

Action fiche for ENP South region Annual Action Programme 2012 (part I)**1. IDENTIFICATION**

Title/Number	GREEN MED: Towards a greener economy and a healthy environment (ENPI/2012/023-787)		
Total cost	EU contribution: EUR 24 million (EUR 7 million 2012 and EUR 17 million 2013)		
Aid method / Method of implementation	Project approach under: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Component 1: joint management • Component 2: centralised management and joint management 		
DAC-code	41010	Sector	Environmental policy and administrative management

2. RATIONALE**2.1. Sector context**

The Mediterranean environment is threatened by uncontrolled coastal development, population expansion, increasing tourism, unregulated and unsustainable fishing, freshwater damming, over-extraction of freshwater and pollution. These threats are further exacerbated by the impacts of climate change in the region. The pressures also undermine the prospects of sustained growth and prosperity.

The Mediterranean region has enjoyed over 30 years of co-operation in tackling common and trans-boundary environmental challenges under the United Nations environment programme / Mediterranean action plan (UNEP/MAP). Among its achievements was the adoption of the Barcelona convention for the protection of the marine environment and the coastal region of the Mediterranean, and its seven legal protocols. The convention has become the main strategic framework for the EU environmental co-operation with the region - all countries with a Mediterranean shoreline are signatories, and the convention is part of the EU *acquis*.

In 1995, the parties revised and expanded the Barcelona convention. A Mediterranean strategy for sustainable development was approved. Sustainable management of natural resources and sustainable consumption and production (SCP) were identified as major crosscutting objectives. The need to shift to sustainable consumption and production is clearly reflected in the 2010-2014 work programme of the MAP. Accordingly, the Regional activity centre for cleaner production (CP/RAC), one of the MAP components, has a specific mandate to promote SCP in the Mediterranean region.

The above strategic framework is reinforced in the context of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). The 2008 Joint declaration of the Paris summit for the Mediterranean included removal of pollution from the Mediterranean as one of the six priority initiatives. The importance of water was acknowledged and reference was made to a Water strategy to be approved by Ministers. In 2006, the "Horizon 2020 initiative for de-pollution of the Mediterranean sea" (H2020) became one of the UfM flagship initiatives.

Progress to date is not sufficient to counter the pressures from economic development in the region and the adoption of "consumption intensive" lifestyles. Further efforts are needed to integrate sustainability issues into the policy-making in the region.

The actions proposed under the present programme tackle four focus areas of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) South Regional Indicative Programme for 2011–2013¹, namely:

- Completion of measures in the H2020 road map for the de-pollution of the Mediterranean;
- Protection of biodiversity;
- Environmental protection measures that contribute to an integrated approach to maritime policy and
- Sustainable development (including low emission and climate resilient development).

The programme is also closely linked to the Joint Communication of the European Commission and of the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy "A new response to a changing Neighbourhood"²; the Communication from the Commission "Rio+20: towards the green economy and better governance"³; and the 2009 Communication from the Commission "Towards an Integrated Maritime Policy for better governance in the Mediterranean"⁴.

2.2. Problem analysis

The proposed action will take place in the overarching strategic framework of the Barcelona convention explained above. It will be divided into two components, building on already ongoing initiatives, institutional structures and decisions:

¹ C(2010)9365 of 22 December 2010.

² COM(2011)303 of 25 May 2011 calls for "enhanced co-operation of the EU and partner countries in pursuing a higher level of environment protection aimed at enforcing higher standards of air and water quality, improved environmental governance, higher resource efficiency, protection of biodiversity and ecosystems and supporting the necessary infrastructure investments".

³ COM(2011)363 of 20 June 2011 underlines that "[...] *Moving towards a green economy [...] involves establishing the right regulatory frameworks, creating strong incentives for markets and innovation, leveraging financial resources, and promoting entrepreneurship and greater private sector involvement [...]*".

⁴ COM(2009)466 final of 11 September 2009.

- Component 1. Sustainable consumption and production (new programme);
- Component 2. De-pollution and conservation efforts (extension of three ongoing EU-funded projects).

Component 1: Sustainable consumption and production

The project on sustainable consumption and production is a logical next step in promoting sustainable management of environment and natural resources, and fostering low emission development patterns in the region . Whilst past public environmental policies have been perceived by the private sector largely as a constraint, there is a need to work with the positive incentives (cost reductions and improved markets) that can make business switch to cleaner production, achieve better resource and energy efficiency and "green" their activities. SCP is about technological and social innovation, and involves interaction with the private sector and consumers as a complement to traditional policy efforts.

