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The Newsletter of the GEF/UNEP-MAP

“Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security”

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Welcome to the first Issue of the MedBulletin of the GEF MedProgramme, one of the most ambitious action-oriented programmes ever launched to address priority environmental issues in the Mediterranean basin. The “Mediterranean Sea Programme: Enhancing Environmental Security” focuses on priority actions to reduce major transboundary environmental stresses in coastal areas while strengthening climate resilience and water security to improve the health and livelihoods of coastal populations. Its eight Child Projects cut across four GEF focal areas: Biodiversity, Chemicals and Waste, Climate Change Adaptation, and International Waters. The MedBulletin publication is their voice to keep us and all



MAP Coordinator, Mrs. Tatjana Hema

The stakeholders updated on progress, achievement and issues requiring further attention. The articles featured in this Issue compile a range of updates on activities implemented by partners of the Child

Projects during the last few months. The MedBulletin is published every 6 months showcasing progress of the Programme as a whole and individual Child Projects in particular, including highlights of activities from the field, success stories and relevant project events. The MedBulletin captures examples and evidence of achievement of targets and milestones for all Child Projects, based upon the corresponding results frameworks.

Notwithstanding the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the first two years of implementation of the MedProgramme are beginning to bear fruit. In the Moroccan city of Tangiers and the Bay of Kotor in Montenegro, two pilots of integrated coastal management plans are laying the groundwork for the sustainable use of natural resources, ensuring equity, sustainability and the integration of climate change risks for greater resilience. These plans encompass a gender-based approach to enhance both women and men's resilience to climate change by considering their differentiated needs and priorities. More so, the ongoing implementation of the MedProgramme Gender Mainstreaming Strategy in all participating countries is ensuring gender-responsive stakeholder engagement. A Community of Practice is enhancing executing partners' gender capacity, fostering knowledge on gender equality and women's empowerment hence enabling the collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data. In Libya, the MedProgramme has been instrumental in the drafting of new national legislation on marine protected areas that is expected to bolster conservation efforts in a country that has magnificent but highly vulnerable natural sites. In Algeria and Lebanon, the MedProgramme national teams are stepping up efforts for the final disposal of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), a set of hazardous chemicals that have dangerous effects on people and nature. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the MedProgramme is shoring up national efforts to address mercury pollution in Tuzla, the country's third-largest city. In Tuzla, an ongoing assessment supported by the MedProgramme will identify crucial risk-mitigation measures for decision-makers and communities.



The MedBulletin is therefore one of the tools used by the MedProgramme Coordination Unit to inform as well as engage relevant stakeholders in the participating countries. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all the Child Projects who contributed valuable inputs for this first Issue and I am sure that the MedBulletin will help catalyzing synergies across all the Mediterranean region.

Why MedProgramme is a “game changer”

CAN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION BE AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW?

Interview with the MedProgramme Management Officer, Olfat Hamdan



MedProgramme Management Officer. Mrs.
Olfat Hamdan

I) What is unique in the MedProgramme

OH) In the MedProgramme several GEF focal areas join forces for the first time to implement a Strategic Action Programme through a coordinated set of full-fledged projects in fostering the implementation of measures for the protection and sustainable use of a major transboundary waterbody such as the Mediterranean Sea LME; with the objective of achieving multiple benefits at the national, regional and global levels as well as providing a collective and inter-sectoral response to regional and global challenges in line with soft and binding international environmental agreements.

