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## Call for Proposals

### **Request to submit a written proposal for a work assignment with UNESCO**

**UNESCO is inviting written proposals for an individual consultant for: Team Leader/Project Document Preparation Specialist - International Waters Project Development Specialist. GEF PPG Project: "Implementing Ecosystem Based Management Approaches in the Black Sea LME".**

To enable you to prepare a proposal for this assignment, please find attached the Terms of Reference (Attachment A), the GEF-7 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF) (Attachment B), and the UNESCO's contract for Individual Consultants, the contracting modality used for these assignments (Attachment C). Your written offer should comprise:

#### **(a) A Technical Proposal consisting of**

- an up to date curriculum vitae including the contact details of three professional references, and
- an approach and methodology for the assignment, a workplan and comments on the Terms of Reference if any (max. 2 pages).

**(b) The total amount to be charged for the assignment, which should be quoted in US dollars or in euros only and should indicate the consultant's monthly rate. Please show any travel costs separately**

Your proposal and any supporting documents must be in either English or French.

UNESCO places great emphasis on ensuring that the objectives of the work assignment, as described in the Terms of Reference, are met. Accordingly, in evaluating the proposals for the assignment, attention will focus first and foremost on the technical elements. From those proposals deemed suitable in terms of the criteria in the Terms of Reference, UNESCO shall select the proposal that offers the Organisation best value for money.

Your proposal should be submitted by e-mail to [i.chavez@unesco.org](mailto:i.chavez@unesco.org) no later than **end of the day (23:59 CET) 13 August 2021**. E-mail proposals should not exceed 5MB.

It is the individual's responsibility to ensure that his/her proposal is received by the deadline.

Thank you for your interest in this UNESCO assignment; and we look forward to receiving your proposal.

## **Attachment A**

### **Terms of Reference**

PPG Team Leader/Project Document Preparation Specialist - International Waters  
Project Development Specialist

#### **1. Background and Objective**

GEF PPG Project: "Implementing Ecosystem Based Management Approaches in the Black Sea LME".

The overall objective of the PPG is to develop the PIF into a Full Project entitled: "Implementing Ecosystem Based Management approaches in the Black Sea LME", that is compliant with UNDP and GEF requirements.

#### **2. Purpose of the Assignment**

The International Waters Project Development Specialist will be the GEF PPG Team Leader and will be responsible for quality assurance and timely preparation of all reports and documentation, including the finalised UNDP ProDoc and CEO Endorsement Request, with all mandatory and project specific Annexes and supporting documentation. S/he will be responsible for managing all the required Project Development work consultants on the GEF PPG Team and coordinating with other specialists (e.g. partners) supporting the overall PPG effort.

#### **3. Duties/Tasks and Expected Output:**

##### **i.) Coordination of the GEF PPG Process**

- a. Define and submit a detailed methodology and work plan in consultation with the other consultants with clear delegation of responsibilities. International Consultants (ICs) and National Consultants (NCs);
- b. Ensure that project development is participatory, gender-responsive and based on extensive stakeholder engagements; and
- c. Verify and ensure that all project components are technically sound and cost effective.
- d. Ensure that all STAP concerns have been addressed before submission and respond to GEFSEC and GEF Council review comments.

##### **ii.) Preparatory Technical Studies and Reviews (Component A): With inputs from the other technical experts and national and international consultants, as necessary:**

- a. Compile baseline/situational analysis for the full-size project (FSP). This will include a precise definition of baseline projects, activities, budgets, goals and co-financial links to GEF outcomes; definition of GEF incremental value per outcome and output; and presentation of results of the incremental cost-analysis in matrices as appropriate;
- b. Oversee the stakeholder analysis and consultations and ensure that they are complete and comprehensive;

- c. Ensure the preparation of the gender analysis and ensure its findings are meaningfully integrated into the project's strategy, theory of change and results framework;
- d. Working with the SES Safeguards Review Specialist, ensure action points, including risk assessments, from the UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) at the PIF stage ("pre-screening") are fully captured and implemented during the PPG;
- e. Undertake the consultations with partners regarding financial planning; and
- f. Working closely with the Technical Support Consultant, ensure completion of any additional studies that are determined to be needed for the preparation of the ProDoc and all other final outputs.
- g. Ensure the preparation of (as required) partner capacity assessments and discussions on management arrangements early in the PPG process;

**iii.) Formulation of the ProDoc, CEO Endorsement Request and Mandatory and Project Specific Annexes (Component B):**

The formulation of the ProDoc and associated documentation will commence with an Inception Workshop. The objective of this Workshop will be to:

- a. Introduce the main players involved in preparation and submission of the Project Document
- b. Discuss the roles and responsibilities of the Project Development Specialists, including reporting lines and stakeholder engagement strategies
- c. Confirm and familiarize key stakeholders with the planned project strategy and consider any changes that may have taken place in the overall context since the project idea was initially conceptualized that may require amendments to the strategy and implementation
- d. Review specific inputs required by GEF including co-financing contributions and confirmation, country endorsements, etc.
- e. Define and briefly explain the compulsory Annexes to the Project Document that GEF requires
- f. Present the timeline and road-map for delivering the submission to GEF including the UNDP Validation Workshop requirements and GEF Review Process.
- g. Plan and schedule any further meetings and consultations prior to submission of the Project Document to GEF
- h. Adoption of the Project Document Development Work-Plan

Following the Inception Workshop, and with inputs from the other national and international consultants, as detailed in their respective TORs, and based on international best practice:

- a. Develop, present and articulate the project's Theory of Change;
  - b. Develop the Results Framework in line with UNDP-GEF policy;
  - c. Develop a detailed Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Budget;
  - d. Oversee and ensure the preparation of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan;
  - e. Oversee and ensure the preparation of a Gender Action Plan and Budget;
- 
- f. Based on inputs provided by the SES Safeguards Review Specialist, ensure that the SESP is updated based on assessments undertaken during

- Component A, and ensure the development, if required, of an environmental and/or social management plan(s);
- g. Identify the required GEF Core Indicators;
- h. Secure and present agreements on project management arrangements;
- i. Ensure the completion of any required official endorsement letters;
- j. Synthesize all analyses, studies, etc. that are prepared under Components A and B to produce the draft UNDP-GEF ProDoc, GEF CEO Endorsement, and all mandatory and project specific Annexes, using the required templates.<sup>1</sup>
- k. Secure and present agreements on project execution and management arrangements and ensure that the project aligns to UNDP-GEF guidance on UNDP execution support;

#### **iv.) Validation Workshop (Component C):**

- a. Facilitate the validation workshop to present, discuss and validate the final draft ProDoc and mandatory and project specific annexes, with a special focus on the SESP and any management plans; and
- b. Oversee all necessary revisions that arise during the workshop.
- c. Ensure completion of Validation Workshop Report.

#### **v.) Final Deliverables:**

- a. Consolidation of all technical and consultation inputs including from national stakeholders, UNDP, GEF Secretariat, STAP and GEF Council, into a well written and concise UNDP ProDoc with all required sections and Annexes, in line with the standard UNDP-GEF ProDoc template and annotated guidance;
- b. Completion of the GEF CEO Endorsement Request;
- c. All documentation from GEF PPG (including technical reports, etc.); and
- d. Validation Workshop Report.

### **4. Timetable**

100 working days over a total 12-month period

### **5. Qualifications**

- Master's degree or higher in a relevant field, such as in environmental management or marine sciences or other equivalent demonstrated experience;
- A track-record of experience and leadership in the field of ocean management and ocean governance including large marine ecosystems
- Knowledge of the Black Sea as an ecosystem and its associated goods and services
- Minimum 15 years of demonstrable experience in the technical area of international waters and UN agency/ GEF project management and evaluation;
- Fluency in written and spoken English;
- Demonstrated experience in GEF IW project formulation
- The consultant must have knowledge of the GEF IW portfolio, including GEF7 strategies/programmatic frameworks, and be aware of eligibility criteria for GEF projects;

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<sup>1</sup> Verify with the UNDP-GEF team that the correct templates are being used

- Demonstrated experience in communication and negotiation with regional bodies and diverse stakeholder interests related to ocean management and governance
- Excellent coordination and facilitation skills;

## **6. Supervisory arrangements**

The consultant will be supervised by the Chief of Section for Marine Policy and Regional Coordination.

The supervisor will brief the Consultant at the start of the contract, and a series of meetings will be organized to get the Consultant acquainted with the work of the IW:LEARN project.

## **7. Facilities to be provided by UNESCO**

UNESCO will provide the Consultant with all required access to working files, UNESCO network, knowledge-management systems (including institutional email and Microsoft TEAMS accounts), and temporary office space if needed on occasional presence at UNESCO Headquarters. The consultant will provide his/her own computer, telephone and have access to a reliable internet connection.

## **8. Taxes**

UNESCO will not reimburse any taxes, duties or other contributions for which individuals may be liable in respect of any payments made to them under the terms of their contract.

## **9. Insurance**

Individuals issued with a contract for individual consultants or other specialists are covered by UNESCO's insurance policy for work-related illness, injury, accidents or death whilst performing their official duties or travelling on behalf of the Organization. The insurance premium for the coverage, as determined by Pension and Insurance Section (HRM/SPI), must be included in the financial commitment for the contract.

## **10. Social Benefits**

Individual consultants and other specialists shall be responsible for arranging, at their own expense, any medical insurance that they consider necessary during the contract period. Unless they are affiliated by virtue of their status as former staff members, they cannot be enrolled in the UNESCO's Medical Benefit Fund or United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund. Individual consultants and other specialists are not entitled to paid annual or sick leave.



# GEF-7 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

## ATTACHMENT B

### PART I: Project Information

Project Title:	Implementing Ecosystem Based Management approaches in the Black Sea LME		
Country(ies):	Georgia, Turkey and Ukraine	GEF Project ID:	10725
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	6590
Project Executing Entity(s):	UNESCO-IOC	Submission Date:	September 2020
GEF Focal Area(s):	International Waters	Project Duration (Months)	48

### A. INDICATIVE FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
		GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
IW-1-1	GEFTF	3,000,000	13,500,000
<b>Total Project Cost</b>		<b>3,000,000</b>	<b>13,500,000</b>

### B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

<b>Project Objective:</b> Enhancing Marine and Coastal Protected Area national and regional management and adoption of Blue Economy approaches in the Black Sea to support long-term sustainable livelihoods derived from ecosystem services						
Project Components	Component Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
<b>Component 1:</b> Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) of coastal and marine habitats  <b>Indicators/targets:</b>  <b>Outcome:</b> Increase in BE revenue (baseline to be established in PPG) target: > 5% growth by end of project  <b>Outputs:</b> Output 1.1.1: Completed maps of MPA/MCPA in 3 countries with gap analysis  Output 1.1.2: 3 counties agreeing BE strategies; Economic evaluation reports developed in 3 countries leading to at least 1 recommended policy reform per country  Output 1.1.3: 3 updated national databases  Output 1.1.4: 3 national strategies to address alien species	TA	<b>Outcome 1.1:</b> Reduced threats to coastal states marine ecosystems and services to improve ecosystem status and community livelihoods	<b>Output 1.1.1:</b> Priority ecosystems sites and pressures mapped to guide MSPs, and to analyse gaps for MCPAs on priority habitat protection  <b>Output 1.1.2:</b> Agreed national Blue Economy Strategies available to guide EBM policy reforms  <b>Output 1.1.3:</b> Updated national databases to complement the Black Sea Information System (BSIS output 3.1.4) with new components on biological and socio-economic aspects.  <b>Output 1.1.4:</b> National action	GEFTF	1,153,000	5,300,000

			strategies developed/agreed to further co-operate with relevant IMO projects aimed at reducing threats to bioresources and ecosystems from specific invasive species with regional recommendations for BSC consideration and possible adoption.			
<b>Component 2:</b> Strengthening regional environmental governance and knowledge  <b>Indicators/targets:</b>  <b>Outcome:</b> 3 countries have recommendations to enhance governance /management capacity  <b>Outputs:</b> Output 2.1.1: All countries have TDA/SAP updates presented to BSC  Output 2.1.2 Developed/Updated Protocols plans and guidance documents presented to BSC  Output 2.1.3: Regional indicator framework for EBM submitted to BSC	TA	<b>Outcome 2.1:</b> Countries have strengthened political and legal commitments and capacity to implement the Bucharest Convention and its Protocols with increased effectiveness of the Permanent Secretariat	<b>Output 2.1.1:</b> Updated basin analysis (TDA) leading to revised BS SAP, proposed for adoption by BS Commission.  <b>Output 2.1.2:</b> <b>Regional</b> Protocols, Plans and Guidance documents to harmonise approaches to MCPA, habitat protection, etc. submitted to BSC for adoption.  <b>Output 2.1.3:</b> Development and recommendation for adoption by BSC of regional indicator framework for EBM for annual reporting and relevant component of BSIS.	GEFTF	1,002,640	4,500,000
<b>Component 3:</b> Regional Co-ordination of interventions  <b>Indicators/targets:</b>  <b>Outcome:</b> Independent assessments of regional projects	TA	<b>Outcome 3.1:</b> Strengthened impacts from GEF and other partners and projects' activities	<b>Output 3.1.1:</b> Co-ordination mechanism established and functional with other projects in the Black Sea region, learning from other LME	GEFTF	551,503	2,300,000

<p>identify benefits of improved co-ordination between projects.</p> <p>Outputs:</p> <p>Output 3.1.1: Established co-ordination mechanism</p> <p>Output 3.1.2: Capacity development delivered (F/M participants)</p> <p>Output 3.1.3: A series of interlinked national and regional strategies to raise awareness</p> <p>Output 3.1.4: BSIS updated</p>			<p>co-ordination mechanisms.</p> <p><b>Output 3.1.2:</b> Implementation of national/regional capacity development programmes on EBM, building on best practices from e.g. Barcelona Convention.</p> <p><b>Output 3.1.3:</b> National and regional strategies (including possible covid-19 restriction) and programmes to share information and experiences.</p> <p><b>Output 3.1.4:</b> Updated and enhanced web-based Black Sea Information System (BSIS) to facilitate regional and national awareness raising (with new information from 1.1.3).</p>			
<p><b>Component 4:</b> Knowledge Management, communication and Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</p> <p><b>Indicators/targets:</b></p> <p><b>Outcome: 4.1</b> Stakeholders (national, regional and global) accessing lessons and experiences</p> <p><b>Outputs:</b></p> <p>Output 4.1.1: Website established</p> <p>Output 4.1.2: Strategies (gender and stakeholders) implemented</p> <p>Output 4.1.3: 2 IW</p>	TA	<p><b>Outcome 4.1</b> Stakeholders enabled with improved information (lessons and benefits of the project) to sustain and replicate actions</p>	<p><b>Output 4.1.1:</b> Established IW:LEARN compliant website within existing BSC website.</p> <p><b>Output 4.1.2:</b> Project Stakeholder and gender strategies documented, implemented and shared across BS region</p> <p><b>Output 4.1.3:</b> Participation in regional and global GEF /IW:LEARN activities.</p>	GEFTF	150,000	685,714



<p>Conferences attended</p> <p>Output 4.1.3: At least 3 experience notes prepared</p> <p><b>Outcome 4.2</b> PSC, GEF and GEF Agency informed through agreed progress reports</p> <p><b>Outputs</b> Output 4.2.1: 4 PIRs submitted; 4 PSC progress reports and meetings completed; MTR/TE reports delivered</p>			<p><b>Output 4.1.4:</b> Development of IW Experience Notes and other IW:LEARN related products and services.</p> <p>(1% of overall budget allocated to IW:LEARN related activities).</p> <p><b>Output 4.2.1:</b> Participatory monitoring and evaluation developed and implemented to facilitate adaptive project management.</p>			
Subtotal				GEFTF	2,857,143	12,785,714
Project Management Cost (PMC)				GEFTF	142,857	714,286
<b>Total Project Cost</b>					<b>3,000,000</b>	<b>13,500,000</b>

For multi-trust fund projects, provide the total amount of PMC in Table B, and indicate the split of PMC among the different trust funds here: (NA)

#### C. INDICATIVE SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE, IF AVAILABLE

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount (\$)
National Government	Georgia	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,500,000
National Government	Turkey	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	4,000,000
National Government	Ukraine	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,000,000
Donor Agency	European Union*	Other	Investment Mobilized	2,200,000
Donor Agency	UNESCO-IOC	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,500,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	300,000
<b>Total Co-financing</b>				<b>13,500,000</b>

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified.

\* The EU co-financing will be provided via the EU/UNDP EMBLAS project

**All "investment mobilized" were identified in consultation with the governments, and others. Related co-financing letters will be provided during the PPG phase.**

#### D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES), FOCAL AREA AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/Regional/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total (c)=a+b
UNDP	GEFTF	Regional	International Waters	NA	3,000,000	285,000	3,285,000
<b>Total GEF Resources</b>					<b>3,000,000</b>	<b>285,000</b>	<b>3,285,000</b>

#### E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested? Yes ☒ No ☐ If no, skip item E.

#### PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), TRUST FUND, COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					PPG (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total c = a + b
UNDP	GEF TF	Regional	International Waters	NA	150,000	14,250	164,250
<b>Total PPG Amount</b>					150,000	14,250	164,250

Agency request to increase the PPG from \$100K to \$150K is based on the necessity to organize close consultations with the other two GEF agencies – World Bank and FAO in order to agree on the joint actions, establishment of the coordination mechanism in the Black Sea region between the three GEF projects and extensive consultations between a number of stakeholders in the Black Sea.

#### F. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GEF 7 CORE INDICATORS

Provide the relevant sub-indicator values for this project using the methodologies indicated in the Core Indicator Worksheet provided in Annex B and aggregating them in the table below. Progress in programming against these targets is updated at the time of CEO endorsement, at midterm evaluation, and at terminal evaluation. Achieved targets will be aggregated and reported at anytime during the replenishment period. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCF.

