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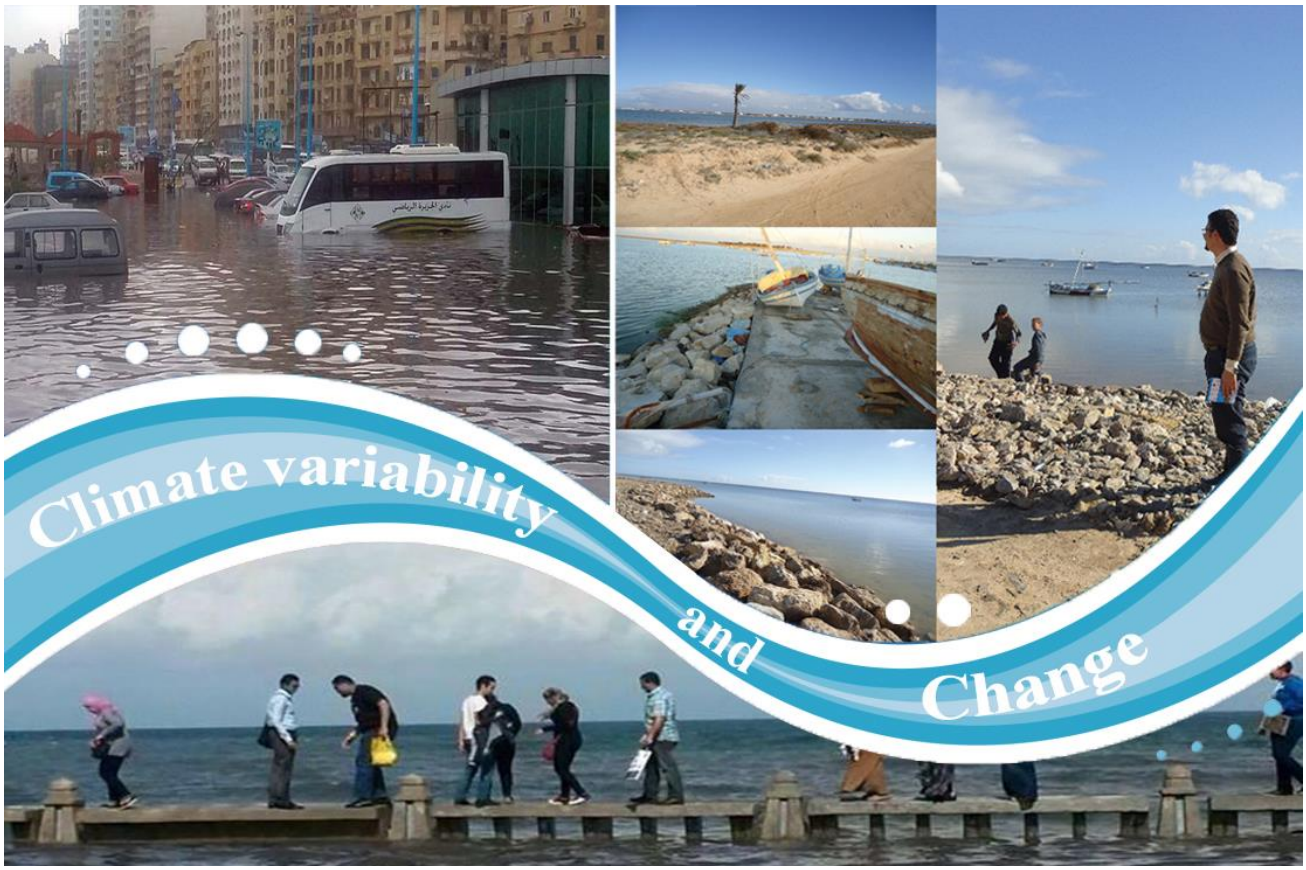
UNEP

Terminal Evaluation Report

Draft report Report of the Project Number: 3990 – GFL/2328-2731-4B32	***Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to Implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean" (ClimVar&ICZM)***



Recent Climate variability and change impact in Egypt and Tunisia
Photos by Suzan Kholeif (2015)

Author(s): ***Prof. Suzan Kholeif***

UNEP **Evaluation Office of UNEP**

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Acknowledgements

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Disclaimer

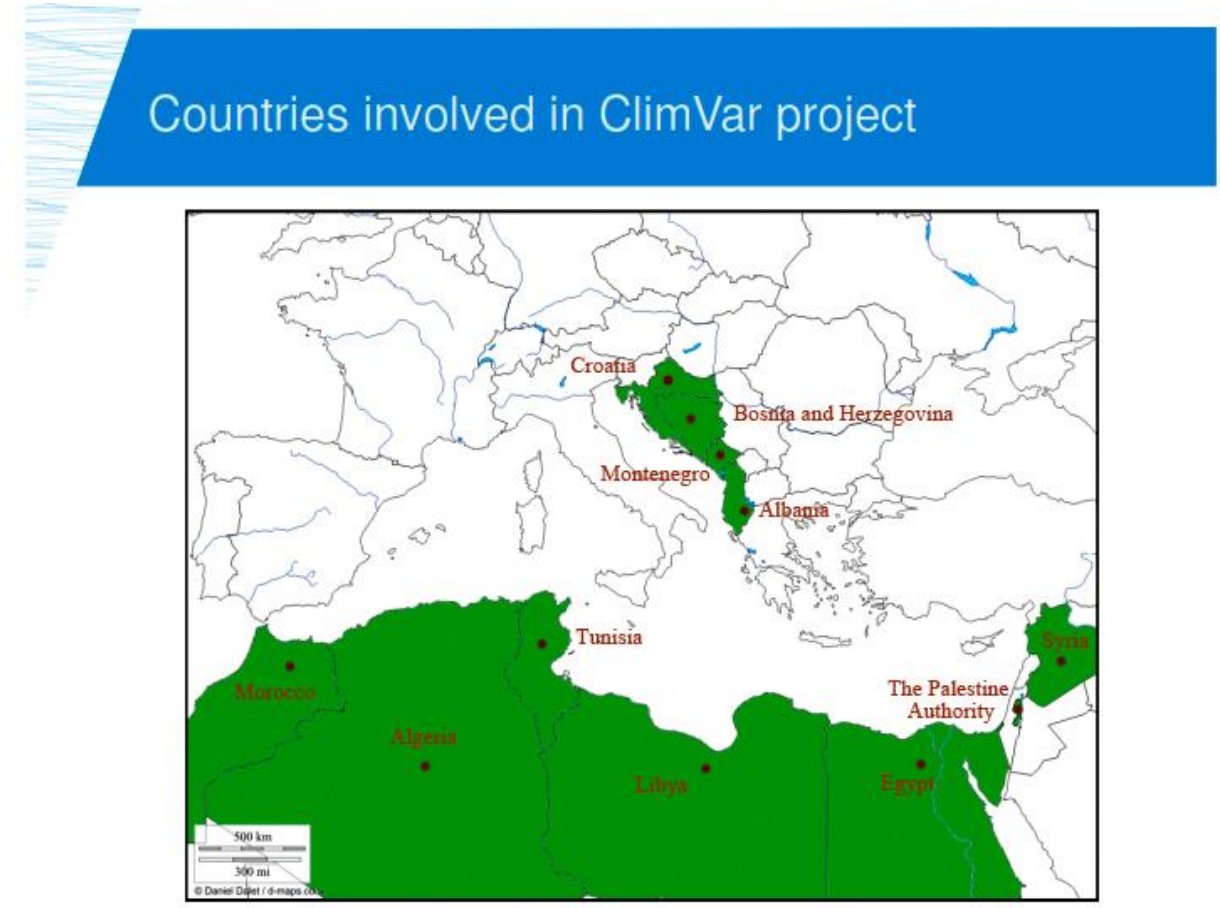
Table of contents

List of tables, figures & diagrams

List of acronyms & abbreviations

Acronym/Abbreviation	Meaning
Clim-Var ClimVar& ICZM	Integration of climatic variability and change into national strategies to implement the ICZM protocol in the Mediterranean
CCA	Carrying Capacity Assessment
COP	Conference of Parties
CV&C / CVC	Climate Variability and Change
EC	European Commission
RCCAF	Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework
FP	Focal Point
EcAp	Ecological Approach
EO	Evaluation Office
FP	Focal Point
GEF CEO	Global Environment Facility Chief Executive Officer
GEF IW	Global Environment Facility International Waters
GWP-Med	Global Water Partnership Mediterranean
HS	Highly Satisfactory
ICM	Integrated Catchment Management
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IMF	Integrated Methodological Framework
IPCC	International Panel on Climate Change
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
LME	Large Marine Ecosystem
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MedICIP	Mediterranean Integrated Climate Information Platform for CVC data shari (MedICIP
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MP	Member of Parliament
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
MS	Moderately Satisfactory
NSSD	National Strategy for Sustainable Development
MU	Moderately Unsatisfactory
PAP/RAC	Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre
PB/RAC	Plan Bleu/Regional Activity Centre
PEGASO	People for Ecosystem-based Governance in Assessing Sustainable development Ocean and coast
PMU	Project Management Unit
PRODOC	Project Document
S	Satisfactory
SDI	Spatial Data Integration
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable and attributable, Relevant and realistic, Tim bound, timely, trackable and targeted (indicators)
STAP	Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (GEF)
TDA	Trans-boundary Diagnostic Analysis
ToR	Terms of Reference
TOC	Theory of Change
UfM	Union for the Mediterranean
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESC-IHP	United Nations Education, Science and Communication Organisation-Internatio Hydrological Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Ddevelopment

Figure 1: General Map of Countries Involved in ClimVar and ICZM Project



Source: ***Edited Map of Antoine Lafitte, Plan Bleu***

Table 1: Project Identification Table

UNEP PIMS ID:	GF/ 6030 – 08 - 15	IMIS number:	GFL/2328-2731-4B32
Sub-programme:	IW SP 1, SP	Expected Accomplishment(s):	
UNEP approval date:	30 April 2012	PoW Output(s):	Promoting regional and multi-country cooperation to achieve global environmental benefits
GEF project ID:	3990	Project Type:	FSP
GEF OP #:	IW SP 1, SP	Focal Area(s):	International Waters
GEF approval date:	17 January 2012	GEF Strategic Priority/Objective:	IW SP 1, SP 3
Expected Start Date:		Actual start date:	29 June 2012
Planned completion date:	1 October 2014	Actual completion date:	31 December 2015
Planned project budget at approval:	US 8,474,945	Total expenditures reported as of 31 December 2015:	US $7,907,746
Planned Environment Fund (GEF) allocation:	2,298,545	Actual EF expenditures reported as of 31 December 2015	US $2,242,419
Planned Extra-budgetary financing (XBF):		Actual XBF expenditures reported]:	
GEF Allocation:	US $2,298,545	GEF grant expenditures reported as of 31 December 2015:	US $2,242,419
PDF GEF cost:	US $156,000	PDF co-financing:	US $180,000
Expected MSP/FSP co-financing:	US $6,176,400	Secured MSP/FSP co-financing:	US $ 5,665,327
First Disbursement:	29 June 2012	Date of financial closure:	N/A
No. of revisions:	0	Date of last revision:	
Date of last Steering Committee meeting:	3 November 2015		
Mid-term review/ evaluation (planned date):	N/A	Mid-term review/ evaluation (actual date):	N/A
Terminal Evaluation (actual date):	December 2015		

Key: (grey = GEF only; green = UNEP only)

Executive summary

Evaluation overview

The Mediterranean region has long been identified as a climate change hotspot that "will suffer multiple stresses and systemic failures due to climate change". When the MedPartnership project was being developed between 2006 and 2007, the issue of climate change-related risks and impacts to the marine and coastal zones was not fully integrated into its activities. However, it has since been increasingly necessary for Mediterranean countries to enhance their understanding of climate change and its threats, as well as their capacity to respond to such threats. This led to an agreement that a new, "sister" project to the MedPartnership be developed, which would focus on the integration of climate variability perspectives into Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) planning.

The "Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to Implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean" (ClimVar; in further text, ClimVar & ICZM) project was developed in 2010 and 2011 and endorsed in January 2012 by GEF CEO. The duration of the project was two years. Eleven countries participated in the ClimVar project: Algeria, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Montenegro, Tunisia, Syria and Palestine. The total budget: US $8,474,945 (USD US $2,298,545 million: Global Environment Facility; US $6,176,400: Co-finance-Participating countries, executing agencies, and donors). The ClimVar was organized around three Components, which are in turn split into data collection and data analysis; apply and test tools-methodology; and strengthening the knowledge of CV&C and supporting ICZM strategies.

The ClimVar Project has been built to support the implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol through the enabling environment and tools to address Climate variability and change (CV&C) in the Mediterranean region. The specific objectives of the project were: (1) To strengthen knowledge on regional climate variability and change and their impacts, and define their specific characteristics in the Mediterranean region; (2) To strengthen partnerships, improve capacity building and establish mechanisms for exchange of data and information for integration of climate variability and change into concrete ICZM policies, plans and programmes by establishing the needed information exchange mechanisms, capacity and regional pilot experiences. The above mentioned objectives have been achieved in the project implementation phase through; building adaptive capacity, establishing systems of data collection, data sharing and monitoring, evaluation processes, raising awareness and developing policies to encourage and support incorporation of climate variability and changes issues into decision- making. Secondly, integration of CV&C into coastal zone management and planning through integration of potential impacts of CV&C into policies, plans and programs; conducting participatory climate risk and vulnerability assessment; and incorporation of climate risk into strategic planning exercises.

Evaluation methodology

In line with UNEP Evaluation Policy, the UNEP Evaluation Manual and the Guidelines for GEF Agencies in Conducting Terminal Evaluations, the Terminal Evaluation (TE) was conducted by an independent consultant between November 2015-March 2016, under the overall responsibility and management of the UNEP Evaluation Office (EO) (Nairobi) and in consultation with project's executing organizations. The TE focused on a set of key questions based on the project's intended (revised) outcomes, and assessed the value of the no-cost extension period. In conducting the TE, the revised log frame was used. The Terminal Evaluation had two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP, the GEF and their executing partners.

In this evaluation - a realistic assessment has been applied, taking into consideration the constraints under which the project was implemented. It also provides an assessment of whether countries have achieved the results anticipated, and what more could be done to assist them in the future. The analysis of project outcomes and impacts aims to deliver useful insights, lessons and recommendations for funding agencies to enhance future projects and thus, to have a further positive impacts on ecosystems.

This document gathers the findings of the evaluation of ClimVar Project based on in-depth review of the project documents and individual and/or group interviews e.g. project partners, co-executing agencies, project manager, task manager, PMU staff, and project beneficiaries, including National Government representatives and policy makers, and other relevant key persons. Country visits were conducted to interview the project national team, national participating institutions, government officials, GEF and MAP Focal Points and national stakeholders of demonstration sites who participated in the different activities.

Summary of the main evaluation findings

ClimVar& ICZM project was highly pertinent and relevant for the countries, not only because climate variability and change are risks and threats around the globe, but also politicians, private and public sector recognise its importance in supporting ICZM issues which is a major challenge to Mediterranean countries.

It is important to keep in mind two things while evaluating this project: *firstly,* the project inception phase launched in March 2012, coincided with the climax period of Arabic countries in crisis with aftermath of the 'Arab Spring', where most of the project countries (which were preselected in 2010) experienced complex political transitions that led to delays in the project starting phase. *Secondly,* which is significant for the implementation of ClimVar, is variability in the data availability and data sharing attitudes. There was significant disparity among countries in terms of the data quality and availability, and in terms of commitments to share data in some cases due to political instability and in others due to low level of commitment.

Bearing in mind the above mentioned challenges, it is not surprising that the project achievements were more successful in a country such as Croatia than in others such as Tunisia. In countries that faced political crises or governance difficulties, ClimVar activities were not achieved (Syria and Libya), or were only partly accomplished (Morocco, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Egypt, Albania and Palestinian Territories).

This project brought to light the importance of Climate Variability and change data and information sharing for CV&C adaptation of the Mediterranean. In this context, as an essential step in the project implementation framework, there should have been a methodology for mapping and assessing the existing national and regional CVC monitoring data and developing a coordinating mechanism for accessing and sharing this data and relevant information between the countries.

A web-based regional data platform, "Mediterranean Integrated Climate Information Platform for CVC data sharing (MedICIP http://medicip.grid.unep.ch) has been developed as a dynamic platform that will link to national institutions who will provide (through SDI) key data to the platform. MedICIP is fully operative and is currently being hosted at UNEP GRID Geneva and administered by Plan Bleu. It will be maintained for two years beyond project completion. The project supported the implementation of ICZM national strategies in countries such as Croatia and Tunisia and updated the inter-ministerial committees in Algeria for the long term sustainability of ICZM processes, and allowed the development of a Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework (RCCAF) based on the request of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP), to increase the resilience of marine and coastal areas in the Mediterranean to the effects of climate change and variability.

RCCAF was endorsed by the contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention at COP19 in February 2016.

Participating Countries' capacities were enhanced by demonstration activities assessing and planning responses to environmental and socio-economic impacts of CV&C in coastal zones at the local level. In addition, ClimVar provided support to MedPartnership ICZM demonstration projects in Montenegro and Algeria, regarding the integration of CV&C considerations in ICZM Strategies. With regard to the integration of the climate change aspects into National ICZM Strategy in Montenegro, two reports have been prepared: Vulnerability Assessment of the Narrow Coastal Zone: Storms in Montenegrin Coastal Region and the assessment of Sea-level rise for the Coastal Area of Montenegro to enable integration of the ICZM principles into spatial planning. Four scenarios of sea-level rise were to be taken into account in the future coastal planning. In Algeria, measures proposed within the National ICZM Strategy, related to CVC based on participatory process and presented to Algeria's IMC members (national inter-ministerial committee for ICZM).

The Multi-Scale Coastal Risk Index (CRI-MED) method was also developed and applied regionally in the 11 countries, allowing the ranking of the relative risk of each coastal region in relation to potential coastal hazards, that led to identifying the "climate hot-spots" along the Mediterranean coastline, and to place more emphasis on emerging priorities for adaptation to CV&C, and promoting the use of ICZM in the participating countries.

The project developed a Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework (RCCAF), based on the request of the contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention, which was approved by MAP FPs and submitted for COP19 of the Barcelona Convention in February 2016. The framework was a unique instrument to identify and reach agreements among the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention on the priorities to be addressed to increase the resilience to climate change and variability in the Mediterranean marine and coastal areas. The RCCAF was endorsed by the contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention at COP19 in February 2016..

The project identified a set of climate variability and change monitoring indicators (Deliverable 1.1.3.1) linked to the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) to follow-up several plans through projects at the regional level (Mediterranean basin) and to measure impacts of climate change on coastal zones at the local level, through the demonstration site in Sibenik-Knin, Croatia.). The monitoring core indicators could be a part of developing a wider "regional early warning system alert". Therefore, UNEP could take the initiative as a regional leader to oversee the climate risk management system in the Mediterranean basin. A "Guideline of Adapting of CV&C for planners and policy makers in the Mediterranean to assist integration of CV&C into national Strategies was prepared. It has also drawn lessons learned from the management of CVC in specific locations in the region and elsewhere. This guideline was an addition to IMF document produced by the MedPartnership project. The combined use of the Integrated Methodological Framework (IMF) and CV&C guidelines can be useful for the larger Global Environment Facility International Waters (GEF IW) community, for sustainability in the coastal zone with adjacent river basins.

Experience gained from the demonstration activities was assembled in the document "Guidance on Assessment of Socio-economic Impacts and Adaptation to Climate Variability and Change in Mediterranean Coastal Zones". All assessments and the guidelines were presented at the regional training events.

Given the globalised nature of the insurance industry, and the common CVC risks around the world, an assessment of the available best practices in major banking and insurance companies to address CV&C in the Mediterranean was prepared, focusing on property and land-use to provide insight on their role in the implementation of ICZM and CVC adaptation.

