

Mediterranean environmental Replication strategy “MeReS”: Review of replication proposals and next steps

The 3rd Steering Committee of the MedPartnership, held in Istanbul 15-17 May 2012 adopted the proposal for the *Mediterranean Environmental Replication Strategy* “MERES”.

MERES is a joining of efforts between UNEP/MAP and the European Commission towards the promotion and replication of good practices for the protection of the marine and coastal environment of the Mediterranean. As a first step, this will be done through joint efforts within three major programs – MedPartnership (<http://www.themedpartnership.org>), Horizon 2020 (<http://www.h2020.net>), and SWIM (<http://www.swim-sm.eu>) – in order to promote the replication of good practices throughout the region, targeting strategically important areas of concern.

The present Review represents the review of the proposals received in response to the Call, with a focus on the MedPartnership, issued in February 2013. This process will enable UNEP/MAP to draft the 2014-2015 work-plan for the replication actions to be presented for adoption at the 4th Steering Committee of the MedPartnership (February 2014).

MedPartnership Replication Strategy - history

The concept of specific activities dedicated to promoting good practices and replication was an innovative and integrated part of the design of the MedPartnership project when originally designed in 2007. The concept of how to ensure replication has been influenced by various changes that occurred within the project between 2007 and 2014 that can be summarized as the following:

- I. The original concept was to promote “good” or “replicable” practices identified, not just in the MedPartnership but mainly in support of the complimentary World Bank Investment Fund, where 80 million US\$ were committed by GEF for investment projects to implement SAP and NAP priorities. The Investment Fund however was not fully funded, and therefore the replication strategy needed some refocus to support the MedPartnership activities only.
- II. Originally INFO/RAC was to execute the replication strategy. However, due to the move of INFO/RAC to ISPRA, and other unforeseen factors, in order not to delay activities, it was agreed by all that replication activities would be executed by UNEP/MAP, with funds provided to executing partners to execute concrete actions.
- III. The 3rd Steering Committee (15-17 May 2012, Istanbul, Turkey) approved the Mediterranean Environmental Replication Strategy (MeRES).
- IV. In February 2013, a call for proposals was sent to all executing partners copied to focal points (See Annex 1). In the call it was clarified that *“Activities funded under this call will be executed through UNEP/MAP and the MedPartnership’s co-executing partners, through addendum’s to their existing agreements. Whilst the funds will be channeled only through the co-executing partners, the proposals should be prepared under the guidance and expertise of the MedPartnership Focal Points and other national experts where relevant.”*

The aim of the replication activities, are to promote and replicate good practices of the MedPartnership that will contribute to SAP and NAP targets and the ICZM Protocol implementation, that can especially showcase the more innovative aspects of the project, and promote the “integrated” or ecosystem approach to addressing marine and coastal issues.

Summary of final selected replication proposals

Eight proposals were received following the call for proposals sent to executing partners, copied to all MedPartnership focal points (see Annex 1). An initial review was undertaken with the best available information from these proposals, with some discussions with responsible co-executing partners.

Of the eight proposals, the UNEP/MAP PMU with the support of a consultant, and in consultation with all executing partners, will propose three replication projects for funding and execution in this phase. These proposals met the majority of the initial criteria in the Call for Proposals (Annex 1). They also include committed support and co-financing from co-executing partners and/or national partners, and are designed to fully complement national planning and priorities. Finally each has the potential to be showcased and further replicated within the region.

The following three proposals are proposed for replication funding.