Project Core Indicators		Expected at PIF
2	<b>Marine protected areas</b> created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)	418,243 ha*
7	<b>Number of shared water ecosystems</b> (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management	1
11	Number of <b>direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender</b> as co-benefit of GEF investment	10,000 50-50 disaggregation percentage (F/M)

\*Notes:

The current MPAs in the 3 beneficiary countries are:

Georgia – (Kolkheti) 15,743ha

Turkey – no current designated MPAs

Ukraine – 402,500 ha

The project will strengthen at least. 418 k ha of MPA. During the PPG phase, the MPAs in Bulgaria, Romania and Russian Federation will be investigated to identify their likelihood at adopting recommendations delivered by the project and endorsed by the BSC.

#### G. PROJECT TAXONOMY

Please fill in the table below for the taxonomic information required of this project. Use the GEF Taxonomy Worksheet provided in Annex C to help you select the most relevant keywords/ topics/themes that best describe this project.

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Influencing Models	Strengthen institutional capacity/decision-making Transform policy and regulatory environments Convene multi-stakeholder alliances Demonstrate innovative approaches	(multiple selection)	(multiple selection)
Stakeholders	Beneficiaries Private Sector Local Communities Civil Society	(multiple selection)	(multiple selection)

	Communications Type of Engagement		
Capacity, Knowledge and Research	Capacity Development Knowledge Generation and Exchange Learning Innovation Knowledge and Learning Stakeholder Engagement Plan	(multiple selection)	(multiple selection)
Gender Equality	Gender mainstreaming Gender results areas	(multiple selection)	(multiple selection)
Focal Area/Theme	International Waters Biodiversity	(multiple selection)	(multiple selection)
Rio Marker	(multiple selection)		

## Part ii: Project Justification

### 1a. Project Description.

#### II.1a.1 Global environmental problems root causes and barriers that need to be addressed: Background

The Black Sea LME is a semi enclosed sea, connected to the world ocean only through narrow Bosphorus and Dardanelles Straits, and to the shallow Sea of Azov by the Kerch Strait in the north. The LME covers a surface area of about 460,150 km<sup>2</sup>, including the Sea of Azov, of which 2.21% is protected. The north-western part of the Black Sea is shallow but in other places its waters reach a depth of more than 2,200 m. The Black Sea catchment area entirely or partly extends over 18 countries: Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine -- about one third of the area of continental Europe and containing in excess of 160 million people. Every year, Europe's largest rivers, (the Danube, Dnieper and Don) carry about 350 km<sup>3</sup> of river water into the Black Sea. As a consequence of its almost landlocked nature and lack of circulation in its deep waters, the LME is particularly vulnerable to environmental stresses originating from human activities in the catchment area.

A strong density stratification, which effectively inhibits vertical mixing, results in permanent anoxia within almost 90% of the Black Sea's volume (below 200 m), making this LME the largest anoxic basin of the global ocean. The deep anoxic layer, with its high hydrogen sulphide content, is a 'dead' zone. Marine life is confined to the upper layer, while the bottom is void of invertebrates and fish in most parts of the Black Sea. The structure of the Black Sea ecosystem differs from that of the neighbouring Mediterranean Sea in that species variety is lower and the dominant groups are different. However, the abundance, total biomass and productivity of the Black Sea are much higher than in the Mediterranean Sea.

The Black Sea has undertaken assessments of the transboundary problems and their causes (through a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis - a TDA) leading to Strategic Action Programme (SAP) in 1996 and 2009. Subsequently the countries of the Black Sea with the support of the Black Sea Commission (BSC) have prepared a State of the Environment Report (2009 - 2015)<sup>1</sup>. This SoE report will be updated for the period 2015- 2020 and the results will be further assessed for the revision of the Black Sea SAP through a reassessment of the transboundary problems and their causes.

This Black Sea SoE Report is the third assessment prepared by the BSC), were supported by various international projects, such as SESAME, PERSEUS, KnowSeas, PEGASO, MISIS, EMBLAS (I and II), EMODNet etc., and national initiatives. It also refers to and utilizes relevant publications prepared for the Black Sea by various experts working in the Black Sea basin and beyond.

The report was prepared in accordance with outline of the report which incorporated both existing approaches to ocean assessment - UN World Ocean Assessment approach (also called Regular Process) and European approach reflecting provisions of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

<sup>1</sup> Black Sea Commission 2019, <http://www.blacksea-commission.org/SoE2009-2014/SoE2009-2014.pdf>

An important approach to address key issues identified is through the strengthening of designated Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). It is well known that the reproduction of most living marine natural resources takes place in the coastal zones<sup>2</sup> because of the edge effect in which physicochemical and biological interactions are most intense at the interface between land and water. This zone suffers the highest human pressure because of urban expansion, transport, infrastructure development, exploitation of living and non-living resources and impacts from recreation areas. Around 15 million people live in the 2 km wide coastal zone of the Black Sea, 6 million of them in Ukraine<sup>3</sup>.

Conflict between economic activities and the need to maintain living resources has led to the establishment of MPAs. One of the first Black Sea MPAs, the Black Sea Biosphere Reserve, was established in Ukraine as early as 14 July 1927 to protect coastal and marine communities near the Dnieper River delta.

It is difficult to determine the precise extent of the existing Black Sea MPA network due to:

- Almost all the MPAs comprise not only marine waters but also terrestrial areas, which are generally larger.
- Parts of the aquatic area are lagoons or closed limans, isolated from the sea, which cannot be included with the Black Sea by definition.
- The definition and classification of protected areas in the Black Sea countries differ to a greater or lesser degree from the IUCN classification<sup>4</sup>. For example, where the IUCN has seven categories of protected area, Bulgaria has five, Romania has ten<sup>5</sup>, and Ukraine has 11; in addition, their classification criteria are different.

Another difficulty in determining the total area of MPAs in different countries is that their areas often include sites with multiple designations. For example, the transnational Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve in Romania and the Danube Biosphere Reserve in Ukraine also include wetlands in the Ramsar list. The Natura 2000 protected area ‘Ropotamo’ (Ropotamo wetland complex) in Bulgaria contains four natural reserves, several Ramsar wetlands and the Blato Alepu nature monument. A recent publication on Black Sea MPAs says that there are no protected areas in Turkey apart from Ramsar wetlands in the Kizilirmak River delta (Begun et al., 2012).

**MPCA, MPA, MSP and EBM: A note on terminology:**

This project makes frequent reference to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) recognising the designation of MPAs but acknowledging the importance (indicated in the title of this project) of **marine and coastal zones** on related ecosystems. These approaches are supportive of Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) and the development of Marine Spatial Plans (MSPs) designed to provide an integrated management of marine and coastal protected areas.

There are 92 protected sites with a total area of 16,940 ha, 48 sites of Nature 2000 with a total area of 5,300 ha, and 31 marine protected areas of 302, 200 ha in Bulgaria. Kolkheti National Park (area 45,447 ha as of 2013) includes both a terrestrial part of 29,704 ha and a marine part of 15,743. Romania has eight sites of Nature 2000 with the area of 138,700 ha and two marine protected areas with a total area of 108,000 ha. Russia reported increase of the total protected area. There is only one marine protected area (Utrish) in Russia with total area 9,848 ha. It includes 9,065 ha of forest land and 783 ha of the sea area. There are 11 natural reserves with a total area of 38,000 ha in Turkey.

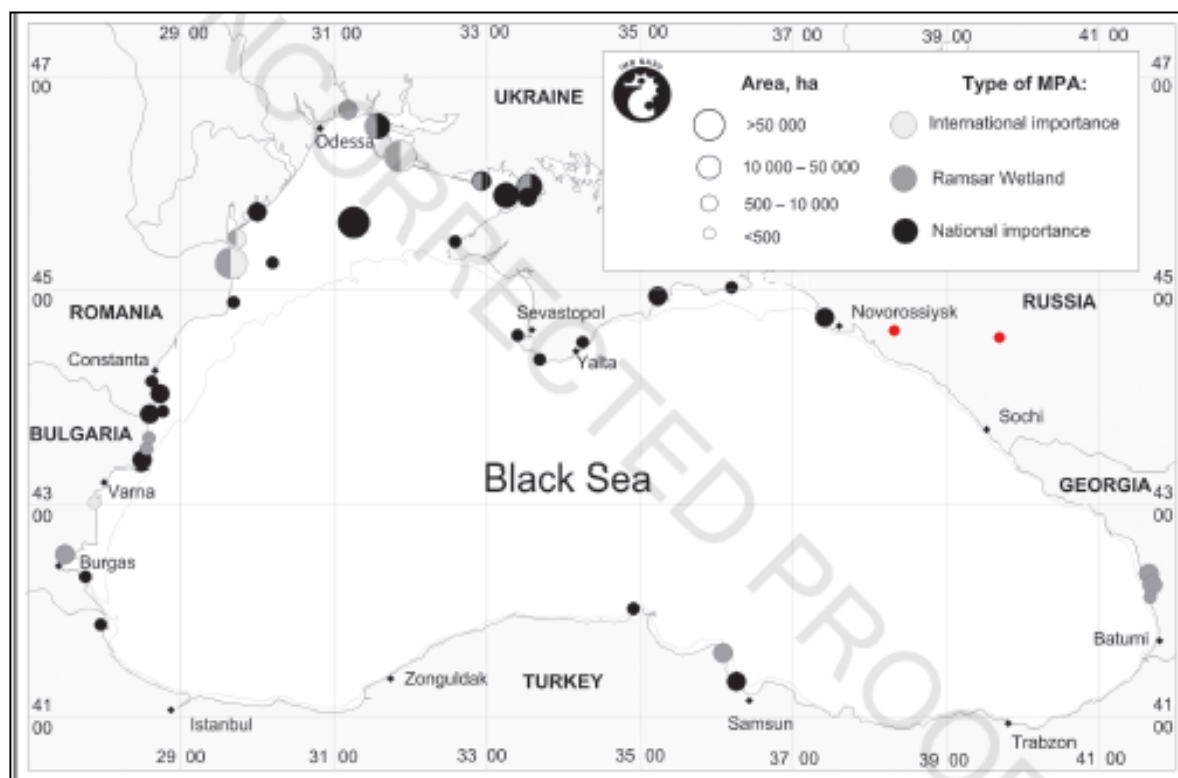
<sup>2</sup> Zaitsev, Y. (2006) Littoral concentration of life in the Black Sea area. *Journal of the Black Sea/Mediterranean Environment*, **12**, 113–128.

<sup>3</sup> Panchenko, T. (2009) *Guidelines on Territorial Planning in Coastal Zone. Version 2*. Environmental Collaboration for the Black Sea Project (ECBSea). EuropeAid/120117/C/SV/Multi.

<sup>4</sup> Lausche, B. (2011) *Guidelines for Protected Areas Legislation*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland. xxvi + 370 pp.

<sup>5</sup> Begun, T., Velikova, V., Muresan, M. et al. (2012) *Conservation and Protection of the Black Sea Biodiversity: Review of the existing and planned protected areas in the Black Sea (Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey) with a special focus on possible deficiencies regarding law enforcement and implementation of management plans*. Report for Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) Guiding Improvements in the Black Sea Integrated Monitoring System (MISIS). <http://www.misisproject.eu/>

**Figure 1 - The Black Sea MPAs of international and national importance<sup>6</sup>**



The main protected area site is the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve in Romania, 193,900 ha of which (or about 50% of the total area) is marine. The Black Sea's MPAs vary in size from tiny scientific reserves of 1 ha up to the newly designated Zernov's Phyllophora Field in the northwest shelf of Ukraine (402,500 ha). The role of Ukraine in the Black Sea biodiversity conservation is crucial. The largest area of the continental shelf of the Black Sea, the most unique bottom communities (phyllophora "fields"), as well as the main feeding aquatic areas of fishes and dolphins are allocated within Ukrainian exclusive economic zone. Ukraine has included a number of plant and animal species of the Black Sea to the national red list (The Red Book of Ukraine), launched the population monitoring of threatened species (in particular, the annual counts of dolphins), and established the first marine protected areas in the Black Sea (Zmiinyj Island, Zernov Phyllophora Field, and Small Phyllophora Field wildlife refuges).

The Black Sea region is under impact of global climate change tendencies. The global average temperature is estimated to have risen by 0.6°C over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and there are few scenarios of following development. Globally, 2010 is estimated to be the warmest year ever recorded since modern measurement began, closely followed by 2005. No single year since 1985 has recorded a below-average mean. The 2001-2010 decade was also the warmest ever recorded for each continent. Europe and Asia recorded the largest average temperature anomaly for the decade (+0.97°C). Climate processes have some specifics in the Black Sea region: Short-term periods of increased temperature in summer, increased number of extraordinary meteorological phenomena, warmer in general winter seasons are typical features of the climate change consequences in the Black Sea region.

### **Global Environmental Problem**

During the second half of the 20th century the Black Sea suffered catastrophic ecological collapse mainly due to directly or indirectly impacting it human activities, leading ultimately (and quite rapidly) to the destruction of fisheries on which coastal communities largely depended for their economic well-being generated by the 'Blue Economy' from the Black Sea.

<sup>6</sup> Alexandrov, B., Minicheva, G. and Zitsev, Y. *Black Sea Network of Marine Protected Areas: European Approaches and Adaption to Expansion and Monitoring in Ukraine.* in *Management of Marine Protected Areas: A new Perspective*, Goriup P (ed) 2017

In addition, the impacts of pollution (nutrients, oil, hazardous substances, etc.) and invasive species had a detrimental effect on the biodiversity of the Black Sea. Pollution had been made worse through significant coastal developments designed to increase tourism.

The 2009 Black Sea SAP identified the transboundary problems that contribute to Global Environmental Problems as:

1. Eutrophication/nutrient enrichment;
2. Changes in marine living resources;
3. Chemical pollution (including oil); and
4. Biodiversity/habitat changes, including alien species introduction

The Black Sea SoE report identified the *consequences of environmental change* as including:

- Decline in the Black Sea fisheries was irreversible. According to the modern estimation, about 85 percent of the Black Sea stocks are fished at biologically unsustainable levels;
- Natural habitats, notably wetlands and shelf areas, supporting important biotic resources are still under anthropogenic impact (polluted waters discharged; littering of coastal and marine environment etc.), leading to developing tourism, recreation and health sectors having worse quality of ecosystem services;
- Some progress was achieved in the field of the protection of coastal biodiversity, ecosystems and landscapes, in 2008-2014 several new national parks and natural reserves were established in the Ukrainian part of the Black Sea coastal zone. However, these optimistic steps were not supported by strong management and appropriate resources;
- Dynamic quality of coastal water impacted by pollution from multiple coastal sources and offshore installations and activities is an issue for rapidly developing touristic sector in all Black Sea countries;

### Causes of the Environmental Problems

The Black Sea is exposed to many threats that need to be addressed urgently. Overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, pernicious discarding practices, ghost fishing, marine pollution, uneven development of aquaculture and invasive species are the most important threats. The main causes of the environmental problems in the Black Sea impacting the ecosystem status and services (including the overall impacts on the blue economy) include:

- **Eutrophication.** Nutrient over-enrichment and resultant eutrophication result from contributing problems in the Black Sea's watershed, including point and diffuse sources of effluent from livestock farms, diffuse pollution from fertilizers, ground/soil water discharges (containing elevated levels of fertilizers) to surface waters, discharge of untreated industrial effluents and atmospheric emission/deposition of pollutants (principally nitrogen) onto land/directly into the sea. All of the above are immediate causes of nutrient-enrichment, which leads to increased primary productivity (increased growth of plants, including phytoplankton), and thus increased food availability to promote growth of all commercially important marine living resources. Thus nutrient-enrichment can be viewed in a positive light with regard to marine living resources, but the resulting changes in trophic status result in some native species being favoured over others and the ensuing ecological imbalance allows opportunistic non-native species to become established and in extreme cases to dominate whole trophic levels.
- **Habitat Destruction.** These changes also result in a reduced area of seabed occupied by key macroalgal (seaweed) species – taxa which provide critical nursery areas for many fish species. For example, the *Phyllophora* field on the Northwest Shelf sustains more than 40 fish species. In the last 30 years, its area has decreased more than 20 times.
- **Invasive species.** The discharge of untreated ballast waters, and along with it, the introduction of alien species, about one quarter of which is regarded as either moderately or highly invasive has historically caused tremendous changes to commercial marine living resources. A jellyfish-like species (*Mnemiopsis leidyi*), which was accidentally introduced in 1982 from North Atlantic in the ballast water of a ship, invaded the Black Sea, contributing later to the collapse of fishery (its diet includes fish larvae and eggs). It is estimated that the comb jelly reduced the profits available in the

Black Sea anchovy fishery from over \$17 million per year to under \$300,000 per year (a decline of 98%).

- **Hazardous Substance pollution** acts through a host of biochemical pathways, with many pollutants being accumulated up through the food chain to levels which are orders of magnitude higher than those found in the marine environment itself. When accumulated to such levels they depress the growth rate and health of marine biota (especially fauna), can alter the ability of some species to reproduce, and at high concentrations can ultimately result in localised extinctions of some species or more general localised mass mortalities in the event of toxic spills/illegal dumping. The recognised sources of these chemicals include: diffuse pollution from pesticides, ground/soil water discharges (containing elevated levels of pesticides) to surface waters, discharge of untreated industrial effluents, oil spills and dumping/discharge of wastes.
- **Overfishing/By-Catch.** Intense and unregulated fishing pressure (including illegal fishing) in the 1960s-1970s led to severe overexploitation of most of the LME's major fish stocks. This has been exacerbated by destructive fishing practices such as catching of under-sized fish. Of important value is the turbot fishery, where overfishing has brought the stocks to an unsustainable historical low. In this fishery, performed by gillnet fleets, the by-catch of cetaceans create a major problem threatening the biodiversity of the ecosystem. The problem of perceived over-fishing deserves special attention, since this has been a particularly important cause of major changes in commercial marine living resources in the past. The total catch is once again showing an increasing trend, but this still only about half of the level caught in the 1980s. However, selective fishing for rare and high value species, such as dogfish, turbot, etc. is undoubtedly damaging/preventing the recovery of these species, as are by-catches of these species when other species are targeted. Under-reporting of actual catches is also likely to be problem, due to high taxes (in some countries) and the fact that fish markets are unevenly distributed along the coast. Since fisheries data collection systems are not effective and cannot provide the information for robust fisheries management. There is a need for more institutional strengthening and targeted capacity-building to ensure that fisheries management plans are effectively institutionalized. This may also require reform or adaptation of existing measures to combat illegal fishing, since this is one of the key issues that may undermine effective management.
- **Fishing fleet over-capacity** is a continuing problem in the Black Sea, though the fleet size has declined in line with a reduction in fish stocks. The trend is therefore a problem, since if fishing vessel operators can only make a meagre income, the tendency is for them to spend longer and longer at sea, resulting in unsustainably higher catches. Despite bottom trawling being prohibited in most areas, and fishing for the largest fish resource – the anchovy, mainly conducted by purse seiners (which allegedly does not create bottom impact), some pelagic trawlers use quite heavy ground gear, which indicate frequent contact with the sea floor. Also ghost fishing by lost gillnets from the large turbot fleets, has raised considerable concern in terms of unaccounted fish mortality and threats to marine biodiversity. There are also large differences in the economic and technical structure of the fleets exploiting the fishery resources of the Black Sea among the countries, though small-scale fisheries form the majority, as well as in the development of aquaculture. This makes regional cooperation a more demanding exercise.