Component 2: De-pollution and conservation efforts

With respect to the second component, three important EU-financed de-pollution and conservation projects are currently ongoing and will be extended:

- 2.1 The Horizon 2020 capacity building / Mediterranean environment programme, H2020 CB / MEP. This project supports the implementation of the Horizon 2020 initiative road map and work plan through capacity building, awareness raising, and support to mainstreaming of environment issues into other sector policies⁵. An extension in duration and activities will allow meeting the demand for additional capacity building that could not be fully satisfied within the present timelines and resources, in particular in the more innovative thematic areas addressed by the project, where countries have advanced new requests for support. Both the specific H2020 sub-group on capacity building held in June 2010 and the H2020 steering committee held in February 2011 recognised the need to bring the programme forward. The extension will allow to align the project duration with the implementation of the other ongoing EU-funded H2020 projects, namely the Shared environmental information system run by the European environment agency, and the Mediterranean hot spot investment programme - Project preparation and implementation facility run by the European Investment Bank. A mid term review is presently being launched of the full H2020 initiative, which should inform the design of any activities after 2014.
- 2.2 The integrated maritime policy in the Med region, IMP-MED. This project supports the ENP South partner countries in developing their national maritime policies, and a shared Mediterranean approach to common maritime problems and assets⁶. The project seeks to help ensure integration and coherence between the wide range of policies affecting the use of the marine resources.

⁵ Current amount EUR 4,253,500; to be closed on 29 October 2012.

⁶ Current amount EUR 1,470,750; to be closed on 05 November 2012.

The initially foreseen timing will not allow the activities to be fully developed and justifies an extension.

- 2.3 The development of a Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas network. This is the EU-financed biodiversity component of the strategic partnership for the Mediterranean large marine ecosystems (MedPartnership)⁷. The project assists countries to expand, and strengthen the management of, the Mediterranean marine protected areas network⁸. Most of the activities are ending, but the need to continue supporting Marine protected areas (MPAs) is recognised at the highest levels⁹. The EU-financed biodiversity project component is the most advanced of all the activities taking place within the MedPartnership. All the targeted sites have been recently established as MPAs or are in the process of being protected. Most of these have adopted a management plan but are at the early stages of their implementation. Further resources are necessary to ensure that these areas become self-sufficient and integrated in the local socio-economic context. Capacity building and technical assistance is still needed to ensure that relevant NGOs and MPAs management bodies can influence development in and around the protected areas. Climate change adaptation planning for MPA practitioners and policy makers needs to be tackled. The extension will also allow the alignment with the duration of the other components of the MedPartnership.

2.3. Lessons learnt

Component 1: Sustainable consumption and production

The sustainable consumption and production programme – to be called SWITCH-MED - is shaped on the successful model of the ongoing SWITCH-ASIA, but adapted to the specific conditions and ongoing activities in the Mediterranean area, such as the regional policy framework offered by the Barcelona convention, and specific relevant activities of UNEP/MAP, the Regional activity centre on cleaner production (CP/RAC); and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). Similarly to SWITCH-ASIA, it is considered that progress could be achieved through a multi-component programme covering:

- a) a policy component, built around the Barcelona convention and national SCP plans;
- b) demonstration activities linked both to the policy component and the private sector;

⁷ The MedPartnership is 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. It works through two lines of actions: technical and policy support led by UNEP/MAP (Regional Project) and project financing led by the World Bank (Investment Fund/Sustainable MED).

⁸ Current amount EUR 2,000,000, of which EUR 880,000 for the strengthening of marine protected areas (MPAs), to be closed in October 2012; and EUR 1,000,000 for the identification of new areas, to be closed by the end of 2013.

⁹ See the Aichi biodiversity targets agreed at the 10th Conference of the Parties of the convention on biological diversity in October 2010.

- c) a networking function to allow for exchange, lesson learning and further scaling up.

It should be noted that the present Annual Action Programme will finance the second and third pillar of the project, whilst the policy component will be financed from the thematic budget line, for an amount of EUR 3 million¹⁰. The three pillars should nevertheless be seen as one single interdependent programme.

Component 2: De-pollution and conservation efforts

The success of the H2020 CB/MEP in reaching the desired target groups has depended on the strong commitment of the national focal points, as well as of the relevant EU delegations. The modalities used for delivering training and study tours have been highly appreciated by participants. Furthermore, an H2020 network of trainees has been built. The results oriented monitoring (ROM) carried out in November/December 2011 underlined that the capacity building programme should be seen as a comprehensive set of activities that are part of a larger and wider process of capacity building efforts.

