and land-sea interactions.

The MSP Workspace was used for the seminar on MSP within the GEF MedProgramme that started online on 15 November 2022. The event brought together around 60 participants, who heard about the training program spanning over more than two months. The goal of the seminar was to support the establishment of a common basis for the implementation of MSP within the Barcelona Convention system by providing the opportunity to share practices and lessons learnt from the MSP application across the Mediterranean region. It ended with an online session on 22-23 February 2023, when the four big topics addressed in the MSP Workspace were discussed in detail.

### **Syrian Virtual University (SVU)**

An additional educational activity (not included in the PoW) was implemented at the kind request of

the Syrian Virtual University ([SVU](#)). A series of lectures on ICZM and MSP was delivered during September-October 2022 for its master's students, as agreed and defined by an MoU. It was related to the Master's Programme of Qualification and Specialization in Integrated Management of Natural Resources. The PAP/RAC team contributed with seven two-hour lectures to the third semester focused on Integrated Management of Natural Resources, as agreed with the former and actual PAP/RAC FPs for Syria. These focused on ICZM Protocol and ICZM; MSP and Land-Sea Interactions; IMAP; and adaptation to CC through ICZM approach.

The same exercise is being repeated in 2023, starting from March.

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### **Outcome 6.2**

#### **Science-based IMAP, foresight and other assessments and assessment tools for strengthened science-policy interface and decision-making**

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Combining the MTF core funding with those of the EU-funded EcAp MED III project, the first set of monitoring data was reported by all eligible countries (Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia) for CI 16 (coastline) and the baseline reports on CI 15 (hydrography) were prepared.

A technical workshop on the implementation of IMAP was jointly organized by PAP/RAC and INFO/RAC with the responsible IMAP users and colleagues dealing with monitoring of common indicators in Ankara, Türkiye, on 17-18 May 2022, which included a practical exercise with the GIS experts related to the monitoring the CI 16.

Within the EcAp MED III project, assessment criteria and the guiding document for the application of assessment criteria for the IMAP Common Indicator 16 were finalized in English and French, as endorsed by the CORMON meeting in 2021, and were successfully tested in Morocco.

With the financial support of GEF



MedProgramme, the methodology for IMAP candidate indicator 25 on Land Cover Land Use (LCLU) was updated and the updated Indicator Guidance factsheet prepared.

Contributions for the 2023 MED QSR have been collected, namely for the Adriatic sub-region with the assistance of the SIDA project (for all 3 CIs) and with the report on lessons learned for CIs 15 and 16 under EcAp MED III project.

On 28-29 March 2023 was held, in Marseilles, France, the CORMON Coast and Hydrography meeting that brought together representatives of 13 CPs. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the content of the 2023 QSR chapters on EOs 7 and 8; solutions to strengthen the Science Policy

Interface (SPI) for the implementation of IMAP - with a focus on CI 15 on hydrography; the upgraded Guiding Factsheet for the Candidate Common Indicator 25 "Land cover change"; and the definition of GES for the Common Indicator 16 "Length of coastline subject to physical disturbance due to the influence of human-made structures".

## MTS Programme 7: FOR INFORMED AND CONSISTENT ADVOCACY, AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION

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### Outcome 7.1

Stakeholders and policy-makers informed about the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast, and aware of the environmental priority issues

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With the support of GEF MedProgramme, the [Mediterranean Coast Day](#) celebration was held in Tangier, Morocco, on 28 September, with **coastal resilience to climate change as the central theme. The official part, held in the morning with the attendance of more than 100 representatives of national and local authorities and institutions, as well several international organizations, included two panels:** the first dedicated to the issues, challenges and solutions for the sustainable development at the Mediterranean level; and the second one on the local level, namely the particularities of the TTAH

Region which is currently developing the regional coastal plan in the framework of the MedProgramme. In the afternoon, various awareness raising activities were organized by the Moroccan Association for Sustainable Environment - on the Malabata beach of Tangier. From educative card games to presentation of playful ways to reuse plastic waste, the schoolchildren of Tangier showed their knowledge and enthusiasm to keep our environment clean.