## Barriers

The main barriers to addressing the causes of the environmental problems impacting the Black Sea include:

1. **Lack of national capacity on EBM, MSP and Coastal management** with insufficient capacity to support monitoring of biodiversity, both in terms of protected areas and threats via alien invasive species. Capacity for the monitoring of biodiversity ranges from good to poor throughout the region. Facilities and infrastructure can sometimes be poor and human capital while mostly skilled, can often be lacking. Capacity for biodiversity monitoring is particularly low in Ukraine, which has significantly degraded administrative and technical services capable of marine research and conservation. A threat for the biodiversity of the Black Sea Northwest region has emerged due to the Ukraine's inability to perform sufficient monitoring and protection activities.
2. **Insufficient regional guidance and ecosystem information to inform EBM and MPA management including:**
  - **Poor coordinating mechanisms to address governance, policy development and knowledge sharing** for environmental concerns. Stakeholder appreciation of the practical

implications of ecosystem-based management is somewhat lacking in the region. Stakeholders in this case include both Governments and also the community-level. This can affect the will to implement in practice any measures developed or improve the enforceability of new laws. The Black Sea countries have different socio-economic and political structures, and they participate in diverse regional and international organizations and instruments.

- **Fragmented information and data sharing networks for oceanographic and environmental monitoring.** The overall extent of environmental impact of fishing activities and gear, and of aquaculture development activities is not well known.
3. **Inadequate regional co-ordination between national and regional interventions in the Black Sea basin.** Over the last 30 years there have been multiple nationally and internationally (e.g. EU, GEF, etc.) funded programmes to address the historic problems impacting the Black Sea region, with attempts made to improve the information and knowledge sharing of the results of the projects (e.g. DABLAS - Danube and Black Sea Task Force), but there is a need for further co-ordination and information sharing capabilities to ensure the lessons and experiences delivered are made available to a wide range of national and regional stakeholders.

COVID-19, and the restrictions imposed in the countries in the Black Sea Region, will add to the barriers in the significant short to medium term. There will be a necessity to develop and implement measures that respect national restrictions and adopt more social-distance means of holding meetings and participating in training sessions. These approaches, which are being adopted world-wide, will need to be agreed in the inception phase of the proposed project.

## **II.1a.2 Baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects,**

### **Introduction**

International programmes have been working in the Black Sea Region for 30 years. The current project builds on a historic legacy of achievements and information provided by national actions, the ratification of the Bucharest Convention, the establishment of the Black Sea Commission, international and international donors and partners (e.g. GEF, EU, etc.). Summarised below are the key elements that the project will build upon together with the current/planned national and regional enabling initiatives in the Black Sea region.

### **The Black Sea Convention**

The Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution (the Bucharest Convention) was signed in 1992 and ratified in 1994. The basic objective of the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution or so called Bucharest Convention is: *“to substantiate the general obligation of the Contracting Parties to prevent, reduce and control the pollution in the Black Sea in order to protect and preserve the marine environment and to provide legal framework for co-operation and concerted actions to fulfil this obligation”*.

Established to implement the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution, the Commission (BSC) acts to:

1. Promote the implementation of the Convention and inform the Contracting Parties of its work,
2. Make recommendations on measures necessary for achieving the aims of the Convention,
3. Consider questions relating to the implementation of the Convention and recommend such amendments to the Convention and to the Protocols as may be required, including amendments to Annexes of this Convention and the Protocols,
4. Elaborate criteria pertaining to the prevention, reduction and control of pollution of the marine environment of the Black Sea and to the elimination of the effects of pollution, as well as recommendations on measures to this effect,
5. Promote the adoption by the Contracting Parties of additional measures needed to protect the marine environment of the Black Sea, and to that end receive, process and disseminate to the Contracting Parties relevant scientific, technical and statistical information and promote scientific and technical research;
6. Cooperate with competent international organizations, especially with a view to developing appropriate programs or obtaining assistance in order to achieve the purposes of the Convention.

Together with Bucharest Convention the four thematic Protocols were signed:



1. Protocol on the Protection of the Black Sea Marine Environment Against Pollution from the Land Based Sources (LBS Protocol);
2. Protocol on the Protection of the Black Sea Marine Environment Against Pollution by Dumping (Dumping Protocol);
3. Protocol on Cooperation in Combating Pollution of the Black Sea Marine Environment by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Emergency Situations (Emergency Protocol);
4. The Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol (CBD Protocol) (BSC,2014).

The Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission (BSC PS) was established in 2000 to assist the Black Sea Commission on implementation of provisions of the Convention and the Black Sea Strategic Action Plan (BS SAP). The areas of concern of the Black Sea Commission are, inter alia, to monitor and assess pollution, control pollution from land-based sources, ensure conservation of biological diversity, address environmental safety aspects of shipping, address environmental aspects of management of fisheries and other marine living resources and promote integrated coastal zone management and maritime policy.

The BSC PS coordinates activities of six Advisory Groups to the Black Sea Commission, which are its main source of expertise, information and support. There are six Advisory Groups to the Black Sea Commission on:

- Pollution Monitoring and Assessment;
- Control of Pollution from Land Based Sources;
- Conservation of Biological Diversity;
- Environmental Aspects of the Management of Fisheries and other Marine Living Resources;
- Environmental Safety Aspects of Shipping;
- Development of Common Methodologies for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).

### **European Union Marine Strategy Framework Directive.**

Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive). This Directive enshrines in a legislative framework the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities having an impact on the marine environment, integrating the concepts of environmental protection and sustainable use. The Marine Strategy Framework Directive *aims to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) of the EU's marine waters by 2020* and to protect the resource base upon which marine-related economic and social activities depend. It is the first EU legislative instrument related to the protection of marine biodiversity, as it contains the explicit regulatory objective that "biodiversity is maintained by 2020", as the cornerstone for achieving GES. The Marine Directive complements the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC, the Habitat and Wild Birds Directives in coastal waters and introduces new approaches to research and protection of marine environment

The **General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)** consists of 23 Member countries along with the European Union, the GFCM's objectives are to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living marine resources, as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean, Black Sea and connecting waters. Membership is open to both Mediterranean coastal states and regional economic organizations as well as to United Nations member states whose vessels engage in fishing in Mediterranean waters.

**Black Sea Economic Commission (BSEC).** The Black Sea Economic Cooperation came into existence as a unique and promising model of multilateral political and economic initiative with the signing of the Istanbul Summit Declaration and the Bosphorus Statement by the Heads of State and Government of the countries in the region, on 25 June 1992. With the entry into force of its Charter on 1 May 1999, BSEC acquired international legal identity and was transformed into a full-fledged regional economic organization - the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation. The BSEC is expected to be the Executing Agency for the recently approved GEF/World Bank project (Blueing the Black Sea – see below).

**Burgas Vision Paper:** A Blue Growth Initiative for Research and Innovation in the Black Sea declared that 'in cooperation with marine experts from leading European marine institutes and organisations, and with the

support of the European Commission, aim to advance a shared vision for a productive, healthy, resilient, sustainable and better valued Black Sea by 2030'. We believe that through our work we will help to deeper connect Black Sea societies through a bridge of new knowledge, technologies and services. We aim to foster human and infrastructures capacity building in coastal, marine and maritime sectors in view of unlocking unique opportunities for a sustainable and environmentally friendly blue growth in the Black Sea.

#### **Previous Projects contributing to baseline understanding**

The project builds on 30 years of work to address the problems facing from the environmental problems impacting the blue economy activities in the Black Sea. The Black Sea countries have been involved in a range of key activities completed in the last 10 years include:

- **EU-FP7 project - PERSEUS** (2012 -2015) and on-going bilateral initiatives among the Black Sea littoral states on joint stock assessment will form the basis for development of a broader and more coordinated regional cooperation under the project. Its purpose is to build and demonstrate an EU maritime surveillance system integrating existing national and communitarian installations and enhancing them with innovative technologies. PERSEUS is therefore a key project in delivering comprehensive maritime surveillance from coastal regions to high seas through a collaboration across Member States. The project's proposed work on joint stock assessments will leverage in part the work of PERSEUS.
- **Southern European Seas: Assessing and Modelling Ecosystem Changes -SESAME (2006 - 2011)** was an EC project designed to assess changes in the South European Seas ecosystems over the last 50 years, and to assess the current status of the SES ecosystems through analysis of existing and newly collected data at basin scale and through model simulations. SESAME aimed to predict changes in the SES ecosystems, using existing and new observations at a regional and basin scale, in order to construct scenarios of the ecosystem responses to likely changes in climate and anthropogenic forcing during the next five decades. SESAME will identify the ecosystem functions (observed and predictable from model simulations) pertinent to these goods and services as well as their changes during the last decades.
- **Options for Delivering Ecosystem-Based Management (ODEMM) project**, (2010 - 2014) coordinated by the University of Liverpool, aims to develop a set of fully-costed ecosystem management options that would deliver the objectives of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Habitats Directive, the European Commission Blue Book and the Guidelines for the Integrated Approach to Maritime Policy. The key objective is to produce scientifically based operational procedures that allow for a step by step transition from the current fragmented system to fully integrated management. It is expected to contribute to the project by supporting coastal states to incorporate ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries. The project will also take advantage of certain socio-economic investigations conceived in the ODEMM project undertaken in relation to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive in Bulgaria and Romania.
- **EU- Towards Integrated Marine Research Strategy and Programmes (SEAS-ERA) project** (2010 - 2014) aimed at embracing marine and maritime research in its entirety, overarching the previous initiatives which only targeted a given area or basin and, therefore constituting a stable and durable structure for empowering and strengthening marine research all across Europe. The SEAS-ERA initiative had an impact in terms of a coherent trans-national strategy to ensure excellence in European marine research, with enhanced added value and cost-effectiveness.
- **Guiding Improvements in the Black Sea Integrated Monitoring System (MISIS) project** (2012 - 2014) is to support efforts to protect and restore the environmental quality and sustainability of the Black Sea. The project also seeks to improve availability and quality of chemical and biological data, to provide for integrated assessments of the Black Sea state of environment, including pressures and impacts, to increase number and size of protected areas in the Black Sea as well as to increase their degree of protection and to enhance stakeholders participation and public awareness on environmental issues. This project will take advantage of MISIS recommendations on capacity building.
- Additional completed projects include:
  - FP6 Upgrade BS-SCENE (Upgrade Black Sea Scientific Network), in 2008-2011,

- FP7 CREAM (Coordinated Research in support to application of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and management advice in the Mediterranean and Black Seas in 2011-2013,
- EMODNet (European Marine Observation and Data Network) having different components of interest to the Black Sea scientific community (chemistry, physics, biology, etc.) from 2008 and ongoing still,
- FP7 PEGASO (People for Ecosystem Based Governance in Assessing Sustainable Development of Ocean and Coast) in 2010-2013),
- FP7 CoCoNET (Towards Coast to Coast NETwork of marine protected areas (from the shore to high and deep sea), coupled with sea-based wind energy potential) in 2012-2015,
- DG-ENV IRIS-SES (Integrated Regional monitoring Implementation Strategy in the South-European Seas) in 2013-2015

### Current Regional projects planned/underway

- **BS-CBC ANEMONE** (Assessing the vulnerability of the Black Sea marine ecosystem to human pressures) in 2018-2021,
- **H2020 COASTAL (Collaborative and sea integration platform)** in 2018-2022, just an example of continuous marine research and monitoring, training activities and scientific conferences organisation, that may contribute to the implementation of BSIMAP, although no national funds are directly involved.
- **Improving Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea (EMBLAS)** (2013 - 2020) is an EU-UNDP regional initiative for Georgia, Russia and Ukraine, which helps strengthen the capacities of the three countries for biological and chemical monitoring of water quality in the Black Sea. The project improved availability and quality of data on the chemical and biological status of the Black Sea in line with the European Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and Black Sea Strategic Action Plan needs. It enhances partner countries' ability to perform marine environmental monitoring along MSFD principles, taking into account abovementioned Black Sea Diagnostic Report. This project will leverage EMBLAS work on data collection and monitoring as well as recommendations on specific capacity-building. The Black Sea SoE report (2009 - 2015) was prepared with financial support from the EU/UNDP EMBLAS Project.
- **UNDP**, with EU support, is planning a follow-on project to EMBLAS anticipating funding of 2.2 M USD from the EU with an additional 105 k USD from USD as co-financing. The overall objective of the project is to help improve protection of the Black Sea environment. This objective will be pursued through further technical assistance focused establishing modern systems and facilities for environmental monitoring with primary focus on Georgia and Ukraine, capacity building, assessment of environmental status in line with EU MSFD/WFD and public awareness raising on the Black Sea environmental issues. The key involved actors are research / scientific and educational institutions involved in the Black Sea monitoring.
- **The EU has launched a call for 'Strategic Research and Innovation action' (SRIA)** proposals 'Towards a productive, healthy, resilient, sustainable and highly-valued Black Sea' (2019). This call responds to a vision paper that identifies a series of challenges for the Black Sea basin, which are driven by a range of human-induced and natural drivers, such as pollution, maritime transport, eutrophication, climate change, and coastal hazards. The abundance of gas hydrates is a particular asset of the Black Sea that represents both opportunities and risks. Fish stocks and species diversity are under severe stress, common surveys and monitoring can provide a base for better assessment, management and prevention. The area's marine heritage and its ecosystem services are also at risk. Black Sea societies can be more deeply connected through a bridge of knowledge, technologies, services and innovations. The EU is committed to supporting the development of solutions to solve these issues. This work will support several policies and international agreements such as the EU Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP), the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the EU Neighbourhood Policy, and the Bucharest Convention. Projects will initiated in the Black Sea region that will further support this proposed GEF project further strengthen marine management and Blue Economy actions in the countries.
  - **The H2020 Black Sea CONNECT CSA project** (2019 – 2023) aims to carry out the development of the Black Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda and

implementation plan both at national and regional level. Fourteen organizations from nine countries are involved in the project; the Black Sea coastal countries, namely the Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey, Ukraine as well as Republic of Moldova and European Union countries Germany and France. The overall objective of the Black Sea CONNECT is to coordinate the development of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), based on the defined principles in the Burgas Vision Paper and support the development of the Blue Growth in the Black Sea. The SRIA and its Implementation Plan will guide stakeholders from academia, funding agencies, industry, policy and society to address together the fundamental Black Sea challenges, to promote blue growth and economic prosperity of the Black Sea region, to build critical support systems and innovative research infrastructure and to improve education and capacity building.

- The recently approved **GEF/World Banks project, ‘Blueing the Black Sea’**, is designed to incentivize public and private investments for pollution reduction in target countries. The long-term objective of the project would be to improve environmental health of the Black Sea and increase social and economic benefits for the population. This will be achieved by promoting Blue Economy approaches to help address pollution (sewage, oil, toxic substances, etc.) and their economic impacts under changing climate conditions.
- Also recently approved is **the GEF/FAO project, ‘Fisheries and Ecosystem Based Management for the Black Sea’** with the objective to reverse the overexploitation of select commercial living marine resources by enhancing the capacity of Black Sea countries to manage fisheries, including through the application of ecosystem-based management tools. This will be achieved through capacity development, enhancing monitoring and surveillance of IUU fishing and further application of specific EBM tools.

This proposed UNDP project will enhance regional and national management of MCPAs and will support the co-ordination of the three GEF projects to deliver a comprehensive support to the region to address the many environmental and related socio-economic consequences of the historic pollution and over exploitation of natural resources. The co-ordination provided by the UNDP project will ensure synergies and lack of duplication between plan activities on Blue Economy (with GEF/World Bank) and EBM (with GEF/FAO). During the project formulation, the three GEF Agencies (FAO, World Bank and UNDP) held extensive discussions held on the current GEF initiatives on the Black Sea to ensure close co-ordination and complementarity.