I) What are the main features of the MedProgramme

OH) The key features of the MedProgramme can be summarized as follows:

- It is the first GEF programmatic multi-focal area initiative in the Mediterranean Sea.
- It aims to operationalize priority actions to reduce major transboundary environmental stresses in its coastal areas while strengthening climate resilience and water security and improving the health and livelihoods of coastal populations
- It is implemented in ten beneficiary countries sharing the Mediterranean basin: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia, and Turkey.
- Its eight Child Projects which span four cut Focal Areas of the Global Environment Facility (International Waters [IW], Biodiversity [BD], Chemicals and Waste [CW], and Climate Change [CC]) and involve a wide spectrum of developmental and societal sectors including banking institutions, the private sector, governmental and non-governmental bodies, industry, research, media, and various other organizations.
- It is expected to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals on water and sanitation (SDG 6), responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), climate action (SDG 13), life below water (SDG 14), and life on land (SDG 15), while a dedicated gender strategy will ensure compliance with SDG 5 on gender equality and women’s empowerment. All this reflects to a large extent the GEF’s core mission.

I) In a nutshell what is the MedProgramme about?

OH) In a nutshell, the MedProgramme assists participating countries, and all populations living in the Mediterranean basin, to increase their capacity to build climate resilience, reduce pollution from nutrients and persistent toxic substances (POPs and mercury), sustainably manage coastal freshwater and marine resources, protect biodiversity, and restore coastal ecosystems.

I) And what is your preferred MedProgramme Child Project?

OH) All Child Projects are very unique. At present, we are finalizing the Project Cooperation Agreement with the EIB for the implementation of one component of Child Project 1.2 “Mediterranean Pollution Hot Spots Investment Project (Pollution Hot Spot)”. This project will contribute firstly to supporting investments in upgrading Wastewater Treatment Plants and reusing treated wastewater, and depollution of catchment areas in Egypt, Lebanon and Tunisia, and secondly to establishing and promoting the implementation of regional operational standards in four key sectors: wastewater management, sludge management, desalination and aquaculture.

UN Environment Programme and EIB join forces to reduce pollution in the marine and coastal environment



Mr. Ricardo Mourinho Félix, EIB Vice-President and Mrs. Susan Gardner, Director of UNEP's Ecosystems Division

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) in July 2022 launched the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Mediterranean Pollution Hot Spots Technical Assistance initiative, which aims to reduce pollution in the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment.

As part of the \$4 million Hot Spots Pollution project, the initiative aims to promote adequate and sound water, wastewater, solid waste and industrial emissions management in the Southern Mediterranean region, thereby reducing health risks and enhancing access to safe drinking water and sanitation services.

The initiative was launched on the sidelines of the UN Oceans Conference in Lisbon by EIB Vice-President Ricardo Mourinho Félix and Susan Gardner, Director of UNEP's Ecosystems Division. The two agreed to support the preparation of priority investment projects to reduce pollution in the marine and coastal environments of the three Southern Mediterranean countries, namely Egypt, Lebanon and Tunisia. "Untreated discharges of wastewater represent a major problem for Mediterranean ecosystems and the health of the population living in the region. Many large coastal cities still lack a wastewater treatment system, and many existing systems are based on outdated and inefficient technologies," said Susan Gardner. "This joint GEF-EIB-UNEP project will pool resources to decrease pollution and improve the marine ecosystems and the health of people living in the Mediterranean region."

According to the 2021 State of Finance for Nature report, in order for the world to meet its climate change, biodiversity and land degradation targets, a total of \$8.1 trillion is required between now and 2050. The Technical Assistance initiative is a step forward toward bridging this gap.



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 250 million coastal inhabitants. However, the Mediterranean Sea is facing multiple pressures caused by human activities, including chemical contamination, eutrophication, pollution by marine litter and over-exploitation.

The technical assistance provided under the Mediterranean Hot Spots Investment Programme (MeHSIP) will be geared towards helping promoters accelerate the preparation of financeable projects in the water and environment sectors that will tackle these pressures.

Ricardo Mourinho Félix, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank, said: "The state of the Mediterranean Sea is crucial for biodiversity conservation, the availability of clean water resources and to sustain jobs that rely on it. The EIB is one of the largest lenders to the global water sector. I am very pleased to intensify our long-standing cooperation with UNEP to support the depollution of the Mediterranean. It will contribute to the objectives of the Clean Ocean Initiative set up to improve the health of the oceans globally." The \$4 million Mediterranean Pollution Hot Spots Investment Project is one of the \$42 million GEF-funded MedProgramme's child projects implemented by UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan-Barcelona Convention.