It is important to note that the ClimVar project had no unique communication image, but it was agreed that the MedPartnership logos would be used for all ClimVar and ICZM activities. For that purpose, when evaluating ClimVar and ICZM activities impacts, special attention was paid to the integration of both projects, which focusses on promoting the use of ICZM in Mediterranean. (Summary of the ClimVar awareness and education activities is listed in section 3.6.4)

The evaluation noted that there was quite a low level of stakeholder engagement in the project activities in comparison to the main stakeholder groups identified in the project design, likewise, scientific institutions and NGOs were not part of the project's main stakeholders, and this led to a loss of their valuable input. They should have been effectively involved in the project implementation framework with a clear role in the implementation of the project activities.

Overall, the Project was able to achieve its objectives and to generate a considerable number of high quality reports, studies, guidelines, and tools which are available in the MedPartnership Web page along with lessons learn brochures and countries fact sheets. All the reports have been filed in an interactive bibliography with hyperlinks to the documents. Some of these products could have a broader potential for up-scaling the project best-practices beyond the project and could have had a catalytic effect concerning sustainable use of natural resources. In addition, these outputs could support countries in the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols by improving their institutional capacity. This institutional capacity should be united through a well-functioning policy structure and robust regulatory frameworks, as well as improved links between national-local policy and NGOs. The ClimVar project addressed the most important issue for the future which is mainstreaming climate variability and change into policy, in other words; mainstreaming scientific findings into policy, which it is not an easy job. ClimVar opened the door to make further progress on this issue, offering more comprehensive information for politicians to increase the success rate of the development plans.

Table 2: Summary of Evaluation Ratings

Highly Satisfactory (HS); Satisfactory (S); Moderately Satisfactory (MS); Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU); Unsatisfactory (U); Highly Unsatisfactory (HU). Sustainability is rated from Highly Likely (HL) down to Highly Unlikely (HU).

Criterion	Summary assessment	Overall Rating
A. Strategic relevance	The project is highly relevant to stakeholder priorities and country's needs. However though the target of the project was the integration of CV&C into policies, the uncertainty of CV&C and the vulnerability of most affected people in coastal areas were not addressed through the project activities.	S
B. Achievement of outputs	ClimVar delivered all planned outputs, but, some activities were cancelled in countries facing political crises and others were reallocated mainly as a result of the lack of data availability and delay in response in some countries.	S
C. Effectiveness: Attainment of objectives and planned results	The project has faced considerable effectiveness issues from the perspective of planned outcomes, achievement of project objectives and attainment of the results. The project achievements were more fully implemented in some countries than others (see Achievement of outputs -). ClimVar activities were terminated in Syria and Libya, and marginally accomplished in Morocco, B&H, Egypt, Albania, and Palestinian Territories.	MS

Criterion	Summary assessment	Overall Rating
1. Achievement of direct outcomes as defined in the reconstructed TOC	*Given the complexity and the long-term nature of most ClimVar outcomes, it is difficult to observe the impact of these outcomes on the stakeholders' behaviour during the short period of the project. However, In light of overall project achievements, it is expected that the results of this project will influence Mediterranean wide agreements for future actions towards adaptation to climate variability and change in the marine and coastal zones*	
2. Likelihood of impact using ROtI approach	*Measures designed to move towards intermediate states and eventual impact are evident in the momentum that the project has created and favourable conditions that have built the foundation for mainstreaming the CV & C into ICZM strategies.* *This rating is based on the expectation that the guidelines, RCCAF, best-practices, and lessons learned for decision makers and planners will influence Mediterranean wide agreements for future actions towards adaptation to climate variability and change in the marine and coastal zones. Also, that the improvement of the understanding of CV&C can enable project countries to assess likely impacts on the coastal environment*	*S*
3. Achievement of formal project objectives as presented in the Project Document.	*Overall, the Project was able to achieve its objectives and deliver all planned outputs and activities. A few activities were merged or reallocated during the course of the project, mostly as a result of the chronic political instability in some countries and available data and information in others countries.*	*S*
D. Sustainability and replication	The sustainability and replication of ClimVar will face challenges. The sustainability of MedICIP is based on key assumptions of platform uptake and continuation of countries' feedback, which are not guaranteed. In addition, there is no allocated funding and measures identified in the project design to ensure the replication and up-scaling of the demonstration activities and methodologies, except for those that were done through integration with MedPartnership project. The roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders are not well articulated in relation to the project delivery and sustainability. Also, scientific institutions and private investors are not part of the project stakeholder group, so as help and to expand their role in the sustainability and replication of the outcomes.	ML
1. Socio-political sustainability	*The international political response and agreements (such as UNFCCC , Paris Declaration in COP21) represent an excellent opportunity to put the countries on course to meet the climate change challenge. However, risks from weakness of institutional structure and technical capacities, as well as policies, governance structures and economic crises could severely undermine sustainability of the project results.*	*ML*
2. Financial resources	*At the international level, there is broad and committed support to address the immediate regional and international impacts of CV&C. However, for replication and sustaining project outcomes the financial resources in the project countries have been severely affected by political transition.*	*ML*
3. Institutional framework	*The project outcomes have been essential for supporting the implementation of the ICZM protocol, Barcelona Convention by harmonizing national institutional and legal arrangements with the ICZM Protocol. This creates opportunities to sustain the project results. Moreover, the development of RCCAF and cooperation with COP is another powerful tool for sustainability of the project outcomes.*	*L*
4. Environmental sustainability	*The development of mechanisms and tools for integration of CV&C into ICZM policies and plans, which is the aim of the project, has global significance and adds provisions on the strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact analysis. However, implementing ICZM strategies with CV&C may involve the implementation of greater coastal defences which usually interferes with the environment and natural processes, underlying ecosystem services.*	*ML*
5. Catalytic role and replication	*The project produced convincing scientific evidence that, climate changes cause devastation, this evidence may act as a catalyst in changing governments and community thinking and practices and urge countries to take prompt decisions regarding the up-scaling of the project best-practices (see more in the sustainability section)*	*S*

Criterion	Summary assessment	Overall Rating
E. Efficiency	The operational costs and other managerial modalities were jointly shared with MedPartnership, resulting in a cost effective implementation modality. However the delay in the project start-up and the severe political factors affecting the implementation of the project in most of the project countries reduced the efficiency.	MS
F. Factors affecting project performance		
1. Preparation and readiness	*The project was ambitious in timeframe, funding and expected outcomes, the overall project strategy could be better refined in the inception phase, so a flexible design should be provided for the project to adapt the activities to available country potential.* *Consistent follow-up and evaluation of the performance of the project's national teams should be part of the Monitoring and Evaluation section in project framework. Furthermore, the responsibilities of project focal points, national agencies, project consultants, and executing agencies within a project need to be clearly set-up from the very beginning of the project*	*MU*
2. Project implementation and management	*In addition to above mentioned, the project implementation was affected by the weakness of its design and delay in start-up. Other major challenges (political instability and access to data) encountered affected the implementation of some activities in project countries.*	*MS*
3. Stakeholders participation, cooperation and partnerships	*There was a low level of stakeholder consultation and engagement in the project activities in comparison to the main stakeholder groups identified in the project design. Scientific institutions, NGOs and groups vulnerable to climate change were not included in the project framework strategy leading to loss of their potentially valuable input*	*MU*
4. Communication and public awareness	*The quality of cooperation and communication was variable among the project countries, and was affected by a number of factors including the changes in FPs and changes in the national government officials during the course of the project. The national focal points from participating countries were members of the SC and were responsible for communicating between the project executing organizations and the national parties. The TE noted that the project focal points in some countries required support and capacity enhancement, this led to weak cooperation between national stakeholders and executing organizations.*	*MS*
5. Country ownership and driven-ness	*Country ownership and drivenness were generally demonstrated by involvement of the project countries in the design of the Project and by endorsement of RCCAF by the participating countries. The country ownership was increased in the demonstration sites, however, country ownership was affected by the limited stakeholders' awareness and the lack of engagement of private sectors in execution of project activities.*	*MS*
6. Financial planning and management	*The financial planning and management was satisfactory, despite the complexity of the arrangement of co-finance and the political instability of some project countries.*	*S*
7. Supervision, guidance and technical backstopping	*Supervision, guidance and technical support from UNEP-GEF coordinating team and Task Managers, were satisfactory.*	*S*
8. Monitoring and evaluation	*The M&E section project document had no mechanisms for involving key project stakeholder groups in the M&E plan. (see below)*	*MS*
i. M&E design	*The Project has been monitored and evaluated throughout UNEP implementation and Evaluation office. An indicative M&E Work Plan and corresponding budget were included in the project design. The logical framework was revised in the inception phase, however it did not capture the key elements of the project's TOC. The outputs contributed directly to outcomes.*	*S*
ii. M&E plan implementation	*M & E implementation was in accordance with UNEP and GEF procedures. However, a project technical monitoring apart from the administrative monitoring, should be part of M&E plan in the project design.*	*MS*
Overall project rating		MS

Summary of lessons learned and recommendations

Lessons Learned are based on the TE findings and relate to factors affecting the project's performance and achievements, and are relevant for development of other regional projects relevant to CV&C adaptation and ICZM implementation initiatives.

Lessons Learned:

	Lesson # 1
Finding:	Sharing data chiefly relevant to coastal region is a common problem in the project countries and also affected by the political and socio-economic context. This led to disparities among countries in achieving the project's objectives and caused a substantial burden on the project management team to achieve progress. The difficulties also related to limitations with the quality and quantity of data and some countries lacked experience in data treatment.
Lesson:	A flexible design should be provided for the project to adapt the activities to available data, enabling the project to achieve its objectives and results. Great efforts should be dedicated to convince and support Mediterranean countries, especially southern countries, to build a robust body of data and information on climate variability and changes monitoring. This step could be the first element in the effective adaptation strategy that would have targeted both ICZM and Climate changes
Application:	New project funded by GEF/UNEP
	Lesson # 2
Finding:	The roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders were not well documented in relation to the project delivery in the project design, in addition, the scientific institutions and private investors were not part of the project stakeholder groups. Private sector-NGOs have an important role, scope and recently become partners for many national governments. They becoming more concerned of climate changes risks, thus they are taking CVC into their business agenda.
Lesson:	Any new project should enrol Private sector-NGOs as full project partners. Because of the size of the challenge posed by climate change on the one hand and the short policy cycles of decision makers on the other, it is clear that the public's role in dealing with climate crises will be particularly important.
Application:	Future projects
	Lesson # 3
Finding:	The project's tools, which were selected for assessment vulnerability of CV&C were not consistent with the project country's technical and human capacities. In addition, lack of human capacity, as well as, financial resources in most of the project countries, hindered the application of the project's methodologies in these countries.
Lesson:	Country capability to use tools or methodologies needs to be carefully assessed in the project inception phase, to give an opportunity to refine these tools and fine-tune the activities, to ensure the consistency with the country's present technical and human capacities.
Application:	Future projects funded by GEF, UNEP
	Lesson # 4
Finding:	National and local stakeholders were not familiar with the project objectives and outcomes, which resulted in low country ownership.
Lesson:	More effort should be made to engage wide variety of stakeholders at all levels, including local communities, as the achievement of the expected long term impacts is highly dependent on their actions.
Application:	Future projects-all development strategies in the countries.
	Lesson # 5
Finding:	The project inception phase launched in the peak period of crisis following the 'Arab Spring'. Most of the project countries confronted complex political transitions that led to delays in the project start-up phase, as well as some of activities being cancelled in countries facing political crises (as Libya & Syria) and others were reallocated mainly as a result of the data availability and delay in response in some

	countries.
Lesson:	A dynamic risk mitigation plan should be included in the project design to allow flexibility in the project's framework to adapt to such challenges, will better enable the projects to achieve intended goals and objectives.
Application:	Future projects
	Lesson # 6
Finding:	The project sustainability and replication of best practices were handed over to the participating countries without follow-up or a 'road map' from the project.
Lesson:	A learning programme to support 'outcomes-based management' is essential for up-scaling the project's best-practices.
Application:	Future projects
	Lesson # 7
Finding:	The project monitoring should be a responsibility for all parties (project countries, executing organizations),
Lesson:	A project technical monitoring using consolidated indicators, apart from the administrative monitoring, should be part of M&E plan in the project design.
Application:	Future projects
	Lesson # 8
Finding:	The project faced a weaknesses in its design which led to delays in start-up
Lesson:	For future projects, GEF agencies should consider strengthening the project review process to assess their design and whether they are implementable from the operational, management and administrative perspectives. Designs should be re-assessed at inception.
Application	Future projects
	Lesson # 9
Finding:	Uncertainty of climate change is a problematic issue for adaptation plans; the project did not embrace the uncertainty as one of the assessment issues in the assessment activities of CV&C vulnerability.
Lesson:	Including uncertainty issues into assessment of climate change is becoming essential for climate change projects and initiatives
Application:	Future projects
	Lesson # 10
Context:	There are national ICZM strategies or plans and CVC regulations in most of project countries, however, these strategies and regulations are rarely practiced because limitation of countries' human capacities
Recommendation:	It is important in future projects that, creating a national expert team "training the trainers," along with other activities to improve skills and to equip them to help their countries.
Responsibility:	UNEP, Countries
Time-frame:	new phase for follow-on project
	Lesson # 11
Context:	Education and awareness programmes implemented in this project appear to have been ineffective and not fully appropriate for project such as a ClimVar & ICZM . In addition, the capacity building and educational plans were not included as stand-alone component in the project design.
Recommendation:	The importance of civil society should be strongly underlined in all awareness and education programs. Non- governmental organizations (NGOs) represent a large part of the civil society. They can be instrumental in promoting ICZM in many regions. Concrete education/knowledge system of ICZM should be part of new projects. In addition, countries should start to teach a fundamental curriculum of ICZM starting from elementary school.
Responsibility:	Funding organization-Countries
Time-frame:	New phase

Recommendations

The following recommendations are based on interviews, documents reviewed, practical experience and field observation. They may not be innovative for the reader, since ICZM and CV&C issues have been studied and handled by many projects and initiatives, and the challenges are not new to all of us, in spite of our diversity of culture and background.

	Recommendation #1
Context	The project generated a considerable number of studies, guidelines, lessons learned brochures and fact sheets. Some of these products could have a broader potential for up-scaling beyond the project and have a catalytic effect concerning sustainable use of natural resources.
Recommendation:	These outputs could potentially support countries in the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols, if they improved their institutional capacity (eg., Develop mechanisms for strengthening institutional communication and integrated decision-making; Develop number of policies aimed support ICZM implementation and respect the balance between economic activities and environmental protection.
Responsibility:	Funding organizations-Countries
Time Frame:	Design phase
	Recommendation #2
Context:	International financial support to sustain project outcomes is not enough to rely on; countries should find other national financial resources, e.g. from private sector. National private sector contribution is highly recommended to improve financial sustainability which would lead to tangible effects for the countries.
Recommendation:	Greater efforts are needed to disseminate the project results and lessons learned to wider national private sector actors by project MAP national focal points
Responsibility:	UNEP-project Countries
Time Frame:	Design phase
	Recommendation #3
Context:	MedICIP Platform, is a key project' outcome for CVC &ICZM data sharing, has no formal plan, either to maintain it working in the future, or to guarantee the input from countries who will provide key data to the platform. In addition, the project did not invest sufficient effort to educate national stakeholders from the outset regarding; how they can benefit from the data and what to do with different types of information.
Recommendation:	The project design must include a financial sustainability plan, to keep the Platform working. It is recommended that, GEF / UNEP future projects support this platform. Furthermore, early stage awareness of the value of data sharing can build trust between project team and national stakeholders.
Responsibility:	GEF, UNEP
Time-frame:	Design phase for follow-on project
	Recommendation #4
Context:	Project management was supported by external international consultants. Perceptions gained during the TE on the use of international consultants with greater frequency than local consultants suggested this was an uncomfortable issue for local stakeholders and the project team.
Recommendation:	Engaging the national consultants with international consultants during project development is of great importance to obtain political buy-in and to facilitate national communication. In the future projects, the involvement of both national and international consultants at the appropriate stages in implementation should be considered.
Responsibility	Funding organization
Time-Frame:	New phase
	Recommendation # 5
Context:	The project design ignored the assessment of vulnerable groups that are more exposed to climate changes risks in their daily lives, e.g. women owing to their high

	dependence on local natural resources for livelihood. Fishermen's wives for instance, are involved in fish processing and marketing in coastal area (more than 55 million world's fishers and fish farmers live and work under the risk of climate changes the fisheries and aquaculture (FAO 2005),
Recommendation:	The reduction of vulnerabilities of people living in the coastal zone is an important objective of ICZM and these vulnerabilities are an important bottleneck in the sustainability of livelihoods and socio-economic development of the coastal zone. Improved quality of life for coastal communities and increased resilience to coastal risks against the impacts of climate change, should be the main component in the future projects dealing with ICZM and climate change. The most vulnerable people, e.g. Fishermen; should be identified and their needs and priorities should be reflected in the project design.
Responsibility:	UNEP, GEF, others funding programs
Time-frame:	new phase for follow-on project
	Recommendation # 6
Context:	The Project did not include clear mainstreaming of gender. (see section 3.1.1).
Recommendation:	Gender mainstreaming should be firmly integrated in the project design. Women experience inequality in decision-making in ICZM plans in project countries, however, they have a salient and effective role to play in ICZM implementation and CVC adaptation plans. For example they can help raise awareness of the risks of climate change among other women and children and foster the dialogue among local stakeholders and national authorities. Thus, in future plans, they should be afforded a key role in the project implementation strategy
Responsibility:	GEF, UNEP.
Time-frame:	new phase for follow-on project
	Recommendation # 7
Context:	The evaluation observed that, inconsistency between different national authorities such as ministries, municipal governments, civil society and private professional organizations on the use and management of coastal areas in the project countries still take place and hinder the implementation of ICZM strategies in some countries.
Recommendation:	To accelerate the implementation of development plans, it would be effective to promote management of the coastal areas through one authorized body or platform.
Responsibility:	UNEP, GEF, Countries
Time-frame:	Implementation of ICZM plan

1 INTRODUCTION

1. The Mediterranean region has long been identified as a climate change hotspot that "will suffer multiple stresses and systemic failures due to climate change". When the MedPartnership project was being developed between 2006 and 2007, the issue of climate change-related risks and impacts to the marine and coastal zones was not fully integrated into its activities. The "Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to implement the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol in the Mediterranean" (ClimVar; OR in other text –ClimVar & ICZM)– complementary to the overall GEF/UNEP/World Bank Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (the MedPartnership) initiative - will support the implementation of the ICZM Protocol through the development of the region wide capacity, enabling environment, and tools needed to address climate variability and change in the Mediterranean Region. It is expected that the project will result in an updated Trans-boundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) of the Mediterranean Sea LME integrating Climate Variability and Change (CV&C) issues, in the establishment of effectively functioning mechanisms for capacity building, sharing of data on CV&C impacts in coastal areas and experiences in coping strategies, and in the development of a pilot ICZM plan integrating measures related to climate variability and change ready for implementation.

2. ClimVar project was developed in 2010 and 2011 and endorsed in January 2012 by GEF CEO. The duration of the project was two years. Eleven countries have participated to the ClimVar project: Algeria, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Montenegro, Tunisia, Syria and Palestine. The total budget: US $8,474,945 (USD US $2,298,545 million: Global Environment Facility; US $6,176,400: Co-finance- Participating countries, executing agencies, and donors).

3. The ClimVar was organized around three Components, which are in turn split into data collection and data analysis; apply and test tools-methodology; and strengthening the knowledge of CV&C and supporting ICZM strategies. The project was implemented by the same implementation unit of MedPartnership (UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI)) and executed by the coordinating unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) in collaboration with three co-executing partners; PlanBleu / Regional Activity Centre(PB/RAC); Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)and Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med).