The marine protected areas (MPAs) project is itself based on best practices to be disseminated in other Mediterranean areas. The recent ROM report recommends an extension and argues that the programme has world class status: it is research based, it has an innovative train-the-trainer component, and the application of learning through implementation agreements is highly effective. The report further underlines that MPA network component of the MedPartnership is an excellent case of building complementary teams, as its implementation is set around a partnership between an NGO (World Wildlife Fund (WWF)) and an institutional centre (specially protected areas/Regional activity centre). The project will soon start replicating lesson learnt and best practises so far acquired in the region.

The integrated maritime policy (IMP) project builds on the experience of the EU Member States, regional conventions and other Euromed sectoral programmes (such as on transport, environment, etc.). At the IMP working group in November 2011 countries stressed, as also reflected in the ROM report, that the project would need to be further supported to reap the benefits of the expertise mobilised until now. So far, the project has made an inventory of the status quo, drafted tools and guidelines for further interactivity in the field and is now in the process of preparing the ground for customised IMP support in order to supporting countries in finalising their IMP roadmaps.

For all the three projects, the previous project phases show that impact can be maximised by ensuring a reliable co-ordination mechanism at the national level and a strong involvement of the relevant EU delegations. This will be ensured by a strengthened project information system to the benefit of stakeholders and reinforced communication with the EU delegations.

¹⁰ This financing will be delivered under the strategic co-operation agreement with United Nations environment programme.

2.4. Complementary actions

The programme will ensure complementarities with activities under ENP bilateral programmes.

By bringing together under one coherent umbrella a series of related actions involving different actors, the SWITCH-MED component will in itself create important synergies.

At regional level, there will be close co-ordination with the two other components of the Horizon 2020 Initiative mentioned above. Similarly, full co-ordination with the regional programme on sustainable water integrated management will be ensured.

Complementarities with ongoing and foreseen programmes in the area of climate change will also be looked at.

2.5. Donor co-ordination

Co-ordination with ENP South partner countries, EU Member States, other international donors and international financing institutions is a key element of all the concerned projects. It will be sought systematically in the framework of the steering committees, working groups or ministerial conferences. The EU delegations, already consulted on the preparation of this programme, will also play an active role in this regard locally. The same applies to the concerned national and regional partners, who were involved in project design and are expected to be equally active in supporting the implementation of the activities.

3. DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

Overall objective

The overall objective of the programme is to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation and resource depletion in the Mediterranean region.

Specific objectives

The specific objectives of the programme are:

- (1) to promote the shift of the Mediterranean economies towards sustainable consumption and production patterns and green economy including low emission development, through demonstration and dissemination of methods that improve resource and energy efficiency; minimise the environmental impacts associated to the life cycle of products and services; and, as opportune, promote renewable energy.
- (2) to support de-pollution and conservation efforts in the Mediterranean region through enhanced institutional, technical and planning capacity; support to the integration of environment issues in other sectors policies and improved

governance of maritime affairs in the Mediterranean sea-basin; increased awareness; strengthened management and expansion of the existing marine protected areas and further support to the creation of new ones.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

The expected results of the programme are as follows:

Component 1) Sustainable consumption and production

- *Pour memo, as not financed under the present decision but from the thematic budget line:* Sustainable consumption and production is further integrated into the regional Mediterranean policy and governance framework and ENP South partner countries are supported in creating an enabling environment for SCP through the participatory development and approval of SCP national action plans.
- A set of regional or national demonstration projects promoting the adoption of more sustainable ways to design, produce, use and recycle products in the Mediterranean region is selected and carried out, helping to:
 - Increase small and medium enterprises (SMEs) use of environmentally-friendly technologies and practices;
 - Improve the overall resource efficiency and reduce greenhouse gases emissions.
 - Increase production and consumption of "green" and "fair" products;
 - Empower civil society as key SCP drivers;
 - Implement specific priorities identified by the SCP national action plans.

Main indicative activities within the demonstration component:

- Selection and implementation of demonstration and replication projects, piloting and scaling up successful SCP practices in the Mediterranean, in close co-ordination with the policy component.

The targeted sectors will have a potential to significantly reduce overall pollution and emissions, and increase resource efficiency and recycling; a potential to help alleviate poverty and promote sustainable development; and potential for market demand and replication.