Title	Region/ Country	Executing Partner	Replication evaluation/notes
1) Proposal for funding the preparation of a National ICZM Strategy as a part of future Coastal and Marine Strategy	Croatia:	PAP RAC	To bring together the MSFD planning with the integrated methodology within the MedPartnership (Water-ICZM-aquifer management)
2) Darnour River basin and coastal areas: Establishment of a shared vision among stakeholders for the management of the area and create the conditions for development of an integrated IWRM/ICZM Plan	Lebanon	GWP Med	Expansion of the integrated methodology (Water-ICZM-aquifer management) to the Damour River basin
3) Tunisia: Ecological and socio-economic studies in view of the creation of a marine and coastal protected area in the North-Eastern part of Kerkennah Islands, Tunisia	Tunisia	SPA RAC	Proposal to focus on Kerkennah island, in support of new MPA planned and Climate Variability demonstration.

Of the remaining five proposals submitted, discussions will be held on their potential funding through the project or other funding mechanisms.

Summary of draft proposals submitted for funding

1) Croatia: Proposal for funding the preparation of a National ICZM Strategy as a part of future Coastal and Marine Strategy - PAP RAC

Summary Review

The aim of the proposal is the preparation of the National ICZM Strategy of Croatia called for by the ICZM Protocol, as part of future Marine and Coastal Strategy. Croatian Government is currently working on preparation of the Marine Strategy for Croatia. ICZM Strategy would be prepared in parallel, and jointly with the last steps of preparation of the Marine Strategy, so that the final product would be one strategy – “Marine and Coastal Strategy for Croatia. With this project, convergence of ICZM, IWRM and aquifers management on which partners of the Component 1 worked within MedPartnership’s IMF and the pilots is going to be extended on the marine management. Work done within CVC project in Croatia will also represent an input for the Marine and Coastal Strategy for Croatia. This pilot proposal represents a unique and innovative more integrated view at coastal area planning and management.

This proposal has been integrated into the MedPartnership work-plan for approval by the 4th Steering Committee to be held in Tunis, 17-20 February 2014.

2) Lebanon, Damour River basin and coastal areas or other suitable area: Establishment of a shared vision among stakeholders for the management of the area and create the conditions for development of an integrated IWRM/ICZM Plan – GWP Med

Summary Review

The proposal targets the Damour Basin in Lebanon, and aims at establishing an enabling environment for, and stakeholder acceptance of an integrated IWRM-ICZM approach to basin and coastal planning, replicating and expanding the experience gained with the Buna-Bojana Pilot under MedPartnership.

This proposal has been integrated into the MedPartnership work-plan for approval by the 4th Steering Committee to be held in Tunis, 17-20 February 2014.

3) Preparatory ecological and socio-economic studies in view of the creation of a marine and coastal protected area in the North-Eastern part of Kerkennah Islands, Tunisia (replacing the Visitor Management in the Kuriat Islands MPA proposal)

Summary Review

The National Programme for the creation of marine and coastal protected areas in Tunisia aims to establish a network of marine and coastal protected areas along the Tunisian coast. It is part of the national policy on biodiversity, as defined by the National Biodiversity Plan approved in 1998. The programme covers five sites: Zembra and Zembretta Archipelago, the Kuriat Islands, the Northeastern part of Kerkennah Islands, the coastline from Cape Negro to Cape Serrat, and La Galite Archipelago as a pilot project.

In addition, a more recent study (2008) aiming at the preparation of an integrated coastal zone management plan of Kerkennah Islands made in the framework of a GEF project on the Golf of Gabès (*Projet de Protection des Ressources Marines et Côtières du Golfe de Gabès* (Projet GEF-054942-TUN)), proposed a marine zoning for the Kerkennah Islands including a zone for the creation of a marine and coastal protected area and a zone for the protection of coastal artisanal fisheries.

This replication activity will allow the inception of new marine and coastal protected area Northern Kerkennah in view of extending the national/regional network of marine and coastal protected areas. Expected outputs will be: (i) an ecological study along with GIS-based maps for the concerned area, and (ii) a fisheries study on fleet locally operating in the potential MPA and surrounding areas. This activity will be also accompanied with on-the-job training provided to national/local personnel on the many aspects of ecological quantification of MPAs ecosystems and related fisheries. Climate variability dimension will be also integrated in the ecological investigations in the area, which a hotspot for climate change impacts in the Tunisian coast.