The launch of the Technical Assistance initiative marks progress towards achieving commitments taken at the 22nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 22) to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols on regional prevention and pollution reduction measures from wastewater treatment plants.

Two workshops on coastal management organized in Boka Kotorska Bay, Montenegro

To commence the implementation of GEF Child Project 2.1 on Enhancing Environmental Security and the related SCCF project on adaptation, two workshops were organised by PAP/RAC and Plan Blue/RAC in pilot



Tivat, December 2021

area - Boka Kotorska Bay in Montenegro. The first workshop was held in December 2021 in Tivat and the second in July 2022 in Kotor. The first workshop was a scoping workshop which focused on the preparation of the Coastal Plan for Boka-Kotorska Bay in Montenegro. Representatives from national and local governments, relevant institutions, non-governmental organizations and private entities attended the workshop. The preparation of the coastal plan is conducted through a set of Climagine workshops with a strong focus on an inclusive participatory approach. The workshop concluded with a list of priority topics that the plan will cover, and an agreement on subsequent actions. The development of the coastal management plan is expected enhance the sustainable development and environmental protection of the Bay, in addition to representing an important step in Montenegro's implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol.

Meanwhile, in July 2022, the second workshop on the development of the Coastal Management Plan (CMP) for Boka Kotorska Bay was held in Kotor, Montenegro. This workshop was attended by more than 43 participants. The overall objective of the second workshop was to develop Sustainability Indicators focusing on the key priority sectors while taking into account the Governance and Gender themes as cross cutting areas.

The workshop featured group work discussions in which key indicators on governance and gender issues were examined and defined. One of the critical findings reported by the experts is that sex-disaggregated data or gender related data within any sector is lacking, and consequently there is a low level of awareness and



Kotor, 3 July 2022

knowledge on the specific impact of economic development, environmental protection and/or climate change on the impact and vulnerability of the female population and therefore the importance of gender equality. The existing gap in the collection as well as segregation of gender data is diminishing the possibility of including gender related indicators in the assessment.

In general, governance issues are based on the need for an inter-municipal co-management system to decrease the need and burden of extensive infrastructure and human resources on the small area, as well as more efficient coastal spatial and transportation planning. The Climagine process takes in the stakeholder defined and recognized indicators for a further and deeper experts review, assessing their feasibility final development and future cost-benefit analyses.

This workshop will be followed by trainings and workshops with other relevant stakeholders, namely coastal managers and private, financial and insurance sectors as actors whose contribution and support are essential for adaptation to climate change measures implementation in the area of Boka Kotorska.

Coastal Management plan and climate change adaptation measures in Morocco

In March 2022, Plan Bleu and PAP/RAC in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Department of the Environment of the Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima region organized the first coastal plan inception and scoping workshop.

The inception meeting and Climagine workshop were both held in Tanger, Morocco in the framework of the GEF MEDProgramme's Child Projects 2.1.

The workshop was attended by 50 participants from national



Tanger, March 2022

and regional governments and other relevant institutions. The objective was to initiate discussions for the development of the Coastal Plan of the Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima Region through the involvement of the key stakeholders as a critical part of receiving feedback and reflections. The preparation of the coastal plan is carried out through a set of participatory workshops to enhance intersectoral and interdisciplinary collaboration as well as set out key priority areas for action. The elaboration of such plan will help in sustainable development of the region, but also represents an

important step in Morocco's implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol.

The workshop also provided opportunity for the engagement of the private and financial sectors in efforts to incorporate adaptation to coastal risks based on ecosystems, as well as to adapt to climate change. The workshop was a great success as it participants from key ministries and institutions such as the Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, scientific institutions such as the National Fisheries Research Institute of Morocco and NGOs Moroccan organizations such as the AGIR Association.