- A networking mechanism ensuring linkages between the demonstration activities and the policy component, and identifying best practices, lessons learned and replication potential, is up and running. In particular, results envisage:
 - Improved capacity of concerned private, public and civil stakeholders;

- Increased partnerships between SMEs and organisations with SCP "pull" potential (such as financial institutions, SMEs business partners or individual/private/public consumers).

Main indicative activities:

- Creation and running of a network facility, in charge of promoting the exchange and diffusion of project experiences and impacts, and supporting the dialogue between the policy and the demonstration component.

Component 2) De-pollution and conservation efforts

- H2020: The main sources of pollution of the Mediterranean sea, namely municipal waste, urban waste water and industrial pollution are further reduced. In particular:
 - integration of environment issues in other sectors policies is further supported through capacity building activities;
 - capacity building activities on H2020 priority areas (municipal waste, urban waste water and industrial pollution) are further carried out and the relevant stakeholders groups (local authorities, NGOs, private sector, etc.) are mobilised in the framework of the H2020 initiative.

Main indicative activities:

- Organisation of hands-on trainings, trainings of trainers, workshops and study tours on the H2020 relevant subjects at regional, sub-regional and national level, building on the experience gained and feedbacks received by the ENP South partner countries on the H2020 capacity building programme over the two past years;
- Further support to environmental mainstreaming in the ENP South partner countries through capacity building and exploration of other long-term tools, including inter-ministerial committees, in liaison and partnership with other relevant initiatives in the region.
- Integrated maritime policy: An integrated approach to maritime policy, securing co-ordination across sectors, countries and governments in the planning and management of human activities affecting the use of the Mediterranean sea is adopted, together with the deployment of relevant tools. In particular:
 - National roadmaps on the elaboration and adoption of integrated maritime policies are finalised and an appropriate institutional set-up is shaped;
 - Steps taken to devise regional IMP targets;

- Awareness on IMP concepts and policies is further raised and the understanding of the main concepts and implementation tools consolidated;
- Background documentation, including manuals, are available and disseminated as appropriate;
- Synergies with related sectoral initiatives, including in the fields of maritime safety and surveillance, are further enhanced and turned into closer co-operation.

Main indicative activities:

- Technical assistance activities (short term expertise, study visits, workshops, training sessions) specifically targeted to the finalisation of national IMP;
- Capacity building on IMP key topics;
- IMP working groups;
- Preparation and dissemination of IMP manuals, documents and information.
- Marine protected areas: The existing network of marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean region is further strengthened, alongside of efforts towards the creation of new potential MPA areas. In particular:
 - The capacity building programme for MPA practitioners is further strengthened;
 - Pilot projects progress towards the implementation of the management plans and demonstration projects for MPA creation are further carried out;
 - Communication campaigns on the benefit of MPAs are pushed forward at regional, national and local level;

Main indicative activities:

- Technical assistance, exchange programmes and training activities (including mentor training and on-job training associated to field surveys); setting up of an online capacity building platform for remote tutoring and information sharing;
- Implementation phase of the MPA management plans in the pilot countries;
- Continuation of work on the characterisation of marine sites suitable to become new protected areas, and the identification of related actions (the identification of stakeholders group, partnerships, etc.) needed to promote their creation;

- Continuation of demonstration activities for marine areas creation, including ecological surveys, ecological characterisation reports, and the collection of geo-referenced data,
- Communication efforts on improving the perception of stakeholders and governments on the benefits of MPAs, on securing stakeholder and government commitment to the goals of the convention on biodiversity and on reducing user conflicts at the national and local level;
- Preparation of training and information material as needed.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

Under the current conditions, the risks of the programme can be synthesised as follows:

- Political instability in the region;
- Inability of the public authorities and entities concerned (i.e. those in charge of e.g. agriculture, water, tourism, energy) to give priority to the areas of the action (low emission development, natural resources conservation, de-pollution, integrated maritime policy, and sustainable consumption and production), and to develop inter-sector co-operation;
- Difficult diplomatic relations in the region;
- Natural, including increased climate related, disasters.

The risks linked to political instability in the region and to possible changes of government or regimes should be mitigated through continuous monitoring. The proposed results are formulated in a way that ensures that the project is flexible, takes account of each country's specific circumstances as well as of the regional dimension; implementation does not depend on a participation of all the countries in all foreseen activities.