4) Advancing Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector as means for meeting environmental protection objectives (Albania) - GWP Med

Summary Review

The proposed activity, largely co-funded by other partners, aims at facilitating mobilisation of financing for the Mediterranean water sector through public private partnerships, by supporting the development of mutually agreed action plans based on international good practices, and the establishment of a regional platform for dialogue among institutional partners and the private sector. To do so, the proposed activity relies on previous work by the proponent in Egypt (completed), Lebanon (completed) and Tunisia (on-going) conducted in the framework of the MedPartnership and the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI). It will replicate the methodology in a country of Southeastern Europe, and

more specifically in Albania, and focus MERes contribution on exploring cooperation options on water related environmental issues, also through the private sector's Corporate Social Responsibility agenda.

The proposal for Advancing Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector as means for meeting environmental protection (Albania), submitted by GWP-Med, will be undertaken with other funding and has been agreed to be excluded thus from funding under replication.

5) Egypt: Monitoring of Heavy metals and hazardous organic pollutants in Sediments and Benthos from the hot spot (Abou Qir Bay, Madiaa, Edkou, Rashid) along the Mediterranean Sea - Egyptian Environment Affairs Agency

Summary Review

The draft proposal addresses the issue of Heavy Metals and POPs pollution in one of the major, possibly the main one, and Mediterranean pollution hot spots identified by the TDA: Abou Qir Bay and the Alexandria coast. The objective is to monitor the levels of a number of Persistent Toxic Substances (Heavy Metals and POPs) in sediments and shellfish in ten localities along the coast, and attempt projections of trends through mathematical modeling.

This proposal is focused on monitoring and has been shared with MEDPOL and EcAp colleagues for possible funding.

6) Lebanon: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Marine Resources in Ras Chekaa Proposed Marine Protected Area - Ministry of Environment of Lebanon

Summary Review

The proposed project targets a "proposed marine protected area" in Northern Lebanon – Ras Chekaa – considered of high regional/global value for its "Vermetid Terraces" and associated biodiversity. The activities that are being proposed consist in the preparation of a Management Plan through a participatory process involving all stakeholders, in particular fishermen, supported by awareness raising materials. The management plan will include provisions for alternative livelihoods for fishermen (eco-tourism strategy).

This proposal has been shared with SPA/RAC colleagues for future discussion on potential funding in the future.

7) Marine Litter in the Mediterranean: Public Awareness & Co-responsibility – MIO ECSDE

Summary Review

The proposed activity deals with marine debris prevention, reduction and management which fall under existing mandates of GEF focal areas including International Waters, Climate Change, Biodiversity, etc. It has been recognised that marine litter in the Mediterranean is an emerging threat originating from various land- and sea-based activities and knowing no boundaries. Given the momentum built with regards to the recently adopted Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean it was decided to explore the full potential of this proposal in future actions within the scope of replication or beyond.

8) Invasive Alien Species: Raising awareness and promoting action – MIO ECSDE

Summary Review

The proposed activity deals with the introduction of Alien Species in the marine environment, which is world-wide considered as one of the greatest drivers of biodiversity loss, second only to habitat loss and fragmentation, posing a threat to ecosystem integrity and function and, therefore, to human well-being. Mediterranean habitats are extremely susceptible to invasion by alien species and urgent action is needed

to address this issue in the region. It was decided that this theme and the proposed activity have a rather high potential to secure funding within the Small Grants Programme.

Two regional proposals on Marine Litter and Invasive Alien Species were submitted by MIO-ECSDE. Whilst both proposals respond to priorities identified in the SAP MED and SAP BIO having as central axis of action the involvement of NGOs in addressing key environmental threats in the region, they were excluded from funding under this replication phase, as they demonstrate potential to secure funding either within the scope of implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean (adopted at the COP18) and/or the Small Grants Programme.