#### **Black Sea Commission on-going activities**

The **Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Black Sea Commission or BSC)** and its Permanent Secretariat (BSC PS) implement the provisions of the Bucharest Convention and the Strategic Action Plan for the Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea. All the Black Sea countries are Parties to the Bucharest Convention, which provides a framework for cooperation between them as well as four legally binding Protocols: on Land-Based Sources of Pollution, Emergency Responses, Conservation of Biodiversity and Dumping at Sea, implemented through national legislation. While the Bucharest Convention itself however does stipulate any environmental targets or regulatory mechanisms for exploitation or development of marine natural resources, the Commission officially addresses the following policy areas:

- **Pollution reduction from land-based sources and rivers**, vessels; regulatory and legal tools
- **Conservation of biological diversity**, expansion of protected areas, promotion of responsible fisheries
- **Introduction of ICZM**, promotion of EIA environmental audit, ecologically sound technologies, public involvement in environmental decision making, green tourism and sustainable livelihood

BSC PS will facilitate the exchange of relevant information and knowledge through its respective networks, may also become member of project’ Advisory Board and act as end-user of the deliverables produced. Jointly the following documents could be elaborated:

- assistance in drafting the recommendations for next BS SAP, *inter alia*, to introduce Blue Growth as a concept;
- Implementation and reporting on BSIMAP 2017-2022 and assistance in drafting the recommendations to next BSIMAP 2023-2028;
- Implementation of Annex 9 of BSIMAP (“Priority thematic studies to be implemented in 2017-2022. Subjects for international and national research projects”);
- Updates to Annual reporting templates;
- Drafting the new Black Sea State of Environment (BS SoE for 2015-2020);
- Populating with data the Black Sea Information System (BSIS);
- Implementation and reporting on the Black Sea Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter;
- Implementation and reporting on the Black Sea ICZM Guidelines;
- Joint guidelines, manuals, publications etc.;
- Activities undertaken by BSC that will support this project include:
  - Back-to-back meetings (Advisory Groups meetings, thematic meetings) etc.;
  - Support to Regional Activity Centers (RACs);
  - Public awareness campaigns;
  - Mass media and social networking etc.

**IOC/UNESCO** will provide support to the project through its Marine Policy and Regional Coordination section, and in particular dedicated programme on Integrated Coastal Area Management. This inter-governmentally endorsed programme aims to:

- Develop and promote the use of science-based management tools such as Integrated Coastal Area Management, Marine Spatial Planning, Ecosystem-Based Management, and the Large Marine Ecosystem Approach;
- Develop Member States’ capacity in the application of ecosystem-based management tools; and
- Support the delivery of scientifically-founded information for the development of the sustainable ocean economy;
- Promote the integration of climate change adaptation and coastal hazards preparedness through the use of area- based management approaches.

The work of IOC/UNESCO in the field of Marine Spatial Planning will support the project through the cooperation framework established under the Joint Roadmap to accelerate Maritime/Marine Spatial Planning processes worldwide<sup>7</sup>, endorsed by IOC and the European Commission (DG Mare). As a result of this fruitful partnership and funding from the EC, the International MSP Forum<sup>8</sup> and the MSPglobal<sup>9</sup> Initiative were established in 2018. MSPglobal addresses the following priority actions of the MSP Roadmap: 1) Transboundary MSP; 2) Sustainable Blue Economy; 3) Ecosystem-based MSP; and 4) Capacity building.

Other IOC activities/programmes relevant to the implementation to the project include:

- Ocean Science Section work programme coordinating and catalyzing research on ocean acidification, de-oxygenation, biogeochemistry, and contaminants, identifying ecosystem indicators and tipping points and the impacts of multiple stressors on marine biodiversity and ecosystem functioning;
- The Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) aimed at improving and augmenting sustained global and regional observations of essential biological, biogeochemical, and ecosystem variables as part of GOOS to support management;
- The International Ocean Data Exchange programme, providing a global network of data and information centres including OBIS, with an emphasis on the development of data and information products and services contributing to the continuous monitoring of identified indicators of ecosystem state;

<sup>7</sup> [Joint Roadmap to accelerate Maritime/Marine Spatial Planning processes worldwide](#)

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.mspglobal2030.org/msp-forum/>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.mspglobal2030.org/msp-global/>

- Projects focused on capacity development and transfer of marine technology such the Global Ocean Teacher Academy (2020-2024), and Ocean InfoHub, both funded by the Government of Flanders/Belgium.

### **II.1a.3 Proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project;**

#### **Introduction**

The formulation of this GEF project has been guided by discussions within the BSC meetings at multiple levels over several years as indicated in section 2 (below).

#### **Background**

The importance of conservation and the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources in the Black Sea is crucial to enhance a sustainable development of the sea basin and encouraged provision of assistance to countries in creating adequate coastal and marine governance frameworks, hence by implementing the ecosystem-based approach principles. The intensification of coastal and maritime activities in the Black Sea requires an integrated planning, effective decision-making and additional efforts at the regional scale, including transboundary coordination to achieve sustainability and improved management. Additionally, the large marine ecosystem is facing increasingly significant stress from climate change, habitat destruction and overexploitation; thus, the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem resilience threatens to undermine the economic activities that rely upon these resources.

Traditional maritime activities such as local fishing and tourism are increasingly in conflict with new activities such as aquaculture, the development of maritime energy initiatives or the expansion of maritime transportation's logistics and services among others. Marine Spatial Planning<sup>10</sup> (MSP) is playing a key role in supporting the development of sectors that have a high potential for sustaining jobs and economic growth linked with maritime activities, the blue growth and the blue economy<sup>11</sup>. Sustainable and integrated blue economy also requires greater knowledge about living resources, analyzing the value of these ecosystems for the regional economy and improving stakeholder and citizen access to marine data and information.

At the **national level**, the project will identify conflicts and compatibilities amongst human uses and in between human uses and the environment to as part of the preplanning process of marine spatial planning in each beneficiary country. In parallel, national analysis will identify the status and potential of maritime activities to define a national strategy on sustainable blue economy and the opportunity to be implemented at the regional scale attending to optional scenarios. In the context of biodiversity protection and conservation, the project will continue the work on habitats classification and mapping to facilitate the designation of MPAs sites (and will include already designated Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas - EBSA - sites and adopted by the Convention on Biodiversity) in the region, pursue development or related pilot projects and the need for regionally agreed methodological guidelines for identification, designation and management of MPAs. These efforts may facilitate the designation of national and transboundary (building on the work undertaken by the MISIS Project on the Bulgaria - Turkey transboundary MPA Igneada-Rezovo) MPAs to promote ecologically functional and interconnected ecosystems in the Black Sea.

This project will also support beneficiary countries to reduce specific threats to bioresources and ecosystems from invasive species, in line with the existing regional guidelines and policy actions on the conservation of the Black Sea Biodiversity and Habitats, in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization. The Glofouling Initiative led by GEF-UNDP-IMO facilitates the harmonization of practices in biodiversity assessments and provides information on the environmental threats and socio-economic impacts of invasive species may have to priority maritime activities putting in risk marine spatial plans and sustainable blue economy strategies.

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<sup>10</sup> Marine Spatial Planning is considered as a public analysis and allocation process for the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic and social objectives that have usually been specified through a political process bringing together the different users of the ocean in order to address multiple objectives and make coordinated decisions.

<sup>11</sup> Blue economy considers all maritime activities that are marine-based or marine-related

This project will strengthen institutional capacities in beneficiary countries to define the best mechanisms to implement ecosystem-based management solutions in the region.

At the **regional level**, the project will update inventories and maps of important biological and ecological areas and current human activities to develop cumulative impact mapping in support of decision making for the adoption of regional guidelines on marine protected areas and marine spatial planning. Working groups and networks of marine protected area managers and national competent authorities on marine spatial planning will be created to define principles, goals and objectives of the proposed planning exercises.

The conservation aspects and the sustainable blue economy actions became an opportunity to help beneficiary countries to integrate the regional environmental policies and strategies into their national legal frameworks and cope with Black Sea transboundary environment problems. The Black Sea Biodiversity Protocol (BCBLP) can be fundamental for the national plans or programmes for the conservation of biological and landscape diversity and for the sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources in each contracting party to the Bucharest Convention.

The project will update the key findings of the 2007 TDA (e.g. transboundary problems, causal chain analysis, climate change impacts, economic valuation of ecosystems etc.) through the recent SoE report to enable the update of the Black Sea SAP to guide the next ten years of SAP implementation. Through the development of national and regional plans/strategies in components 1 and 2, the project will support further development and elaboration of National Action Plans (NAPs) in-line with the SAP updates.

Discussions revealed a strong need to strengthen the scientific knowledge base as the solutions to improve understanding and common knowledge base on marine living resources in the region, and availability of good quality data. This project will provide expertise and recommendations for updating the BS SAP 2009 and elaboration of next Black Sea State of Environment Report (SoE) 2015-2020, improve the understanding and the common knowledge base on marine living resources in the regions with direct data inputs and information to the Black Sea Information System and the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (BSIMAP 2017-2022) to support the sustainable use of commercial fish stocks and other marine living resources through planning and strategic actions. The work of the GFCM and the GEF/FAO fisheries project will also benefit from the availability of updated regional information. This work on BSIS will also directly support the EBM objectives of the GEF/FAO fisheries project under preparation through the UNDP's project strengthening of planning tools (MCPA/MPA and the use of MSP). Where appropriate, the project will investigate previous GEF projects that have developed tools (models, knowledge products etc.) to assist policy makers and planners to strengthen the governance of coastal ecosystems (e.g. GEF ID 4690).

During the development of the detailed Project Document, other regional initiatives (including the EU Green Deal) will be investigated to examine synergies and reduce any potential duplication on actions related to the SAP update for subsequent implementation. For example, Ukraine has committed to join the EU Green Deal and this high-level political commitment will strengthen the overall objective of this project in the Black Sea region and demonstrate strong country ownership of the approaches promoted.

The green agenda is being considered by Ukraine and Georgia largely through their interest in the EU Green Deal, publicly availed in December 2019. Mainstreaming of these issues in the project countries is being ensured through the current update of the EU association agreements (started in February 2021), and the Eastern Partnership (stated in June 2020, to be planned in details in the upcoming summit in spring 2021). Ukraine announced aligning its commitment to join the EU Green Deal in January 2020. Such strong political commitments strengthen the project aim and objectives; moreover, authorities' interest in this topic (other than environment and water ones) is highly relevant and important, as it contributes to ensuring an even stronger country ownership of the Project results.

The European Green Deal, as a new growth strategy for the EU, is an ambitious plan to become climate neutral by 2050 and make EU's economy sustainable and turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities, as well as making the transition just and inclusive for all. With the EU Green Deal, the EU is establishing a model for how to upgrade the quality of infrastructure, products, and standards in climate neutral way and setting an example for all countries in the world, including Georgia.

Since the main goal of the Green Deal is a carbon-neutral Europe by 2050, it will therefore have the greatest impact on national environmental and climate change policies in Eastern European countries, including in Georgia. It will also affect the strategies of the industrial sector – envisaging the transition to a circular economy, the elimination of pollution, and the efficient use of natural resources.

Being an EaP country, the Green Deal is particularly important for Georgia to align its greenhouse gas emission goals with EU requirements. Georgia has number of commitments and obligations towards fulfillment of several international and EU agreements such as, EU Association Agenda, Energy Community membership, Paris Agreement /NDCs. Georgia strives to ensure harmonization with the EU directives in a wide variety of areas, including in the climate and environment protection, energy, waste and other sectors.

Georgia receives significant technical assistance from EU, and in some areas from UNDP, on its way to reach all of the above requirements and meet NDC declared targets, improve climate policies to enable low-emission and resilient development. EU-funded projects are aimed at supporting main goals and principles of the Green Deal in Georgia, focusing on modernisation of the Georgian environment and climate sectors. These will help accelerate reforms and invest in sustainable infrastructure which will better protect the environment and improve the quality of life and health of Georgian citizens.

In the meantime, Georgia has adopted new Laws that would support application of its commitments, especially in environmental and energy sectors. For example, the Law on Biodiversity, the Law on Environmental Responsibility, Law on Energy Efficiency, reports on air quality aspects, and management and monitoring plans for the protected areas. Georgia also continues working on a climate change adaptation plan, energy and climate plan, climate action plan and a long-term low-emissions development strategy. These processes will assist Georgia in analyzing its readiness to progress towards EU Green Deal.

The effects of COVID-19 will further encourage all countries to establish a similar programme to assist all sectors to promote green recovery plans.

These actions will facilitate the valuation of ecosystem services in the region and more importantly, the inclusion of ecosystem valuation studies as an integral part in decision models for specific marine management decisions at the national scale, especially those linked with the implementation of the integrated coastal zone management principles and implementation of ICZM Guidelines in the Black Sea, marine spatial planning and sustainable blue economy.

The project has been designed to facilitate the **co-ordination** of the current GEF projects led by FAO and the World Bank in the Black Sea region to ensure that these three initiatives collectively deliver actions that strengthen the regional livelihoods through sustainably utilisation of the blue economy resources for the population while ensuring enhanced ecosystem protection of the living resources. When and where necessary, the project will utilise appropriate covid-19 lessons and experiences to enable co-ordination, technical exchanges and capacity development to continue with relevant social distancing and travel restrictions.

The project will be executed by UNESCO IOC – Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the leader in marine global agenda. UNESCO IOC has several decades of successful work in the Black Sea supporting the countries on different aspects of marine management data centers support and executing several international projects in the region.

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC/UNESCO) is the only intergovernmental organization with a core mandate in marine science. It serves as liaison within the UN system between the marine scientific community and the governments of its 150 Member States. More specifically, through international cooperation, IOC aspires to help its Member States to collectively achieve the following high-level objectives, with particular attention to ensuring that all Member States have the capacity to meet them:

- Healthy ocean ecosystems and sustained ecosystem services;
- Effective early warning systems and preparedness for tsunamis and other ocean-related hazards;
- Increased resiliency to climate change and variability and enhanced safety, efficiency and effectiveness of all ocean-based activities through scientifically-founded services, adaptation and mitigation strategies;
- Enhanced knowledge of emerging ocean science issues.



Since the early nineties the IOC has promoted the Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) approach both from a conceptual and scientific point of view as well as on the ground by contributing to the formulation of GEF international waters LME projects in various regions, and the development of a wide network of LME experts. The GEF-supported LME approach provides tools for enabling ecosystem-based management and a collaborative approach to management of marine resources within ecologically bounded transnational areas. The approach serves as the scientific and management basis for the funding of dozens of GEF-funded marine and coastal projects.

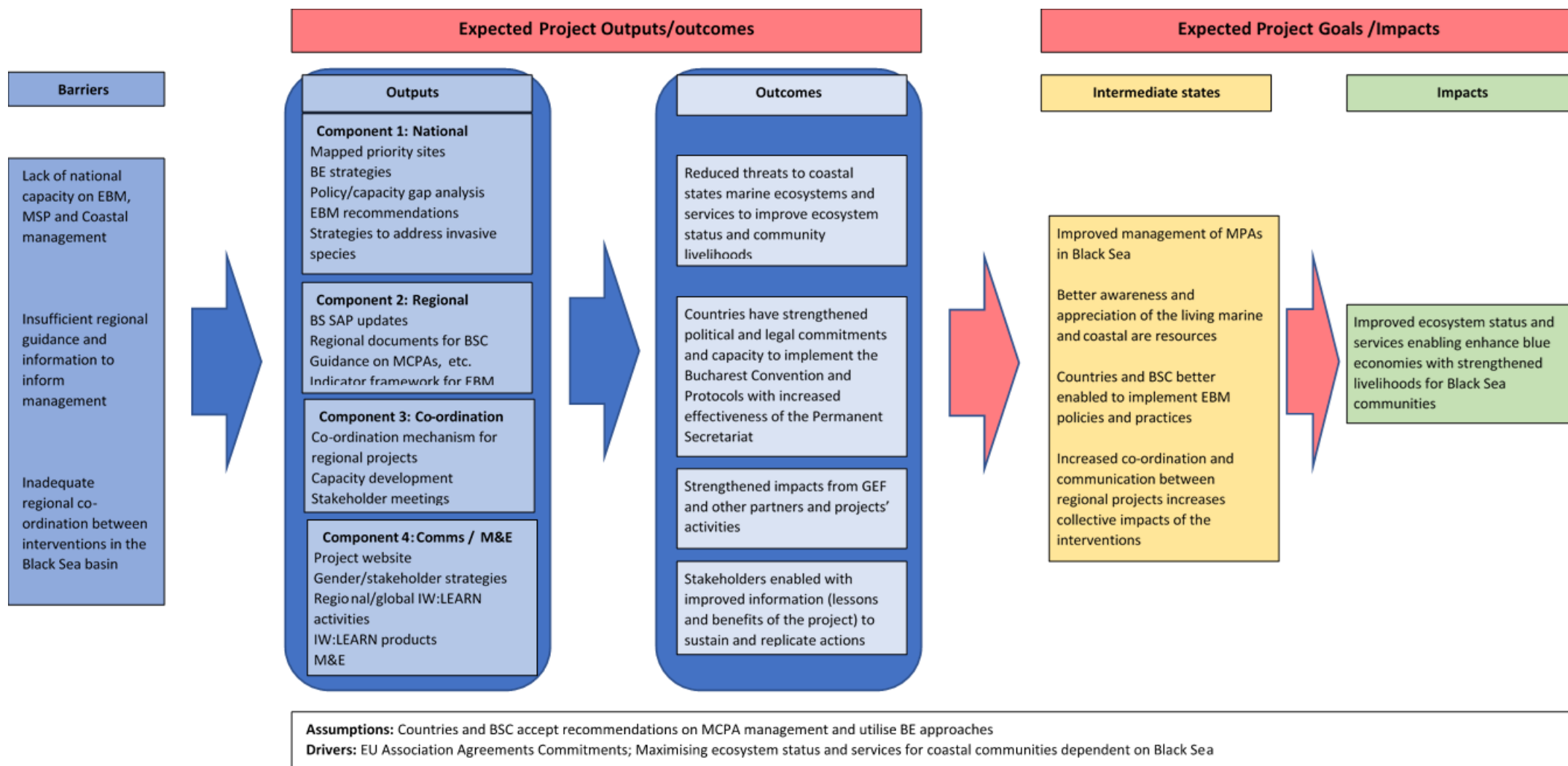
The IOC has served ably and successfully as executing agency for two large GEF international Waters projects, namely the UNDP-GEF “Strengthening Global Governance of Large Marine Ecosystems and Their Coasts through Enhanced Sharing and Application of LME/ICM/MPA Knowledge and Information Tools : LME:LEARN (GEFID: 4481), including its PPG phase, as well as the UNDP&UNEP-GEF International Waters: Learning Exchange and Resource Network (GEF IW:LEARN) (GEFID: 5337). IOC is the designated executing agency for the pending project UNDP&UNEP “GEF IW:LEARN 5: Supporting Portfolio Coordination Within and Beyond the International Waters Focal Area, particularly in Small Island Developing States, Through Knowledge Sharing, Information Management, Partnership Building and Programmatic Guidance Services” (GEFID: 6438). IOC has also led the Open Ocean and LME components of the UNEP GEF “Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme” project (GEFID: 4489). Finally, IOC is executing the PPG phase of the child project UNDP (Lead Agency: FAO)-GEF “Strengthening the stewardship of an economically and biologically significant high seas area – the Sargasso Sea” (GEFID: 10548).

