



UNITED  
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/MED WG.607/Inf.3



UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

28 March 2025  
Original: English

11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Post-2020 SAPBIO National Correspondents

Athens (Greece), 9-10 April 2025

**Agenda Item 3: Steps undertaken towards the implementation of the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO) at regional and national levels**

**Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO) Advisory Committee**

For environmental and cost-saving reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.



Mediterranean  
Action Plan  
Barcelona  
Convention



7 March 2025

Available in English only

---

SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (SPA/RAC)  
Sixth meeting of Post-2020 SAPBIO Advisory Committee

Videoconference, 07 March 2025

**Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of  
Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region  
(Post-2020 SAPBIO) Advisory Committee**

SPA/RAC  
Tunis, 2025

**Annexes :**

Annex I List of Participants

Annex II Agenda of the Meeting

Annex III Conclusions and recommendations of the meeting

## **Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO) Advisory Committee**

Videoconference, 07 March 2025

### **Introduction**

1. The meeting aimed to inform about the Mid-term assessment of the collective implementation of the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO) with a focus on the start-up activities with a regional scope. It served also to share the introductory elements of the Post-2020 SAPBIO monitoring framework as requested by the Contracting parties at their 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting (Decision IG 26/5, CoP23).
2. The meeting took place online, on Friday 07 March 2025, starting from 9:00 a.m., CET.

### **Participation**

3. The meeting was attended by the following members of the SAPBIO Advisory Committee: Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPREC), Food and Agriculture Organization-General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (FAO-GFCM), Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UFM), International Union for Conservation of Nature Center for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med), The European Topic Centre for Spatial Analysis and Synthesis (ETC-UMA), World Wildlife Fund Mediterranean Initiative (WWF MMI).
4. The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) acted as the Secretariat of the meeting.
5. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

### **Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting**

6. The meeting was opened by Mr. Mahmoud Elyes Hamza, SPA/RAC Director.
7. The agenda of the meeting is attached as Annex II to this report.

### **Agenda item 2: Update on the Post-2020 SAPBIO implementation and the interconnection with other global and regional agenda**

8. The Secretariat presented an update on the Post-2020 SAPBIO implementation.
9. The Post-2020 mid-term assessment' lead expert presented an update on the interconnection with other global and regional agenda, focusing on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and its resource mobilization strategy.

### **Agenda item 3: Mid-term assessment of the collective implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO with a focus on the start-up activities with a regional scope**

10. The Secretariat presented the Mid-term assessment with a focus on start-up activities with a regional scope. It informed the meeting that:

- The analysis of Post-2020 SAPBIO' Goal 1, 'reduce the threats to biodiversity', presents a positive trend in action implementation but financial and systemic hurdles (policy and technical) need to be overcome for more effective progress.
  - The analysis of Post-2020 SAPBIO' Goal 2, 'Ensuring Biodiversity for people's needs', shows a concerning trend, with significant implementation gaps, and that urgent attention is needed to address the identified challenges and get actions back on track.
  - The analysis of Post-2020 SAPBIO' Goal 3, 'Enabling Transformative Change', presents a positive trend overall, however financial and systemic challenges (policy and technical) need to be addressed for smoother progress.
11. The Secretariat highlighted that despite the progress in certain areas, financial, policy and technical gaps challenges pose significant obstacles to achieving the Post-2020 SAPBIO objectives.
  12. The mid-term assessment lead expert declared that these preliminary findings are aligning with the global framework, since finance is one of the main challenges facing the reality of implementing the global framework strategy.
  13. The participants welcomed the preliminary findings of Mid-term assessment of the collective implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO with a focus on start-up activities with regional scope and requested a deepening analysis by considering the outcome of the means of verification section.
  14. The participants requested to highlight the actions where the regional organizations didn't face any challenges, to have a realistic view of the difference between the relative actions.
  15. The meeting invites the regional partners who didn't complete the online questionnaire with a focus on start-up activities with regional scope, to do it as soon as possible, but not later than the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2025.
  16. The Secretariat informed the participants that a deepening analysis of both national and regional scopes will be shared at the occasion of the upcoming national correspondents meeting, to be held in Athens, Greece, on 9 and 10 April 2025.
  17. The meeting recommended that immediate action be taken at regional level to update and align fund mobilisation strategies considering the global resource mobilisation strategy.
  18. The meeting suggested to encourage Mediterranean countries to develop their national biodiversity finance Plan and advocate for increased budgetary allocations at national level to ensure the successful implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO actions.

