

TERMS OF REFERENCE

STEERING COMMITTEE FOR BUNA/BOJANA TRANSBOUNDARY INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN

The aim of this document is to define the organisational structure, purpose, roles and process of the operational scheme of the **Steering Committee for Buna/Bojana Transboundary Integrated Management Plan**.

Background

The UNEP/MAP GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem (**MedPartnership**) is a collective effort of countries sharing the Mediterranean Sea and leading organisations (regional, international, nongovernmental, etc.) towards the protection of the marine and coastal environment of the Mediterranean. The MedPartnership aims to enable a co-ordinated and strategic approach to catalyze the policy, legal and institutional reforms, and the necessary investments to reverse the degradation trends affecting the Mediterranean unique large marine ecosystem including its coastal habitats and biodiversity. It is being led by **UNEP/MAP** and the **World Bank** and is financially supported by the Global Environment Facility (**GEF**), and other donors, including the EU and all participating countries.

The activities implemented within component 1¹ aim at promoting integrated approaches throughout the Mediterranean for the reduction of pollution and preservation of biodiversity. This will be achieved through an appropriate management of the coastal and river environments and coastal aquifers. Partners in this component - **PAP/RAC**, **GWP-Med** and **UNESCO-IHP** are responsible for the implementation of the following activities, respectively: Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Coastal Aquifer Management which are the overarching policy frameworks for all activities within this component. The activities focus on national and regional policy, legislation and institutional reforms taking fully into account the recent entry into force of the ICZM Protocol of the Barcelona Convention as well as the relevant EU legislation (WFD, Marine Strategy, etc.).

In order to demonstrate the implementation of such an integrated approach, the Buna/Bojana Transboundary (Albania/Montenegro) Coastal and Water Management Plan (aka “the Plan”) will be developed. In order to supervise the process of the Plan development, a Steering Group for the Buna/Bojana Transboundary Coastal and Water Management Plan will be nominated and put into operation.

Roles and Responsibilities

The prime purpose of the Steering Committee is to provide guidance and support in the preparation of the Buna/Bojana Coastal and Water Management Plan. Under the guidance of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and with the support of the Management Group (MG), the Steering Committee will:

- Support and facilitate development and implementation of the work plan to meet the overall aims of the GEF Project and to be in accordance with the local realities in each country.
- Provide inputs for drafting and revision of the relevant Plan documents, including analysis documents as well as documents for managing, communicating and promoting the Plan itself.

¹ Integrated approaches for the implementation of the SAPs and NAPs: ICZM, IWRM and management of coastal aquifers

- Review and make recommendations on the work plan as well as the draft documents/plans to be prepared through the Project.
- Promote and contribute to meaningful engagement of all relevant stakeholders.

Composition of the Steering Committee

The Committee will be formed of representatives of the national government, the high-level competent local administrations and the implementing institutions. As a result of the Joint Inception meeting of Albanian and Montenegrin authorities and partners (within the GEF LME project), the Steering Committee will be composed of a number of individuals equally representing the Albanian and Montenegrin parts, as follows:

- GEF (MedPartnership) FPs;
- Ministries (or sectors/agencies) for spatial planning;
- Ministries (or sectors) for water management;
- Ministries (or sectors) for management of the marine environment;
- Ministries (or sectors) for tourism;
- Local representatives (based on Plan boundaries).

The National Steering Committee members should be appointed by the Governments.

Selected stakeholders from the civil society will also be invited to participate.

In addition, representatives of implementing institutions (PAP/RAC and GWP-Med while UNESCO will be represented through PAP/RAC) will be present.

Working approach

The Steering Committee can be considered as a Forum for guiding and supporting the Plan development and implementation. In addition, it will be used as a platform for developing and sharing ideas, within sectors and countries, on managing the common issues. This will be achieved through meetings, identifying the needs for specific activities and planning joint actions.

It is expected that the Committee will actively support the Plan preparation by the end of GEF LME project (2013) through:

- Participation in at least one meeting per year;
- Participating in exchange of views and discussions held through e-mail and telephone;
- Attend relevant (regional) consultations, when needed.

It is estimated that Committee members will normally dedicate approximately 10 days to the working of the Committee per year.

The Chair of the Committee will be selected on a half-year basis based on a country rotation rule. In addition, the meetings may be organised based on a country rotation rule as well.

The meeting agenda and any discussion papers will be circulated electronically at least one week prior to the meeting, by PAP/RAC and GWP-Med which will both provide the Secretariat of the Committee. Minutes of the meeting as well as lists of attendees will be provided after each Committee meeting.

This TOR is part of MoUs signed by the institutions participating in the Steering Committee.