A consultation workshop towards the adoption of a Law on Protected Areas in Libya

In May 2022, a national consultation workshop on the draft law of protected areas in Libya was organized by UNEP/MAP-SPA/RAC and the Ministry of Environment of Libya in collaboration with IUCN. The workshop was organized as part of the Child Project 3.1. "Management support and expansion of marine protected areas in the state of Libya" implemented by SPA/RAC, IUCN and WWF Med NA. It was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment of Libya supported by the MedProgramme under the Barcelona Convention UNEP/MAP and funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).



Tripoli, May 2022

The workshop was opened by the Minister of Environment of Libya Dr Ibrahim Al-Arabi Mounir. In his opening remarks Dr Ibrahim said, "through this draft law, Libya is aspiring to achieve the establishment of an integrated national network of protected areas that plays an effective role in protecting the natural marine heritage".

The workshop served to present and discuss the draft law and provide relevant recommendations with regards to the declaration of new protected areas. The law once adopted will allow for the creation of new protected areas through a proposal of establishment that will be submitted by a governmental or non-governmental entity to the National Council for Protected Areas for assessment. Once approved

by the national Council of Protected Areas, the proposal will be submitted to the Council of Ministers to issue a declaration decree.

It should be noted that several research and monitoring activities have been conducted in Libya during the past 20 years, with the support of SPA/RAC. These efforts have led to the identification of biodiversity hotspot sites along the Libyan coast and to the declaration of the first two marine protected areas in Farwa and Ain Al Ghazala.

Child Project 3.1 builds on the previous experiences and successes in particular within the GEF-MedPartnership Project to provide Libya with an effective structure of MPA governance based on nation-wide consultations with all key stakeholders. The project will also go a long way towards addressing capacity barriers that hinder the sustainability and effectiveness of the MPA network in Libya, namely through the establishment of MPA management support mechanisms in 3 priority MPAs (Ain El Ghezala, Gara island and Farwa lagoon).

Training workshop to enhance the skills of experts in support of PCB disposal in Algeria

A training on Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) was organized in June 2022 in Algeria as part of the implementation of Child Project 1.1. The major purpose of the training was to enhance the skills of national stakeholders' inventory and screening PCB-containing equipment, as well as to supervise upcoming national activities of the selected contractor towards effective disposal of 477 tonnes of PCB oil and its contaminated equipment.

The Centre National des Technologies de Production plus Propre (CNTPP) is the contracted partner under the MedProgramme to support the smooth and environmentally sound disposal of the identified PCBs in Algeria. The training was organized by the National Center for Production Technologies plus prospers and conducted by Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL)

which offered two days of theoretical learning and one day of practical on-site training. On site visit, the participants had hands-on experience to identify transformers and capacitors ready



Algiers, June 2022

for disposal. One of the key outcomes noted from the group discussions is the fact that the participants expressed their interest in organizing similar events focused on sound management of PCBs and disposal options and virtual event with the same topic as presented but focusing on the public sector and industries.

As part of the workshop, a short presentation was also delivered on “Gender Issues in Chemicals & Waste” to help build capacity of project implementation staff on mainstreaming gender within the context of project activities. Women, men, and children tend to be affected differently by exposure to toxic chemicals mainly due to biological differences, social gender roles, and gender specific division of labour in occupational roles. It is therefore critical to take these differences into account in project design, risk assessment and implementation by: undertaking a gender analysis of C&W differentiated impacts on women and men, conducting gender-responsive stakeholder consultations, collecting sex-disaggregated data and ensuring that awareness-raising activities target women on the risks of exposure to harmful chemicals.

Participants received certificates of participation at the end of the training. The training also acted as an opportunity for informing national stakeholders about administrative requirements related to local transport, customs clearances and the Basel Convention Notification to ensure that PCB owners are aware about the hazards and standards to be followed for sound PCBs management.