Sustainability of project results will be ensured through the support of the BSC Secretary Activities Centers in the Black Sea countries that are within the national and regional frameworks and activities, The BSC Secretary will be actively involved in the project implementation, support will be directly provided to the work of the BSC Secretary and effectiveness assured.

The project will be focussed on three countries of the Black Sea, but other countries (Bulgaria, Romania and Russian Federation) will be invited to participate (at their own cost) in all activities.

A simplified Theory of Change (ToC) is shown below for this project intervention in the Black Sea.

**Figure 2: Simplified Theory of Change**



## Component 1: Ecosystem Based Management of coastal and marine habitats

Component 1 will build on the work undertaken by the countries to establish MPAs and will strengthen the capacity to apply EBM approaches. This component will focus on specific national actions that will strengthen ecosystem protection whilst encouraging the development of targeted blue economy strategies with national authorities and relevant private sector organisations (in co-ordination with the approved GEF World Bank and FAO projects focused on the Black Sea).

Component 1 will deliver **Outcome 1.1: *Reduced threats to coastal states marine ecosystems and services to improve ecosystem status and community livelihoods***

Component 1 will achieve this outcome through the completion of the following outputs.

- **Output 1.1.1: Priority ecosystems sites and pressures mapped to guide MSPs and to analyse gaps for MCPAs on priority habitat protection.**

This output will undertake specific and targeted actions to update information (including maps) on priority Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to facilitate the preparation of national marine Spatial Plans (MSPs) to ensure this information is made accessible for public and other stakeholders. This work, undertaken at the national level will support Component 2 (output 2.1.1) on the update of the 2009 endorsed Black Sea SAP. This output will also provide a rapid assessment (building on existing national assessments where available) on the gaps in institutions, policies and methodologies. Information from this output will also guide regional recommendations on best practices on Marine and Coastal Protected Area (MCPA) management towards priority habitat protection.

The activities undertaken in this output will include:

- Identification of gaps in EBM policies and proposals to address them?
- Habitat mapping and classification;
- Revision and adoption the regional guideline on MPAs;
- Development and adoption of MSP Plans;
- Creation of a Network of Marine Protected Area Managers;
- Identifications of organisations/ministries with responsibilities potentially impacting MCPAs;
- Identification of any overlaps on responsibilities and recommendations to reduce overlaps and gaps;
- Documenting national approaches for management and monitoring of MCPA;
- Preparing best practices and related recommendations for inclusion in regional guidance on MCPA (Component 2, Output 2.1.2).

- **Output 1.1.2: Agreed national Blue Economy Strategies available to guide EBM policy reforms**

The project will support the development of **national** Blue Economy Strategies, consistent with the ecosystem objectives of the established coastal management and MPAs established. The strategies will support national activities to undertake economic evaluations to be considered in the development of revised policies. Assessments will be undertaken in each country to assess approaches to EBM with respect to policies, responsible organisations and implementation to inform regional guidance on EBM implementation in the Black Sea. Assessment will also consider the perspectives from the different sectors utilising the ecosystem services in coastal waters (e.g. fishing, shipping, aquaculture, tourism, etc.) and the impacts of EBM on pollution management. In addition, the assessment will identify recommendations or reforms (e.g. the introduction of eco-standards) that could be implemented nationally that are consistent with regional guidance (Component 2, Output 2.1.2). This output will necessitate national authorities from differing branches of government to co-ordinate through, for example, inter-ministerial committees. The output will co-ordinate regional initiatives supported by the GEF through the World Bank's project on the Black Sea and utilise regional material prepared by the project.

Activities will include:

- National needs assessment for blue economy:
  - National assessment of current policies, institutions and governance arrangements relevant to Blue Economy;
  - Support to inter-sectoral and inter-ministerial meetings where required;
  - Recommendations for strategy
- Development and acceptance (PSC approval) of strategy to strengthen blue economy approaches
- Assessment of different sectors requirements for ecosystem services
- Recommendations of any regional policy reforms.
- **Output 1.1.3: Updated national databases to complement the BSIS with new components on biological and socio-economic aspects**

National databases to ensure compatible data flows in support of the Bucharest Convention will be upgraded in Georgia, Turkey and Ukraine. The regional database for pollution is maintained by the BSC (and enhanced through output 3.1.4). The Commission secretariat will guide the requirements and specifications for the database update that will be undertaken by the project. The updated national databases will support the regional work on MCPA/MPAs following EBM approaches, and will also benefit GFCM and the GEF/FAO fisheries project under preparation with co-ordination of available information led by the BSC and this project respectively.
- **Output 1.1.4: National action strategies developed/agreed to further co-operate with relevant IMO projects aimed at reducing threats to bioresources and ecosystems from specific invasive species with regional recommendations for BSC consideration and possible adoption.**

National action plans to address the problems of invasive species will be developed in co-operation with specific guidance from IMO (e.g. GloFouling) to reduce the threats to bioresources and ecosystems.

## **Component 2: Strengthening regional environmental governance and knowledge**

Component 2 will build on a wealth of regional co-operative projects and programmes over the last 30 years. In addition, the BSC and the Permanent Secretariat. The project will assist with the regional guidance on EBM and management of MPAs and will also assist the Permanent Secretariat increase the effectiveness of the information available for stakeholder (including public) awareness raising. A key strength in the Black Sea region has been the adoption by the countries of the region of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) in 2009 based on a regional Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (2007). This project will undertake a rapid update of the TDA (based on SoE reports and available information) to lead to revised SAP recommendations and management actions that will reflect recent best-practices documented by GEF IW:LEARN and the wider IW community. This will include IW:LEARN guidance on incorporating EBM, climate change adaptation and economic valuation of ecosystems from Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) projects and planned work by the GEF/FAO fisheries project on the Black Sea. Regional strategies and plans will be developed (outputs 2.1.2 and 2.1.4) that will assist with harmonising national approaches and contribute to the updates of national action plans (NAPs). The information within the update TDA will help inform a revised SAP for implementation over the next decade.

Component 2 will deliver **Outcome 2.1: Countries have strengthened political and legal commitments and capacity to implement the Bucharest Convention and its Protocols, with increased effectiveness of the Permanent Secretariat.**

- **Output 2.1.1: Updated basin analysis (TDA) leading to revised BS SAP, proposed for adoption by BS Commission.**

The Black Sea countries endorsed the previous SAP in 2009 with a TDA accepted in 2007. As a consequence, it is desirable to update both the assessment of the transboundary pressures and any changes in the last 10 years together with updating the ecosystem objectives and management actions for the coming 10 years. In addition, this update will be an opportunity to include recent GEF IW:LEARN best practices developed, in particular to include guidance prepared by GEF LME:LEARN on addressing issues specific to LMEs including utilising EBM approaches to

managing the Black Sea. The updated TDA and BS SAP will also ensure that the transboundary assessment and the management actions proposed undertake a targeted economic valuation of ecosystems, adopting the approach adopted by IW:LEARN. Finally, the Black Sea basin will benefit from a detailed gender assessment of the roles and responsibilities of personnel engaged in coastal and marine activities and management related to the blue economy. Specifically, the revised TDA leading to an updated BS SAP will include additional information on:

- Recent guidance on EBM approaches (including from GEF/FAO fisheries project on the Black Sea);
  - Recommendations from the work of GEF LME:LEARN on large marine ecosystems;
  - Following recommendations and best practices on the use of economic valuation of ecosystems tools in undertaking the assessment and for recommending management actions in the BS SAP;
  - Recent climate change information and scenarios on potential impacts on ecosystems and services relevant to the blue economy;
  - Gender assessments on roles and responsibilities in coastal and marine activities and management.
- **Output 2.1.2 Developed and/or updated Regional Protocols, Plans and Guidance documents to harmonise approaches to MCPA, habitat protection, etc. submitted to BSC for adoption.**

Article 4 of CBD Protocol requires that *“The Contracting Parties shall produce and commonly agree on the Strategic Action Plan for the Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol within three years of the Protocol coming into force which shall be reviewed every five years.* On the basis of the Strategic Action Plan for the Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol (ratified by Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine), the Contracting Parties shall adopt strategies, national plans and/or programmes for the conservation of biological and landscape diversity and the sustainable use of marine and coastal biological and landscape resources and shall integrate them into their national sectoral and intersectoral policies.

The project will co-ordinate closely with other ongoing and planned interventions in the Black Sea region. In particular, the project will work closely with activities under the EU SRIA (e.g. Black Sea Connect – see baseline projects above) and will ensure close alignment with the Common Marine Agenda (CMA) for the Black Sea.

In support of the BS SAP update, the project will prepare updated regional documents (protocols, plans and guidance). This will strengthen the BSC’s Protocols e.g. on Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation, draft Cetaceans Conservation Plan etc). Regional Guidance Documents will be prepared to harmonise basin-wide approaches to MCPAs designation and management, habitat protection, etc. The full list of documents to be updated will be confirmed during the PPG phase with the BSC Permanent Secretariat. These will be drafted by the project with the involvement of the BSC and especially relevant BSC Advisory Groups. The draft Protocol updates, and other relevant documents, will be presented to the BSC for their consideration and possible adoption.

Activities will include:

- Agreeing with BSC which documents require updating or development;
  - Updating the Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol, draft Cetaceans Conservation Plan, relevant part of BSIMAP etc.
  - Developing regional guidance documents on MCPA in the Black Sea for habitat protection
  - Distributing documents for comment and national approval;
  - Submission of the draft documents to BSC for adoption.
- **Output 2.1.3: Development and recommendation for adoption by BSC of regional indicator framework for EBM for annual reporting and relevant component of BSIS.**
- To demonstrate to a range of stakeholders in the Black Sea region of the benefits of EBM, and the contributions made to this approach by the BSC and the project, a series of relevant indicators will be developed to report overall long-term progress to enhancing the ecosystem status and the services derived from the Black Sea. Particular attention will be given to ensuring that the BSC and countries have the means to collect and report the necessary datasets for an extended period. This data will

also be of value to enable countries to report progress on addressing the problems of the Black Sea to multiple donors (including the GEF, EU, UNEP, FAO, ACCOBAMS, etc.). Indicators will also be selected with full involvement of national and regional stakeholders and will be designed to meet a wide range of reporting needs.

### **Component 3: Regional Co-ordination of interventions**

This component will focus on the important issues of regional co-ordination between other GEF and EU projects in the region. There have been multiple projects on the Black Sea in the past and a key lesson has been the need to improve co-ordination to minimise overlap and to increase the interaction through sharing of information and results. The GEF will have three interlinked regional international waters projects in the region, and this project will engage proactively with the initiatives led by FAO (on fisheries) and the World Bank (on blue economy aspects within the basin). There is also a need to co-ordinate and collaborate with other on-going and planned regional projects funded by, for example, the EU.

Component 3 will deliver **Outcome 3.1: *Strengthened impacts from GEF and other partners and projects' activities.***

- **Output 3.1.1: Co-ordination mechanism established and functional with other projects in the Black Sea region, learning from other LME co-ordination mechanisms**

The multiple project underway or planned require adequate co-ordination to ensure good co-operation and information sharing. The three GEF projects (through FAO, World Bank and UNDP) on the Black Sea will be organised to have co-ordinated formal (e.g. PSC meetings) and informal (workshops, capacity building events, stakeholder dialogues, etc.) activities. In addition, regional and relevant national projects will be linked to the GEF funded projects. The establishment of a co-ordination mechanism will draw on experiences elsewhere (e.g. PEMSEA, CLME, Mediterranean, etc.)

- **Output 3.1.2: Implementation of national/regional capacity development programmes on EBM, building on best practices from e.g. Barcelona Convention**

The project will deliver capacity development programmes to strengthen the ability of various stakeholder groups (e.g. BSC PS, national authorities involved in Black Sea SAP implementation, CSOs/NGOs, private sector involved in the blue economy, MPA managers, etc.) to implement and manage MPAs. This output will link closely with, and complement the work of, the GEF/FAO fisheries project on EBM. The training will be focused on assisting stakeholders with the overall implementation of an EBM approach within the Black Sea region and highlighting the benefits to all sections of society of improved ecosystem services and livelihoods of citizens inhabiting the basin from this approach. The capacity development will continue to support strengthening the roles of women and girls within the basin at all levels of decision making and activities. The overall goal of the capacity development will be to further encourage the sustainable implementation of the regional updated SAP on the Black Sea. Activities to include:

- Identification of appropriate stakeholders and stakeholder groups
- Agreement on necessary capacity development information;
- Delivery of capacity development training to specific stakeholder groups;

- **Output 3.1.3: National and regional strategies (including possible covid-19 restrictions) and programmes to share information and experiences**

The project will engage at a national and regional level with a wide range of stakeholders. The project will develop a strategy (incorporating any necessary covid-19 restrictions and means to continue the work) and programme for national and regional information and awareness raising interventions that will be undertaken in Components 1 and 2 respectively. Output 3.1.3 will co-ordinate these activities and deliver specific awareness raising workshops (potentially held together with the GEF/FAO fisheries and World Bank/GEF projects under development) related to EBM, MPA and blue economy issues linked to these at national and regional meetings. All meetings will be subject to an attendee 'assessment' of the content, and sex disaggregated data will be collected for annual reports.

Activities to include:

- Developing regional and national strategies for sharing information (linked with the activities to enhance the BSIS – Output 3.1.4 and Project communication in Component 4);
  - Developing of approaches to be adopted for working under covid-19 restrictions (subject to national regulations);
  - Assisting regional organisations (BSC) and national bodies implement strategies where required.
- **Output 3.1.4: Updated and enhanced web-based BSIS to facilitate regional and national awareness raising**  
The project will undertake a brief review of users' feedback on the current BSIS and their future requirements. Working closely with the PS-BSC and national data/information providers and users, the project will develop and implement a new system to incorporate all relevant information developed by the project (and provide a system for incorporation of information from other regional projects). Additional national data will be made regionally available through output 1.1.3. The update BSIS will further facilitate regional co-ordination and raising national awareness on the benefits to ecosystems and the blue economy from EBM approaches the strengthening of MPAs. This will be of benefit to the GCFM and the GEF/FAO fisheries project under preparation to further the implementation of EBM approaches.

#### **Component 4: Project communications, outreach and M&E**

This component will focus on ensuring that the lessons and experiences from the project from national activities as well as regional actions are disseminated widely, and that project M&E is implemented with results reported.. The project will also contribute 1% of the GEF budget to support the GEF IW:LEARN activities to share experiences within the IW community of projects through global and regional meetings, twinnings, and capacity development activities.

Component 4 will deliver **Outcome 4.1** *Stakeholders enabled with improved information (lessons and benefits of the project) to sustain and replicate actions; and Outcome 4.2* *M &E strategy guides project management to achieve delivery of project outputs*

- **Output 4.1.1: Established IW:LEARN compliant website within existing BSC website**  
The project will establish an IW:LEARN compliant website following the guidance and best practices available. The website will link with other regional projects and partner organisations. This will be implemented within the inception phase of the project.
- **Output 4.1.2: Stakeholder and gender strategies documented, implemented and shared across the Black Sea region**  
During the PPG phase draft stakeholder engagement (reflecting any likely covid-19 restrictions and means to continue engagement minimising travel and contact) and gender inclusion strategies (including M&E indicators and targets) will be prepared for submission with the Project Document for GEF CEO endorsement. The draft strategies will be revised during the inception phase and approved at the inception meeting/first PSC meeting. These strategies will define the work of the project in dealing with differing stakeholder groups and ensuring that the project adopts an active role in encouraging the involvement of girls and women in ecosystem management within the Black Sea region.
- **Output 4.1.3: Participation in regional and global GEF /IW:LEARN activities**  
The project will actively engage (in-person and remotely) with the GEF IW:LEARN project to participate in regional and global IW project exchanges and information sharing events. In addition, the project will participate in 2 GEF IW Conferences with the participation of national representatives from Georgia, Turkey and Ukraine in addition to project staff.
- **Output 4.1.4: Development of IW Experience Notes and other IW:LEARN related products and services.**  
Following IW best practices, the project will prepare at least three GEF Experience Notes related to EBM, strengthening MPAs, etc. In addition, the project will engage with IW:LEARN to prepare

relevant other material as required on the activities of the project to ensure that lessons are shared widely throughout the GEF IW and LME community of projects.

The project will allocate at least 1% of the overall GEF budget to involvement with IW:LEARN related activities.

- **Output 4.2.1: Participatory monitoring and evaluation developed and implemented to facilitate adaptive project management.**

A detailed M&E plan will be developed during the PPG phase and revalidated at the Project Inception/PSC meeting. The plan will detail the expected information to be gathered and specify the responsible project staff, for the routine monitoring and evaluation to meet GEF and UNDP requirements (e.g. PIRs, quarterly reports, etc.). The M&E plan will ensure that indicators and their targets presented in the Project Results Framework are collected at the required time. The plan will also provide an outline Terms of Reference for the independent Mid-Term Review (MTR) and Terminal Evaluations (TE) that will be conducted.

#### **II.1a.4 Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies;**

The project is aligned with the GEF-7 Strategy for IW Objective 1 (*Strengthening National Blue Economy Opportunities*) in-line with Strategic Area 1 (*Sustainable healthy coastal and marine ecosystems*). This will be achieved through strengthening the implementation of national marine protected areas in tandem to enhancing existing information and strategic programmes through updating the TDA and SAP for the Black Sea LME.

The project will also contribute to the GEF Biodiversity focal area through assisting with strengthening the governance of existing and new MPAs. In addition, enhancing MPAs will encourage further carbon sequestration with potential benefits to the Climate Change focal area (both in terms of mitigation and adaption (see GEBs below).