The projects will try to mitigate the prioritisation difficulties by supporting the dialogue between the technical and political levels and reinforcing co-ordination between line ministries and competent authorities. If difficult diplomatic relations create impediments to the smooth running of the projects, activities will be carried out at technical level only. In the event of natural disasters, the projects should be able to cope with re-adjustments and re-orient the activities according to any of such events.

Assumptions encompass:

- Willingness and commitment of the stakeholders in the ENP South partner countries throughout project implementation;
- Synergies and complementarities with other regional initiatives;
- Good project management;

- Enabling environment in the ENP South partner countries for stakeholder participation.

At the time of writing this action fiche, EU co-operation with Syrian governmental authorities is suspended. The Commission shall assess in the future the opportunity to involve Syrian authorities in the implementation of actions. The political instability and/or security situation in Syria will be assessed prior to the implementation of the project in order to confirm the feasibility/opportunity to: a) engage the stakeholders and b) implement the activities.

3.4. Cross-cutting issues

The activities will contribute directly to improved environmental management. Social and economic development will be tackled as training will facilitate the emergence of new skills and local expertise. Through support to the implementation of new policies, the programme will also help to upgrade some sectors and to improve living conditions of local people. Where possible, the programme activities will prioritise gender equality and the participation of women. Economic activities where women are involved will be encouraged. Good environmental management is an element of good governance, which should hence improve as a result of the project. Access to environment information shall improve, with possible positive effects under the Aarhus convention.

3.5. Stakeholders

The main beneficiaries for the different sub-components are:

For component 1, Sustainable consumption and production: government, SMEs, business (intermediary) support networks and services providers, financial institutions, retailers, and civil society from the beneficiary countries. The final beneficiaries will be the consumers and producers.

For component 2, De-pollution and conservation efforts:

H2020 Capacity Building component (H2020 CB/MEP): Main categories of Mediterranean stakeholders for CB/MEP are: officials of the ministries/agencies/departments responsible for environment, water, agriculture, tourism, industry, international affairs and to some extent finance, sub-national authorities (governorates, regions, municipalities, countries, etc.), non-governmental organisations at different levels, research institutes, professional associations (organic agriculture, cultural and environmental tourism, etc.), media professionals, private sector (only in national trainings).

Marine protected areas: The main target groups are civil society organisations, coastal and marine resource managers, representatives of the tourism sector and public local administrations involved in developing an integrated management framework for priority marine and coastal areas. Within the future additional services requested, the project aims at enhancing the engagement of the tourism industry.

Integrated maritime policy: The project's main stakeholders are the ministries responsible for fisheries, transport, research, environment, energy and tourism. In addition, local authorities and relevant industrial stakeholders and social partners are closely associated. The implementation phase of the project shall also be discussed in different sectoral EuroMed forum (transport, environment, energy, etc.), and the IMP working group.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Method of implementation

The GREEN MED programme and its components will be implemented through direct centralised management and joint management as follows:

For component 1 - Sustainable consumption and production:

Joint management through the signature of a contribution agreement with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in accordance with Article 53d of the Financial Regulation. The international organisation complies with the criteria provided for in the applicable Financial Regulation. UNIDO is covered by the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement concluded between European Commission and the United Nations.

The choice of *joint management* with UNIDO is based on the following considerations:

- UNIDO has an historical working relationship with the Ministries of Industry in the Mediterranean area as well as with the Cleaner production and technology centres;
- UNIDO has the necessary leverage and capacity to successfully steer this demonstration programme, which will be a replication/scaling up of an ongoing project (MED-TEST);
- UNIDO has sound field experience on cleaner production, while its partners have complementary expertise: UNEP/MAP-CP/RAC with a clear institutional and legal mandate, deriving from and linked to the Barcelona convention and its legislative framework and work programme on sustainable consumption and production in the specific ENP South region. UNEP/Division for technology, industry and economics with a recognised competency on SCP at methodological level;
- The action to be financed has been jointly formulated between the European Commission and UNIDO, together with the other partner organisations to be subcontracted by UNIDO with specific assigned roles agreed with the Commission;

The demonstration and networking components of the sustainable consumption and production programme will have a yearly *joint steering committee* (including all the ENP South partner countries) with the policy component financed from the thematic

budget line. Similarly, a *co-ordination committee* (for the implementing organisations) is foreseen. At national level, *joint implementation platforms* are also planned.