4. The ClimVar Project has been built to support the implementation of the Integrated Coastal zone Management (ICZM) Protocol through the enabling environment and tools to address Climate variability and change (CV&C) in the Mediterranean region. The Specific objectives of the project were: (1) To strengthen knowledge on regional climate variability and change and their impacts and define their specific characteristics in the Mediterranean region; (2) To strengthen partnerships, improve capacity building and establish mechanisms for exchange of data and information for integration of climate variability and change into concrete ICZM policies, plans and programmes by establishing the needed information exchange mechanisms, capacity and regional pilot experiences.

1.1 Subject and scope of the evaluation

5. In line with the UNEP Evaluation Policy, the UNEP Programme Manual and the UNEP Evaluation Manual the terminal evaluation (TE) of the project is undertaken after its completion to assess project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency) and determine outcomes and impacts (actual and potential) stemming from the project, including their

sustainability. Key evaluation principles and criteria are given in the evaluation Terms of Reference (ToR) in Annex I. The terminal evaluation (TE) was conducted by an independent consultant between November 2015-March 2016, under the overall responsibility and management of the UNEP Evaluation Office (EO, Nairobi); and in collaboration with MedPartnership TE consultant and in consultation with project's executing organizations.

1.2 Evaluation objectives

6. The TE focused on a set of key questions based on the project's intended (revised) outcomes, and assessed the achievement of the project objectives. In conducting the TE, the revised log frame was used (see section 1.3). The Terminal Evaluation has two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP, the GEF and their executing partners.

1.3 Evaluation approach and methodology

7. The terminal Evaluation findings were based on both quantitative and qualitative methods (TOR, Annex II) that were used to evaluate project achievements against the expected outputs, outcomes, and impacts, and which consisted of:

   - A desk review of key project documentation, reports produced by the project, and information on relevant websites, among others (Annex 4).

   - Interviews: Face to face interviews were held with representatives of each group of key stakeholders, and included the Project Manager and others from the UNEP-MAP team and PMU, UNEP/GEF Task Manager, UNEP Fund Management Officer, executing partners, country teams, local community members and government officials of the participating countries. The consultant also participated in the ClimVar and MedPartnership final PSC meeting and final conference that was held in Athens from 4-6 October 2015. This conference presented the opportunity for the consultant to interview; persons from the implementing and executing agencies (UNEP and UNEP MAP), co-executing organizations, national teams, project consultants, project administration, media representatives, parliament members and the project's financial team. Over 100 individuals were interviewed during the course of the TE ,(Annex IV)

   - Country visits: Based on regional diversity, level of progress of the country and good representation of project's successes and failures, the TE consultants of MedParternership and ClimVar visited five of the participating countries (Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, Croatia and Montenegro), to collect information from the countries and to interview key stakeholders and observe project interventions and achievements at the demonstration sites. The country selected was based on adequate regional diversity, level of progress of the country, good representation of project's successes and failures,

8. Presentation of preliminary findings to EO and project team for feedback was completed in February2016.

9. No major limitations were encountered that affected the quality of the evaluation results. Due to budget limitation it was not possible for the consultants to visit all of the project countries, therefore, 5 countries were selected. This, however, does not affect the quality of the evaluation. The TE consultants conducted many interviews via Skype with some national teams, project

partners and some members of executing organizations to collect information from countries which were not visited.

10. The evaluation of Climvar was conducted by an independent consultant contracted by UNEP and under the overall supervision of the UNEP Evaluation Office (Nairobi). As the ClimVar and the MedPartnership were executed by MAP and shared the same project management unit (PMU), the TE evaluation of ClimVar was conducted in close collaboration with the TE of the MedPartnership (see Para 17).

1.4 Main evaluation criteria and questions

11. In line with the UNEP Evaluation Policy and the UNEP Programme Manual, project performance is assessed in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency; outcomes and impacts (actual and potential) stemming from the project; and their sustainability. In order to assess project performance and determine outcomes and impacts, the evaluation focused on a set of **key questions (for example)**:

    a. What is the validity of the assumed input-output-outcome results chain?
    b. What is the level of satisfaction of key stakeholders with the objectives and activities of the evaluand?
    c. How do inputs compare with outputs?
    d. To what extent did governance and management structures and processes enable or hinder delivery of products and services?
    e. To what extent are immediate outcomes shown in the logframe actually occurring?
    f. What unintended (positive/negative) outcomes might be occurring because of external factors?
    g. What is the level of satisfaction of different groups of key stakeholders?
    h. What is the efficacy of partnership arrangements?

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

2.1 Context

12. The countries of the Mediterranean recognize that with current projections there will be a number of climate impacts, including increased summer temperatures and decreased annual precipitation, increased water-related extreme phenomena like floods and persistent droughts, enhanced water scarcity and increased desertification, the loss of, or shift in vegetation zones, threatened food production as a result of increased irrigation demands and more numerous incidents of plant diseases, human health hazards, particularly with regard to infectious diseases and increased heat-related mortality. It is critically important that research work advances our understanding of how climate variability will impact the coastal zone communities, natural resources and marine and coastal biodiversity of the Mediterranean. However, it is equally as important to ensure that scientific information, thus generated, be made accessible to decision makers, and that actions be taken to integrate them within the context of ICZM as well as into current land use and water policies and practices, in order to improve sustainability in view of future climatic scenarios.

13. The seriousness of these challenges is demonstrated in many studies by national and international organizations and research institutions, in particular the study of climate-change impacts in the coastal zone. Several initiatives have been launched since the early 1990s to

implement coastal zone policies for dealing with these problems and several plans have been elaborated, but up to now they haven't been implemented in a consistent way.

14. In the past ten years many initiatives have been labelled "Climate change challenges", both in the Mediterranean region and elsewhere. However the countries' capacity to respond to such challenges is hampered by the lack of consensus on policy decisions and appropriate response measures. In this context the focus of the current project on mainstreaming climate variability and change (C V & C) into the ICZM process is very appropriate as it would give focus on concrete and achievable outputs such as tools and methods, and **identify options and measures** that can enhance our understanding of CV&C threats.

15. ICZM is a long established management approach in Mediterranean coastal regions. Its importance for the region's countries has been strengthened by the entry into force of the ICZM Protocol to the Barcelona Convention (March 2011). The Mediterranean ICZM Protocol is intended to reap development benefits through implementation of a management approach that will facilitate sustainable economic growth; help conserve natural habitats and species; assist in controlling pollution of coastal waters; contribute to the more efficient use of coastal resources; help rehabilitate degraded resources; provide mechanism and tools for rational resource allocation based on appropriate valuation of ecosystem services; and help mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate variability and change.

16. The ICZM Protocol is the first regional ICZM legal instrument that deals extensively with the issue of climate change, both at the strategic level (by requesting countries to mainstream climate change issues into national ICZM strategies and plans) and local levels (by requesting countries to define, inter alia, the coastal setback zone). As the coastal zone encompasses more than 40-50% of countries' industries, this region is extremely important economically, containing substantial capital investment and social benefits to citizens (e.g., food, employment and recreation). However, the capacity of coastal ecosystem to provide those benefits is increasingly hampered by the unbalanced use of coastal and marine ecosystem and climate change impacts such as sea-level rise and associated land subsidence, causing increased and prolonged vulnerability to flooding risks and coastal erosion.

2.2 Project Objectives and Components

2.2.1 Objectives

17. ClimVar project is complementary to MedPartnership initiative, and aimed to support the implementation of the ICZM Protocol through the development of the region wide capacity, enabling environment, and tools needed to address climate variability and change in the Mediterranean Region. The project was expected to result in an updated TDA of the Mediterranean Sea LME integrating Climate Variability and Change (CV&C) issues, in the establishment of effectively functioning mechanisms for capacity building, sharing of data on CV&C impacts in coastal areas and experiences in coping strategies, and in the development of a pilot ICZM plan integrating measures related to climate variability and change ready for implementation.

18. The ClimVar & ICZM project aims to support the participating countries to access climate change/variability assessments, data tools and methods required to develop the most cost-effective ICZM measures to protect coastal communities and resources from the threats posed by climate variability and change (CV&C). Specific objectives of the project were: (1) To strengthen knowledge on regional climate variability, change and their impacts, and define their specific characteristics in the Mediterranean region; (2) To strengthen partnerships, improve

capacity building and establish mechanisms for exchange of data and information for integration of climate variability and change into concrete ICZM policies, plans and programmes by establishing the needed information exchange mechanisms, capacity and regional pilot experiences.

2.2.2 Components

Clim Var project included 4 key components: (1) Establishment of a climate variability and change information sharing platform, (2) Strengthening the knowledge base on regional climate variability and change, and (3) Support to ICZM Protocol implementation and capacity building.

Component 1: Establishment of a climate variability and change information sharing platform

19. This component was executed by Plan Bleu/RAC and UNEP/MAP. Its aim was to strengthen the coordination for a long-term regional monitoring program of climate variability with consensus on objectives, targets, impact indicators and implementation modalities. The objective was not to build a climate/coastal data base from scratch but to assess the current data bases in countries as well as at the regional level, and propose a coordinating mechanism to use these data sets.

20. The expected Outputs of Component 1 were as follows:

- Assessment of regional and national programs for monitoring and tracking Climate Variability and Change and its impacts, including capacity assessments;
- Regional consensus achieved on mechanism for Climate Variability and Change data sharing; -
- Online Multi-country Information Sharing Platform on Climate Variability and Change monitoring data in coastal areas developed

Component 2: Strengthening the knowledge base on regional climate variability and change

21. This component has been executed by Plan Bleu, PAP/RAC, GWP-Med and UNEP/MAP. In order to enrich the understanding of the effects of climate variability and change in the Mediterranean, this component focused on the analysis of data on environmental and socio-economic impacts of climate variability and change, the implementation of available methodologies and tools in two pilot sites in order to assess impacts and evaluate coastal management response options, and a regional assessment of socio-economic impacts of climate variability and change and adaptation options in coastal zones for various scenarios providing background for advancing policy-making.

22. 63. The expected Outputs of Component 2 were as follows:

- Regional analyses of Climate Variability and Change impacts in terms of sea level rise and storm surges, of changes in water characteristics and marine acidification, and with special focus on river deltas and on the identification of vulnerable areas/hotspots.
- Assessment of environmental and socioeconomic impacts in two critically vulnerable sites, and evaluation of response options.
- Regional assessment of socio-economic impacts of Climate Variability and Change and adaptation options in coastal zones for various scenarios.

Component 3: Support to ICZM Protocol implementation and capacity building

23. This component has been executed by UNEP/MAP, PAP/RAC, and GWP-Med. Enhanced knowledge, capacity and awareness together with experience sharing mechanisms created an enabling environment for implementation of the ICZM Protocol in general and for the integration of climate variability and change elements into ICZM planning process in particular. At the national level, inter-ministerial committees contributed to multi-sectoral dialogues on policy and management processes in the Mediterranean, and facilitated the mainstreaming of the ICZM Protocol and climate variability and change responses into national plans. Targeted capacity building enabled stakeholders to fulfil these roles.

24. The outputs of the Component 3 of the Project dedicated to:

- a science based methodological approach that will enable countries to integrate climate variability and change issues into ICZM policies, plans and programmes;

- Increased knowledge, capacity, and awareness improving inter-sectoral coordination in mainstreaming climate variability and change issues into the ICZM protocol implementation process;

- Project experiences and lessons disseminated to larger IW community.

Component 4: Project Management

25. The project was designed to complement the MedPartnership project, given that during the design of the latter the issue of climate change and variability were not included. This project therefore adds the dimension of climate change and variability to the overall MedPartnership intervention, and was designed to use the management and communication structure already established in the MedPartnership project to be also more cost effective. The Project was managed by the MedPartnership's Project Management Unit (PMU), i.e. by its Task Manager, Project Manager, and the Marine and Coastal Expert, supported by consultants. See MedPartnership evaluation report for details on the PMU- and other staff members.

The project's logical framework (Table 3) is presented in table 3 (Annex I)

2.3 Target areas/groups

26. The project target targeted eleven GEF-eligible countries in the region, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Montenegro, Syria, Palestinian Territories and Tunisia. The project document identified the following stakeholders groups: (i) Politicians who can provide commitment, influence and be responsible for approving policies and plans, and when to conduct stakeholder analysis; (ii) Local authorities whose role is to implement a detail planning of ICZM and climate changes adaptation; (iii) Water resources or environmental agencies for data capturing and for technical support for capacity building and training: (iv) Health department for the link between ICZM and public and environmental health; (v) Users association/tourist industry, port authorities, community based organizations. The project stakeholders were categorized according to their role in planning, development and implementation of ICZM and climate adaptation policies and plans.

2.4 Milestones in Project Design and Implementation

Table 3 below presents the milestones and key dates in project design and implementation:

Table 3: Milestones and key dates in project design and implementation

Milestones	Completion dates
PIF prepared and cleared by GEF CEO	November 2009
PPG approved	February 2010
International Consultant hired to prepare Project document	September 2010
Regional and National Reports finalized	February 2011
First draft of the Project Document presented at the MedPartnership's Steering Committee meeting in Damascus	March 2011)
Second draft of the Project Document prepared	June 2011
Project Document finalized and submitted to GEF CEO for endorsement - GEF Agency Approval	October 2011 - February 2012
Launching the project Inception phase – was the inception phase only one month?	May 2012-
Contract execution Organizations	Oct-Nov 2012
Initial Focus of activities have been started on Component 1	Oct-Nov 2012
Component 2(agreement and design of the two demonstration projects in Croatia and Tunisia)	Oct-Nov 2012
Inception report approved by the PSC	February 2014
Work plan and budget approved along with the no-cost extension of the project till December 2015	Feb 2014
Under component 1, An addendum was drafted between Plan Bleu and University of Geneva to finalize last modifications on MedICIP	May 2015 to September 2015
The platform was officially launched	September 2015.
Component 3; definition of the ToC of the Climate Adaptation Framework and a definition of a consultation strategy for the document.	2015
Component 3; Croatia Demonstration study completed and presented at the IMC meeting in Zagreb	April 22, 2015
Final project conference and SC	3-4 Nov2015
Almost all the key activities completed	November 2015

2.5 Implementation Arrangements

27. As mentioned, ClimVar was designed to complement the MedPartnership project. The MedPartnership had an ICZM component but did not include CV & C, so the two projects complemented each other in relation to climate variability and change impacts. The ClimVar project integrated CV&C issues into three ICZM strategies of MedPartnership countries (e.g. Croatia and Montenegro) and helped with updating the TDA of Mediterranean Sea LME, by provided regional assessment of CV&C and ICZM plans integrating climate issues to be replicated region-wide through the MedPartnership. The "complementary" nature of the project is also reflected in the institutional framework and implementation arrangements adopted for its execution. The Project utilized the management and coordination structure of the UNEP/MAP led component of MedPartnership, and benefited from the replication and communication strategy developed for the project (more detail is provided in the MedPartnership TE Report).

28. ClimVar was managed by the same Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Regional Component of MedPartnership, was supported by consultancies and utilised the same Steering Committee and Coordination Group. The PMU prepared the Inception Report, closely followed the implementation of project activities, handled day-to-day project issues and requirements, coordinated them and ensured a high degree of transnational and inter-institutional collaboration (international and regional organizations and donors). It was responsible for production of six-monthly and annual expense reports. It also assisted UNEP's EOU in arrangements to support the Terminal Evaluation of the project. The PMU reported to the Steering Committee.

29. The Steering Committee (SC) of MedPartnership supervised the project execution and was considered a main policy body of the project. Members of the SC were the participating countries, the executing partners, representatives of UNEP, UNEP/MAP, , the GEF Secretariat, and representatives of major donors.

30. The Executing Agency was the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and co-executing agencies, Plan Bleu Regional Activity Center (BP/RAC), Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Center (PAP/RAC) and Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GPW-Med).

2.6 Project Financing

31. The project's total value was USD 8,474,945. The project was financed with USD 2,298,545 from GEF grant, USD 2,380,000 in kind contribution from participating countries, USD 3,082,400 cash and/or in kind contribution from executing partners (GWP-Med, PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu) and finally with in kind contribution of USD 714,000 from UNEP/MAP. The cash and in kind co financing complemented the GEF funded activities as per the project's budget. The detailed budget is shown in Table 4:

Table 4: Project budget summary

Particulars	GEF (USA $)	Co-finance (USA $)
Personnel Component Project personnel, including Project Manager cost, Consultants, for developing training material, travels	269,545	235,000
Subcontractor Component Supporting agencies/institutions	1,890,000	5,633,400
Training Component National and regional training courses	126,000	126,000
Equipment and Premises Expendable equipment, Non-expandable equipment, Premises costs	0	100,000
Miscellaneous Component Operation and maintenance of equipment, Reporting costs (printing and publishing), Communication costs, Project evaluation	13,000	136,000
Total Cost of the Project	2,298,545	6,176,400

2.7 Project partners

32. The main stakeholders were a mixture of implementing and executing agencies, collaborative partner countries and wetland users. In that regard, UNEP was the Implementing Agency on behalf of GEF, while FAO, IUCN and IWMI were the executing partners. Participating countries, already listed in the introduction, were represented by their ministries in the project and local communities, being wetland users and managers formed the most crucial group in terms of the required behavioural changes needed to improve the ecological and productive status of wetlands in southern Africa.

2.8 Changes in design during implementation

33. No major changes have been made to the original project design and log frame (Annex B) except merging some activities and outputs, such as;

ORIGINAL PLAN	CHANGES

ACTIVITY 2.1.2.1 "CROATIA DEMONSTRATION SITE	eight separate activities merged into two one for each site and the part of this activity led by GWP-Med was shifted to and merged with Activity 2.1.2.2
OUTPUT 3.1.2 LED BY GWP-MED	merged with Activity 2.1.2.2
RESOURCES OF ACTIVITIES 3.2.1. 3.2.2.5	shifted to and merge with former Activity 3.2.2.6 (now 3.2.2.5)
ACTIVITY 3.2.3.1	merged with former activity 3.2.2.5.
OUTPUT 3.2.3	merged with former Output 2.1.4.

2.9 Reconstructed Theory of Change of the Project

34. Theory of Change (ToC) is often defined as a process of project planning and evaluation which maps the relationship between the long-term goal of a project and the intermediate and early changes that are required to achieve that goal. The ToC emphasizes the scheme and assumptions underlying the pathway of change from the implementation of selected interventions and activities to intended outcomes.

35. The current Theory of Change is the first one to be constructed for this project. Based on the project document and project log frame, the evaluator reconstructed the current ToC, using the GEF Evaluation Office's approach to review the project's logical framework to assess whether the design of the project is consistent with and appropriate for the delivery of the intended impact.

36. The first step involves the identification of all outcomes "results from project activities" for reaching the project long-term goal(s). Outcomes are changes that must occur prior to the achievement of the long-term goal. For example, online multi-country data Platform on CV&V entails identifying of set of data and indicators of climate changes. The outputs might include short-term products or processes occurring during the life of the project.

37. The series of changes required to achieve long-term outcomes from implementation of project activates is called "change pathway". The change pathway of outputs to outcomes through intermediate state is called impact Pathway (Figure 2), the "Intermediate states" as defined by UNEP are necessary changes expected to occur as a result of the project outcomes that are expected, in turn, to result into impact. There may be more than one intermediate state between the immediate project outcome and the eventual impact.

38. To assess the likelihood of impact, the impact pathways were analysed by the evaluator in terms of the 'assumptions' (the significant external factors that if present are expected to contribute to the realization of the intended impacts but are largely beyond the control of the project partners and stakeholders) and 'drivers' (the significant, external factors that if present are expected to contribute to the realization of the intended impacts and can be influenced by the project / project partners & stakeholders)

39. The assessment of the theory of change led to the identification of the impact pathways and specification of the impact drivers and assumptions, as summarized below:

40. The existing ToC exercise identified six intermediate outcomes between project outcomes and desired impact (Figure 2) resulting from 5 project outputs and identified 3 impact pathways. The intermediate outcomes were identified based on the project tools, methodology, and assessment of countries 'capacities. Four Assumptions given in this analysis were identified by the consultant along with four other external factors (Drivers) that if present are expected to contribute to the realization of the intended impacts and can be influenced by the project

partners and stakeholders, one of them “Availability of tools and methodologies for assessing the vulnerable and hotspot areas in coastal zone”.