Opportunities and benefits of the Nexus approach to promote environmental security in Lebanon

The first Multi-Stakeholders Consultation workshop on the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus in Lebanon was organized on 24-25 August 2022 by the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med) in the framework of Child Project 2.2. The workshop, which inaugurated the WEFE Nexus Policy Dialogue in the country, was attended by more than 70 stakeholders representing institutions, international organizations, NGOs, IFIs, development agencies and the private sector. The workshop enhanced the participants' understanding of the Nexus approach, its opportunities and benefits; discussed Lebanon's



Beirut, 25 August 2022

priorities under the current crisis circumstances to be addressed through the Nexus assessment; and elaborated on ways for upscaling and financing WEFE Nexus solutions in the country once these are identified. The consultation workshop was opened by the representatives of WEFE Nexus institutions, namely Dr. Walid Fayad, Minister of Energy and Water, Mr. Habib Maalouf representing H.E Dr. Nasser Yassin, Minister of Environment and Ms. Maya Mhanna, representing H.E Dr. Abbas Hajj Hassan, Minister of Agriculture. Ms. Olfat Hamdan, MedProgramme Manager and Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos, GWP-Med Deputy Regional Coordinator also provided an introductory speech to clarify the overall framework in which the Nexus activities are implemented in Lebanon.

Along with presentations by experts from key institutions and other organizations the consultation was stimulated through a moderated dialogue and a panel discussion. Among its key outputs, energy was acknowledged as the entry sector for analysis and for setting the targets that will determine the overall objectives of the other Nexus sectors, namely water, food and ecosystems.

Participants expressed their appreciation for the Programme, which creates the conditions for dialogue and enhanced coordination among the four vital sectors to overcome silos thinking and planning, one of the main causes behind current challenges.

Under the Nexus approach linkages among the relevant sectors are assessed, with focus on potential trade-offs and co-benefits, aiming to assist relevant decision-making processes, including governance frameworks and technical interventions. The 2nd multi-stakeholder consultation is expected to take place at the beginning of 2023 to deliberate on the provisional results of the WEFE Nexus Assessment Phase I that is currently under preparation in Lebanon.

EBRD Technology Guide Development for Sound POPs Management in the Mediterranean Region

A POPs Technology Guide Development study has been kicked off by the EBRD under the Child Project 1.3 (ENVITECC) with the objective to support its private and public sector

Clients in achieving the aims of the Stockholm Convention by shifting to POPs-free consumption and production patterns through introduction of technologies and/or practices fostering avoidance, disposal as well as treatment and remediation of POPs in the Mediterranean Region.

The study aims to identify off the shelf available technologies and/or practices to achieve POPs-free consumption and production patterns amongst priority use areas and sectors in ENVITECC countries. The focus of the study is on the PCBs and the new POPs, such as PFAS/PFOS, HBCD, and SCCP.



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The priority use areas and sectors considered within the study are exposure to POPs in homes and offices, POPs release to the environment due to industrial scale production and use of POPs containing firefighting foams, intentional industrial uses of POPs in the manufacturing industry, and unintentional release of POPs to the environment from industrial processes.

The technologies and POPs free materials to be identified within the POPs Technology Guide are to be made available in the web platform Green Technology Selector (GTS, <https://techselector.com/ts-en/>), which is a global shopping-style online platform launched by the EBRD in 2018 that connects vendors of the best green technologies with forward-thinking businesses and homeowners. Through this platform, businesses and homeowners can access a global directory of technologies and/or practices which will provide access to POPs-free products, reduce exposure to POPs, and reduce intentional or unintentional environmental releases of POPs.

MedProgramme Gender Community of Practice (Gender CoP)

The MedProgramme Gender Mainstreaming Strategy, a key pillar of the programme, set out institutional arrangements aimed at ensuring oversight, commitment, and leadership to achieve gender equality across programme activities. As part of this process, the MedProgramme Gender Community of Practice (Gender CoP) was established in June 2021 as a forum for executing partners to increase knowledge and enhance the capacity of all participants on gender equality and women's empowerment in sustainable environmental development within the context of MedProgramme activities. The Gender CoP will provide a space for Gender Focal Points from executing partners, national partners, and UNEP/MAP staff to meet regularly and exchange experiences, views, and ideas on how to effectively integrate gender considerations into their Work and promote gender equality in line with international standards and norms. The overarching aim is to provide an open space for discussion, unleash creative thinking, ask questions about gender mainstreaming modalities, and tease out complex issues, reduce learning gaps, share good practice examples and lessons learned, and enable shared understandings and consensus-building.