#### **II.1a.5 Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTE, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing;**

The GEF grant of USD 3,000,000 is leveraging a co-financing contribution of USD 15,000,000 that will collectively contribute to the incremental activities adding to the historic and the current baseline. The experiences and lessons will be widely distributed throughout the Black Sea region and more widely through the GEF IW:LEARN/LME:LEARN projects and the on-going work of the countries of the Black Sea region, the BSC, UNESCO-IOC, and other partners. At this stage it has not been possible to estimate possible co-financing contributions from partner countries (including EU countries), but this will be sought during the PPG phase (e.g. linked to EU activities related to the Blue Economy) that are closely aligned to the work of this proposed project at the national level.

#### **Without the GEF Grant - baseline scenario**

The countries of the Black Sea region are participating in multiple regional initiatives (and indicated above in the baseline section) with national and donor resources that are providing direct actions in responses to the Black Sea SAP (2009). This work is conducted with close co-ordination with the Black Sea Commission who have the regional task of overseeing the overall implementation of the BS-SAP.

- The baseline activities that are planned to be undertaken include:
- Countries participating in Black Sea Commission activities (e.g. meetings, workshops, surveys, etc.)
- Countries of the Black Sea region implementing the EU Marine Directive with Georgia, Turkey and Ukraine pursuing this under their respective Association Agreements with the EU.
- Participating in multiple regional projects (as described above).

However, there is currently limited focus on MCPA management and the utilisation of EBM approaches in the region.



### **With the GEF Grant - incremental reasoning**

The GEF is funding interlinked projects in the region to provide key inputs to supporting regional blue economy approaches (through the World Bank), improving fisheries management (through FAO) and this project addressing EBM and providing additional co-ordination of these three GEF projects and between the GEF projects and other donor/national financed projects.

The GEF grant will assist with the application of economic valuation of ecosystems to be undertaken under the revised TDA to help increase the visibility of the MPAs nationally and regionally.

The project will undertake a rapid update of the TDA based on recent information to identify any changes to the key transboundary problems previously identified and to update the causal chain analysis. This will enable an updated SAP to be developed to establish agreed programmes of actions for the region for the coming decade. Information from the updated TDA will assist with the current SoE report (2015 - 2020) and to guide any additional information needs in preparation to the SoE 2021 - 2025 report.

The GEF/UNDP project is expected to contribute to a range of outputs that will contribute to enhancing understanding on:

- Enhanced M CPA management;
- Application of national/regional EBM approaches;
- National strategies for blue economy to enhance livelihoods of coastal communities dependent on ecosystem services;
- Improved regional guidance documents submitted for approval by the BSC;
- Support to national government's Association Agreement activities;
- Updated TDA and SAP that will guide the countries and the BSC for the next 10 years providing up-to-date information for decision makers
- Enhanced inter-project co-ordination, integrating results and lessons more effectively

During the PPG phase additional links will be made with interventions ongoing in the Black Sea Region to identify additional co-financing (e.g. activities undertaken with EU financing through SRIA projects indicated in the baseline above).

### **II.1a.6 Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF);**

The project implementation will contribute to global environmental benefits and assist regional socio-economic benefits dependent on ecosystem services to grow. Through the multiple outputs from this project the GEBs will be:

- Long-term positive contributions to biodiversity (e.g. through adoption of EBM approaches, strengthening the management of MCPAs, reduced invasive species issues, etc.);
- The updated TDA and SAP will provide a detailed baseline of the current ecosystem status and the pressures on the environment and a road-map to address the key transboundary pressures for the countries (with the support of the BSC) over the next 10 years. Through the updated TDA and SAP the region will benefit through a better understanding of the economic valuation of ecosystem tools developed by GEF IW:LEARN.
- Benefits accruing from enhanced co-ordination between three GEF projects and other donors' activities.

The project will also contribute to national targets associated with SDG 14 in the Black Sea region.

In addition, it is noted that well-managed marine reserves may help marine ecosystems and people adapt to prominent impacts of climate change: acidification, sea-level rise, intensification of storms, shifts in species distribution, and decreased productivity and oxygen availability, as well as their cumulative effects<sup>12</sup>. The role of managed ecosystems in mitigating climate change by promoting carbon sequestration and storage and by buffering against uncertainty in management, environmental fluctuations, directional change, and extreme

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<sup>12</sup> Roberts, C., *et al.* Marine reserves can mitigate and promote adaptation to climate change., PNAS | June 13, 2017 | vol. 114 | no. 24 | 6167–6175. <https://www.pnas.org/content/pnas/114/24/6167.full.pdf>

events will also be highlighted in the TDA/SAP process. The proposed project will have benefits to both climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The project's strategies (to be outlined during the PPG phase) will describe approaches that will be followed if covid-19 restrictions limit travel and/or meetings. This will build on the regional experiences to-date and will facilitate the execution of the planned project as described to deliver the above GEBs.

### **II.1a.7 Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up**

**Innovation:** The project will build on the approaches gained from the previous GEF and other donor initiatives in the Black Sea and the on-going work of the BSC, including the implementation of the 2009 SAP. The updating of this SAP (utilising the assessments of the SoE report in 2015) will be a key innovative and pragmatic means of ensuring that SAPs are supported by the latest findings. The project will promote an innovative approach to adopting EBM approaches within MCPA management that will also deliver the first key national strategies on Blue Economy' considerations. The project's innovation will also include the outputs designed to improve the co-ordination (and consequentially, to maximise the benefits) from the parallel GEF IW projects on the Black Sea (and interventions from other donors, e.g. EU).

**Sustainability:** The actions under this project will be designed with sustainability as a core component. Sustainability of the actions will be supported by:

- The central role of the Black Sea Commission in seeking an update to the 2009 SAP with the commitment from all the countries of the region;
- Enhancing the marine and coastal environment is key to the European Union's Water Framework Directive (WFD) and Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). These are important elements to the EU's Association Agreements with Georgia, Turkey and Ukraine. These directives have common environmental objectives with the Black Sea SAP.
- The project will be developing strategy documents that will benefit the region and countries to harmonise approaches under the Bucharest Convention and provide compatible data for long-term information sharing. National Strategies promoting blue economy approaches will be drafted for countries to support livelihoods derived from the Black Sea's ecosystem services.

**Potential for scaling-up:** The key elements that could be appropriate for upscaling to other LMEs include:

- National experiences of adopting EMB approaches to marine and coastal management;
- Promoting the experiences of the active role of the BSC and its Permanent Secretariat;
- Use of regional SoE reports to support the updating of agreed regional SAPs
- Benefits of enhanced regional co-ordination between multiple initiatives;
- Experience and lesson sharing between LMEs (Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea).

#### **1b. Project Map and Coordinates.**

A map, including regional co-ordinates is shown in Figure 1 along with a description of the environmental problem.

2. *Stakeholders.* Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

- ☐ Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities;
- ☒ Civil Society Organizations;
- ☒ Private Sector Entities;
- ☐ If None of the above, please explain why.

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement.

The following stakeholders have been involved in discussions on the development of this project through BSC meetings. Final roles, responsibilities and national lead executing partners to be selected during the PPG phase from the GEF eligible countries (Georgia, Turkey and Ukraine). The tentative lead partners are in **bold**.

Stakeholders	Responsibility and role in the project
<b>GEF Eligible Countries</b>	
<b>Georgia</b>	
<b>Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MEPA),</b> National Environmental Agency (NEA) GeoGraphic Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia LEPL Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia	All stakeholders have participated at BSC meetings and have been involved in the discussions on the development of the PIF. Their role will be to guide the overall project and ensure close links and alignment with BSC activities. The tentative lead organisation has overall ministerial responsibility for water (marine and freshwater) with responsibilities for implementing the EU WFD and MSFD. The lead executing partner will also have formal oversight of the national actions proposed and will be permanent member of the PSC.
<b>Turkey</b>	
<b>Ministry of Environment and Urbanization,</b> Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications,	All stakeholders have participated at BSC meetings and have been involved in the discussions on the development of the PIF. Their role will be to guide the overall project and ensure close links and alignment with BSC activities. The tentative lead organisation has overall ministerial responsibility for water (marine and freshwater) with responsibilities for implementing the EU WFD and MSFD. The lead executing partner will also have formal oversight of the national actions proposed and will be permanent member of the PSC
<b>Ukraine</b>	
<b>Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine</b> Ukrainian Scientific Center of Ecology of Seas Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Institute of the State Service of Ukraine on Emergencies National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine Secretariat to the Parliament of Ukraine State Ecological Inspection of the Black Sea Protection Odessa Branch, Institute of Biology of Southern Seas, NASU Institute of Fisheries and Marine Ecology (IFME), State Agency of Fisheries of Ukraine National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy State Enterprise "Ukrainian Sea Port Authority	All stakeholders have participated at BSC meetings and have been involved in the discussions on the development of the PIF. Their role will be to guide the overall project and ensure close links and alignment with BSC activities. The tentative lead organisation has overall ministerial responsibility for water (marine and freshwater) with responsibilities for implementing the EU WFD and MSFD. The lead executing partner will also have formal oversight of the national actions proposed and will be permanent member of the PSC
<b>Partner Countries</b>	
<b>Bulgaria</b>	
Ministry of Environment and Water Black Sea Basin Directorate (BSBD) Institute of Oceanology – BAS IO-BAS, Department "Marine biology and ecology" Institute for Ecological Modernization Bulgarian Maritime Administration Bulgarian Maritime Administration	These stakeholders are all engaged in the regular meetings of the BSC and have participated in the discussions leading to this PIF. As partners to this project, and active members of the BSC, they will assist in ensuring that the regional activities of this project meet the expectations of all Black Sea countries. Through both project meetings and BSC meetings these stakeholders will assist in guiding the project to meet the needs of the BSC that will

Stakeholders	Responsibility and role in the project
	promote the long-term sustainability of the project interventions.
<b>Romania</b>	
Ministry of Environment and Climate Changes, Department on Water, Forest and Fisheries National Institute for Marine Research and Development Romanian Naval Authority	These stakeholders are all engaged in the regular meetings of the BSC and have participated in the discussions leading to this PIF. As partners to this project, and active members of the BSC, they will assist in ensuring that the regional activities of this project meet the expectations of all Black Sea countries. Through both project meetings and BSC meetings these stakeholders will assist in guiding the project to meet the needs of the BSC that will promote the long-term sustainability of the project interventions.
<b>Russian Federation</b>	
State Oceanographic Institute of Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environment Monitoring Branch of State Oceanographic Institute of Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environment Monitoring ICZM Center State Hydrochemical Institute of Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environment Monitoring State Oceanological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences Ministry of Agriculture YugNIRO – Branch of Azov Scientific Research Institute of Fisheries Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, Kuban Basin Water Directorate Kuban Basin Water Directorate Institute of Applied Ecology Marine Rescue Service of Rosmorrechflot Federal Budgetary State Institution "Black Sea Maritime Ports Administration"	These stakeholders are all engaged in the regular meetings of the BSC and have participated in the discussions leading to this PIF. As partners to this project, and active members of the BSC, they will assist in ensuring that the regional activities of this project meet the expectations of all Black Sea countries. Through both project meetings and BSC meetings these stakeholders will assist in guiding the project to meet the needs of the BSC that will promote the long-term sustainability of the project interventions.
<b>Private sector, projects, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations</b>	
Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Permanent International Secretariat; Eurasia Business Unit Chevron International Ltd; OSPRI, Oil Spill Preparedness Regional Initiative (Caspian Sea – Black Sea – Central Eurasia); Forecast Technology Ltd. EU/UNDP EMBLAS – Plus EU SRIA initiatives Istanbul University Journal of the Black Sea/Mediterranean Environment Green Balkans NGO WWF-Turkey PAGEV (Plastics) ACCOBAMS Agreement European Environmental Agency (EEA) European Commission	<p>These organisations (government, institutes, CSOs, NGOs, private sector) have been involved at BSC meetings and participated in discussions that led to this PIF. They will continue to be involved in BSC meetings and will participate in detailed project design meetings, where appropriate.</p> <p>These stakeholders will assist with ensuring that the project will link with and not overlap with other initiatives, including the recently approved GEF project concepts implemented by FAO and the World Bank.</p> <p>The recently approved GEF/World Bank and GEF/FAO projects will work closely with the proposed UNDP project to ensure co-ordination and minimise duplication specifically on the Blue Economy and EBM approaches. These projects will</p>

Stakeholders	Responsibility and role in the project
FAO GFCM NGO Mare Nostrum GEF/World Bank Blueing the Black Sea GEF project GEF/FAO Fisheries and Ecosystem Based Management for the Black Sea - (FishEBM BS)	be invited to participate in the UNDP project's PSC and the three projects will endeavour to combine appropriate national and regional capacity development activities.

The above organisations (government, institutes, CSOs, NGOs, private sector) will continue to be involved in BSC meetings and will participate in detailed project design meetings, where appropriate.

**3) Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.** yes ☒ /no ☐ / tbd ☐ ;

☒ closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;

☒ improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or

☐ generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

Will the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators? yes ☒ /no ☐ / tbd ☐

In order to improve the understanding of the role women and men in coastal and MPA governance will be assessed during the PPG, including the development of a robust gender baseline within the participating countries. A gender action plan, based on the information gathered during the PPG phase will be elaborated in the CEO Endorsement Document, and will be approved during the project inception to guide execution.

The proposed project will build during the PPG phase on the analyses performed by recent studies that assessed the role of women the fisheries and aquaculture sector the Black Sea<sup>13</sup> to identify the distinct roles that women play in the fisheries sector. The study was expected to contribute to the Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (RPOA-SSF) launched in Malta via a High-Level Conference in September 2018. This study sheds a light on women's presence in catching, aquaculture, processing, and fisheries-related activities which had not been well documented so far, particularly in the Mediterranean and Black Sea basins. In addition, the project will utilise analysis performed by the BlackSea4Fish project<sup>14</sup> that was collecting sex disaggregated data. Lastly the PPG phase will interact with the Black Sea Women's Club (BSWC)<sup>15</sup> that is a regional network working on the rivers flowing to the Black Sea and based in the Ukraine. BSWC promotes protection of water resources, eco-system approaches, and gender balance in sustainable development of the Black Sea region.

This information will be used to ensure gender equality and empowerment of women throughout the project execution phase. Based on the GEF-7 Core Gender Indicators listed in the Gender Equality Action Plan. Advancement of gender mainstreaming within policy and capacity building in support of all the components, especially in the interventions, will be of key significance. The proposed activities will create the enabling environment and facilitate the implementation of gender considerations into policy and the legislative provisions that are conducive to the needs of all stakeholders. The proposed project will also ensure alignment with the GEF Policy on Gender (GEF Secretariat, 2017). All data relating to meetings, training events, dissemination uptake (indicated in above in the project outputs) will be collected and presented against sex disaggregated targets developed in the Project Results Framework. This will help to achieve an acceptably high number of women in participation (decision-making and implementation) it could be needed to apply affirmative action as it would help to compensate for past "discrimination" and/or to address existing inequalities. Affirmative action is a policy in which an inequitable situation (in this case gender inequality) is taken into account to increase opportunities provided to an underrepresented part of society (in this case women).

<sup>13</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/news/study-presence-and-role-women-fisheries-mediterranean-and-black-sea>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.fao.org/gfcm/activities/fisheries/blacksea4fish/ru/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.womenforwater.org/bswc.html>

**4. Private sector engagement.** Will there be private sector engagement in the project? (yes ☒ /no ☐.

Private sector organisations have been involved during the project concept design stage as indicated above (stakeholders) through meetings of the BSC. In addition to the private sector organisations involved in the development of this project concept (indicated in Stakeholder section above), private sector organisations impacting and/or dependent on coastal ecosystems (e.g. fishing, aquaculture, tourism, etc.) will be key partners at the country level for this project and the specific organisations and their roles will be confirmed in detailed discussions with national authorities during the PPG phase. This proposed project will interact closely with the GEF FAO and WB initiatives in the Black Sea and ensure that their activities aimed at the private sector are circulated with this project as part of this project's co-ordination action of all current GEF activities. These detailed discussions will also increase the likelihood of sustainability of the project's actions.

Private sector organisations will be involved in all components and in key meetings (observers at PSC meetings, participants in workshops, etc.) of the project, including:

- **Component 1:** Engagement of private sector organisations in the development of national private sector strategies;
- **Component 2** – Input and engagement in the updating of the TDA and SAP; Key stakeholder comments on guidance documents prepared with BSC;
- **Component 3** – Stakeholder meetings (briefing and active input to guide project); Capacity development to assist with national blue economy development and to better appreciate the value of MCPA management; contributing to national and regional information for dissemination to coastal communities.

**5. Risks.**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Likelihood (H, M, L)</b>	<b>Mitigation measures</b>
National authorities fail to co-ordinate on coastal management and management of MCPAs	L	The Project will support increasing inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral co-ordination through component 1 (output 1.2) where necessary.
Climate change / increased extreme weather impacts on MCPAs	M	Within the updated TDA/SAP (Component 2, output 2.1.1) the project will assist with updating the potential climate change scenarios and, where necessary, make recommendation on resilient measures that can be incorporated.
Pollution events impacting MCPAs	M	Within the updated TDA/SAP (Component 2, output 2.1.1) the project will assist with updating the potential pollution risks (land-based and shipping) on MCPAs and, where necessary, recommend management or structural measures that will minimise impacts of a pollution incident.
Lack of support from private sector or civil society for enhancing MCPAs management	L	Components 1 and 3 will work with national stakeholders to ensure that awareness of the importance and benefits of MCPA for ecosystem services (livelihoods) is appreciated.
Difficulties with non-GEF countries in region supporting project activities impacting regional endorsement of SAP	L	The updating of the SAP has been promoted by the BSC and the project will work closely with the BSC-PS to ensure that the non-eligible countries are encouraged to contribute to the updating of the TDA and SAP and to participate in capacity development workshops.
Co-ordination with regional projects does not function effectively	L	The project, with the support of the BSC-PS will actively encourage enhanced co-operation and co-ordination between GEF and other donors' projects. Component 3 (Output 3.1.1) will establish a process to enable routine information and lesson sharing

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Likelihood (H, M, L)</b>	<b>Mitigation measures</b>
		together with participation at relevant meetings/workshops.
Covid-19 restrictions limit travel and in-person meetings	M	COVID-19 poses a short-medium term risk to the project execution and the the project will develop a stakeholder and communication strategy that will describe alternative methods of communications and meetings (e.g. internet) when travel/social contact is not permitted. The project will also assess the longer-term impacts of any on-going COVID restrictions on e.g. sustainability or changes in working practice during project implementation.