41. Particular effort was made to identify impact pathways (Figure 1), implying the transformation of project outputs (yellow box) to impacts (green) via intermediate states (blue) to project objectives. In this exercise the long term global impact “Increase sustainability of ecosystem services and reduced risk to human communities from Climate variability and change” was identified by the consultant.

42. **Impact pathway 1 (intermediate states 1 & 2):** from project outcome 1 &2 to project objectives. To produce desired impact, two intermediate states are identified, first, 'Countries recognize the importance of climate variability and change data and information, thus they take steps forward towards improving their national data and information, second, Countries reform their institutional structures and ICZM related policies to mitigate the climate change risks and to protect coastal habitats. Both intermediate outcomes required external factors, driver-1 and assumption-2 were identified:

    Driver: Availability of scientific data and Knowledge produced by the project.

    Assumption: countries are willing to share data on coastal vulnerability and climate change and contribute to updating data as they become available.

43. **Impact pathway 2 (intermediate states 3 & 4**): From project outcome 2 & 3 to project objectives. The intermediate outcomes are; “Countries created a financial instrument for up-scaling the project outcomes” and “Private sector integrate climate variability and change considerations into the development and investment plans”. These outcomes require increasing knowledge and awareness on the CV&C disaster. Two drivers and one assumptions were identified as catalysts to produce desired impact:

    Driver-2: Availability of tools and methodologies for assessing the vulnerability and hotspot areas in coastal zone; Driver-3: Increased awareness and knowledge of the countries concerning the impact of CV&C on the natural resources

    Assumption-2: Countries acknowledge climate change prediction in order to minimize its hazards

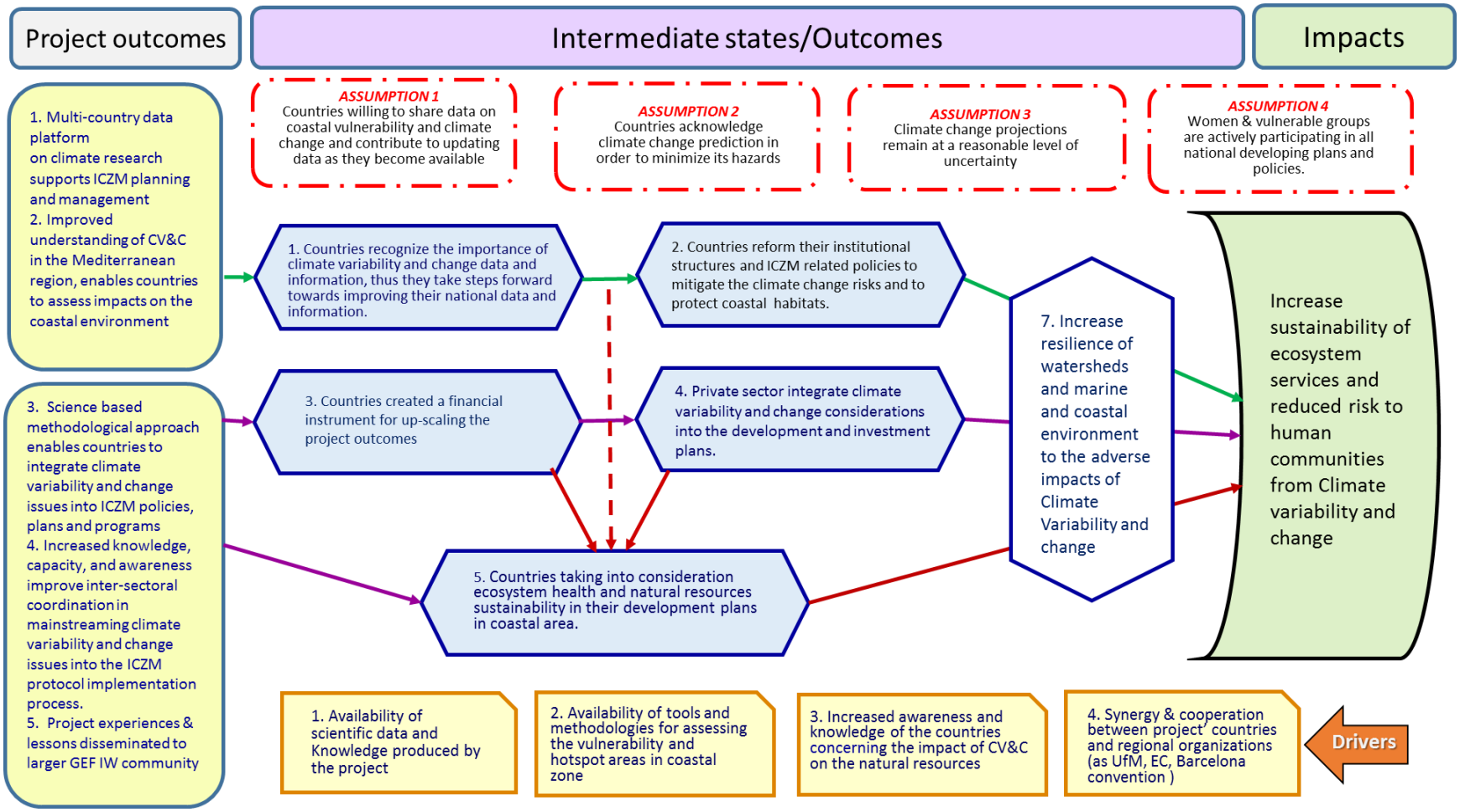
44. Impact pathway 3 (intermediate states 5 & 6): Support to ICZM protocol implementation: from project outcome 1, 2 & 3 via outcomes 4 & 5, to project objectives. This pathway comprises two intermediate outcomes (No., 5 & 6 figure-2). To transform these outcomes to mechanisms and measures that lead to Increase resilience of watersheds and marine and coastal environment to the adverse impacts of Climate Variability and change, an intermediate state was identified: support project countries to mainstream climate variability and change considerations into their future national ICZM plan and strategy and undertake policy, legal and institutional reforms and investments addressing the impacts of CV&C. To produce impact, one external factor two assumptions were necessary:

    Drivers: (1) Synergy & cooperation between project countries and regional organizations (as UfM, EC, Barcelona convention

Assumptions: Climate change projections remain at a reasonable level of uncertainty; (2) women & vulnerable groups are actively participating in all national developing plans and policies.

45. **As a final end, for ultimate impact**: The desired impact is a collective effect resulting from the integration and interaction of the previously identified impact pathways. It defines how the project objectives contribute to produce project outcomes which lead to define the desired long-term impact: **Increase sustainability of ecosystem services and reduced risk to human communities from Climate variability and change**". To ensure this, intermediate states are necessary "*Countries taking into consideration ecosystem health and natural resources sustainability in their development plans in coastal area.* " and *"increase resilience of watersheds and marine and coastal environment to the adverse impacts of Climate Variability and Change contributes to sustainability of ecosystem services and reduced risk to human communities from C V&C*". It is assumed that *"Climate change projections remain at a reasonable level of uncertainty"*, and *"Women and vulnerable groups should actively participate in all national and regional development plans and policies"*. The Synergy and cooperation between project' countries and regional organizations such as UfM, EC, the contractiong parties to the Barcelona Convention could be a catalyst to produce desired impact. To ensure sustainability of ecosystem services, more efforts should be devoted to create national and regional financial instruments, e.g., trust fund, to help Mediterranean countries especially southern countries to tackle CV&C impacts on coastal areas and to solve other problems that hinder the development of ICZM plans and strategies. It should, however, be noted that the ToC presents simplified impact pathways and has not attempted to show the many context-specific 'implementation' pathways that lead from national plans, policies and financial instruments to the management changes on the ground that are required for the final intermediate state of increased resilience and eventual intended project impact of sustainable ecosystem services and reduced exposure to climate change risks (in other words there would be additional many steps in the pathways leading from the outcomes numbered 2, 4, and 5 to reach "increased resilience of watersheds and the marine coastal environment").

Figure 2: Theory of Change (TOC) – Outputs to Impact Analysis



3 EVALUATION FINDINGS

3.1 Strategic Relevance

3.1.1 Alignment with UNEP's strategy, policies and mandate

46. The project considers the topic of Climate Variability and Change (CV & C), which is one of the thematic priorities within UNEP's Medium-term Strategy 2010–2013, currently of major concern globally and touches the needs of all countries especially those that suffered from economic crises and are in need of realistic applicable measures, tools and adaptation plans.

47. The MAP Programme of Work, Theme VI: Climate change (PoW, 2012-2013), adopted at the COP in February 2012 in Paris, recalls the issue of climate change as orientation guidance for design and implementation of its activities. ClimVar is well integrated in the work of MAP components that also contribute to this project as co-executing organization (PLAN BLEU and PAP/RAC). The PoW envisages activities to analyse climate change impacts on economic sectors and resources and urges CV&C monitoring indicators to be developed to assess climate change impacts on coastal zone development.

48. Based on interviews and discussions with UNDP personnel and reviews of relevant documents, the evaluation finds that ClimVar is highly relevant to UNEP mandate and GEF international waters and climate change portfolios. The project showed clear linkage with UNEP's global strategy on ecosystem management and work on climate change, including UNEP DEWA's Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The project was closely aligned with GEF Strategic Program 1, in addressing multiple stresses through Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) and linkages to upstream basin management through Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). Furthermore, the Project was designed to complement the existing Mediterranean Strategic Partnership project, through integrating CV&C issues into ICZM plans. This complementarity was also reflected in the institutional framework and implementation arrangements adopted for the project execution. The project responded to stakeholder priorities and needs with respect to the implications of climate variability and change for the ICZM protocol and other related national policies.

Alignment with the Bali Strategic Plan (BSP)[1]

49. The ClimVar objectives were aligned with some priorities identified in Bali Strategic Plan particularly to help countries to comply with regional and international agreements (e.g. UNFCCC) and provide data and Information for decision making. The project also relevant to the Bali Strategic Plan to enhance the countries' capacities for assessing and planning responses to environmental and socio-economic impacts of CV&C in coastal zones at the local level (demonstrations in Croatia), which was consistent with countries' needs. ClimVar also contributed to strengthening the capacity of governments of the target countries to integrate CV&C in the development plans and support implementation of ICZM strategies, as well as supporting the mainstreaming of project results into national decision-making strategies.

[1] http://www.unep.org/GC/GC23/documents/GC23-6-add-1.pdf

Gender balance

50. The Project Document (PRODOC) referred to gender equity and social inclusion (Section 3-11), "the ICZM approach itself aims at facilitating equitable access to use of coastal resources and the project activities are explicitly geared towards openness inclusion and gender sensitivity". The Project did not include any clear mainstreaming of g**ender, however, in terms of involvement in project activities,** gender balance was reflected by the number of women involved in the implementing, administrating of the project, which outnumbered the men (70% women-30% men), and by women who were involved in the awareness and education activities. The Project also helped to foster dialogue on CV&C and ICZM among local stakeholders in demonstration countries.

51. **Gender mainstreaming** should be firmly integrated in the project design. Women experience inequality in decision-making in ICZM plans in project countries, however, they have a salient and effective role to play in ICZM implementation and CVC adaptation plans. For example they can help raise awareness of the risks of climate change among other women and children and foster the dialogue among local stakeholders and national authorities. Thus, in future plans, they should occupy a vital role in the project implementation strategy.

Human rights based approach (HRBA)

52. Human rights based approaches (HRBA) and the inclusion of indigenous peoples were not explicitly addressed in the project design or in its approach to implementation although the project is relevant to achieving World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) environmental targets.

South-South Cooperation

53. The project promoted South-South cooperation at the regional level through the involvement of the southern Mediterranean countries that have all collaborated in the execution of the project, and through a sharing Platform on climate variability and change information, which was developed to boost the cooperation and consultation between southern countries. However, the evaluator considers that the implementation strategy should have included exchange programmes and twinning activities for further transfer of skills and knowledge between southern countries in the field of coastal zone management to facilitate the replication of best-practices.

3.1.2 Alignment with GEF focal areas and strategic priorities

54. The project addresses the Strategic Objective "to play a catalytic role in addressing trans-boundary water concerns by assisting countries to utilize the full range of technical assistance, economic, financial, regulatory and institutional reforms that are needed", by aiming towards protection of fisheries, water and coastal and marine habitats vulnerable to climate change, through ICZM planning. The project was closely aligned with GEF Strategic Program 1, in addressing multiple stresses through ICM and linkages to upstream basin management through Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), and consistent with GEF's mandate, and Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund (from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2018).

55. ClimVar adds value to other GEF and non-GEF initiatives. This project is an add-on to an existing UNEP/GEF project, the MedPartnership, with work spanning IW, POPs and BD (through co-finance) focal areas. Since the IW community deals also with land, and is concerned with coastal floods, the project contributed to the larger GEF IW portfolio by delivering 7 lessons learned,

using IW-Template, gathering guidelines for adapting to CVC along the Mediterranean coast and Local assessments of vulnerability. These outputs will definitely be useful to the IW community. In addition, many activities and outputs such as; shared page in the MedPartnership via IW-Learn; include MedOpen virtual training in IW learn; Coast Day, awareness training of the Mediterranean and project brochure in English and French.

3.1.3 Relevance to global, regional and national environmental issues and needs

56. Since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, two international Conventions became the backbone of the global climate services as tools for adaptation to climate change; United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), launched by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) at the World Climate Conference-3 in 2009. The climate services aim at making available a range of relevant tools, resources, information and data to politicians who have to take decisions on climate change issues. The development of Mediterranean climate services is of major importance for the sustainable development in the Mediterranean region and also regarding the climate risk management and adaptation. This was reflected in the ClimVar design e.g. MedICIP which was designed to share data and information and to bridge the gap between climate information providers and users.

57. At the Mediterranean level, with the support of contracting parties of the Barcelona Convention, CoP 18 (1-3 July 2013), UNEP MAP and Plan Bleu launched a revision of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD in 2014). This regional context is a great opportunity for the project activities (Component 1, activity 1.1.3.1) to incorporate the reflections related to climate change and coastal area, as a section of the MSSD.

58. All participating countries have either signed, ratified or acceded to the Barcelona Convention. The global and regional importance of the Mediterranean is well expressed in the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean. The development of mechanisms and tools for integration of CV&C into ICZM policies and plans, which was the aim of the project, have a global significance and represented an exemplary case for global replication. The ClimVar objectives and strategy were also consistent with, sub-regional and national environmental issues and needs, with respect to the issue of mainstreaming climate variability and change issues into national ICZM strategies. The project adds provisions on the strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact analysis, by developing a data sharing platform to ensure that the CV&C monitoring data particularly related to coastal water and other marine resources are available throughout the region and by providing science-based methodologies for countries to assess the vulnerability to CV&C, to be integrated into their ICZM planning which will help protection of coastal and marine habitats and vulnerable coastal areas. The project produced two guidelines for policy makers and ICZM planners on introducing CV&C into policies, plans and programs concerning the coastal and marine zone, which will support the implementation of the ICZM protocol and reduce risk to environment and human from Climate variability and change.

The overall rating for project relevance is satisfactory.

3.2 Achievement of outputs

59. The ClimVar project was developed to support the implementation of the Barcelona Convention ICZM Protocol through the development of region-wide coordination mechanisms and tools to address the impacts of climate variability and change in the Mediterranean Region. It was organized around three Components which were, in turn, split into: data collection and data

analysis; applying and testing tools and methodology; and strengthening the knowledge of CV&C and supporting ICZM strategies. The ClimVar Project produced 13 expected outputs arranged under five outcomes (revised project design). A summary of progress towards each activity for project Components is given in Annex II

Outcome 1: Multi-country data platform on climate research supports ICZM planning and management

Outcome 2: Improved understanding of CV&C in the Mediterranean region, enables countries to assess impacts on the coastal environment.

Outcome 3: Science based methodological approach enables countries to integrate climate variability and change issues into ICZM policies, plans and programs.

Outcome 4: Increased knowledge, capacity, and awareness improve inter-sectoral coordination in mainstreaming climate variability and change issues into the ICZM protocol implementation process.

Outcome 5: Project experiences and lessons disseminated to larger GEF IW community

3.2.1 Component 1: Establishment of a climate variability and change information sharing platform

60. This component was executed by Plan Bleu/RAC and UNEP/MAP and focused on data and information gathering on climate variability. Five of the national multi-stakeholder workshops for the gathering of information and updating national reports were conducted, which was considered the basis of a regional analysis. The platform for climate variability and change data and information was built as a 'portal for portals' , for linking with national institutions who provided (through SDI) key data to the platform, from which data can be downloaded (depending on the institutions policies for sharing), interrogated and mapped.

61. The outputs of this component relied mainly on, gathering and sharing of data from participant countries. Data sharing is considered a cross-cutting issue of all project components. As mentioned earlier, data sharing is a problematic issue for most of the countries, as it's mostly affected by the political and socio-economic context of the countries. According to available evidence and interviews, as well as from assessment of project deliverables, it is worth mentioning that there was a disparity between the participating countries relating to limitations to sharing and quality and quantity of data, as some of participating countries had national specificities concerning their role in the project.

Output 1.1.1: Assessment of regional and national programs for monitoring and tracking CV&C and its impacts, including capacity assessments.
Output: 1.1.2: Regional consensus achieved on mechanism for CV&C data sharing.

62. The main activities consisted of reviewing and assessing of current databases in the countries as well as regional and national programs for monitoring and tracking Climate Variability and Change and its impacts, including capacity assessments. The national reports and data were analysed by Plan Bleu with the aim of; identifying gaps and weaknesses to propose improvements to these reports; updating and validating national reports and also discussing and selecting the possible data sharing gaps and capacity for future action. A series of national

workshops with relevant experts in all project countries was organized by PB/RAC experts, except in Syria and Libya, where meetings were cancelled because of the political situation.

63. The Terms of Reference for the Online Multi Country Information Sharing Platform on Climate Variability and Mediterranean Integrated Climate Information Platform web portal (MedICIP) was presented and discussed in those national workshops. The discussions in these workshops with the national stakeholders have allowed identification of the gaps in climate variability and change monitoring and a preliminary core set of indicators for the CVC and ICZM themes linked to the EcAp's operational objectives and Good Environmental Status, have been identified and reported by PB and UNEP/MAP. These indicators could provide a first step and set the wheels in motion to develop a wider "regional early warning system alert in all countries".

64. Climate variability and change core set of indicators, data sources, and types; monitoring programmes, and institutions, as well as, gaps and bottlenecks in the Mediterranean countries linked to the climate variability and change have been gathered and described in the two reports-"Regional consensus achieved on mechanism for CV&C data sharing"- "Identify a set of Climate Variability and Change indicators",

65. Output 1.1.3: Online Multi-country Information Sharing Platform on CV&C monitoring data in coastal areas developed

66. The feedback from the last two outputs was used in designing the platform for climate variability and change data and information (MedICIP) http://medicip.grid.unep.ch/, as an efficient tool for the countries to sharing existing reports and geographical data dealing with ICZM and CV&C. The platform was designed based entirely on reliable open-source software in order to be efficient, scalable and customizable platform, with interoperable local SDIs in the countries of interest. This also avoids licensing software costs.

67. The platform built reinforced the regional coordination on data sharing and exchange of information between participating countries. Some of platform outcomes are the creation of a Geographical Data Infrastructure (GIS) interface with more than 1400 layers available; establishing a network of experts dealing with CV&C and ICZM coming from relevant institutions; making available training materials (on GIS and how to use MedICIP) and gathering national institutions, national reports and contacts of national experts in the 11 participating countries. MedICIP is administrated by PB and will be maintained and improved by GRID-Geneva for a minimum of two years after the end of the project. It is crucial that the platform remains active and maintained in the longer term; funding arrangements and sustainability future plan should be allocated to maintain this platform.