Potential 2nd Phase proposals and follow up in the future

With the opportunity of the 4th Steering Committee meeting, a discussion will be held with all participants on the possibility of a 2nd phase of proposals, funds and time permitting.

Should there be a strong request for new proposals, the PMU may coordinate a 2nd call open to all executing partners and participating countries for short concepts, that the PMU will seek additional funding to support in the near future, if not within the MedPartnership, then perhaps as part of a follow up project or projects to the MedPartnership.

Next steps following the 4th Steering Committee meeting (February 2014)

The three proposals have been integrated into the draft work-plan and budget of the MedPartnership for discussion and adoption at the 4th Steering Committee meeting to be held in Tunis, Tunisia 17-20 February 2014. If adopted, addendums to the legal agreements of the three responsible co-executing agencies (PAP/RAC, GWP-Med and SPA/RAC) will be signed to ensure executing of activities begin in April 2014, for the duration of 12 months.

Annex 1. Mediterranean Environmental Replication Strategy “MEReS”

Call for Proposals (14th February 2013)

The 3rd Steering Committee of the MedPartnership, held in Istanbul 15-17 May 2012 adopted the proposal for the Mediterranean Environmental Replication Strategy “MEReS”.

MEReS is a joining of efforts between UNEP/MAP and the European Commission towards the promotion and replication of good practices for the protection of the marine and coastal environment of the Mediterranean. As a first step, this will be done through joint efforts within three major programs – MedPartnership (<http://www.themedpartnership.org>), Horizon 2020 (<http://www.h2020.net>), and SWIM (<http://www.swim-sm.eu>) – in order to promote the replication of good practices throughout the region, targeting strategically important areas of concern.

The present **Call for Proposals** represents the first step in the implementation of MEReS, with a focus on the MedPartnership, and will enable UNEP/MAP to draft the 2013-2014 work-plan of replication actions to be presented for adoption at the 4th Steering Committee of the MedPartnership (May 2013). The following steps will be undertaken:

- i) Request to all executing partners of the MedPartnership to recommend regional and national activities, in close consultation with the National Focal Points (and other experts) which will encourage and achieve the replication of good practices (detailed below)
- ii) 4th Coordination Group of the MedPartnership (April 2013) to review and discuss proposals received, and develop budgeted implementation plan
- iii) Proposed MeRES implementation plan presented to the 4th Steering Committee of the MedPartnership (May/June 2013) for approval.

Both SWIM and Horizon 2020 are engaged in efforts that will eventually lead to an integrated 2013-2014 Replication Work Program.

Guidelines for submission of proposals on replication activities

It should be first noted that funding available for replication within the MedPartnership will not be sufficient to cover all activities proposed, or large scale investments. We therefore kindly request that the below guidance be followed, which will be the criteria upon which the final selection of activities to be included in the draft implementation plan for adoption at the 4th Steering Committee meeting.

Criteria for “Replication practices”

The proposed activities should be within the participating countries of the MedPartnership and contribute to the main objective which is to assist countries in the implementation of the priority regional and national actions agreed in two Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for the reduction of pollution from land-based sources (SAP-Med) and the conservation of biological diversity (SAP-BIO) and the implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management ICZM Protocol. Detailed Criteria are given in Annex 1.

Development of the proposal

Proposals should be clear and concise (3-5 pages) and should include the following sections:

- 1) *Description of the proposed practice, and the results achieved in terms of its impacts as part of MedPartnership (max. 2 pages).*
- 2) *Demonstration of compliance with the criteria established by MEReS in Annex 1.*
- 3) *A description of the actions proposed including (i) concrete outputs expected, (ii) methodology for implementation and timeframe, (iii) budget and co-financing for each activity iv) How the proposed activities are complemented by other regional or national activities complement*
- 4) *An Execution Plan.* The proponent will describe how he intends to implement the proposed promotion of replication activities.