Prior to the launch of the MedProgramme Gender CoP in June 2021, members were invited to fill in the 'Rapid Gender Capacity Assessment' survey in order to establish a baseline on partners' capacity for gender mainstreaming. Based on the findings, during the first Gender CoP meeting, most partners indicated they have no or very limited experience in implementing gender mainstreaming activities, some have acted in the past as gender focal points, so there is a clear need to have a solid gender

training amongst partners. This pointed to a clear need for unbundling the “how-to” and facilitating a deeper understanding of participants’ perspectives with regards to gender activities. Partners also mentioned that, so far, efforts were being made for equal representation of women and men in meetings, fora, and project activities. However, it wasn’t clear to them how they could go beyond this and had questions about how gender can be translated into action. Participants made it clear that they would greatly value Med PCU’s support on how to translate gender rhetoric into gender actions in the context of Child Project activities.

During the second Gender CoP meeting, held in June 2022, participants shared updates on the implementation of gender activities in the context of each Child Project. A brief presentation on gender issues in biodiversity was delivered by the MedPCU, whilst lessons learned from mainstreaming gender in the EU-funded IMAP-MPA project were shared by Philippe Theou (IMAP-MPA Project Manager). A database of Gender & Environment online courses that are useful for Gender CoP members was also shared, as a useful tool for capacity-building. Finally, gender milestones at the programme-level were also discussed, as a compass for follow-up action. All in all, the MedPCU committed to providing clarity to partners about the implementation and monitoring of gender activities in each Child Project, in line with each Gender Action Plan. On a positive note, participants mentioned that, up until now, efforts were being made for equal representation of women and men in meetings, fora, and project activities within the context of MedPCU activities; and that, following the presentation on gender mainstreaming in the context of the IMAP-MPA project, they have a much better understanding of how gender can be translated into action. Overall, participants highlighted that they would greatly value MedPCU’s continuous engagement and support with concrete examples of how activities with a gender component can be effectively implemented.



The MedProgramme overview video

(Click here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ruxy9S1fzqU> to view the video)

This short video provides a snapshot about the institutional, the rationale, objectives, and partnership of the GEF/UNEP MedProgramme. It’s an effective way to learn about the scope and activities of the Programme under the auspices of the Barcelona Convention and the MAP system.

Up Coming Events

- The MedProgramme Annual Stocktaking Meeting (ASM): 2-3 November 2022 in Athens
- Coordination Meeting of Component 2 of CP 2.1: 8-10 November in Paris
- Third workshop for the Plan of Boka Kotorska Bay in December 2022.
- Third workshop for the Plan of Tangiers-Tetouan-AlHoceima in December 2022
- Third Meeting of the MedProgramme Gender Community of Practice (online): 21st October 2022.
- Gender capacity-building of SPA/RAC; CP 3.1 partners: 8-9 December 2022

Highlight and Summary of Child Projects

The MedProgramme is composed of eight Child Projects that cut across four different Focal Areas of the Global Environment Facility (International Waters [IW], Biodiversity [BD], Chemicals and Waste [CW], and Climate Change [CC]). These involve a wide spectrum of developmental and societal sectors, ranging from banking institutions, the private sector, governmental and non-governmental bodies, industry, research, media, and various other organizations.