68. Interviews with ClimVar executing agency indicated that the main obstacle they faced was that after the two regional trainings, organized in the project countries, they are still waiting for countries to contribute directly to the MedICIP's "map interface" in providing GIS layers. Accordingly, it is important to highlight that MedICIP is designed to be a '**Portal of portals'**, which means it is created to link to national institutions who will provide (through SDI) key data to the platform, from which the data can be downloaded (depending on the institutions policies for sharing) interrogated and mapped.

69. The main issue to maintain the MedICIP is the contribution from countries to share data in a thematic geoportal. Data sharing is always a sensitive issue for the countries and linked to their country-specific policies. As highlighted by the ClimVar executing agency, to promote the

Platform, It is crucial for MedICIP to identify a "champion institution(s)" in each of the participating countries which could review the national data, and support the administrator of the platform (currently done in France, by Plan Bleu) to update data and news, and organize in-house training focusing on data sharing for selected experts from country. However, there are specific conditions needed for this and it is necessary to explain to countries why data sharing is necessary and important for addressing common issues, and to understand the political and socio-economic context of the countries.

70. From the evaluation and interview of MedICIP administrator, the platform has a great potential to continue in the future, and is considered a key element for the sustainability of ClimVar, if countries recognize it as an effective tool for CV&C and ICZM data sharing, and its role for addressing their common development challenges. However, the main question is, **"How to convince countries to continue sharing the data ?"**

3.2.2 Component 2: Strengthening the knowledge base on regional climate variability and change

71. This component was executed by Plan Bleu, PAP/RAC, GWP-Med and UNEP/MAP and focused on analysis and assessment of data on environmental and socio-economic impacts of climate variability and change, the implementation of available methodologies and tools in two pilot sites in Croatia and Tunisia in order to assess impacts and evaluate coastal management response options, and a regional assessment of socio-economic impacts of climate variability and change and adaptation options in coastal zones for various scenarios providing background for advancing policy making.

72. The two demonstrations within this component have been completed, in Croatia (Šibenik-Knin) and in Tunisia (Kerkennah islands). The results of the demonstration activities in Šibenik-Knin Croatia, CV&C considerations are included into the Coastal Management Plan. Experience from this project fed into the Guidelines for adapting to CVC along the Mediterranean coasts. In addition, CV&C considerations were included in three ICZM Strategies for MedPartnership project. These experiences are of a great value for all future coastal plans and strategies. Based on the results of this component, it is highly probable that any new coastal policy, strategy, plan or program will take CV&C into consideration.

73. Output 2.1.1: Regional analyses of sea-level rise and storm surges, of changes in water characteristics and marine acidification, with special focus on river deltas and on the identification of vulnerable areas.

74. Output 2.1.2. Assessment of environmental and socioeconomic impacts in two critically vulnerable sites, and evaluation of response options.

75. Output 2.1.3 Regional assessment of socio-economic impacts of CV&C and coping strategies in coastal zones for various scenarios.

76. The End products were: -

- A regional report on physical, environmental and socio-economic impacts of CV&C .For this report the collection of indicators and data from various projects &databases.
- Assessment of the economic impacts of CVC in Šibenik-Knin, Croatia, for preparation of the coastal zone management plans and national ICZM strategies.

- Assessment of the sea-level rise and storms in Montenegro, to contribute to the overall understanding of the impacts of CVC in the narrow coastal areas, and to enable integration of the ICZM principles into spatial planning.
- Four scenarios of sea-level rise were proposed, to be taken into account for future coastal planning.
- Demonstration activities in two proposed sites; for local assessment of CV&C impacts and evaluation of response options, were fully implemented in Šibenik-Knin, Croatia, and partially in Kerkennah, Tunisia. The Tunisian demonstration advanced, though encountered delays due to political instability and government change during the period of project implementation.
- Report on "The Multi-Scale Coastal Risk Index (CRI-MED) method for ranking of the relative risk of each coastal region in relation to potential coastal hazards".

77. The "Assessment of Costs of Sea-Level Rise in the Republic of Croatia including Costs and Benefits of Adaptation" was developed using the Dynamic Integrated Vulnerability Assessment (DIVA) method. The assessments were based on three sea-level rise scenarios and three socio-economic development scenarios. Impacts were considered without adaptation and with adaptation to flooding (in the form of upgrading dikes), and to erosion (by nourishing beaches). The report was presented to the Croatian Inter-ministerial committee (IMC) for the preparation and implementation of the Marine and Coastal Strategy.

78. Concerns on potential costs of increasing exposure of high-density development to sea-level rise and extreme water levels have emerged from the DIVA studies. In Croatia, for example, the discrepancy between population projections and the intense coastal urbanization came into focus - while projections indicate a population decrease, spatial plans allow for a 10-fold increase in the urbanized coast compared to before the 1960s. This coastal urbanization boom is typical for Mediterranean countries relying on coastal tourism, which then raises the key question – who will bear these costs? Moreover, the areas that came out as having the most population endangered by sea-level extremes do not coincide with ones with highest potential damages. How to set protection priorities?

79. General conclusion, important for all Mediterranean countries (and particularly for less developed countries) was that; priority in any case should be given to **no regret measures**, like the **setback zone**, which is the safest and the least expensive solution.

80. The Methodology for assessing CVC impacts and response options at local level was developed and tested in two vulnerable zones, leading to climate-proofing of ICZM plans/strategies; the two demonstration activities have been completed, in Croatia (Šibenik-Knin) and in Tunisia (Kerkennah islands). The first demonstration site was Šibenik-Knin County, Croatia. A Local Assessment of Vulnerability (LAV) to CV&C and evaluation of response options has been done in a more extensive framework, encompassing impacts on economic sectors that were important for the country, including tourism, agriculture, fisheries, water management, manufacturing and maritime transport. Other areas of importance are forest fires, human health and cultural heritage. The selection of the issues to be covered with the assessment was based on the issues raised by stakeholders during the "*Climagine*" participatory process, as well as on the discussions with PAP/RAC and its experts.

81. The study found that the greatest impacts will be reflected in the damage to coastal assets. Primary residents, owners of the secondary houses, and tourism facilities located in the low-lying coastal zones will be particularly affected. Therefore, protection should be provided for

those locations with high-value assets, and the plans for future development and land-use plans should take into account the increased risk of damage from storm surges and sea-level rise. Often soft adaptation measures, such as early warning systems, insurance, building codes, creating natural buffers, etc. should be developed and applied. One sector most likely to be affected by CVC is tourism.

82. The second demonstration site, Kerkenah Island, Tunisia, encountered delays due to political instability and government change during the project execution. However, the Tunisian authorities and relevant organizations participated in the workshops which were organized within the framework of the project, to define strategies to integrate CVC into ICZM. The national participants expressed the intention to integrate CVC strategies into ICZM plans. The Sector-based Local Assessment of Vulnerability (LAV) in Kerkenah, Island, shows that the key economic sectors that contribute significantly to both national and sub-national economy in the coastal areas of Tunisia, such as tourism, agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, water management, maritime transport, and energy sector, were likely to be affected by CV&C. The impacts on forest fires, cultural heritage and human health were also considered. The extent and timing of these impacts were uncertain. However, the strong evidence that the climate is changing and the sea level is rising urges us to find a way to make our coasts more resilient. Priority should be given to "no-regret" measures, like the setback zone, which is the safest and least expensive solution.

83. At the regional level, in Tunisia, the assessment of CV&C and evaluation of response options was developed. The DIVA modelling framework was down scaled to assess the increased coastal flood risk in terms of the expected annual damage from extreme sea-level events and dry land loss due to sea-level rise. The Tunisian DIVA segmentation of the coast constituted the data model for a spatial data base that includes more than 80 physical, ecological and socioeconomic parameters. The first results confirmed the vulnerability trends identified by the Tunisian experts studying the impacts of the sea-level rise. These effects will be significant across the century, and adaptation measures are urgently needed.

84. The result of DIVA and the evaluation of CV&C impacts on key economic sectors in Tunisian coastal areas highlighted the need for future adaptation policies in coastal management. Final results of DIVA and the analysis of socio-economic report have been presented in July in Tunisia to local stakeholders. Two reports containing methodology and the results of the assessments in Tunisia were published and disseminated during the Final MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM conference in Athens in November 2015, and placed on PAP/RAC and on MedPartnership web sites.

85. Experience gained from the above studies was assembled by all partner institutions involved in the assessment and presented in the document named: "Guidance on Assessment of Socio-economic Impacts and Adaptation to Climate Variability and Change in Mediterranean Coastal Zones". The project acknowledged the fact that expressing potential damages by climate variability and change (CV&C) in monetary terms may be the most powerful tool for raising awareness. This is the information that policy makers need, but due to the short-term cycles of policy makers, it is necessary that this information is understood by the general public as well.

86. The complexity of CV&C has resulted in the absence of a common methodology for estimating its social and economic impacts, or the methodology for evaluating the adaptation response options. For these reasons the project developed guidelines that draw on the experience of making assessments on environmental and socio-economic impacts of CVC, in the context of vulnerable coastal zones in the Mediterranean. All assessments and the guidelines were

presented at the Regional training on methods for socio-economic assessments of the CC impacts, held in Kiel, Germany in September 2015.

87. Another output of this component was the application of the “Multi-Scale Coastal Risk Index (CRI-MED)”. The method was developed and applied regionally in the 11 countries and locally at Tetouan, Morocco by Plan Bleu, thus, ranking the relative risk of each coastal region in relation to potential coastal hazards, that led to identification of climate hot-spots along the Mediterranean coastline, placing more assertion on emerging priorities for adaptation to CVC, and promoting the use of ICZM in the participating countries.

88. The Risk Index methodology is really useful for decision making process, as it allows identification of the "hazard zone" where coastal forcing and vulnerabilities and risks are measured quite easily and cost-effectively. So, it is recommended that that this tool be applied in future at local levels in the Mediterranean project countries.

89. The evaluation consultants visited the demonstration sites, in Tunisia and Croatia and held interviews with local stakeholders, national project team and executing organizations. Besides, interviewing other ClimVar national teams during final closure meeting in Athens, October 2015 and through several skype discussions with most of project parties. It was conducted that; it’s really important to clarify that project countries made their early choices about the demonstration sites and activities to be covered by ClimVar, based on their knowledge of vulnerabilities.

90. The evaluator observed that lack of data, technical capacity and appropriate institutional structure were responsible for certain gaps in ClimVar activities. The project had tangible outputs in Croatia and partially in Tunisia. However, it was unable to produce tangible outputs in other countries e.g. Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and the Palestinian Territories because these countries faced either political transition or had gaps in the data and knowledge. Despite, these gaps, the project activities brought to light the importance of Climate Variability and change data and technical capacity in the project countries which had not previously been compiled. A positive outcome is that the countries began to feel concerned about the lack of data and some countries have started to develop and improve their data collection, for example, Bosnia and Herzegovina are developing a new real-time and historical geo-database of natural hazards which will be gathered by satellite remote sensing and GIS. Component 3: Support to ICZM Protocol implementation and capacity building (Executed by Plan Bleu, PAP/RAC, GWP-Med and UNEP/MAP)

91. This support was to be delivered as science-based methodologies and approach for mainstreaming climate variability and changes considerations into national ICZM planning and practices developed, considering synergy with other relevant national plans (Integrated Water Resources Management -IWRM, National Strategy for Sustainable Development --NSSD, Carrying Capacity Assessment-CCA, etc.). Activities included; integrated management plan developed in one pilot site (Croatia); support provided to MedPartnership ICZM pilot projects in Montenegro and Algeria with regard to Climate Variability and Change; Awareness raising and capacity building activities were conducted for Policy makers and stakeholders in participating countries on implications of climate variability and ICZM protocol and other related national policies. It is important to note that the two demonstrations, Croatia & Tunisia are cross-cutting over the three components of data gathering, analysis and policy.

92. In the framework of this component, a Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework was developed based on the request of the contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention, which was approved by MAP FPs and was submitted and endorsed by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at COP19 in February 2016. In light of all these progresses, it is reasonable to expect that the project will influence Mediterranean wide agreements for future actions towards adaptation to climate variability and change in the marine and coastal zones.

3.2.3 Component 3: Supporting ICZM Protocol implementation and capacity building

93. Output 3.1. Methodology and tools for mainstreaming climate variability considerations into national ICZM planning and practices developed considering synergy with other related national plans (IWRM, NSSD, CCA, etc.).

94. Guidelines for Adapting to Climate Variability and Change along the Mediterranean Coast were developed, and considered as a key project output that provides information on how the adaptation to climate variability and change (CVC) can be integrated into the ICZM process. These guidelines also provide a more detailed understanding of different key CVC aspects in the Mediterranean coastal zones. They take the reader through the different stages of ICZM, showing how CVC is relevant to each of these stages, and what actions are needed to address it.

95. The guidelines have also laid out the lessons learned from the experience with CVC in specific locations in the Mediterranean and elsewhere, providing a critical review on current adaptation and mitigation efforts. These experiences should be shared across the ICZM community and used to improve future plans, especially since there is lack of experience with the implementation of actual climate policies and measures. The guidelines were presented to MedPartnership and PAP/RAC NFPs in the final MedPartnership and ClimVar& ICZM Final Conference in Athens, October 2015.

96. Under the ClimVar project, national experts trained in Spatial Data Integration through on-line training session of the PAP/RAC's MedOpen virtual training course on ICZM, specifically focused on CV&C. In the framework of the ClimVar project an advanced module was launched in MedOpen, in May 2015, for candidates from the GEF eligible countries in which the project was implemented. The aim of the session was to enhance a policy dialogue and improve capacities on implications of CVC considerations, the ICZM Protocol and other related national policies.

97. Output 3.1.2. Integrated management plan developed in one of the locations

98. A coastal Plan for the Šibenik-Knin County with a specific focus on climate variability and change was prepared by PAP/RAC for the Šibenik-Knin County of Croatia. It addresses the challenges posed by climatic variability to the county's coastal zone, primarily in terms of spatial planning, coastal protection, water management, regional development and biodiversity management. The Coastal Plan, as foreseen by the ICZM Protocol, recommends ways to increase the resilience of the coastal zone and sustainability of its development. It addresses the planning process and was developed by a multi-disciplinary team of experts, supported by the local knowledge structured around "Climagine" participatory workshops that paralleled the Plan preparation.

99. As documented by PAP/RAC, during the preparation of the Coastal Plan of Shibin-Kinn, a Stakeholder Analysis was prepared, and a large number of important stakeholders were identified and involved in the Coastal Plan and in Climagine workshops. In addition, a GIS course was organised for interested candidates from the country institutions and organisations. The Coastal Plan generated significant interest from stakeholders around the Mediterranean. It was

presented to Croatian **IMC members** (national inter-ministerial committee for ICZM), and was included in the European Climate Adaptation Platform. The need for a systematic approach to increase coastal resilience was recognized by many coastal regions. This plan provided an example of how this complex issue can be tackled.

Output 3.1.3. Provide support to MedPartnership ICZM demonstration projects in Montenegro and Algeria with regard to Climate Variability and Change

100. Launching of the ClimVar& ICZM project enabled the enhancement and better integration of considerations related to the CV&C impacts and the required adaptation actions in the National ICZM Strategy. Climate variability and change considerations were included in three ICZM strategies; coastal plan in Reghaia, Algeria; a trans-boundary Integrated management coastal plan in Buna/Bojana; and national ICZM strategies in Montenegro under the MedPartnership with the financial resources provided by the ClimVar project.

101. Several measures were proposed within the National ICZM Strategy for Algeria, related to CV&C. For Montenegro, assessment of sea-level rise was done to contribute to the overall understanding of the impacts of climate variability and change in the narrow coastal areas and to enable integration of the ICZM principles into spatial planning. Four scenarios of sea-level rise were proposed to be taken into account in future coastal management planning.

Output 3.2.2. Awareness-raising, policy dialogue and capacity building for Policy makers and stakeholders in participating countries on implications of climate variability, ICZM protocol and other related national policies

102. Given the globalized nature of the insurance industry, and the common climate change risks around the world, an assessment of the banking and insurance sectors around the Mediterranean was prepared by PAP/RAC. The report was based upon a questionnaire that was sent to major insurance and banking companies operating in the southeast Mediterranean. Analysis relied upon information obtained from generic sources, due to the fact that only a small number of insurance and banking companies responded to the questionnaire. However, it remains relevant to the area covered by the ICZM Protocol, in particular for the governments to understand how CVC is addressed by key actors of the private sector involved in land use and management in coastal areas.

103. This innovative assessment summarized best available practices in major banking and insurance companies to address CVC in the Mediterranean coastal zone. It mainly focused on property and land insurance, because erosion, rising sea levels and drought damages are expected to intensify in the future in the Mediterranean. It provided concrete examples of leading insurance and banking companies' climate risk management practices, and highlights industry trends. The assessment put forward some recommendations based on existing practices, to improve the banking and insurance sectors' overall management of climate change risks.

104. Banking and insurance sectors face a number of problems related to the accurate pricing of risks, and burden of shortage of capital after major loss events. However, these sectors are also in the position to strongly influence future developments, and to contribute to reducing future risks to society. By introducing "climate change proofing" for banks or insurance clients, these sectors may influence where and how constructions will take place, for individual housing, tourism and infrastructure projects.

105. It is important to note that ClimVar and ICZM project had no specific communication image, but it was agreed that the MedPartnership logos will be used for all ClimVar and ICZM activities. The various materials and experiences produced through ClimVar have been used for awareness-raising education and dissemination activities among both general public and decision makers on coastal vulnerability to CVC in the project countries as well as to MedPartnership community.

106. Several activities, implemented by PAP/RAC, have focused on raising awareness and capacity building among both general public and decision makers on coastal vulnerability to CVC. The awareness-raising and capacity building activities included various assessments; conferences; meetings; campaigns, such as the Coast Day campaign; and workshops, participatory events and trainings, like the MedOpen on-line training course. The local and national stakeholders, as well as local authorities and governments members benefitted from these events particularly in Šibenik-Knin County, Croatia, and Tunisia.

107. For Montenegro ClimVar and ICZM funded the activities of the NGO "Green Net" of Budva in collaboration with the Government agency "Maritime Public Domain". The main objective was to familiarise school children with the climate change issues. They designed, and will run for at least 2 years, an Internet page "Climate Change for Children" in Montenegrin language.

108. Integration of the *Climagine* and Coastal Plan for Šibenik-Knin County were included in the European Climate Adaptation Platform that will also can produce an impact on the awareness on the existence of the methodology for and experience in building coastal resilience.

109. The project results and lessons learned were disseminated in through various dissemination channels, including presentations given at the projects meetings, the project link in MedPartnership website and social media. A movie of ClimVar was produced and was shown in many events and at an information booth organised by MAP Sustainable Operations Task Force on the occasion of the COP19, in February 2016 in Athens. Project results should continue to be regularly disseminated at the national and regional level as soon as acquired, to make information and products generated available to all stakeholders.

110. Overall, the Project was able to achieve its objectives and to generate a considerable number of high quality reports, studies, guidelines, and a data sharing platform along with lessons learned brochures and country fact sheets. All the reports have been filed in an interactive bibliography with hyperlinks to the documents. Some of these products could have a broader potential for up-scaling the project best-practices beyond the project and have a catalytic effect concerning sustainable use of natural resources. In addition, these outputs could potentially support countries in the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols, if institutional capacities were further enhanced. A summary of the Project's success in producing programmed outputs is presented in table 6 (Annex II). The ClimVar & ICZM projects have produced a considerable number of outputs but also raised a number of questions. Climate change has opened new levels of uncertainty. Decision-makers and planners must learn how to function with these new levels of uncertainty, which are higher than ever before. Consistent solutions require new levels of integration.

Table 5: Summary of the Project's success in producing programmed outputs (Annex II)

The overall rating on the delivery of outputs related to this outcome is Satisfactory.