Besides this central annual celebration, several local Coast Day celebrations took place, to which PAP/RAC contributed with speeches, material, etc.: in Bosnia-Herzegovina (city of Neum); 3 in Croatia (Kastela Bay, island of Lastovo and Split) and Coast Week in Slovenia (in collaboration with the EUSAIR Facility point in Izola).

## COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

Same as in the previous biennia, PAP/RAC was often consulted and invited to intervene on ICZM, MSP and Climate Change issues. It would take pages to list all the occasions of the kind; hereafter are some of them for illustration:

- PAP/RAC continues to support the environmental pillar of EUSAIR (the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region) through the participation at EUSAIR events (e.g. EUSAIR Forum in Tirana, Albania in May 2022 and Coastal Week in Izola, Slovenia in September 2022). The objective is to ensure better coordination and integration of activities in the Adriatic Region with regard to the main challenges: MSP, implementation of the integrated monitoring and assessment program, marine litter, blue and green corridors for sustainable supply.
- As a member of the EU Member States Expert Group on MSP (MSEG – MSP), PAP/RAC took part in its 22<sup>st</sup> meeting held in Brest, France, on 14 June 2022. That was an opportunity to present to the EU Member States the online Mediterranean MSP Workspace
- The next day (15 June 2022), always in Brest, France, PAP/RAC participated in the MSP Stakeholder Conference - Planning for the future of Europe's Marine Space focused on latest achieves, challenges and the future of EU Marine Spatial Planning. The latest important documents adopted in the framework of the Barcelona Convention, towards achieving protection of at least 30 % of Mediterranean marine space ([Post-2020 SAPBIO](#); [Post-2020 Regional Strategy](#)) and the results from [MSP in Montenegro](#) in applying the ecosystem approach for an increased protection of the Montenegrin marine area were shared with the Conference participants.
- From 15–17 June 2022, a workshop entitled „Coastal adaptation to climate change: how to work with nature“ was organised by the French Coastal Agency in Marseille, France. PAP/RAC was given the opportunity to introduce Mediterranean challenges for adaptation and presented its methodology for coastal plans applied within the new GEF's MedProgramme to an audience of more than 60 participants from 16 countries worldwide.
- [The second UN Ocean Conference](#), organised in Lisbon from 27 June to 1 July 2022, was an opportunity for key stakeholders and decision makers involved in ocean governance to address number of key problems that require common shared solutions based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). PAP/RAC, joined forces with the Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties, secretariat and partners to share good practices and lessons learned from multilateral cooperation in the Mediterranean. The importance of ICZM Protocol and Conceptual framework for MSP were strongly emphasised as well as implementation of successful ecosystem-based approaches across the Mediterranean, in particular in Bosnia and Hercegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Slovenia.
- The first edition of the Sea-Level Rise Conference took place on October 17-18, at the Scuola Grande San Giovanni Evangelista of Venice, Italy, at the heart of one of Europe's foremost coastal cities challenged by sea-level rise. The Conference brought together about 300 researchers, stakeholders and policy professionals that exchanged on regional to local sea-level change in Europe. PAP/RAC representative provided a MAP prospective related to the sea-level rise and informed about Mediterranean challenges and potential contributions.
- The conference room of the [Mediterranean pavilion](#), the first-ever regional pavilion at the United Nations Climate Change

Conferences, was packed on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November, when PAP/RAC held its side event entitled "From science to action". During the event, participants embarked on a journey from scientific findings of the related to the impacts of climate change on the sea and the coast ([MedECC Report](#)) to their application on the ground, namely through the Coastal Plans based on the ICZM Protocol. The key message reflected the importance of an integrated and systemic approach to coastal planning since it doesn't only prevent maladaptation, but also contributes to mitigation.

