



INTERNATIONAL WATERS RESULTS NOTES

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Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem – Regional Component (MedPartnership)

GEFID#: 2600, GEF Agency Project ID#: GFL/2322-2731-4A05, Project Status: Active



1. The project has contributed to the adoption and ratification of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol of the Barcelona Convention, which came into force in March 2011. It is also supporting countries for its implementation, including the integration of water resource and aquifer management, through capacity building and 13 demonstration projects.
2. The transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology (TEST) is being successfully implemented in 43 industries, using innovative measures to significantly reduce pollution loads and improve water productivity.
3. Establishment of a more effective network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) through capacity building and implementation of 13 demonstrations. As a result, Libya has established its first MPA, (Ain Al-Ghazalah), MPA management plans have been drafted in Croatia, Algeria, and Turkey, and more than 300 MPA practitioners trained throughout the region.

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United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The regional project of the MedPartnership aims to promote and induce harmonized policy, legal and institutional reforms; fill the knowledge gap aimed at reversing marine and coastal degradation trends and living resources depletion, in accordance with priorities agreed by the countries in the Strategic Action Plans for pollution reduction and biodiversity conservation (SAP MED and SAP BIO); and to prepare the ground for the future implementation of the ICZM Protocol. Accordingly, the project focuses on: i) the facilitation of policy, institutional and legal reforms for the protection of biodiversity and reducing pollution from land based sources consistent with the provisions of the two SAPs; ii) providing assistance to countries in advancing their ICZM and IWRM plans (and including the management of aquifers) with emphasis on the protection of biodiversity and the prevention of pollution from land based sources, iii) ensuring the effective involvement of all stakeholders in the Regional Component and NAP implementation; and iv) executing 46 demonstration projects that improve biodiversity protection, help reduce pollution from land-based sources, and enhance application of ICZM, IWRM and management of coastal aquifers. The participating countries are Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Montenegro, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. The Palestinian Authority also participates.

RESULTS: PROCESS

INDICATOR#1 Preparation and adoption of regional and national policy/legal/institutional reforms in all countries (Between 5 and 10 regional and national policy documents and plans developed and adopted by relevant authorities).

RESULTS: The ICZM Protocol entered into force with 6 ratifications on March 24th 2011 (the fastest entry of all Protocols to the Barcelona Convention)¹ and the Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean (SWM) has been drafted through an inclusive process, with final approval pending.²

INDICATOR#2: Regional and National institutions strengthened in all countries through targeted capacity building activities (minimum of 30 training sessions to build capacity of institutions).

RESULTS: A total of over 20 workshops/training sessions have been undertaken so far including: the management of marine protected areas (with over 200 MPA practitioners trained)³, the implementation of environmental sound technology (4 workshops, 10 training sessions and total of 746 man/days of training),⁴ and four workshops for capacity building for the implementation of the ICZM protocol.

INDICATOR#3: Increased scientific knowledge of the Mediterranean (Min. of 6 assessments undertaken related to coastal aquifers, nutrient fluxes, MPA's, by-catch and unsustainable fishing practices, etc).

RESULTS: Regarding aquifer management, the assessment of risk and uncertainty of coastal aquifer in the Nador Lagoon and Bou Areg aquifer is now completed, and regarding marine protected areas, Morocco, and marine surveys of the Ain Al-Ghazala marine and coastal area in Libya, which were used to declare the site as an MPA, were also completed.

¹ Activities executed by UNEP/MAP's regional activity center Priority Actions Programme (PAP/RAC)

² This activity is led by European Union with support from the Global Water Partnership for the Mediterranean.

³ Activities executed by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-MedPO) and UNEP/MAP's regional activity center for specially protected areas (SPA/RAC)

⁴ Activities executed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

RESULTS: STRESS REDUCTION

INDICATOR#1: Water use efficiency at demonstration enterprises increased by 40% (Reduction of 40% in at least in half of the companies as a result of the implementation of TEST)

RESULT: Demonstrations still underway and results under quantification, although initial results indicate target will be met.

INDICATOR#2: Reduction of pollution loads at the industrial demonstration enterprises (Approx. 30% reduction of pollution loads in at least half of the companies as a result of the implementation of TEST).

RESULT: Demonstrations still underway and results under quantification, although initial results indicate target will be met.

RESULTS: WATER RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

The project did not originally propose water resource and environmental status indicators, however the proposal is to link the project actions on the ground with the work underway of the Ecosystem approach, led by UNEP/MAP, which had defined and agreed upon 11 ecological objectives and 54 indicators for the future monitoring of the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment, which complements the EU Marine Strategic Directive. The first report of these indicators will be presented in 2012.

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