#### **Agenda item 4: Post-2020 SAPBIO monitoring framework: Introductory elements**

19. The Secretariat presented the introductory elements of the Post-2020 SAPBIO monitoring framework.
20. At the request of the Secretariat, the mid-term assessment lead expert updated the meeting on the progress of the GBF and its interconnection with the Pos-2020 SAPBIO.
21. The meeting commended the work undertaken by the Secretariat to prepare the introductory element of the Draft Monitoring Framework of the collective implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO.
22. Several participants highlighted the need to align the Post-2020 SAPBIO Monitoring Framework with the CBD Post-2020 GBF and define, hence, the right type and scope of indicators, baselines, including IMAP indicators, and provide capacity building for monitoring purposes.
23. The meeting agreed to extend the deadline to receive comments on the Introductory elements of the Draft Monitoring Framework of the collective implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO to the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2025.

#### **Agenda item 5: Any other matters**

24. No other question related to the topics of the meeting were raised by participants or by the Secretariat.

**Agenda item 6: Conclusion and recommendations**

25. The meeting reviewed and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations prepared by the Secretariat, as they appear in Annex III to this report. It agreed that the report of the meeting will be prepared by the Secretariat and circulated by e-mail to the participants within two weeks.

**Agenda item 7: Closure of the meeting**

26. The secretariat invited all the SAPBIO Advisory Committee members to attend the forthcoming SAPBIO National Correspondents meeting (9-10 April 2025, Athens, Greece) as observers.
27. Before closing the meeting, Mr. Mahmoud Elyes Hamza, Director of SPA/RAC, extended his appreciation to the members of the SAPBIO Advisory Committee for their attendance, and valuable contributions to the mid-term assessment of the Post-2020 SAPBIO.
28. The meeting was closed on Friday, 7 March 2025, at 11:34 a.m.

**Annex I**

**List of participants**

### List of participants

<b>REMPEC</b> <b>Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea</b>	<b>Mr. Luke TABONE</b> Junior Professional Officer
<b>General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)</b> <b>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</b>	<b>Mr. Anis ZARROUK</b> Fisheries Ecosystems Officer
<b>ACCOBAMS – Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area</b>	<b>Ms. Maÿlis SALIVAS</b> Executive Secretary
<b>Union for the Mediterranean</b>	<b>Ms. Cristina CARDENETE</b> Environmental Expert
<b>IUCN Center for the Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med)</b>	<b>Ms. Mercedes MUÑOZ CAÑAS</b> Manager Marine Biodiversity and Blue Economy line IUCN – Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
<b>ETC-UMA – The European Topic Centre on Spatial Analysis and Synthesis</b>	<b>Ms. Maria Del Mar OTERO</b> Senior Expert on Marine Conservation and Nature-based solutions
<b>World Wildlife Fund Mediterranean (WWF Med)</b>	Ms. Carlotta Bianchi Regional Policy Advocacy Manager

### SECRETARIAT

<b>SPA/RAC</b> <b>Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre</b>  <b>Staff</b>	<p><b>M. Mahmoud Elyes HAMZA</b> Director</p> <p><b>Mr. Atef OUERGHI</b> Programme Officer -Ecosystem Conservation</p> <p><b>Mr. Atef LIMAM</b> Projects Officer -Marine Protected Areas</p> <p><b>Ms. Lobna BEN NAKHLA</b> Programme Officer -Species Conservation</p> <p><b>Ms. Syrine MOSLAH</b> Programme Assistant -Biodiversity</p> <p><b>Ms. Wassim GAIDI</b> Projects Technical Assistant – SEMPA &amp; GEF CP 3.1</p> <p><b>Ms. Cyrine BOUAFIF</b> Programmes Assistant -Species and Habitats Programmes</p> <p><b>Ms. Imen ZRIBI</b></p>
---	--



	<p>Programme Assistant -Species conservation</p> <p><b>Mr. Dhia GUEZGUEZ</b> Data management and Computing Officer</p> <p><b>Ms. Aida ABDENNADHER</b> Associate Project Officer -EcAp Med Plus</p> <p><b>Mr. Yassine Ramzi ESSGHAYER</b> Projects Officer -Ecosystem Approach</p> <p><b>Ms. Dorra MAAOUI</b> Communication Assistant</p>
<p><b>SPA/RAC</b> <b>Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre</b></p> <p><b>Post-2020 SAPBIO Mid Term Assessment Team Experts</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Moustfa MOKHTAR ALI FOUDA</b> Consultant- Lead Team Expert</p> <p><b>Mr. Abdulmaula HAMZA,</b> Consultant -Ionian Sea and Centrak Mediterranean Exprt</p> <p><b>Mr. Carlo Franzosini</b> Consultant -Western Mediterranean Expert</p> <p><b>Ms. Ana Štrbenac</b> Consultant -Adriatic Sea Expert</p> <p><b>Mr. Bayram OZTURK</b> Consultant -Aegean Sea and Levantine Basin Expert</p>