## **6. Coordination.**

The proposed project will be implemented through the UNDP and executed UNESCO-IOC with the support of the Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission, national and local government agencies and institutes. The BSC currently has a lack of available capacity to implement this project. UNESCO-IOC have long experience of LME GEF activities and they will work closely to transfer experiences from elsewhere with the BSC.

The project will coordinate with planned and ongoing projects and activities (GEF and non-GEF) in the region and where relevant, world-wide. Through the development of appropriate mechanisms (described below in Section 8 - Knowledge Management and in Component 3 activities) the results of this project will be shared widely. The dissemination of results will be guided by a communication strategy that will be drafted during the PPG phase and updated within the first few months of project execution. The UNESCO-IOC will establish a project management unit (PMU) to coordinate all day to day activities based in Istanbul (TBC).

**Project coordination:** The PMU will be supervised by a Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting annually to ensure the delivery and quality of activities and outputs and to approve budget; the PSC will include relevant countries (city and national representative), GEF Agency, partners (including private sectors, civil society, academia etc.) etc. The GEF Agency will be responsible for contracting independent evaluators for undertaking the mid- and terminal evaluations. The PMU will be responsible for undertaking routine M&E activities to provide quantifiable evidence on the performance of the project in achieving the expected outputs and outcomes and for reporting this information to the PSC and assist the GEF Agency prepare annual PIR submissions to the GEF.

### **Co-ordination with regional bodies**

The project will co-operate closely with the Black Sea Commission through its Permanent Secretariat based in Istanbul. The project will also co-operate and co-ordinate through MoUs established by the BSC with:

- International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)
- The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)
- Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS)
- UNEP/MAP (Mediterranean Action Plan) and where relevant other Regional Seas

**Coordination with other GEF projects:** The project will work closely with IW:LEARN/LME:LEARN to participate in regional and global workshops to ensure that the results of this project are available to the wider IW community of projects.

The recently approved GEF/World Bank and GEF/FAO projects will work closely with the proposed UNDP project to ensure co-ordination and minimise duplication specifically on the Blue Economy and EBM approaches. These projects will be invited to participate in the UNDP project's PSC and the three projects will endeavour to combine appropriate national and regional capacity development activities.

### Coordination with non-GEF initiatives:

The project will also co-ordinate with the multiple EU projects being undertaken in the region as indicated in the Baseline presented in this document (Section 1a.2)

**7. Consistency with National Priorities.** Is the project consistent with the National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions? (yes ☒ /no ☐ ).

The project will support national priorities within Georgia, Turkey and Ukraine through:

- Contribute to SDG 14 goals, targets and reporting
- Contribute to the objectives of the Bucharest Convention and the joint work co-ordinated by the BSC
- Support objectives of the Association Agreements between EU and Georgia, Turkey and Ukraine (specifically the Marine framework directive)
- Strengthening the blue economy through improved MPA management
- Supporting national and regional contributions to CBD Aichi goals and targets that are linked to MPAs and the reduction of alien species introductions to the Black Sea region. In addition, Article 4 of CBD Protocol requires that *“The Contracting Parties shall produce and commonly agree on the Strategic Action Plan for the Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol within three years of the Protocol coming into force which shall be reviewed every five years. On the basis of the Strategic Action Plan for the Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol, the Contracting Parties shall adopt strategies, national plans and/or programmes for the conservation of biological and landscape diversity and the sustainable use of marine and coastal biological and landscape resources and shall integrate them into their national sectoral and intersectoral policies.*
- The Project will contribute to Aichi Strategic Goal C (To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity). Target 11: *(By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes).*
- The project will also be aligned with and contribute to national strategies and policies with gender mainstreaming through responsible ministries.

### 8. Knowledge Management.

Knowledge management is recognized to be a critical element of the project and has been incorporated into project design. Component 3 will implement an IW:LEARN compliant website, a communication strategy and multiple capacity development activities to different stakeholder groups. The project will develop a communication and knowledge management strategy during the PPG phase to guide all project implementation activities. The project will also undertake a gender assessment and prepare a strategy (see above Section 3-Gender) to guide the overall implementation of the project. These strategies will also identify the required M&E indicators to be reported and will ensure that participant data is collected in a sex disaggregated format to ensure relevant information is available on websites and in management reports. These strategies will be revised/updated within the first three months of project execution.

The project will benefit from the many lessons and experiences derived from earlier regional projects in the Black Sea and will also gather appropriate lessons from on-going projects through the co-ordination mechanisms delivered in Component 3 (output 3.1.1).

The project will rely heavily on the management, dissemination, and scaling-up of knowledge, experiences, and results in order to achieve the overall project objective and ensure long-term sustainability of the ecosystem approaches in the Black Sea region that will also facilitate global up-scaling of the approaches.



The knowledge management and communications strategies will be tailored to specific stakeholder groups that have been identified in (section 2 - Stakeholders) including:

- **National authorities** (ministries, institutes, etc.) to ensure information on management approaches for MPAs and coastal management are accessible in each language and all countries have relevant information on ecosystem status, services and their valuation;
- **Private sector** - information will be collected as relevant to the different needs of the various private sector partners and other stakeholders
- **Civil society** will be provided with information to inform communities that are dependent on the blue economy;
- **International organisations** involved in activities supported by this project within the Black Sea region;
- **GEF IW** community of projects: Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the Black Sea region through the GEF IW:LEARN and LME:LEARN projects. The project will allocate at least one percent of the total GEF project financing for a suite of IW: LEARN activities to share lessons learned and results from the project to the broader GEF IW community, as well as actively participate in IW:LEARN capacity building workshops, forums, and biannual GEF IW Conferences. The project's website will meet the specifications suggested by the GEF IW:LEARN for International Waters projects.
- **International meetings:** The project will also look for other opportunities within the region and globally to share project results and other knowledge gained with the international community.
- **Regional Seas:** The project will collaborate (where necessary) with the Mediterranean Regional Seas and will share information globally with other regional seas through sharing information and experiences on project web and participating at LME events.

### **PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S)**

#### **A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):**

(Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template. For SGP, use this SGP OFFP endorsement letter).

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>MINISTRY</b>	<b>DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)</b>
Mrs. Nino Tkilava	Head of Department	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia	<b>21/10/2020</b>
Mr. Akif Ozkaldi	Undersecretary	The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey	<b>30/10/2020</b>
Mrs. Olena Miskun	Director of the Department on Strategic Planning and International Cooperation	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine	<b>04/12/2020</b>

## **Annex A**

### **PROGRAM/PROJECT MAP AND GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES**

**(when possible)**

Figure 1 shows a map of the Black Sea region

## Annex B - GEF 7 Core Indicator Worksheet

Core Indicator 1	Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use					(Hectares)	
	Hectares (1.1+1.2)						
	Expected				Achieved		
	PIF stage		Endorsement		MTR	TE	
Indicator 1.1	Terrestrial protected areas newly created						
Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN category	Hectares				
			Expected			Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
		(select)					
		(select)					
		Sum					
Indicator 1.2	Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness						
Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN category	Hectares	METT Score			
				Baseline		Achieved	
					Endorsement	MTR	TE
		(select)					
		(select)					
		Sum					
Core Indicator 2	Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use					(Hectares)	
	Hectares (2.1+2.2)						
	Expected				Achieved		
	PIF stage		Endorsement		MTR	TE	
	BS MPAs in Georgia and Ukraine		418,243				
Indicator 2.1	Marine protected areas newly created						
Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN category	Hectares	Hectares			
				Expected		Achieved	
				PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		(select)					
		(select)					
		Sum					
Indicator 2.2	Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness						
Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN category	Hectares	METT Score			
				Baseline		Achieved	
				PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
UA – NW shelf		(select)	402,500				
GE - Kolkheti		(select)	15,743				
		Sum	418,243				
Core Indicator 3	Area of land restored					(Hectares)	
	Hectares (3.1+3.2+3.3+3.4)						
	Expected				Achieved		
	PIF stage		Endorsement		MTR	TE	
Indicator 3.1	Area of degraded agricultural land restored						
				Hectares			
				Expected		Achieved	
				PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 3.2	Area of forest and forest land restored						
				Hectares			
				Expected		Achieved	
				PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 3.3	Area of natural grass and shrublands restored						
	Hectares						

			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 3.4	Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) restored					
			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
<b>Core Indicator 4</b>	<b>Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)</b>					<b>(Hectares)</b>
			Hectares (4.1+4.2+4.3+4.4)			
			Expected		Expected	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 4.1	Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity					
			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 4.2	Area of landscapes that meet national or international third-party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations					
Third party certification(s):			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 4.3	Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems					
			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 4.4	Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided					
Include documentation that justifies HCVF			Hectares			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
<b>Core Indicator 5</b>	<b>Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity</b>					<b>(Hectares)</b>
Indicator 5.1	Number of fisheries that meet national or international third-party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations					
Third party certification(s):			Number			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 5.2	Number of large marine ecosystems (LMEs) with reduced pollution and hypoxial					
			Number			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
Indicator 5.3	Amount of Marine Litter Avoided					
			Metric Tons			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE

Core Indicator 6	Greenhouse gas emission mitigated					(Metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e)
		Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (6.1+6.2)				
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
	Expected CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)					
	Expected CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)					
Indicator 6.1	Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector					
		Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e				
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
	Expected CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)					
	Expected CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)					
	Anticipated start year of accounting					
	Duration of accounting					
Indicator 6.2	Emissions avoided Outside AFOLU					
		Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e				
		Expected		Achieved		
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
	Expected CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)					
	Expected CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)					
	Anticipated start year of accounting					
	Duration of accounting					
Indicator 6.3	Energy saved					
		MJ				
		Expected		Achieved		
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
Indicator 6.4	Increase in installed renewable energy capacity per technology					
		Capacity (MW)				
	Technology	Expected		Achieved		
		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE	
	(select)					
	(select)					
Core Indicator 7	Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management					1
Indicator 7.1	Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation					
		Shared water ecosystem	Rating (scale 1-4)			
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		Black Sea LME	4			
Indicator 7.2	Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional Management Institutions to support its implementation					
		Shared water ecosystem	Rating (scale 1-4)			
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		Black Sea LME	3			
Indicator 7.3	Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees					
		Shared water ecosystem	Rating (scale 1-4)			
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		Black Sea LME	3			
Indicator 7.4	Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products					
		Shared water ecosystem	Rating (scale 1-4)			
			Rating		Rating	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		Black Sea LME	1			
Core Indicator 8	Globally over-exploited fisheries Moved to more sustainable levels					(Metric Tons)

Fishery Details			Metric Tons			
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
<b>Core Indicator 9</b>	<b>Reduction, disposal/destruction, phase out, elimination and avoidance of chemicals of global concern and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials and products</b>					<b>(Metric Tons)</b>
			Metric Tons (9.1+9.2+9.3)			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	PIF stage	MTR	TE
<b>Indicator 9.1</b>	<b>Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) removed or disposed (POPs type)</b>					
POPs type			Metric Tons			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
(select)	(select)	(select)				
(select)	(select)	(select)				
(select)	(select)	(select)				
<b>Indicator 9.2</b>	<b>Quantity of mercury reduced</b>					
			Metric Tons			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
<b>Indicator 9.3</b>	<b>Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) Reduced/Phased out</b>					
			Metric Tons			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
<b>Indicator 9.4</b>	<b>Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control chemicals and waste</b>					
			Number of Countries			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
<b>Indicator 9.5</b>	<b>Number of low-chemical/non-chemical systems implemented particularly in food production, manufacturing and cities</b>					
		Technology	Number			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
<b>Indicator 9.6</b>	<b>Quantity of POPs/Mercury containing materials and products directly avoided</b>					
			Metric Tons			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	PIF stage	Endorsement
<b>Core Indicator 10</b>	<b>Reduction, avoidance of emissions of POPs to air from point and non-point sources</b>					<b>(grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ)</b>
<b>Indicator 10.1</b>	<b>Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control emissions of POPs to air</b>					
			Number of Countries			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
<b>Indicator 10.2</b>	<b>Number of emission control technologies/practices implemented</b>					
			Number			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
<b>Core Indicator</b>	<b>Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF</b>					<b>(Number)</b>

11	investment					
			Number			
			Expected		Achieved	
			PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
		Female	5,000			
		Male	5,000			
		Total	10,000			

## Annex C - Project Taxonomy Worksheet

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Influencing models			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transform policy and regulatory environments		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Convene multi-stakeholder alliances		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Demonstrate innovative approaches		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Deploy innovative financial instruments		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stakeholders			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous Peoples		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Sector		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Capital providers	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Financial intermediaries and market facilitators	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Large corporations	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SMEs	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individuals/Entrepreneurs	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Grant Pilot	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Project Reflow	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beneficiaries		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Communities		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civil Society		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Based Organization	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Governmental Organization	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Academia	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Trade Unions and Workers Unions	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Type of Engagement		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Dissemination	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partnership	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultation	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Participation	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Awareness Raising	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Campaigns	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Behavior Change	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity, Knowledge and Research			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enabling Activities		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity Development		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Knowledge Generation and Exchange		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Research		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Learning		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Theory of Change	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adaptive Management	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indicators to Measure Change	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Innovation		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Knowledge and Learning		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Knowledge Management	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Innovation	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity Development	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Learning	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stakeholder Engagement Plan		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender Equality			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender Mainstreaming		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beneficiaries	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Women groups	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sex-disaggregated indicators	



		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender-sensitive indicators	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender results areas		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Access and control over natural resources	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Participation and leadership	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Access to benefits and services	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity development	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Awareness raising	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Knowledge generation	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Focal Areas/Theme			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Programs		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Commodity Supply Chains (Good Growth Partnership)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Commodities Production
			<input type="checkbox"/> Deforestation-free Sourcing
			<input type="checkbox"/> Financial Screening Tools
			<input type="checkbox"/> High Conservation Value Forests
			<input type="checkbox"/> High Carbon Stocks Forests
			<input type="checkbox"/> Soybean Supply Chain
			<input type="checkbox"/> Oil Palm Supply Chain
			<input type="checkbox"/> Beef Supply Chain
			<input type="checkbox"/> Smallholder Farmers
			<input type="checkbox"/> Adaptive Management
		<input type="checkbox"/> Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Resilience (climate and shocks)
			<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Production Systems
			<input type="checkbox"/> Agroecosystems
			<input type="checkbox"/> Land and Soil Health
			<input type="checkbox"/> Diversified Farming
			<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Land and Water Management
			<input type="checkbox"/> Smallholder Farming
			<input type="checkbox"/> Small and Medium Enterprises
			<input type="checkbox"/> Crop Genetic Diversity
			<input type="checkbox"/> Food Value Chains
			<input type="checkbox"/> Gender Dimensions
			<input type="checkbox"/> Multi-stakeholder Platforms
		<input type="checkbox"/> Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Food Systems
			<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Restoration
			<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Commodity Production
			<input type="checkbox"/> Comprehensive Land Use Planning
			<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Landscapes
			<input type="checkbox"/> Food Value Chains
			<input type="checkbox"/> Deforestation-free Sourcing
			<input type="checkbox"/> Smallholder Farmers
		<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Cities	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated urban planning
			<input type="checkbox"/> Urban sustainability framework
			<input type="checkbox"/> Transport and Mobility
			<input type="checkbox"/> Buildings
			<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal waste management
			<input type="checkbox"/> Green space
			<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Biodiversity
			<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Food Systems
			<input type="checkbox"/> Energy efficiency
			<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Financing
			<input type="checkbox"/> Global Platform for Sustainable Cities
			<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Resilience
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Protected Areas and Landscapes	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Terrestrial Protected Areas
			<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal and Marine Protected Areas
			<input type="checkbox"/> Productive Landscapes

			<input type="checkbox"/> Productive Seascapes
			<input type="checkbox"/> Community Based Natural Resource Management
		<input type="checkbox"/> Mainstreaming	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Extractive Industries (oil, gas, mining)
			<input type="checkbox"/> Forestry (Including HCVF and REDD+)
			<input type="checkbox"/> Tourism
			<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & agrobiodiversity
			<input type="checkbox"/> Fisheries
			<input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure
			<input type="checkbox"/> Certification (National Standards)
			<input type="checkbox"/> Certification (International Standards)
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Species	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Illegal Wildlife Trade
			<input type="checkbox"/> Threatened Species
			<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife for Sustainable Development
			<input type="checkbox"/> Crop Wild Relatives
			<input type="checkbox"/> Plant Genetic Resources
			<input type="checkbox"/> Animal Genetic Resources
			<input type="checkbox"/> Livestock Wild Relatives
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invasive Alien Species (IAS)
		<input type="checkbox"/> Biomes	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Mangroves
			<input type="checkbox"/> Coral Reefs
			<input type="checkbox"/> Sea Grasses
			<input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands
			<input type="checkbox"/> Rivers
			<input type="checkbox"/> Lakes
			<input type="checkbox"/> Tropical Rain Forests
			<input type="checkbox"/> Tropical Dry Forests
			<input type="checkbox"/> Temperate Forests
			<input type="checkbox"/> Grasslands
			<input type="checkbox"/> Paramo
			<input type="checkbox"/> Desert
		<input type="checkbox"/> Financial and Accounting	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Payment for Ecosystem Services
			<input type="checkbox"/> Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting
			<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Trust Funds
			<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Finance
		<input type="checkbox"/> Supplementary Protocol to the CBD	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Biosafety
			<input type="checkbox"/> Access to Genetic Resources Benefit Sharing
	<input type="checkbox"/> Forests		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Forest and Landscape Restoration	
			<input type="checkbox"/> REDD/REDD+
		<input type="checkbox"/> Forest	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Amazon
			<input type="checkbox"/> Congo
			<input type="checkbox"/> Drylands
	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Degradation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Land Management	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands
			<input type="checkbox"/> Ecosystem Approach
			<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach
			<input type="checkbox"/> Community-Based NRM
			<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Livelihoods
			<input type="checkbox"/> Income Generating Activities
			<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Agriculture
			<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Pasture Management