Please note that proposed activities should be for one year maximum. All executing partners will need to coordinate their proposals with MedPartnership Focal Points.

Please note that the total budget for replication activities within the region is less than 500,000 US\$ and a realistic budget for individual proposals is expected to be between 30-80,000 US\$ (excluding co-financing).

Key considerations

Based on the proposals received, UNEP/MAP will prepare a draft replication work-plan for presentation at the next Steering Committee meeting. In this process the criteria in the table above and the following considerations will be taken into account

- i) This is an opportunity to showcase the “integrated” nature of the MedPartnership, and therefore priority will be given on actions that can have multiple benefits and link

water/aquifer/coastal management, pollution reduction and biodiversity conservation/fisheries management, thereby taking an ecosystem approach.

- ii) Priority will be given to where actions proposed are supported by national planning and commitments or links to other regional and national planning with a strong emphasis on ensuring sustainability.
- iii) The final programme should have a particular focus on “Innovation”

Types of actions

Whilst the ultimate aim of these actions should be replication of actions to achieve concrete “stress reduction” activities themselves may include (among others)

- i) Activities to support policy, planning and enforcement
- ii) Capacity building and awareness raising
- iii) Promotion and application of innovative technology

Next steps

Draft proposals will be discussed at the next Coordination Group meeting of the MedPartnership (April 2013), with the specific aim to combine and ensure close linkages between proposed actions from each executing partner. Following this the MedPartnership PMU will draft a programme of activities that will be again shared in draft with executing partners before submission to the Steering Committee meeting for discussion and approval. UNEP/MAP will also coordinate with the EC, UfM and other partners (such as the GEF Small Grants programme) to seek further support and synergies to the proposed programme of activities.

Activities funded under this call will be executed through UNEP/MAP and the MedPartnership’s co-executing partners, through addendum’s to their existing agreements. Whilst the funds will be channeled only through the co-executing partners, the proposals should be prepared under the guidance and expertise of the MedPartnership Focal Points and other national experts where relevant. It is envisaged that activities should be funded and begin implementation by July 2013.

Submission Deadline

All interested co-executing partners will submit their proposals for candidate Replicable Practices for consideration by the PMU (virginie.hart@unepmap.gr) no later than 31st March 2013.

Selection Criteria for completion

Selection Criteria for Replicable Practices	How the replication practice addresses the criteria (text)
<p>A. Clearly responds to priorities identified in TDA, and actions in SAPs and NAPs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Clearly linked and can achieve improvement at one or more of the 101 Hot-spots identified in the TDA (locations etc) ii) Contributes to the implementation of the targets identified in SAP MED and/or SAP BIO and/or ICZM Protocol (needs to specify which targets) iii) Proven to result in stress reduction (i.e. reduction of pollution, etc) and/or iv) Address a critical gap or need for the future implementation of one or more targets in SAP MED or SAP BIO v) Actions proposed will promote and replicate the good practices already under implementation within the MedPartnership 	
<p>B. Responds to National Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vi) Based on expression of interest/request from participating country/ies vii) Is supported by activities agreed within current national sectoral and other plans viii) Enhances national compliance with globally and regionally agreed instruments and policy guidance (i.e. Protocols to the Barcelona Convention, SWIM and others) ix) Fosters NAP implementation 	
<p>C. Funding and Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> x) Complemented by activities budgeted in national plans xi) Can be proven as cost-effective and sustainable xii) Expressed interest to co-fund activity from other sources (such as donors, IFI's etc) xiii) Integration into planning to ensure future sustainability 	

D. Overarching considerations and Region-wide impact

- xiv)** Has an high replication potential, i.e.: can be broadly replicated within the Mediterranean physical and socio-economic context, achieving a substantial cumulative stress reduction
- xv)** Can be show-cased as innovative within and beyond the region
- xvi)** Takes an ecosystem approach by addressing multiple issues (i.e. water/coastal management with biodiversity conservation and pollution reduction)