- **CP 1.1 Reducing Pollution from Harmful Chemicals and Wastes in Mediterranean Hotspots and Measuring progress to impacts.** The Child Project is executed by UNEP, UNEP MAP, Plan Bleu and SCPRAC. It focuses on land-based sources of hazardous chemicals pollution, namely Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) banned under the Stockholm Convention, and mercury banned under the Minamata Convention. The disposal of at least 2,000 metric tons of POPs, mostly PCBs, including prevention of up to 650 metric tons of new POPs via 3 country pilot demonstration projects on alternatives to new POPs in manufacturing. The project baseline activities are estimated over 3,000 tonnes of PCB and associated wastes and identified likely use of up to prevention activities target 20 tonnes of PFOS foams imported per year in Lebanon and Tunisia; and 630 tonnes of HBCD used each year for polystyrene manufacture in Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey.
- **CP 1.2: Mediterranean Pollution Hot Spots Investment Project.** The Child Project is supported by UN Environment, European Investment Bank (EIB) and UN Environment/MAP and MED POL. Child Project 1.2 “Mediterranean Pollution Hot Spots Investment Project” Is expected to generate major innovative investments in Mediterranean coastal areas at risk of groundwater over-exploitation, loss of coastal habitats and eutrophication, in line with National Action Plans (NAPs) for the implementation of the SAP-MED on land based pollution reduction, and consistent with priorities and coastal management strategies emerging from the results of the MedPartnership.
- **CP 1.3: Financing Advanced Environmental Technologies in the Mediterranean Sea Region for Water Systems and Clean Coasts (EnviTeCC).** The Child Project is implemented and executed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The Child Project builds on EBRD’s track record of success in market creation and transformation and working with the private sector. It is expected to involve the private, municipal, and infrastructure sectors by providing financing, investment grants and technical assistance to accelerate an uptake of advanced technologies to address land-based pollution, supporting improvement of systems POPs prevention and reduction, and for water and wastewater management, treatment, and recycling. The Child Project is designed to facilitate investments in mitigating pollution mainly from point but also from non-point sources. The Child Project is designed to also target policy development and stakeholder engagement to create an enabling environment for the implementation of pollution-reducing technologies in the targeted countries.
- **CP 2.1: Mediterranean Coastal Zones: Water Security, Climate Resilience and Habitat Protection.** The executing partners include UNEP, UN Environment/MAP (leading executing Agency), UNESCO IHP, PAP/RAC, Plan Blue, GWP-Med. Child Project 2.1 Is critical in achieving the desired impacts of the MedProgramme by assisting countries, coastal zone managers and populations to protect and use sustainably the available coastal freshwater supply threatened by evolving climatic conditions, pollution, and competition at the water nexus, and to adopt coastal zone management and land use policies respectful of the intrinsic vulnerabilities, carrying capacity, and cultural, social and economic functions of the Mediterranean coasts and ecosystems.

Consistently with the design of the MedProgramme, Child Project 2.1 will operate in synergy with all the other Child Projects under Components 1 and 2 addressing the reduction of pollution from nutrients and persistent toxic substances in coastal hotspots.