3.3 Effectiveness: Attainment of objectives and planned results

111. Assessment of Effectiveness is based on the level of attainment of objectives and planned results by examining the achievement of the five project outcomes using the log frame (revised, Result framework) indicators as well as the assessment of the likelihood of impact using the ROtI analysis. The project objective was 'To create an enabling environment for the integration of CV&C coping strategies into ICZM policies, plans and programs of Mediterranean countries by (i) strengthening the understanding of the impacts of CV&C on the coastal zones of the Mediterranean region and (ii) by establishing the needed information exchange mechanisms, capacity and regional pilot experiences.' Details of achievement of Outcomes are given in Table 6 (ANNEX II)

3.3.1 Achievement of direct outcomes as defined in the reconstructed ToC

112. As discussed in section 2.9 (Reconstructed TOC), the project sought to achieve outcomes that lead the project towards its overall objective. The evaluation of the effectiveness is based on the extent to which the objectives were achieved, especially keeping in view the TOC developed for the project. The broader outcomes defined in the logical framework were clear and used for evaluation of Effectiveness and the RoTI analysis. Given the complexity of the long-term nature of most of ClimVar outcomes, it must be pointed out that it is difficult to observe the impact of all project outcomes on stakeholders' behaviour during the short period of the project. Some observed impacts are discussed in the PARA 152.

Outcome 1: Multi-country data platform on climate research supports ICZM planning and management

113. The data more specifically related to climate change is difficult to find, particularly the data on coastal areas which is often restricted. In addition, a certain number of countries have not developed such data. In this sense, as an essential step in the project implementation framework, there should have been a technique for mapping and assessing the existing national and regional CVC monitoring data and developing a coordinating mechanism for accessing and sharing this data and relevant information between the countries. A web-based regional data platform, "Mediterranean Integrated Climate Information Platform for CVC data sharing (MedICIP)" has been developed as a dynamic platform that will link to national institutions who will provide (through SDI) key data to the platform.

114. This project brought to light the importance of Climate Variability and Changes data and information sharing for CV&C adaptation of the Mediterranean, and encouraged countries to take steps forward towards improving their data, for example, Bosnia and Herzegovina conducted some measurements related to the climate variability and change: flooding risks, droughts, fresh water quality; climate-related warming of lakes and rivers; Morocco has started developing data related to the socio-economic impacts of climate variability and change. Regarding Montenegro, the country hosts the project within the "Adricosm-Star" initiative with the aim to integrate climate variability and change, and to initiate and improve integrated coastal zone and river basin management using methodologies, regulations and techniques of monitoring, modelling, forecasting, and reporting.

115. The development of MedICIP will be an efficient tool for the countries to progress in their approach. Through the web sharing platform they will be trained to manage their data for a common use and will be able to learn from other institutions. The active involvement of countries will contribute to the elaboration of efficient and practical adaptation policies for the protection of the Mediterranean coastal area. In this context, two regional capacity building

trainings have been organized to enhance the know-how of 10 experts in Tunisia and 30 in Turkey.

116. BP/RAC Identified a set of indicators for the CVC and ICZM themes linked to the EcAp to follow-up several plans during project at the regional level, through the regional Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change, and at local level, through the demonstration site in Sibenik-Knin (outcome 3), This core set of indicators can provide help to follow-up of the adaptation policies to CV&C at the regional level and to take specific national coastal challenges into consideration. The proposed core set of indicators is therefore designed for the regional level (Mediterranean basin) and each indicator can be calculated at the national level.

Immediate Outcome 2: Improved understanding of Climate Variability and Change in the Mediterranean basin enables countries to assess likely impacts on the coastal environment.

117. In order to contribute to the understanding of the size and nature of CV&C hazards, PAP/RAC and BP/RAC undertook quantitative and semi-quantitative assessments with the aim to express the possible costs of sea-level rise and other climate change impacts in monetary terms. For that purpose, demonstration activities for assessment of CVC impacts and evaluation of response options, were implemented in, Šibenik-Knin, Croatia, and in Kerkennah, Tunisia provided an opportunity to review the development pattern, to assess the current state, but also to take into consideration the new challenges that the future brings. The results of this assessment will be included in the Marine and Coastal Strategy and also in the National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change in Croatia. This study was presented to the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC), established to prepare the Marine and Coastal Strategy for Croatia. The IMC is supported by the Med-Partnership Project, while the coastal part of the Strategy is a Med-Partnership replication project.

118. The Local Assessment of Vulnerability (LAV) of impacts of CV&C applied on coastal areas of Croatia and Tunisia by DIVA method to estimate a potential damage by rising sea levels together with related adaptation costs, was strongly influenced by the opinions of local stakeholders involved in “Climagine“ participatory process from the beginning of work. DIVA’s results downscaled to the county level and the results of the local vulnerability assessment have been introduced into the coastal plan for Šibenik-Knin, which will in turn served as a base for the county’s spatial plan, national strategy for adaptation to climate change and for the national strategy for regional development. In addition, the nature of the assessment might also serve as example to other Mediterranean countries that are likely to experience similar CV&C impacts to develop their own coastal plans and strategies.

119. The Multi-Scale Coastal Risk Index (CRI-MED) method was also applied regionally in 11 countries, allowing the ranking of the relative risk of each coastal region in relation to potential coastal hazards. This led to identifying the “climate hot-spots” along the Mediterranean coastline, and to placing more emphasis on emerging priorities for adaptation to CV&C, and promoting the use of ICZM in the participating countries. However, engaging the local stakeholders in a full exploration of adaptation options at the local level was deemed to be beyond the available time and resources within the current project. Such activity could be done in a next phase of the research to complement local risk assessment exercises (e.g. with country workshops and more direct interactions).

Immediate Outcome 3: Reduced water related health issues

120. Two methodological documents resulted from the Climvar; one for integrating adaptation into coastal planning and management, and the other, providing guidance on socio-economic

assessments of the potential costs caused by CV&C. Both themes are of great importance for policy makers of the Mediterranean coasts (more detailed in section 1.14).

121. The coastal Plan in Šibenik-Knin County, Croatia, as foreseen by the ICZM Protocol, recommends ways to increase the resilience of coastal zone and sustainability of its development. It addresses the planning process defined in the MedPartnership project and is supported by PAP/RAC's guidelines from the ClimVar and ICZM project. The plan was based on several assessments and was prepared for coastal zone of the Šibenik-Knin County by a multi-disciplinary team of experts. The Plan and those assessments were guided by local knowledge, expressed at "Climagine" participatory workshops that as a parallel methodology.

122. The coastal plan fed into local spatial plans, a regional development strategy and other sectoral policy documents. It generated interest by stakeholders around the Mediterranean. During its preparation, it was presented at national and international conferences and workshops and to the Inter-Ministerial Committee for preparation and implementation of Marine and Coastal Strategy for Croatia. The Plan was adopted by the Country Assembly in order to gain the legal status. The impact of the Plan on public awareness is expected, as the size of the challenge posed by CV&C on the one hand and the short policy cycles of decision makers on the other, it is clear that the public's role in dealing with climate crises will be particularly important.

123. The implementation of DIVA for assessment of CV&C impacts and evaluation of response options in Tunisia's coastal area pointed out that, the sea-level rise impacts can be reduced significantly if appropriate adaptation measures are applied. This result highlighted the importance of enhancing local expertise and showed the importance of data/information for carrying out this activity (see Outcome 1). Guidelines for Adapting to Climate Variability and Change along the Mediterranean Coast are key project-derived documents that provide information on how the adaptation to CV&C can be integrated into the ICZM process in the project countries. These guidelines also provide a more detailed understanding of the different CVC key aspects in the coastal zones and provide a critical review of current adaptation and mitigation efforts in the Mediterranean. These experiences can be used to improve future plans, especially since there is lack of experience with the implementation of actual climate policies and measures in the project countries.

Immediate Outcome 4: Increased knowledge, capacity and awareness improve inter-sectoral coordination in mainstreaming climate variability and change issues into ICZM Protocol implementation process

124. Inter-ministerial committees (IMC) in Croatia, Montenegro and Algeria were supported though the project for longer-term planning and implementation of coastal and marine planning (ICZM, IWRM, and others) (more details related to IMC are discussed in the MedPartnership TE report). In order to improve the adaptation plans to CV&C, there is an urgent need to build partnerships with the insurance and banking sectors because of the predictions of severe extreme weather events. The assessment done by PAPA/RAC in the framework of ClimVar put forward some recommendations, based on existing practices, to improve the banking and insurance sectors' overall management of climate change risks. The project outcomes 2&3, have laid out the expected effects in the coastal areas in Mediterranean countries. Their key considerations are: (a) investment in vulnerable areas may prove to be unwise if assets are subject to damages from the effects of climate change, (b) private agents will have to be given the right information and incentives in order to make the best decisions. The outcomes are also laid out different ways in which the various instruments that are discussed can be combined for

CV&C adaption plans in the project countries and the whole Mediterranean region, e.g., sea-level rise will be significant across the century, and adaptation measures are required. Results showed that hard defence construction and continuous beach nourishment would be economically beneficial compared to "do-nothing" approaches. The analysis of the location of vulnerable areas and what actions are justified to protect them has become a key part of mainstreaming climate change into ICZM in Croatia and Tunisia.

125. The project supported the implementation of ICZM national strategies in countries such as Croatia and Tunisia and updated the inter-ministerial committees in Algeria for the long term sustainability of ICZM processes and developed the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework (RCCAF) based on the request of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP), to increase the resilience of the marine and coastal areas of the Mediterranean countries and their communities to the adverse impacts of climate variability and change in the context of sustainable development. Given the complexity and long-term nature of climate change adaption plans and ICZM process, it is essential to note that the impact of ClimVar outcomes cannot be seen during the project lifetime. Impacts may occur over longer timeframes.

126. Participating Countries' capacities were enhanced during demonstration activities for assessing and planning responses to environmental and socio-economic impacts of CV&C in coastal zones on the local level. In addition, ClimVar provided support to MedPartnership ICZM demonstration projects in Montenegro and Algeria, regarding the integration of CV&C considerations in ICZM Strategies. The preparation of the ICZM Strategy for Montenegro proceeded in parallel with the national process of preparation of the Coastal Area Spatial Plan. The Strategy itself was the MedPartnership activity, but the support related to CVC impacts integration was funded by the ClimVar & ICZM project. As for Montenegro, assessment of vulnerability of sea-level rise and storm surge to contribute to the overall understanding of the impacts of climate variability and change in the narrow coastal areas and to enable integration of the ICZM principles into spatial planning. In Algeria, measures proposed within the National ICZM Strategy for Algeria, related to CVC based on participatory process and were presented to Algeria IMC members (national inter-ministerial committee for ICZM).

127. Building resilience to CV&C cannot be achieved without people being aware of threats that CV&C poses to coastal development. Several activities, implemented by PAP/RAC, in demonstration countries have been focused on raising awareness and policy dialogue among both general public and decision makers on coastal vulnerability to CVC (see more in output section).

Immediate Outcome 5: Project experience and lessons disseminated to larger IW community

128. Project results and experiences broadly disseminated through IWCs and other IW LEARN mechanisms. ClimVar project delivered seven lessons learned, using IW-Template, gathering guidelines for adapting to CVC along the Mediterranean coast and Local assessments of vulnerability to CV&C. These outputs will definitely be useful for IW community since GEF IW community deals also with land, and are concerned with coastal flooding. In addition, IW community may also joined ClimVar community with other activities and outputs as; shared page in the MedPartnership via IW-Learn; include MedOpen virtual training in IW learn; Coast Day, awareness raising of the Mediterranean and project brochure in English and French

The rating for overall achievement of outcomes is Satisfactory.

3.3.2 Likelihood of impact using the Review of Outcomes to Impact (ROtI) approach

129. The likelihood of achievement of the desired project impact (Increased sustainability of ecosystem services and reduced risk to human communities from Climate variability and change) is examined using the ROtI analysis and TOC (Section 2.9). A summary of the results and ratings of the ROtI are given in Table 7 and the assessment of the project's progress towards achieving its intended impacts is presented in Table 5.

130. The project strategy is based on two approaches, strengthening the understanding of the impacts of CV&C on the coastal zones of Mediterranean countries; and establishing the needed information exchange mechanisms, capacity and regional pilot experiences. Progress in achieving this strategy was measured by three overarching indicators at the objective level (Number of participating countries integrating CV&C considerations into their national ICZM policies and plans; Number of countries endorsing the Framework to Climate Change Adaptation and regional assessment of climate variability and change impacts; Countries agreeing to share research information and national CV&C monitoring data and experiences). Other indicators at the desired outcome level (such as; Platform designed according to coordination and harmonization needs and capacity assessments; Pilot ICZM Plan produced for vulnerable zone applying integrated methodological approach) are considered the impact drivers to measure the progress of the project progress from its immediate outcomes to intermediate states and impacts.

131. The overall likelihood that the long term impact will be achieved is rated by the terminal evaluation on a six-point scale as 'Likely' (BC). This rating is based on the following observations:

132. The project's intended outcomes were delivered, and were designed to feed into a continuing process (to implement the Barcelona convention, ICZM protocol and to help Mediterranean countries to adapt CV&C impact) such as improving understanding of CV&C in the Mediterranean region, enabling countries to assess impacts on the coastal environment. Experience from the two demonstration projects in 2 countries were fed into the Guidelines for adapting to CVC along the Mediterranean coasts. In addition, CVC considerations are included in three national ICZM Strategies. These experiences are of a great value for all future coastal plans and strategies in the countries.

133. The Multi-Scale Coastal Risk Index methodology for Regional and Local Scale in the Mediterranean, allows identification of the most vulnerable sites to climate variability and change ("climate hotspots") along the Mediterranean coastline, thus, this methodology is a great value for supporting the involved countries to better assess climate-related risks to their marine and coastal zones:

134. For Increasing knowledge, capacity, and awareness, improve inter-sectoral coordination in mainstreaming climate variability and change issues into the ICZM protocol, the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework (RCCAF), developed as unique instrument to identify and reach agreements among the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention on the priorities to be addressed to increase the resilience to climate change and variability in the Mediterranean marine and coastal areas was supported by all project countries and endorsed by the Barcelona Contracting Parties in 2016.

135. Furthermore, the "Guidelines for Adapting to Climate Variability and Change along the Mediterranean Coast," were prepared by the project to assist the integration of the CVC issues into national strategies and plans. They present the different stages of ICZM, showing how

climate change is relevant to each stage, what kind of actions are needed to address climatic effects, and what information is available on these effects, especially in the Mediterranean region. It has also drawn lessons learned from the management of CVC in specific locations in the region.

136. ClimVar aimed to create an enabling environment for the integration of CV&C coping strategies into ICZM policies, plans and programs of Mediterranean countries, the project seems have succeeded on that by creating Data sharing Platform; endorsing RCCAF and providing scientific tools, methodology and pilot studies, for assessment of the vulnerabilility of CV&C on coastal area in some countries. The project results provided key information for the preparation of ICZM plans and strategies but with no allocation responsibilities after project funding. ClimVar& ICZM project offers a considerable number of guidelines, best-practices, lessons learned and recommendations. (Outcome Rating B). (Outcomes Rating B);

137. Measures designed to move towards intermediate states and eventual impact are evident in the momentum that the project has created as well as favourable conditions and a foundation for mainstreaming the CV & C into ICZM strategies. As observed during the site visits and interviews, countries are becoming more concerned about climate change' risks and are taking measures to convince the private sectors to put CVC into their investment plans. The demonstration activities enhanced the capacity of the countries to apply innovative tools and methodologies to assess the impacts of CV&C on natural resources and socioeconomic consequences, and to identify appropriate responses and adaptation strategies.

138. The Coastal Plan of Šibenik-Knin was presented to the Inter -Ministerial Committee (IMC) and formed the basis of the preparation the Marine and Coastal Strategy for Croatia. Creating and supporting the Inter -Ministerial Committee (IMC) in countries such as Croatia and Montenegro, and Algeria, would support to move toward the eventual impact (see Sustainability section).

139. Though these key measures could be considered necessary for the desired change of stakeholders behaviour and progress towards the long-term impacts. Achievement of the long term impact is uncertain as it is dependent on various factors and assumptions. Furthermore, CV&C and ICZM are long-term processes and the real impact of them may not be apparent for decades. How then to measure or evaluate the progress towards impact? The evaluator feels it is not realistic to expect significant and wide scale progress towards intermediate states and impacts as the project activities have been done on small-scale and the demonstrations activities were applied only in two countries. ClimVar& ICZM project offers a considerable number of guidelines, best-practices, lessons learned and recommendations. (Intermediate state Rating C).

Table 6: Rating Scale for Outcomes and Progress towards Intermediate States

Outcome Rating	Rating on progress toward Intermediate States
D: The project's intended outcomes were not delivered	D: No measures taken to move towards intermediate states.
C: The project's intended outcomes were delivered, but were not designed to feed into a continuing process after project funding	C: The measures designed to move towards intermediate states have started, but have not produced results.
B: The project's intended outcomes were delivered, and were designed to feed into a continuing process, but with no prior allocation of responsibilities after project funding	B: The measures designed to move towards intermediate states have started and have produced results, which give no indication that they can progress towards the intended long term impact.
A: The project's intended outcomes were delivered, and were designed to feed into a continuing process, with specific allocation of responsibilities after project funding.	A: The measures designed to move towards intermediate states have started and have produced results, which clearly indicate that they can progress towards the intended long term impact.

Table 7: Overall Likelihood of Achieving Impact

Results rating of project entitled: ClimVar& ICZM							
Outputs	**Outcomes**	**Rating (D – A)**	**Intermediate states**	**Rating (D – A)**	**Impact (GEB)**	**Rating (+)**	**Overall**
1.1.1: Regional consensus achieved on mechanism for CV&C indicators, data collection and data sharing protocols. 1.1.2: Regional consensus achieved on mechanism for CV&C data sharing. 1.1.3: Online Multi-country Information Sharing Platform on CV&C monitoring data in coastal areas developed 2.1.1: Regional analyses of sea-level rise and storm surges, of changes in water characteristics and marine acidification, and with special focus on river deltas and on the identification of vulnerable areas/hotspots. 2.1.2: Assessment of environmental and socio-economic impacts in two critically vulnerable sites, and evaluation of response options. 3.1.1: Methodology and tools for mainstreaming climate variability considerations into national ICZM planning and practices developed considering synergy with other related national plans (IWRM, NSSD, CCA, etc) 3.1.2: Integrated management plan developed in one of the locations 3.2.1.: Existing inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms enhanced to mainstream climate variability and change issues into ICZM planning processes. 3.2.2: Awareness raising, policy dialogue and capacity building processes on implications of climate variability on ICZM protocol and other related national policies for policy makers and stakeholders supported. 3.2.3:Mediterranean Clearing House Mechanism established to disseminate	1.1 Multi-country data platform on climate research supports ICZM planning and management 2.1 Improved understanding of CV&C in the Mediterranean region, enables countries to assess impacts on the coastal environment 3.1 Science based methodological approach enables countries to integrate climate variability and change issues into ICZM policies, plans and programs. 3.2 Increased knowledge, capacity, and awareness improve inter-sectoral coordination in mainstreaming climate variability and change issues into the ICZM protocol implementation process. 3.3 Project experiences & lessons disseminated to larger IW community	B	1. Countries are able to apply innovation tools and methodologies to assess the impacts of CV & C on natural resources and socioeconomic consequences, and identified appropriate responses and adaptation strategies 2. Countries take appropriate measures to adopt relevant regulations and financial instruments to support local, regional and national initiatives for the integrated water management of coastal zones 3. Countries are able to identify and predict the emerging priorities for adaptation of CVC under the varying geo-environmental conditions and different development scenarios 4. Countries becoming more concerned of climate changes risks, thus they taking future measures to convince the private sectors to put CVC into their investment plans. 5. Countries mainstream climate variability and change considerations into their future national ICZM plan and strategy and undertake policy, legal, and institutional reforms	B	Increase sustainability of ecosystem services and reduced risk to human communities from Climate variability and change		BB

knowledge on most efficient tools to address climate variability and change impacts in coastal areas across the region 3.3.1: Project web site (following IW LEARN standards) created, IWENs produced, use of GEF 4 IW tracking tool and participation at GEF IW conferences and other IW LEARN activities ensured. 4.1.1: Capable human resources and efficient systems support project implementation 4.1.2.: Monitoring, consultation and advisory mechanisms support project implementation	4.1 Project implemented effectively and efficiently to the satisfaction of partners		and investments addressing the impacts of CV & C. 6. Widespread uptake / implementation across countries of best practices (including CC&V provisions) in ICMZ on the ground. 7. Increase resilience of watersheds and marine and coastal environment to the adverse impacts of Climate Variability and change				
	Justification for rating:		Justification for rating:		Justification for rating:		
	B: The project's intended outcomes were delivered, and <u>were designed to feed into a continuing process</u>, but with no prior allocation of responsibilities after project funding(		**C: The measures designed to move towards intermediate states have started and have produced results, which give indication that they can progress towards the intended long term impact. However changes in ICZM as a result of the project are still rather uncertain.**				

140. Generally, The ClimVar Project was able to achieve its objectives and the outcomes were fully achieved and have a great potential for replication in the future. However, there was a disparity of project activities from country to country, due to the political crisis in some countries (e.g. Libya, Tunisia, and Syria) in some countries and unavailability of appropriate data in other countries.