**Annex II**  
**Agenda of the Meeting**



Mediterranean  
Action Plan  
Barcelona  
Convention



7 March 2025

Available in English only

SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (SPA/RAC)  
Post-2020 SAPBIO Advisory Committee  
Sixth meeting  
Videoconference, 07 March 2025

## Agenda of the meeting

*Time is indicated in CET.*

*Participants are kindly requested to convert to their respective time zones, if different from CET.*

Time	Agenda item	Responsible
09.00 – 09.15 CET (15')	<b>Agenda item 1 - Opening of the meeting</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Welcome and opening</li> <li>▪ Adoption of the agenda and organization of work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SPA/RAC</li> </ul>
09.15 – 10.15 CET (1h)	<b>Agenda item 2 - Update on the Post-2020 SAPBIO implementation</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presentation</li> <li>▪ Feedback and discussion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SPA/RAC</li> <li>▪ AC members</li> </ul>
10.15 – 11.15 CET (1h)	<b>Agenda item 3 – Mid-term assessment of the collective implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO with focus on Start-up activities with regional scope</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presentation</li> <li>▪ Feedback and discussion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SPA/RAC</li> <li>▪ AC members</li> </ul>
11.15 – 12.00 CET (45')	<b>Agenda item 4 – Post-2020 SAPBIO implementation and elements of its monitoring framework of the collective implementation</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presentation on the introductory elements of the Post-2020 SAPBIO monitoring framework</li> <li>▪ Feedback and discussion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SPA/RAC</li> <li>▪ AC members</li> </ul>
12.00 - 12.15 CET (15')	<b>Agenda item 5 - Any other matters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SPA/RAC</li> <li>▪ AC members</li> </ul>
12.15 - 12.45 CET (30')	<b>Agenda item 6 – Conclusion and recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SPA/RAC</li> <li>▪ AC members</li> </ul>
12.45 - 13.00 CET (15')	<b>Agenda item 7 – Closure of the meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SPA/RAC</li> </ul>

**Annex III**

**Conclusions and recommendations of the meeting**

Post-2020 SAPBIO Advisory Committee sixth meeting  
Videoconference, 7 March 2025

**Conclusions and recommendations**

1. The meeting welcomed the preliminary findings of Mid-term assessment of the collective implementation of the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO) with a focus on start-up activities with regional scope as provided by SPA/RAC Regional Partners. It stressed the need to take into consideration the information provided as a means of verification in the findings to have comprehensive results.
2. The meeting invites the partners who didn't complete the online questionnaire with a focus on start-up activities with regional scope, to proceed as soon as possible (14 March 2025).
3. Given that financial constraints, is identified in the preliminary findings on startup activities with regional scope, significantly impede progress across all Post-2020 SAPBIO goals and the CBD Global Biodiversity Framework, the meeting ~~strongly~~ recommended that immediate action be taken at regional level to update and align fund mobilisation strategies considering the global resource mobilisation strategy.
4. The meeting recommended to encourage Mediterranean countries to develop their national biodiversity finance Plan and advocate for increased budgetary allocations at national level to ensure the successful implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO actions.
5. The meeting commended the work undertaken by the Secretariat to prepare the introductory element of the Draft Monitoring Framework of the collective implementation of the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO).
6. Several participants highlighted the need to align the Post-2020 SAPBIO Monitoring Framework with the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Monitoring Framework.
7. The meeting stressed the need to further develop the draft Post-2020 SAPBIO Monitoring Framework, define the right type and scope of indicators, baselines, including IMAF indicators, and provide capacity building for monitoring purposes.
8. The meeting agreed to extend deadline to receive comments on the Introductory element of the Draft Monitoring Framework of the collective implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO to 14 March 2025.
9. The meeting invited all the Post-2020 SAPBIO Advisory Committee members to attend the forthcoming Post-2020 SAPBIO National Correspondents meeting scheduled, in person, in Athens (Greece) from 9 to 10 April 2025.