- **CP 2.2: Mediterranean Coastal Zones: Managing the Water-Energy-Food and Ecosystems Nexus.** This Child project is supported by UNEP, UN Environment/MAP and GWP-Med. Its key in informing the policy and management paradigm of natural resources in the Mediterranean. The project is expected to introduce practical assessment and consultation approaches related to Nexus striving to link these with investment development, allowing the Water and Environmental policy and management approaches at the coastal and marine area to be informed by and/or inform the Energy and Agricultural decision making. This will foster sectoral integration resulting in improved design, hence applicability, of related policies responding to the carrying capacity, structure and functions of the Mediterranean coastal and marine natural and anthropogenic environment. Overall, by using the Nexus approach, the “Source-to-Sea” approach goes beyond Environment and Water objectives, addressing Energy and Agriculture considerations, thus facilitating sectoral and spatial integration through tracing the causes and the solutions of interlinked challenges faced within and beyond the coastal zone.
- **SCCF:** The SCCF Project “Enhancing regional climate change adaptation in the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas” will contribute to the overarching goal of Component 2 of the MedProgramme to enhance sustainability and climate resilience in the coastal zone. The SCCF Project is the response to the need to build the capacity of people and institutions to adapt to the impacts of climate change in coastal areas, which are especially vulnerable to these impacts. Through the identification of climate risks affecting the coast and the development of strategies to overcome or cope with these risks, the SCCF Project will effectively enhance both sustainability and climate resilience in the region. Technical assistance in this project will focus on two main lines of action: mainstreaming climate change adaptation strategies in coastal plans and facilitating access to climate financing to scale up adaptation measures in the region. The activities of the SCCF Project are fully integrated with those of Child Project 2.1 which is producing coastal plans in two areas identified as highly vulnerable to climate change (the coastal areas of Kotor Bay in Montenegro and the Tanger-Tétouan-Al Hoceima region in Morocco), and the SCCF Project will develop strategies to adapt to the impacts of climate change in the context of these coastal plans. In this way, important synergies are generated by the two linked projects, in terms of a common set of stakeholders, baseline data, and management structures.
- **Cp 3.1: Management Support and Expansion of Marine Protected Areas in Libya.** The Child Project is implemented in Libya with the support of the following partners, UN Environment/MAP, SPA/RAC, IUCN and WWF Mediterranean. It constitutes Component 3 of the MedProgramme: Protecting Marine Biodiversity. It also addresses the capacity barriers that hinder the sustainability and effectiveness of the MPA network in Libya, namely through the establishment of MPA management support mechanisms in priority MPAs. The Child Project will include: (i) the assessment of the legal and institutional mechanisms for MPAs; (ii) the collection and centralization of data on marine biodiversity and ecosystems (national platform); and (iii) communication and awareness about MPAs and marine biodiversity and ecosystems. In Libya It focuses on advancing the Ain-El-Ghazalah Garah Island and Farwa Lagoon MPAs towards a phase of operational sufficiency by building the capacity of MPA practitioners, developing the management plan through a step-

by-step participatory planning process to ensure the effective protection of ecological and socioeconomic values of the areas.

▪ **CP 4.1: Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Environment and Climate Regional Support Project.**

This Child Project is supported by UNEP, and UNEP/MAP. Within the GEF programmatic approaches there is a need to ensure programme coherence and impact through coordination among diverse sets of multi-focal area Child Projects contributing to the same programme outcomes. A Support Project functions by providing overall coordination of the programme portfolio, resource-saving services, a robust system to managing knowledge effectively and a sound action plan for gender mainstreaming. To ensure MedProgramme's (i) coherence and impact through synergistic interactions among diverse sets of multiple focal areas Child Projects contributing to the same program outcomes, and (ii) overall consistency with strategic priorities agreed by Mediterranean countries and with GEF standards, there is the need for effective information flow and exchanges of experience within the MedProgramme and beyond, coordinated implementation of Child Projects, harmonized approaches for monitoring progress to impacts and for incorporating the new global priority of gender equality.

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The GEF/UNEP MedProgramme (2019-2025) represents the first GEF programmatic multi-focal area initiative in the Mediterranean Sea aiming to operationalize priority actions to reduce major transboundary environmental stresses in its coastal areas while strengthening climate resilience and water security and improving the health and livelihoods of coastal populations. The MedProgramme is implemented in ten beneficiary countries sharing the Mediterranean basin: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. It involves a wide spectrum of developmental and societal sectors, ranging from banking institutions, the private sector, governmental and non-governmental bodies, industry, research, media, and various other organizations. It builds on the work of UNEP/ MAP and previous GEF investments in the region which have enriched the knowledge on the Mediterranean environment and unraveled the implications of climate change and variability; strengthened countries' mutual trust, cooperation and common purpose; consolidated partnerships among countries, UN bodies, civil society organizations, bilateral donors and the European Union (EU); and tested on the ground the feasibility and effectiveness of technical and policy instruments aimed at addressing major present and future threats to environmental sustainability and climate related impacts.



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