- DG MARE and IOC-UNESCO jointly organised the 3rd edition of the International Conference on Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning, in Barcelona, Spain, on 22-23 November 2022 (<https://3rd-international-conference-on-msp.b2match.io/>), with the aim to assess the state-of-the-art of MSP and discuss challenges and opportunities for its implementation. The conference was structured around six thematic panels, including transboundary cooperation, climate-smart MSP and marine protection and restoration. PAP/RAC shared its insights and experiences in the area of transboundary cooperation and promoted its MSP tools during the panel exhibition.
- On 7-8 December 2022, in Marrakesh, Morocco, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) inaugurated the Constitutive Session of the Marrakesh Economic Parliamentary Forum (<https://www.pam.int/en>). This event gathered more than 300 participants from 25 national and regional parliaments, and more than 50 delegations from international organizations, the private sectors, academia and the civil society to discuss ways to promote a paradigm shift in addressing the main socio-economic and climate-related challenges. Representing UNEP/MAP, the PAP/RAC Director, delivered one of the keynote speeches within the Second Plenary Session untitled "Threats to energy security

– ensuring affordable supply, while embracing the Green Transition and the SDGs in the fight against Climate Change". She explained why and how the issue of energy and climate change have been addressed within the Barcelona Convention system, reminded the set of legal and strategic instruments adopted to this end, and presented some of the measures that can be applied to reduce both the energy demand and contribution to climate change.

## DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

The implementation of the PoW was made slower and in some aspects difficult by the Covid-19 pandemic and the fact that both the PAP/RAC staff and partners (in UNEP/MAP and CPs) could not work and travel as usual in the first half of 2022.

Therefore, an additional effort was made in the second half of the year to compensate and to ensure good progress of the PoW implementation, which implied slight modification of some of the activities without jeopardizing the PoW objectives.

All the on-going externally-funded projects have been systematically prolonged by the donors by up to 6 months. This caused some reshuffling in the workplan and time schedule but it will allow us to implement all the planned activities.

Progress with the major PAP/RAC activity – CAMPs – could not be fully achieved due to long and complex procurement procedures imposed by UNEP. However, CAMP Bosnia and Herzegovina was successfully finalized and closed, while the Transboundary CAMP Otranto between Albania and Italy was launched, as well as CAMP Israel.

Good progress was done with the activities funded by EcAp MED III project as well as in GEF MedProgramme although two major activities of the later – National ICZM Strategies – could not be launched as planned: in Lebanon, because of the general situation in the country, the activity was launched with a one-year delay; in Egypt, this activity was cancelled because the country decided to withdraw from the project. This withdrawal made possible the re-allocation of resources to boost other MedProgramme activities, as approved by the Steering Committee.

## RESOURCE MOBILISATION

Besides the resources made available to PAP/RAC through the projects already included in the PoW and described in the previous chapters (i.e. GEF MedProgramme, EcAp MED III, SIDA, CREATE and MAVVA), another project came to boost the implementation of the ICZM Protocol on the marine part of the coastal zone. This EU Horizon Europe funded project entitled “Improved science-based maritime spatial planning to safeguard and restore biodiversity in a coherent European MPA network (MSP4BIO)” has started in August 2022 for a duration of 3 years.

Implemented in five European Sea Basins (Atlantic, Baltic Sea, Black Sea, Mediterranean, North Sea), the project focuses on better integration of MPAs into the MSP process. Its main objective is to develop an integrated and modular Ecological-Socio-Economic (ESE) management framework for the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems. The solutions developed in the project will fill gaps on marine biodiversity and its management, by better linking spatial ecological features with socio-economic elements.

## CONCLUSION

Although the implementation of the ICZM Protocol has been quite a challenge for all – CPs, PAP/RAC and the entire UNEP/MAP, a good progress has been made despite various difficulties encountered in this biennium. With some adjustments and some delays to catch up, the general progress can be estimated as good and in line with the approved PoW.

The activities were in compliance with the PAP/RAC's mandate, which is to assist Mediterranean countries in implementing ICZM as well as MSP since its official introduction in the Barcelona Convention system by a COP 20 Decision.

ICZM and MSP are extremely dynamic and interactive processes, which require constant and active involvement of a variety of stakeholders, enough time and opportunities for consultations, and good knowledge of and adaptation to local conditions.

Even in the challenging conditions the entire world was facing in the first half of 2022, the support to the CPs was provided through methodological work, application of tools in practice and training. All available virtual means were used to compensate for non-travelling, although video conferences and written exchanges cannot fully replace face-to-face discussions and working together at the same table.

The original MTF budget for activities being modest, significant resources had and will have to be secured from external sources. To fill the gaps PAP/RAC will continue to assist CPs in mobilising additional funding. In this, we count on the close collaboration and prompt reaction of our FPs, as well as on their support to continue reaching good results.