			<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Forest/Woodland Management
			<input type="checkbox"/> Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques
			<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Fire Management
			<input type="checkbox"/> Drought Mitigation/Early Warning
		<input type="checkbox"/> Land Degradation Neutrality	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Land Productivity
			<input type="checkbox"/> Land Cover and Land cover change
			<input type="checkbox"/> Carbon stocks above or below ground
		<input type="checkbox"/> Food Security	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Waters		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Ship	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Freshwater	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Aquifer
			<input type="checkbox"/> River Basin
			<input type="checkbox"/> Lake Basin
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Learning	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fisheries	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Persistent toxic substances	
		<input type="checkbox"/> SIDS : Small Island Dev States	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Research	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pollution	
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Persistent toxic substances
			<input type="checkbox"/> Plastics
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nutrient pollution from all sectors except wastewater
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nutrient pollution from Wastewater
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Plan preparation	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategic Action Plan Implementation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Large Marine Ecosystems	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Sector	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aquaculture	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marine Protected Area	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Biomes	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Mangrove
			<input type="checkbox"/> Coral Reefs
			<input type="checkbox"/> Seagrasses
			<input type="checkbox"/> Polar Ecosystems
			<input type="checkbox"/> Constructed Wetlands
	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemicals and Waste		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Mercury	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Artisanal and Scale Gold Mining	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Coal Fired Power Plants	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Coal Fired Industrial Boilers	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Cement	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Ferrous Metals Production	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Ozone	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Persistent Organic Pollutants	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Sound Management of chemicals and Waste	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Waste Management	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Waste Management
			<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial Waste
			<input type="checkbox"/> e-Waste
		<input type="checkbox"/> Emissions	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Disposal	
		<input type="checkbox"/> New Persistent Organic Pollutants	

		<input type="checkbox"/> Polychlorinated Biphenyls	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plastics	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Eco-Efficiency	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticides	
		<input type="checkbox"/> DDT - Vector Management	
		<input type="checkbox"/> DDT - Other	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial Emissions	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Open Burning	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Best Available Technology / Best Environmental Practices	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Green Chemistry	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Adaptation	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Finance
			<input type="checkbox"/> Least Developed Countries
			<input type="checkbox"/> Small Island Developing States
			<input type="checkbox"/> Disaster Risk Management
			<input type="checkbox"/> Sea-level rise
			<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Resilience
			<input type="checkbox"/> Climate information
			<input type="checkbox"/> Ecosystem-based Adaptation
			<input type="checkbox"/> Adaptation Tech Transfer
			<input type="checkbox"/> National Adaptation Programme of Action
			<input type="checkbox"/> National Adaptation Plan
			<input type="checkbox"/> Mainstreaming Adaptation
			<input type="checkbox"/> Private Sector
			<input type="checkbox"/> Innovation
			<input type="checkbox"/> Complementarity
			<input type="checkbox"/> Community-based Adaptation
			<input type="checkbox"/> Livelihoods
		<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Mitigation	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture, Forestry, and other Land Use
			<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Efficiency
			<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Urban Systems and Transport
			<input type="checkbox"/> Technology Transfer
			<input type="checkbox"/> Renewable Energy
			<input type="checkbox"/> Financing
			<input type="checkbox"/> Enabling Activities
		<input type="checkbox"/> Technology Transfer	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer
			<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN)
			<input type="checkbox"/> Endogenous technology
			<input type="checkbox"/> Technology Needs Assessment
			<input type="checkbox"/> Adaptation Tech Transfer
		<input type="checkbox"/> United Nations Framework on Climate Change	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Nationally Determined Contribution
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rio Markers		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Paris Agreement	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Development Goals	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Mitigation 0	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Mitigation 1	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Mitigation 2	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Adaptation 0	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Adaptation 1	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Adaptation 2	

## ATTACHMENT C

### CONTRACT FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS

THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, and  
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL  
ORGANIZATION

(hereinafter called 'UNESCO')

(hereinafter called 'The Individual  
Specialist')

7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP  
France

Vendor Number:

Hereby agree as follows:

#### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

1. Under the supervision of the Individual Specialist shall:

#### **DURATION OF CONTRACT**

2. If the contract is not signed by the Individual Specialist and returned to UNESCO by [dd/mm/yyyy] at the latest, it will be considered null and void. This date is subject to modification upon agreement of both parties.
3. This contract shall come into effect on [dd/mm/yyyy], and shall expire on satisfactory completion and delivery of the services described above, but no later than [dd/mm/yyyy], unless terminated earlier under the terms of this contract.
4. If, by the expiry date of the contract as defined in Article 3 above, the Individual Specialist has performed no part of the work assignment, and no advances have been paid by UNESCO, the contract shall be considered null and void.
5. After the expiration of the contract, the Individual Specialist cannot claim payment for any work not delivered on time, as stipulated in article 6.3 below.

#### **CONDITIONS OF PAYMENTS**

##### **6. Payments and Currency**

- 6.1. UNESCO shall make payments to the Individual Specialist on a lump sum basis.
- 6.2. The contract shall be drawn up and all payments made in United States Dollars, Euros or currencies in which UNESCO holds a bank account. Only one currency can be used in any one contract. Where necessary, the United Nations' operational rate of exchange on the date a contract is signed should be used to convert amounts into another currency, but no adjustments will be made for exchange rate variations during the contract period, either to the overall amount or a staggered payment.

- 6.3. UNESCO shall make the following payments to the Individual Specialist for the services to be provided under the terms of this contract:

Payment	Upon submission and approval by UNESCO of the following:	Reference Article 1	Latest date for submission	Amount	Currency

- 6.4. The final payment, or each payment in the case of staggered payments, shall be made only after receipt and approval as satisfactory by UNESCO of any deliverable that the Individual Specialist is required to submit for payment under the terms of this contract.
- 6.5. All payments (see article 6.3 below) shall be effected by bank transfer. UNESCO shall be responsible for its own banking fees but any possible intermediary banking fees, as well as the beneficiary's own banking fees, shall be the responsibility of the Individual Specialist.
- 6.6. No payments shall be made to a third party.

## 7. Advance Payments

Except for expenses necessarily incurred by an Individual Specialist in order to prepare for an assignment (e.g. travel or equipment), no advance payment shall be made.

## 8. Travel

If deemed necessary by UNESCO, the Individual Specialist who is required to travel in order to perform the work described in article 1, shall be paid a lump sum of [ ] (state currency, which must be the same as the currency in article 6.3) to cover all travel related expenses, including daily subsistence allowance, tickets for the authorized travel and other related expenses (e.g. visas, vaccinations and terminal expenses), in accordance with UNESCO's usual travel provisions.

## 9. Reimbursement

- 9.1. If any of the work corresponding to the instalments in article 6.3 is not completed to UNESCO's full satisfaction, and/or prior to the expiration of the contract, UNESCO shall have the right to the reimbursement of full or partial payments made, including any advanced payment, to the extent that the services already rendered are either unusable or inadequate in relation to the expenses incurred by UNESCO.
- 9.2. Any reimbursement shall be returned in the same currency as the payment was made.

## 10. Banking Instructions

- 10.1. The Individual Specialist should confirm below mentioned banking instructions for any payments arising from the present contract:

Name of the Bank:

Address of Bank:

Name of the Account Holder:

Number of Account:

IBAN Number:

SWIFT Address:

10.2. Only one banking instruction is allowed in any one contract.

**UNESCO TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

11. This contract is subject to General Terms and Conditions as attached. Each page of these Terms and Conditions should be initialled by the Individual Specialist and UNESCO.

12. The Individual Specialist and UNESCO also agree to be bound by the provisions contained in the following documents, which form the only legally valid contractual arrangement between the parties and which shall take precedence in case of conflict in the following order: (i) the present contract and (ii) the General Terms and Conditions attached hereto.

**Signed on behalf of the Director-General of UNESCO:**

Name:	Date :
Title :	Signature :

**Individual Specialist:**

***"I acknowledge that I have read and accept the terms and conditions on the following page".***

Name :	Date :
Title :	Signature :

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## GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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### Article I. Legal Status

1. Individual Specialist is neither a staff member under the UNESCO Staff Regulations and Staff Rules nor an official under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies (21 November 1947). He/she may, however, be given the status of 'expert on mission' within the meaning of Annex IV of the said Convention.
2. Any immunities and privileges that may be accorded the Individual Specialist by a government are conferred in the interests of UNESCO. Any such immunities and privileges shall not be invoked to excuse the Individual Specialist from discharging any private obligations or from observing laws and police regulations. Should a question of immunities and privileges arise, the Individual Specialist shall immediately report to the Director-General of UNESCO, who shall decide whether they shall be waived.

### Article II. Obligations

1. The Individual Specialist is subject to the authority of the Director-General of UNESCO and is responsible to the Director-General in the performance of his/her work.
2. The Individual Specialist's responsibilities are exclusively international. By accepting a contract with UNESCO, the Individual Specialist undertakes to carry out the work given to him/her and to regulate his/her conduct with the interest of the Organization only in view.
3. In providing his/her service, the Individual Specialist shall neither seek, nor accept, any instructions from any government or any authority external to the Organization, except as may be authorized by the Director-General of UNESCO.
4. The Individual Specialist shall conduct him/herself at all times in a manner befitting his international status. He/she shall not engage in any activity that is incompatible with the performance of his/her work for UNESCO. He/she shall avoid any action and in particular any kind of public pronouncement that may adversely reflect on his/her status, or on the integrity, independence and impartiality that is required by that status. While he/she is not expected to give up his/her national sentiments, or his/her political and religious convictions, he/she shall at all times bear in mind the reserve and tact incumbent upon him/her by reason of his/her international status.
5. The Individual Specialist shall exercise the utmost discretion in regard to all matters of official business. He/she shall not communicate to any person unpublished information known to him/her by reason of his/her assignment, except by authorization of the Director-General of UNESCO. These obligations remain binding even after the expiry of the contract.
6. If the Individual Specialist, by malice, culpable negligence or failure to observe any applicable rule, involves UNESCO in unnecessary loss, expense or liability, he/she shall be held responsible and may be required to pay compensation.

### Article III. Declaration of Compatibility of the Professional Status

#### 1. Family Ties

- (i) The Individual Specialist certifies that he/she is not the father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of a staff member of UNESCO, of an employee of the ancillary services



or of someone who, at the same time, holds a supernumerary contract or contract for individual consultants or other specialists or has a fellowship with UNESCO.

- (ii) The Individual Specialist also certifies that, if he/she has a spouse working as a UNESCO staff member, or as an ancillary services employee, the spouse does not work in the same Sector, Bureau or field office in which the Individual Specialist will be working.

## **2. Multiple Contracts**

- (i) The Individual Specialist certifies and declares that he/she only holds one contract of any type with UNESCO at any one time. Any failure to respect this condition renders this present contract liable for immediate termination, without notice or indemnity.
  - (ii) The Individual Specialist certifies and declares that he/she is not a beneficiary of any type of UNESCO Fellowship. Any failure to respect this condition renders this present contract liable for immediate termination, without notice or indemnity.
3. The Individual Specialist certifies and declares that he/she does not have incompatible professional status under UNESCO's provisions governing the contracts for individual consultants and other specialists.\*

## **Article IV. Officials not to Benefit**

The Individual Specialist confirms that no official of UNESCO has received from or will be offered by the Individual Specialist any direct or indirect benefit arising from this contract or the award thereof. The Individual Specialist accepts that breach of this provision is a breach of an essential term of this contract which renders this present contract liable for immediate termination, without notice or indemnity.

## **Article V. Taxes**

UNESCO will not reimburse any taxes, duties or other contributions for which the Individual Specialist may be liable in respect of any payments made to him/her under the terms of this contract.

## **Article VI. Use of Name, Emblem or Official Seal of UNESCO**

The Individual Specialist shall not in any manner whatsoever advertise, display, appropriate for personal use the name, emblem or official seal of UNESCO, or any abbreviation of the name of UNESCO in connection with his/her business or otherwise.

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\* In order to avoid the perception of lack of independence or conflict of interest, the individual selected for an assignment must not be:

- a fellow or a holder of another contract of any type with UNESCO at the same time as the proposed contract;
- a member of the Executive Board or an Alternate during his/her term of office until at least 18 months have elapsed from the date of cessation of their representational functions;
- a member of any UNESCO Committee, International Programme Governing Body or National Commission;
- the External Auditor and members of his or her staff who have participated in the audit of the Organization during the two financial periods (e.g. two biennia) following completion of their mandate;
- a member of the Oversight Advisory Committee for 5 years following the expiry of his/her term;
- other officials with oversight responsibilities, including members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) or other similar bodies in the United Nations system, who have had oversight responsibilities over UNESCO, during their service and within 4 years of ceasing that service.

## **Article VII. Confidential Nature of Documents and Information**

Drawings, photographs, plans, reports, recommendations, estimates, documents and all other data compiled by or received by the Individual Specialist under this contract shall be the property of UNESCO, shall be treated as confidential and shall be delivered only to UNESCO authorized officials on completion of work under this contract.

## **Article VIII. Title Rights**

UNESCO shall be entitled to all property rights, including but not limited to patents, copyrights and trademarks with regard to all material which bears a direct relation, to, or is made in consequence of, the services provided to the Organization by the Individual Specialist.

## **Article IX. Medical Clearance**

The Individual Specialist certifies and declares that he/she: a) is in good health b) has no condition that would prevent him/her from carrying out the work as foreseen by this contract and c) has obtained any necessary inoculations or other medical treatment which may be necessary for him/her to travel to and work in the area(s) foreseen under this contract. The Individual Specialist will be held fully responsible for this certification and declaration. If requested, Individual Specialists may be required to undergo a full medical examination, and be medically cleared by UNESCO's Chief Medical Officer, prior to taking up their duties.

## **Article X. Insurance**

1. (i) The Individual Specialist shall be insured by UNESCO for work-related accidents, injuries, illnesses or death while performing duties on behalf of the Organization.

(ii) The insurance provides for compensation in the case of: (a) death or permanent total disablement; (b) permanent partial disablement; (c) temporary total disablement. Coverage for temporary, partial disablement is not included. The capital sum insured shall be up to a maximum of 85 000 USD. The scale of compensation payable will be in accordance with the terms and conditions of UNESCO's policy with its insurer. Medical expenses attributable to work-incurred accidents or illnesses are paid up to a maximum annual amount of 10 000 USD.

(iii) If any injury, illness or death for which compensation is payable under the above provisions is caused in circumstances which, in the Director-General's opinion, create a legal liability on the part of a third party to pay damages, the UNESCO Director-General may, as a condition of granting compensation, require the Individual Specialist to whom it is granted to assign to the Organization any rights of action which he/she may have against such a third party. The Individual Specialist shall thereupon furnish to UNESCO any data or evidence which may be available to him/her, and shall render all other assistance which may be required in prosecuting any claim or action against such a third party. He/she shall not settle any such claim or action without the consent of the Organization; UNESCO shall be entitled itself to do so or to require him/her to do so upon such terms as seem reasonable to it.

2. Other than the provisions set out in Article X, paragraph 1(ii), UNESCO does not provide medical insurance to the Individual Specialist.

### **Article XI. Title to Equipment**

Title to any equipment and supplies that may be furnished by UNESCO shall rest with UNESCO and any such equipment shall be returned to UNESCO at the conclusion of this contract or when no longer needed by the Individual Specialist. Such equipment, when returned to UNESCO, shall be in the same condition as when delivered to the Individual Specialist, subject to normal wear and tear. The Individual Specialist shall be liable to compensate UNESCO for equipment determined to be damaged or degraded beyond normal wear and tear.

### **Article XII. Termination**

1. UNESCO or the Individual Specialist may cancel the contract before it has come into effect by giving written notice to the other party. For contracts of less than 2 months the period of notice is 5 days, for longer contracts – 14 days. No compensation shall be payable in such cases. Should UNESCO cancel the contract with shorter notice, the Individual Specialist is entitled to 5% of payment for each month of service provided by the contract, subject to a maximum of 30% of the total amount.
2. Once the contract has come into effect, it may be terminated by either party at any time before the expiry date with 2 weeks written notice for contracts of 6 months or less, or 1 month's written notice if the contract is for more than 6 months. If UNESCO terminates the contract, the Individual Specialist is entitled to an indemnity of 5% of payment for each remaining aggregated period of service equivalent to one month, subject to a maximum payment of 30% of the total amount. In the event of termination by the Individual Specialist, or of the inability of the Individual Specialist to carry out fully its terms, UNESCO may deduct from any payments due an amount equivalent to any losses caused to the Organization, taking into consideration the extent to which the assignment has been completed.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article XII, paragraphs 1 and 2, in the event of breach of contract, including false declarations, on the part of the Individual Specialist, the contract may be immediately terminated by UNESCO without notice or indemnity.

### **Article XIII. Arbitration**

1. Any controversy or dispute concerning the execution or interpretation of this contract shall be settled by negotiation between the parties. If it is not amicably settled, it shall be submitted, at the initiative of either party, either to the Chairperson of the UNESCO Appeals Board or be the subject of an arbitration under the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Arbitration Rules in force. The arbitrator shall rule upon the costs of arbitration, which shall be either apportioned between the two parties or paid by one of them only. The arbitral award shall be final and irrevocable.
2. The party initiating the procedure shall decide which of the two procedures shall apply.

### **Article XIV. Amendments**

This contract may be amended specifying all modifications and signed by both UNESCO and the Individual Specialist prior to the expiry date of the present contract. If the Individual Specialist wishes to propose amendments, these proposals should be communicated to UNESCO which, if deemed necessary, will prepare the amendment to present contract for mutual agreement and signature.

Initials:
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