For Component 2 - De-pollution and conservation efforts:

2a) Direct centralised management through the extension of services already started for two ongoing service contracts (ENPI Mediterranean environment programme (ENPI MEP) and Integrated maritime policy for the Mediterranean), in accordance with Article 242 1C of the Financial Regulation and in line with the recommendations of the ROM reports.

2b) Joint management through additional funding and extension of the existing contribution agreement on development of a Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas network with the United Nations environment programme – Mediterranean action plan (UNEP-MAP) in accordance with Article 53d of the Financial Regulation. The international organisation complies with the criteria provided in for in the Financial Regulation. UNEP-MAP is covered by the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement concluded between European Commission and the United Nations.

The choice of additional funding to the existing contribution agreement is based on the following considerations:

- UNEP-MAP serves as the secretariat of MAP and the Barcelona convention, including its biodiversity protocol;
- UNEP-MAP is implementing the activities through the World Wildlife Fund - Mediterranean programme (WWF –MedPo), and the Regional activity centre for specially protected areas (SPA/RAC) of the Barcelona convention, which have a key presence and a unique experience on these matters in the area;
- Additional funding is provided within an already existing action which financially involves the pooling of resources of a number of other donors;

Each project under Component 2 will maintain their existing steering committees and ad hoc monitoring mechanisms (including regular reporting, ROM, field missions by European Commission staff, and where applicable monitoring from the implementing organisation).

The change of management mode constitutes a substantial change except where Commission "re-centralises" or reduces the level of tasks previously delegated to beneficiary country, international organisation or delegate body under, respectively decentralised, joint or indirect centralised management.

4.2. Procurement and grant award procedures

For direct centralised management

All contracts implementing the action must be awarded and implemented in accordance with the procedures and standard documents laid down and published by the Commission for the implementation of external operations, in force at the time of the launch of the procedure in question.

For joint management

All contracts implementing the action are awarded and implemented in accordance with the procedures and standard documents laid down and published by the relevant international organisation.

4.3. Indicative budget and calendar

The maximum cost of the programme is EUR 24 million, of which EUR 7 million for 2012 and 17 million for 2013 subject to the adoption of the budget by the Budget Authority and the corresponding reinforcement of the ENPI budget line.

The indicative distribution of funds between the components and related sub-components is the following:

Component 1: Sustainable consumption and production

Sustainable consumption and production	Joint management: contribution agreement	EUR 17,000,000
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The duration of the project is foreseen to be 48 months as from the signature of the contribution agreement with UNIDO 42 months for operational tasks and 6 months for closure. This programme will be launched in 2013, subject to funds availability.

Component 2: De-pollution and conservation efforts

2.1 Mediterranean environment programme	Centralised management – extension of services for two more years (until 2014)	EUR 4,000,000
2.2 Integrated maritime policy in the Med region (IMP-MED)	Centralised management – extension of services for two more years (until 2014)	EUR 1,400,000

The duration of the above mentioned projects is foreseen for 24 additional months from the signature of the request for additional services.

2.3 Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas network	Joint management: contribution agreement	EUR 1,600,000
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The foreseen duration of the above mentioned project is 12 more months, additional to the present contract expiring on 19/12/2013 (prolongation for 12 months).

4.4. Performance monitoring

The objectively verifiable indicators (qualitative and quantitative) will be part of the methodologies included in the technical proposals. For the projects for which additional services are requested, the existing indicators will apply.

Besides the regular follow up by the EU Delegations and Headquarters, monitoring missions will ensure an external follow-up. The European Commission and the project co-ordinator will pay particular attention to the recommendations expressed by the external experts.

4.5. Evaluation and audit

Mid-term progress reports are envisaged for all the concerned projects.

Projects will have to certify expenditure incurred, as part of the obligations of the contracted parties in the framework of the implementation of this project. Mid term and final evaluations, if applicable, of the results achieved will be entrusted to independent consultants, as well as external audits (if necessary). These evaluations and audits will be funded from other sources than the project budget, since no commitment will be possible once the validity of this Decision has expired ("N+1" rule will apply).

4.6. Communication and visibility

The projects for which additional services are requested will pursue the already ongoing activities dedicated to communication and visibility. The new projects will develop a communication plan, containing information and communication activities (towards national and/or international media, stakeholders, final beneficiaries) and ensuring visibility of the project in all produced materials (website, newsletter, booklet, training material, etc.). Among other information means, the Euromed Info centre web portal and the Commission ENPI newsletter will also be used regularly and press releases will be prepared when appropriate. The EU visibility guidelines will be followed by both components of the programme.