141. In light of overall project achievements, the measures designed to move towards intermediate states have started and have produced results, which give indication that they can progress towards the intended long term impact. However changes in ICZM as a result of the project are still rather uncertain **Rating of progress towards intermediate state is rated "C".**.

142. According to this methodology, the rating obtained is translated onto the usual 6-point rating scale used in UNEP project evaluations, as shown in Table 8 below.

Table 8: 'Overall likelihood of impact achievement' on a six point scale.

Highly Likely	Likely	Moderately Likely	Moderately Unlikely	Unlikely	Highly Unlikely
AA AB BA CA BB+ CB+ DA+ DB+	BB CB DA DB AC+ BC+	AC BC CC+ DC+	CC DC AD+ BD+	AD BD CD+ DD+	CD DD

NB: projects that achieve documented changes in environmental status during the project's lifetime receive a positive impact rating, indicated by a "+".

143. The aggregate rating is "BC". Considering the high level of national appropriation of the results and the solidity of the NCA, a notation "+" is also attributed, producing a final rating **"BB+"**. The Project, with an aggregated rating of BB+ as described in the Table 7 above, can therefore be rated as "Moderately Likely" to achieve the expected Impact.

The project is considered "Moderately likely" to achieve impact.

3.3.3 Achievement of the formal project objectives as presented in the Project Document

144. The ClimVar Project has been built to support the implementation of the Integrated Coastal zone Management (ICZM) Protocol through the enabling environment and tools to address Climate variability and change (CV&C) in the Mediterranean region. The Specific objectives of the project were: (1) strengthen knowledge on regional climate variability and change and their impacts, and define their specific characteristics in the Mediterranean region; (2) strengthen partnerships, improve capacity building and establish mechanisms for exchange of data and information for integration of climate variability and change into concrete ICZM policies, plans and programmes by establishing the needed information exchange mechanisms, capacity and regional pilot experiences. The above mentioned specific objectives have been achieved in the project implementation phase through; firstly, building adaptive capacity, establishing systems of data collection, data sharing and monitoring, evaluation processes, raising awareness to encourage and support incorporation of climate variability and change issues into decision- making. Secondly, integration of CV&C into coastal zone management and planning through integration of potential impacts of CV&C into policies, plans and programs; conducting participatory climate risk and vulnerability assessment; and incorporation of climate risk into strategic planning exercises.

145. The ICZM Plan prepared for Šibenik-Knin County, Croatia focused on CV&C adaptation measures. CV&C aspects were also integrated into four demonstrations and replication projects of the MedPartnership: Trans-boundary Integrated Resources Management Plan for Buna/Bojana; National ICZM Strategy for Montenegro; National ICZM Strategy for Algeria and Coastal and Marine Strategy for Croatia. As result of the demonstration activities in Šibenik-Knin Croatia, CVC considerations were included into the Coastal Management Plan. Experience from this project fed into the Guidelines for adapting to CVC along the Mediterranean coasts. In addition, CVC considerations were included in three ICZM Strategies, under development in the MedPartnership project. The second demonstration pilot country, Tunisia, participated in workshops organized within the frame of ClimVar project to define strategies to integrate CVC into ICZM. National stakeholders expressed the intention to integrate CVC strategies into ICZM plans.

146. These experiences are of a great value for future coastal plans and strategies in the Mediterranean countries. Based on the results of this project, it is highly probable that any new coastal policy, strategy, plan or program will take CVC into consideration.

147. The contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention (21 countries plus the EU) endorsed the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework at COP19. Consequently, the COP 21 global leaders agreed to tackle climate change and agreed to pay for it (Decision 5/CP.21 Long term climate finance). Thus, it is reasonable to expect that the results of this project will influence Mediterranean wide agreements for future actions towards adaptation to climate variability and change in the marine and coastal zones.

The overall rating for the achievement of project goals and objectives is Satisfactory.

3.4 Sustainability

148. Sustainability is dependent on actions by national and regional stakeholders. The level of sustainability is not expected to be homogenous across all the project countries, as each country has its own resources and specific environment that would limit its ability to sustain and replicate the project outcomes.

149. The sustainability of the ClimVar outcomes relies on the regular updating of the Data Sharing Platform (MedICIP); and, through the collective efforts by MAP national focal points in the project countries, (Representatives of their government). The evaluator anticipates that the sustainability of this Platform will face some challenges, as people change and the issue of providing data is always sensitive in countries (as mentioned earlier) and the risk measures in the project design do not include appropriate mitigation measures, in case the countries don't update and use the platform beyond the project.

150. The project was instrumental in the implementation of ICZM national strategies in project countries such as, Tunisia, Croatia and Montenegro where, along with Algeria, an inter-ministerial committee was created to support the long term sustainability of the ClimVar and MedPartnership projects. The development of the National Plan in Croatia, and development of a Regional Climate change Adaptation Framework to increase the resilience of marine and coastal areas in the Mediterranean to the effects of climate change and variability, will have implications for project sustainability.

151. Based on the extensive interviews with executing organizations and evaluator's experience in this regard, the project outputs have very substantial replication. It produced applicable and step by step guidelines which provided practical recommendations; "what should be done in which stage, and how to integrate CVC considerations in ICZM planning". These outputs are very useful guides for government and for scientific institutions, that haven't had this kind of practical planning projects before. It is recommended to focus further GEF financial support to build upon the considerable number of successful major initiatives of the project. The roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders are not well documented in relation to the project outcome delivery to promote the project sustainability. Also, the project was not invested in the role of women to support the long term sustainability. Women can play an energetic role for example; in facilitating the communication between public and private sector, they can negotiate in between thus, to ensure the success and sustainability of outcomes, so the project implementation framework should define and allocate appropriate role and educational activities for women to expand their role in the coastal governance.

The overall rating for project sustainability is Moderately Satisfactory.

3.4.1 Socio-political sustainability

152. Socio-political sustainability refers to social or political factors that may influence positively or negatively the sustenance of project results and progress towards impacts. These factors are linked to the level of stakeholder ownership (including ownership by governments and other key stakeholders) and their capacity to allow for the project outcomes/benefits to be sustained over time.

153. As mentioned before in this report, the capacity building plans and educational plans were not included as stand-alone activities in the project design, consequently, the activities related to awareness raising and education are part of the implementation methodology and plans in demonstration activities.

154. It is worth mentioning that, the project activities took into consideration specific needs and concerns of the governments and communities regarding addressing the climate changes risks and vulnerability, besides other measures that can be applied for adaptation plans. This helped to promote buy-in and ownership of the project. The project comprised of a number of North African countries that faced political transition and experienced delays in inception phases, as a result, the ClimVar activities were terminated in two countries (Syria and Libya) and in other countries (as, Morocco, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Albania, and the Palestinian Territories) the institutional structure was not in place to support the implementation of the project activities.

155. It was clear that the project created a significant level of awareness regarding the risk of CV&C and the needs for adaptation. Based on interviews and the evaluator's own observations, the ownership was very high among all major groups of stakeholders in Croatia's demonstration site, however, In other countries there was some misconception about the main goal and objectives of ClimVar, e.g. from interviewing a number of local stakeholders in demonstration site in Tunisia, they believed that ClimVar was about to build a hard structure in coastal areas as a defence against sea-level rise and flooding. They were not also aware of the main aspects of ICZM.

156. The international political response and agreements, as UN Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Barcelona Convention, COP 19 and recently Paris declaration in COP21, have major implications for political sustainability. These initiatives represent an excellent opportunity to put the world on course to meet the climate change challenge, for example, COP21 aims to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate, with the aim of keeping global warming below 2°C.

157. Among the factors that could hamper socio-political sustainability are; weakness of institutional structure and technical capacities, as well as governance risks including legal frameworks, policies, and changes in governmental structures that can pose sustainability issues. In addition, the pressures of economic crisis in the project countries may severely undermine sustainability of the project results. In fact, the sustainability impact is often overshadowed by the impact of economic emergencies.

158. Long-term impact and socio-political sustainability will only be achieved if project results (e.g. from demonstration activities) are integrated into policy and regulatory instruments and tangible initiatives in the countries This is a long-term process that stretches far beyond the span of project life time.

The rating for socio-political sustainability is moderately likely.

3.4.2 Sustainability of Financial Resources

159. ClimVar project design identifies a set of measures to sustain funding for implementation of the project activities in the project life time. The importance of CV&C adaptation remains high amongst the project' countries' and executing and co-executing organizations. This was

demonstrated by a co-financing that was committed by co-executing organizations as a part of the project financing. Also, participating countries supporting follow on project activities from their national budget as a part of the project co-financing package. Without such co-financing, the project cannot meet its objectives. In addition, the project received leveraged financial resources, (beyond those committed to the project) from University of Kiel (€5,000) during implementation of the DIVA assessment.

160. From stakeholder interviews, it is estimated that some project countries exceeded their committed co-financing with their intensive collaboration in the framework of the project (e.g. Croatian Government).

161. Climate change and ICZM issues currently have a high profile at the global level and there are broad and committed levels of support to handle them, for their regional and international and immediate impacts. CV&C adaptation and ICZM will remain issues of priority in the regional and international funding agendas. For instance, at the COP 21, global leaders agreed to tackle climate change and decided to pay for it, e.g. Decision 5/CP.21 on long term climate finance. Moreover, the European Investment Bank (EIB), Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), European Commission (EC) (H2020 funding programme), UNEP/MAP and World Bank, have put climate change at the top of their funding agenda. These initiatives may play a significant role in helping countries to apply their CV&C adaption plans towards increased resilience to CV&C risks.

162. As, funding is essential to sustain project outcomes and follow up of the project outcomes, a new project is already in the pipeline (MedProgramme for the Mediterranean Sea LME and its coastal areas). This project is derived directly from the MedPartnership and ClimVar projects. As noted by the project manager, some funding will be secured from the new project to keep the MedICIP platform active and maintained. Moreover, the endorsement of RCCAF by COP, will allow project countries to submit many projects for CV&C adaptation.

163. Based on interviews with a large number of national and local stakeholders, and policy members, it was concluded that financial resources have been severely affected by political transition in some countries. For replication and sustained project outcomes, some countries are in need of financial support to enhance their technical and human capacities. Also, during the country visits made by the evaluation team, local stakeholders expressed their interest in another phase of the project.

164. In reference to above, the evaluator commented that, the international financial support to sustain project outcomes is not sufficient to rely on; countries should find other national financial resources, e.g. from the private sector. National private sector contributions are highly recommended to improve financial sustainability which would, in turn, increase the likelihood of o tangible effects for the countries. Consequently, greater efforts are needed to disseminate the project results and lessons learned to wider national private sectors by project MAP.

165. Additionally, ClimVar outputs could also potentially be taken up in other new funding projects, for up-scaling the best practices particularly for the countries, which were prevented from participating by political crises. Building a national expert team in each project country is recommended along with future projects. South-south *cooperation-oriented agenda* should be incorporated in the project design in new funding project*, focusing* on the data, skills and resources sharing, for facilitating the replication of best-practices. Thus, a learning programme in "*outcomes-based managem*ent" is essential for up-scaling the project best-practices.

166. ***As said by Ms. Rachel Kyte, World Bank Group and Special Envoy for Climate Change,*** at COP PARIS, December 7, 2015, an unprecedented number of the world's leading financial institutions from across the globe have joined the World Bank Group and other multilateral development banks in signing onto new principles to integrate climate change into their financing and operations. 26 financial institutions from developing and developed countries with combined balance sheets of more than US $11 trillion signed on to the voluntary Principles to Mainstream Climate Action within Financial Institutions, pledging to integrate climate considerations into their investment and advisory functions. Following Paris declaration, COP21 and other recent funding initiatives, It is obviously that ClimVar project be a starting point for engagement the national regional and international donors for implementation of RCCAF and ICZM strategies in Mediterranean countries.

The rating for the financial sustainability is Likely.

3.4.3 Sustainability of Institutional Frameworks

167. This section assesses the likelihood that institutional and government structures which will allow for the project outcomes/benefits to be sustained. The institutional factors are the key conditions or factors that are likely to contribute or undermine the persistence of benefits after the project ends. Some of these factors might be outcomes of the project, e.g. stronger institutional capacities or better informed decision-making.

168. The ClimVar participating countries are represented in the project by the relevant Ministries: Environment & Nature Protection, Water, Tourism, Coastal & Maritime Affairs, Urban Planning and Land-Use; including GEF focal points in the participating countries. The main project stakeholders comprised provincial and municipal/local authorities of demonstration projects sites. All these national local authorities' institutions are responsible of coastal areas having a strong role for sustainability, and are in place to assist the sustainability of the project outcomes.

169. There are different regional and international organizations operating in ICZM and CV&C in the Mediterranean basin. ClimVar, which was led by UNEP/MAP, engaged four organizations in project execution, boosting existing relationships between UNEP/MAP and national institutional actors operating in ICZM and CV&C in the participating countries. The integration between project ClimVar and MedPartership has helped to strengthen regional cooperation and networking among its partners, as well as, other Mediterranean organizations and networking, such as, FAO, WWF-MedPO, UFM, EC. This cooperation is definitely useful for sustainability of the project results.

170. ClimVar was instrumental for the implementation of ICZM national strategies in participating countries. Creating and supporting the Inter -Ministerial Committee (IMC) in countries such as Croatia and Montenegro, and Algeria, will help support the long term sustainability of project outcomes. Moreover the project outcomes have been essential for supporting the implementation of the ICZM protocol of the Barcelona Convention by harmonizing national institutional and legal arrangements with the ICZM Protocol.

171. At the regional level, ClimVar developed a Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework (RCCAF), based on the request of the contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention, which was endorsed by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at COP19 in Fenbruary 2016. The Framework is a unique instrument to identify and address the

CV&C adaptation priorities in the countries to increase the resilience to climate change and variability in the Mediterranean marine and coastal area. The RCCA and cooperation with COP is another powerful tool for sustainability of the project outcomes. However, the evaluator noted that the limited and fragmented national institutional structures in most of the projects' countries, is one of the important challenges that hindered the implementation of the successful policies and measures in the field of climate change and ICZM. Future funding initiatives in this area are fundamental for promoting the ICZM protocol

The rating for the institutional sustainability is Moderately Likely.

3.4.4 Environmental sustainability

172. Environmental sustainability is defined as illustrated by the ROtI analysis; the project outputs and outcomes or higher level results that are likely to affect the environment, which in return might affect sustainability of project benefits.

173. The project design clearly describes the relevance of the project to global, regional, sub-regional and national environmental issues and needs, the document is clear with respect to the issue of climate change, both at the global level by mainstream climate change issues into national ICZM strategies and plans; and at local levels by defined Set back regulation. The development of mechanisms and tools for integration of climate variability and change into ICZM policies and plans, which is the aim of the project, has global significance and adds provisions on the strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact analysis.

174. The project implementation strategy handled the vulnerability of coastal area to sea level rise, storm surge, flooding and risk-index, etc. which usually influence the implementation of ICZM. Since the ClimVar project aims to integrate climate variability and changes in ICZM strategies, It is important to highlight that, forecasting the climate change and its consequences is still a problematic issue. Policymakers are still making decisions in a framework of uncertainty, in spite of the continuous expansion of our scientific knowledge. This could cause environmental and human disaster, e.g. unexpected floods, super-hurricanes, coastal erosion or increases in Earth's temperature.

175. Coping ICZM strategies with CV&C may involve the implementation of greater coastal defence which usually interferes with the environment and natural processes, underlying ecosystem services. There are two good examples; river dams against floods prevent fine sediment input from rivers to sea, producing oligotrophic sea water condition affecting fish communities and other natural resources. Another good example is coastal hard structure defence against sea level rise, which is proven to accelerate shore erosion. Therefore, there is a strong need to implement integrated impact studies to examine potential environment and climate changes.

176. In short, when analysing sustainability, special attention should be also paid to the potential contribution of the ClimVar project in creating the basic conditions to ensure sustainability of the coastal areas in Mediterranean domain. To this purpose, the evaluation assesses that, as a result of the project, the management and financial tools developed **within the project** have succeeded in creating an appropriate basis to ensure the financial, institutional, environmental, socio-economic sustainability of the coastal and protected areas of the country albeit to varying degrees.

The rating for the environmental sustainability element is Moderately Likely.

3.4.5 Catalytic Role and Replication

Catalysed behavioural changes

177. An example of the project's catalytic role is the development of a national ICZM strategy integrating CV&C in the Croatia. This enabled PAP/RAC to secure some savings, and use them to fund the Economic and Social Analysis (ESA) of the use and cost of degradation of the Croatian marine environment and coastal zone. This study was the first step in producing a national strategy for the management of the marine environment and coastal zone, which was later on proposed for replication to the "Mediterranean Environmental Replication Strategy -MEReS".

178. The project has catalyzed regional action by developing the RCCAF and cooperation with COP, which put the project countries on course to meet the climate change challenge. In the same vein, the prime aim of ClimVar was to promote the use of ICZM in the participating countries as an effective tool to deal with the impacts of climate variability and change in coastal zones. The project outcomes -will play a catalytic role in encouraging countries to ratify the ICZM Protocol of the Barcelona convention. For example, the activities that addressed 'hotspot' issues identified in countries national reports.

179. The project supported the implementation of ICZM national strategies in countries such as Croatia and Tunisia. In Algeria, it updated their national inter-ministerial committee for ICZM (IMC) for the long term sustainability of ICZM processes, and also proposed measures within the National ICZM Strategy related to CVC, based on participatory process and presented to Algeria IMC members. The project indeed provided important benefits, offered and created a positive trend and a momentum that added support to the implementation of the ICZM protocol of Barcelona Convention in Mediterranean countries. From stakeholder interviews and country visits, the evaluator found that the project countries were interested in the replication of outcomes but are currently constrained by limited institutional capacities and financial resources.

180. Regarding replication, the ClimVar project design has no project explicit replication strategy, however, all project outputs, such as tools, methodologies guidelines have great potential for widespread use (see section on output and sustainability). Most of these outputs-were reviewed by the evaluation consultant and were found to be of high quality and great potential utility to Mediterranean countries for applying CV&C adaption plans and developing ICZM strategies.

Incentives

181. In Montenegro ClimVar and ICZM funded the activities of the NGO "Green Net" of Budva in collaboration with the Government agency "Maritime Public Domain". The main objective was to familiarise school children with the climate change issues. This program will run for at least 2 years as an Internet page "Climate Change for Children". The ClimVar & ICZM project also supported Coast Day celebrations in Tunisia, Montenegro and in Slovenia, PAP/RAC representatives presented ClimVar & ICZM project activities and results at specific workshops dealing with the CVC, and a short animated movie "A good climate for change" on adaptation to CV&C which was produced, in French and English and subtitled in Croatian and Arabic and circulated in these events. These activities should play a catalytic role to encourage countries to replicate the project activities.

Institutional and Policy changes

182. Within the frame of the Barcelona Convention and UNEP MAP system, three frameworks play a central role in adaptation to CV&C impacts on coastal area in which the ClimVar was embedded; the ICZM protocol, the Barcelona Convention; a Regional framework for adaptation to climate change of seas and coasts; the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 and its specific Objective 4. The MAP/UNEP system provides for outcomes from the project to be institutionalised and up-scaled and contribute to the programme of work adopted by these frameworks.

183. The project has helped to strengthen the relationships between UNEP and other existing organizations and/or agencies in the Mediterranean dealing with adaptation to climate change, ICZM, and sustainable development, such as GWP-Med, EC, UfM. The project partners are starting to build on the experience of the project within their existing governance bodies, for example, Albania has planned to establish a unit of CV&C monitoring unit inside the Ministry with the staff of the institutions; as for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the country is developing a new historical and real-time dataset with respect to natural hazards. Palestine developed a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Programme of Action for the Palestinian Authority through technical assistance from UNDP.

184. It is worth mentioning that, the project activities took into consideration specific needs and concerns of the governments and communities regarding addressing the climate changes risks and vulnerability, besides other measures that can be applied for adaptation plans. In this context, ClimVar delivered several policy and technical tools and guidance documents aiming at facilitating policy and regulatory reforms at regional and national levels. These addressed implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and adaptation of climate variability and change, such as creation of IMC in Croatia and Montenegro, and Algeria, to support the implementation in ICZM and CV&C plans. Moreover, development of RCCAF to increase the resilience of marine and coastal areas in the Mediterranean to the effects of climate change and variability.

185. As already noted, a weakness of institutional structure and technical capacities of the projects' countries, as well as governance risks including legal frameworks, policies, and governance structures can pose sustainability issues. The limitations and fragmentation of institutional capacities in most project countries is one of the important challenges adversely affected the implementation of the most successful policies and measures in the field of climate change and ICZM. Future funding initiatives in these issues are fundamental for promoting implementation of the ICZM protocol.

Catalytic financing

186. Apart from fund mobilized by GEF, the project has received cash and/or kind contribution from executing partners (GWP-Med, PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu); and in kind contribution of UNEP/MAP and participation countries. The cash and in kind co financing complemented the GEF funded activities and helped timely implemented the project activities.

187. ClimVar was a part of the broader UNEP/MAP GEF MedPartnership project to take advantage of its convening power and catalytic potential to disseminate knowledge and replicate best practices. The operational costs as well as personnel costs (i.e. Project Manager, Administrative Assistant) were jointly shared. Steering Committee, was one Steering Committee of both projects, was also made a direct contribution in the execution of the ClimVar project. Furthermore, the project took advantage of UNEP's global work on climate change, including

UNEP DEWA's Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA) and was also benefited from information and experiences exchanges with other relevant initiatives of EC, in particular the ClimaSouth project and the UfM Climate Change Expert Group.

Champions to catalyse change

188. UNEP/MAP supported the launching and implementing the two big projects (MedPartnership and ClimVar), responding to the Mediterranean countries' need to enhance efforts to protect environment and preserve resources'. Both projects have proposed a vision for the responsible use of the Mediterranean natural capital and supporting the ratification and implementation of Barcelona Convention, ICZM protocol and allowed the development of a regional climate change adaptation framework to increase the resilience of marine and coastal areas in the Mediterranean to the effects of climate change and variability, responding to the request of Barcelona Convention parties. Furthermore, UNEP/MAP will support the actions and outcomes taken under the MedPartnership and ClimVar projects, to continue beyond their lifespans, and to remain sustainable and replicable (see also MedPartnership TE report).

189. UNEP MAP supported the implementation and follow-up of several plans through ClimVar project dealing with CV&C (at the regional level through the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework, RCCAF, and local levels, e.g. the case in Sibenik- Knin county, Croatia). It is therefore important to note that UNEP MAP developed its 5-year strategic programme of work by paying special attention to the issues related to CV&C in the Mediterranean. Moreover, UNEP MAP, with the support of Plan Bleu, has begun revision of the MSSD, using the proposed CV&C monitoring indicators developed by Plan Bleu through the activities of project. This core set of indicators allow the follow-up of the adaptation policies to climate variability and change at the regional level.

Replication

reference to section 3.4,

190. The replication of the best-practices, experiences and methodologies of ClimVar was a responsibility of MedPartnership and its replication and communication mechanisms. MedPartnership has adopted an innovation replication strategy, directed towards enhancing the potential for the replication of successful demonstration projects (see TE Report of MedPartnership). However, based on the TE Evaluation, the ClimVar outputs have very substantial replication potential, for example, building on the experience of demonstration pilot activities, by the closure of the project, 3 out of 7 coastal Counties of Croatia have initiated activities for preparation of their Coastal Plans; the RCCAF and cooperation with COP is a another tool for replication of the project outcomes in the Mediterranean countries.

191. The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP18, at the 18th Meeting), targets for achieving GES of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal zone by 2020, adopted the proposed core set of CV&C monitoring indicators stemming from EcAp (deliverable 1.1.3.1) and confirmed the importance given to the EcAp in the Mediterranean, by recognizing it as a guiding principle for the overall work under the Barcelona Convention. In addition, through Decision IG. 21/3 (the so called "COP18 EcAp Decision"), the Contracting Parties also agreed to design an Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme by the end of 2015, starting its implementation from 2016, and mandated the Secretariat to carry out an assessment of the state of the Mediterranean environment in 2017 (UNEP/MAP, 2013).

192. Reference to section 3.2.2, the project outputs e.g. the development of ICZM Strategies in two countries and the Coastal plan in Croatia, the experience gained from the execution of two demonstration sites will help to facilitate replication if the countries have enough finance and experience. Moreover, the project methodologies, tools and approaches for integrating CV&C consideration into ICZM protocol implementation, have great potential for replication in the project Countries and other Mediterranean countries. However, the roles and responsibilities of project key stakeholders are not well documented in relation to the sustainability and replication of the project outcomes (as explained in outputs section 3.2).

193. The replication of project outcomes are needed in the region, since they are all oriented towards building resilience to CV&C and create political will for change. ClimVar outputs could also potentially be taken up in other funded projects in the participating countries, which would help to up-scale the best practices particularly for the countries which were prevented by political circumstances from taking advantage of the experience of the project. Building a national expert team in each project country is recommended along with future projects. A south-south cooperation-oriented agenda should be incorporated in the project design in the new phase of the project, focusing on the sharing the data, skills and resources, for facilitating the replication of best-practices. It is essential that the project design should include a stand-alone component or strategy for replication, to optimize of the opportunity of transfer of knowledge, demonstration and experiences acquired from the project. Moreover, a learning programme in "outcome-based management" is essential for up-scaling the project best-practices.

The project's catalytic role and replication is rated as Moderately Satisfactory.

3.5 Efficiency

3.5.1 Cost efficiencies

194. The purpose of the project is to integrate climate V & C concerns into the larger MedPartnership process and ICZM protocol. Since ClimVar was an add-on component to the MedPartnership, executed by UNEP/MAP, operational costs as well as personnel costs (i.e. Project Manager, Administrative Assistant) were jointly shared, thus adopting a cost effective implementation modality. Steering Committee Meetings were organised back to back with those of the MedPartnership project: Premises, and miscellaneous expenses, were shared thus maximizing cost effectiveness. Other managerial modalities in daily operations have been also followed to minimize the cost such as;

- linking the project online platform to PEGASO ICZM platform for sharing database and SDI maps.

- The project benefitted from information and experiences exchanges with other relevant initiatives of EC, in particular the ClimaSouth project and the UfM Climate Change Expert Group.

- ClimVar & ICZM methodologies and results were presented on May 2015, back to back to the PAP/RAC National Focal Points meeting.

- An on-line training session of the PAP/RAC's MedOpen virtual training course on ICZM, specifically focused on CVC was prepared in the framework of the ClimVar & ICZM project.

- The project results presented in the framework of other international projects like COASTGAP, Climate ADAPT, MEDSANDCOAST projects and back to back with the MED COP21, as well as in the framework of the meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee for RCCAF preparation.

3.5.2 Timeliness

195. The Inception Phase of the project officially started from GEF CEO approval in January 2012, although work started from March 2013.

196. The extended inception period and delay in project start-up led to the following:

- The development of the data platform was delayed (planned to be ready by early 2014, however it complete in late 2015), as during inception phase some redesign of the platform was made so that to be more sophisticated data platform would be developed through UNEP-GRID Geneva, in addition to delay in countries input for platform, which is of greater value for platform development.

- The Tunisia demonstration was delayed as consultations took time in early 2013 to agree on site.

- Staffing gaps in the PMU resulted in an extended inception period and significant delays.

- The extended inception period and delays in finalizing inception report and PSC approval resulted in less than optimal communication with project stakeholders, e.g. the evaluator found that secondary stakeholders were lacking information about the project given the delays in finalizing inception report and PSC clearance.

197. The inception report was approved by the PSC in February 2014. During the same meeting the work plan and budget were approved along with the no-cost extension of the project until December 2015. An addendum was drafted between Plan Bleu and University of Geneva to finalize last modifications on MedICIP from May 2015 to September 2015. The platform was officially launched in September 2015. Activities under component 3, a Climate Adaptation Framework, based on the request of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention were presented at the CoP for the Convention in 2015. The Croatia Demonstration study was completed and presented at the IMC meeting in Zagreb on April 22, in Sibenik at the *Climagine* workshop on April 21 and at the Final Conference in Split, on May 13 2015.

198. Despite the delays, the PMU coordination and proactive attitude of the executing partners allowed the successful completion of most of the project activities (see output section). Almost all the key activities, which were at an early stage of development in year 2014, were completed by June 2015. A few remaining activities were completed at the time of the final PSC meeting in November 2015.

199. From the TE evaluation, it was visible that the initial planned duration of the project was inadequate. Some national project team members and stakeholders were of the opinion that the

delay in the inception period and resulting delay in activities led to a reduction of interest of national authorities.

The overall rating for efficiency is Moderately Unsatisfactory.

3.6 Factors affecting performance

3.6.1 Preparation and readiness

200. The existence of the MedPartnership project with its established PMU, steering committee, etc., at the time ClimVar was starting meant that they were quite ready for ClimVar implementation; however, the project activities started in March 2013.

201. The project had an ambitious timeframe and limited funding. No major changes were made to the original project design and log frame during the inception phase, except a few minor changes in terms of, merging some activities and outputs.

202. Expected outputs, indicators, targets, and project risks were reflected in the overall Project Result Log Frame (Annex I). The logical framework was used for overall implementation plans, and as a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) tool.

203. The extended inception phase resulted in a revision and further detailing of activities, as well as slightly changed budget breakdown, reflecting some changes that resulted mainly from the reduced number of countries participating in the project. Thus, instead of the revision of TDA, it was replaced by supporting the developing of the Regional Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Zones, to be adopted by the meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention.

204. The ClimVar implementation was faced by the weakness of its design and its delay in start-up. Besides, other major challenges encountered affected the implementation of some activities in project countries, the foremost of these risks was political transition in Tunisia and Egypt and wars in both Libya and Syria since the beginning of the project. This meant that some elements of the original project design had to be amended, leading to delays and / or termination of the execution of some activities (see outputs section). The ack of appropriate data and information in most of the participant countries affected the implementation of some activities. The deficiency of data was presented in the project document as one of the implementation risks, however the proposed risk mitigation plan by the project was not sufficient. These risks should be regularly updated and remediated during project implementation, to enable the project to achieve its objectives. Therefore, projects focused on ICZM & CV&C in such a geo-political context need a flexible design to be able to adapt activities when appropriate. ,

205. The evaluator noted that, national and local stakeholders were not familiar with the project objectives and outcomes and there was a similar lack of awareness about the aims and objectives of the ClimVar project, even among key project personnel including many national FPs. Thus, it is important to take into account in the future that the projects which cover different countries with different backgrounds and contexts should dedicate more resources and concrete plan for capacity building and education. In addition, a comprehensive capacity building plan needs to be an integral part of the project design.

206. Based on the evaluation, it is recommended that, for future projects, GEF agencies should consider strengthening the project review process to assess their design and whether they are implementable from the operational, management and administrative aspects. Designs should be re-visited for suitability during the inception phase. This is particularly important where political contexts are rapidly changing. A few comments are proposed by evaluator to the project design and framework that could be useful to avoid shortcomings in the future, were collected and presented the lessons learned

Overall, the project preparation and readiness is Moderately Unsatisfactory

3.6.2 Project implementation and management

207. Project was managed by the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Regional Component of MedPartnership, supported by additional consultancies. PMU was strengthened by a Technical Advisor to the Project Manager (PM). The PM was recruited by UNEP/MAP according to standard UN staff rules and regulations. The PMU, included the Technical Advisor, which was responsible to prepare the Inception Report, and closely follow the implementation of project activities, handle day-to-day project issues and requirements, and coordinate them. Also, it was responsible for production of six month advance reports and six-month annual expense reports. It assisted the UNEP's EOU in preparing final evaluation of the project.

208. The PMU was reported to the Project Steering Committee (PSC) of MedPartnership which was responsible for overseeing the project execution and was acting as the main policy body of the project. Members of the SC comprised national focal points from participating countries, representatives of UNEP, UNEP/MAP, the World Bank, the GEF Secretariat, and representatives of major donors. The PSC was engaged and provided valuable strategic guidance and feedback to the PMU. At each annual meeting the PSC reviewed and approved the annual workplan; revised annual budget; reviewed and provided feedback on the Project Implementation Reviews (PIR) as well as annual technical report and strategy papers (See MedPartnership TE).

209. The Clim Var was embedded into MedPartnership, most of the people interviewed believed that, the Climvar project was a part of the activities of Medpartnership project. This perception was noted also among a number of local politicians who have been interviewed, which consequently led to difficulties in the evaluation of some shared activities between Medpartnership and ClimVar, eg., activities in Algeria, Montenegro.

210. As mentioned above, the national focal points from participating countries were members of the SC and were responsible for communicating between the project executing organizations and the national parties. Based on interviews and discussions undertaken with all parties and from country visits, the evaluator found that the project focal points in some countries were lacking adequate training and capacity. FP in general were overburdened with other national responsibilities which led to weak cooperation between national stakeholders and executing organizations. Some interviewed FPs indicated that they only learned about project activities at the PSC meetings and from the annual reports, rather than through in-country communication with the co-executing agency.

211. The issue of support to the FPs and national teams was also raised with the TE evaluator in relation to sustainability and replication. It is recommended that, consistent follow-up and evaluation of the performance of the project's national team and focal points, should be part of the Evaluation and Management (E&M) section in project framework. Furthermore, the

responsibilities of project focal points, national agencies, project consultants, and executing agencies within a project need to be clearly set-up from the very beginning of the project (Who is leading what & why), to avoid losing the way during project life time. It is crucial for the flexibility and success of any project, to make all actors acquainted with their role and responsibility.

212. Project management was supported by external international consultants. The evaluator learned that the project had to hire international consultants because of the lack of local experts. From the interview of national project team and stakeholders, the use of international consultants instead of local consultants appeared to have been an uncomfortable issue for local stakeholders and the project team. Engaging the national consultants with international consultants during project development is of great importance to obtain political buy-in, and to facilitate the in-country communication[2]. In the future projects, the involvement of both of the national and international consultants at the appropriate stage in the implementation should be considered.

The project's performance in implementation and management is rated Moderately Satisfactory.

3.6.3 Stakeholder participation, cooperation and partnerships

213. Stakeholder involvement is an integral part of the structure of MAP and the Barcelona Convention, where all project countries are contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention. The participating countries are represented by the MAP focal point who are usually appointed from Ministry of environment. UNEP MAP RACs are represented as co-executing organizations of the project, in addition to GWP-Med which is termed as "NGO partner".

214. In the project document, the stakeholders were identified as belonging to 5 groups: (i) Politicians who can provide commitment, influence and be responsible for approving policies and plans, and when to conduct stakeholder analysis; (ii) Local authorities whose role was to implement a detailed planning of ICZM and climate changes adaptation; (iii) Water resources or environmental agencies for data capturing and for technical support for capacity building and training: (iv) Health department for the link between ICZM and public and environmental health; (v) Users association/tourist industry, port authorities, community based organizations. The project stakeholders were categorized according to their position in relation to their role in planning, development and implementation of ICZM and climate adaptation policies and plans. However the research institutions and the private sector investors were not included among the project's stakeholders.

215. A limited consultation of the national stakeholders particularly at the inception phase was noticeable, In addition the scientific communities, NGOs and groups vulnerable to climate change effects were not included in the project framework strategy. The project stakeholders should cover the full array of potential stakeholders, including, community-based organizations (e.g. fishermen, women's organizations, students, universities/academia, and the private sector). Gender issues were considered, on one hand, by the number of women involved in the implementation and administration of the project and on the other by the number of women who were involved in the awareness and education activities. The project also helped to foster

[2] Project management notes that at least two of the executing partners, namely PAP-RCA and Plan Blue, both of them being RAC of UNEP/MAP made use of local as well as international consultants.

dialogue on CV&C and ICZM among local stakeholders in demonstration countries. However the TE noted quite a low level of stakeholder engagement in the project activities in comparison to the main stakeholder groups identified in the project design. From the country visits, some local stakeholders commented that in most of the project meetings, the project was keen to include the national officials rather than the local/municipal authorities who were responsible for implementation of most of the ICZM activities.

216. Although, the project also helped to foster dialogue on CV&C and ICZM among local stakeholders in demonstration countries. The evaluation noted, that quite a low level of stakeholder engagement in the project activities in comparison to the main stakeholder groups identified in the project design, likewise, scientific institutions and NGOs were not part of the project main stakeholders.

Stakeholder participation, cooperation and partnerships is rated Moderately unsatisfactory.

3.6.4 Communication and public awareness

217. At the national level, the quality of cooperation and communication was variable among the project countries, and was affected by a number of factors including the changes in FPs and changes in the national government officials during the course of the project, level of commitment by the countries, limited human resources and technical capacity, institutional weakness, lack of coordination between the national and local stakeholders within the same country and the complex political issues (e.g. the hierarchical bureaucracy concerning local authority data and information sharing).

218. Building resilience to CVC which is the desired impact of ClimVar & ICZM project cannot be achieved without community awareness of the threats that CVC poses to development of coastal area. The various materials and experiences produced through ClimVar have been used to raise awareness in education and dissemination activities among both public and decision makers on coastal vulnerability to CV&C in the project countries, as well as to a broader audience. The awareness-raising and capacity building activities included various assessments, conferences, meetings, campaigns Following activities performed in the framework of the ClimVar and ICZM project (see outputs section 3.2);

The project's performance in ensuring communication and public awareness is rated Moderately Satisfactory.

3.6.5 Country ownership and driven-ness

219. The ClimVar & ICZM project was designed in response to the request of the countries. All project countries, which were also members in MedPartnership were heavily involved in the design of the project that **helped to ensure ownership of the countries at the beginning of the project**. Subsequently, the eleven governments signed the Project Document, thereby making a commitment to participate and deliver project activities in their respective countries and agreed to contribute co-financing.

220. As described in output section, ClimVar provided support to ICZM Protocol implementation and capacity building focusing on the finalization of a Climate Adaptation Framework, based on the request of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. The project activities have been country-driven and have addressed 'hotspot' issues identified in

countries' national reports. The project provided very important benefits, and offered and created a positive trend and a momentum that added support to the implementation of the ICZM protocol of Barcelona Convention in Mediterranean countries.

221. Ownership was promoted during implementation demonstration activities (Croatia, Tunisia) by preparatory process, *Climagine* participatory method and awareness-raising which are the key ingredients for changes of behaviour. A high level of ownership was also demonstrated by the endorsement and approval RCCAF by the Map Focal Points of the project' countries in October 2015, and further adoption by COP19 in February, demonstrated their full support for this initiative. However, country ownership was affected by political crises in some project countries (see section 3.2) and limited stakeholders' awareness and understanding of the importance of coastal and marine resources, and the lack of engagement of private sectors in execution of project activities.

The project's performance in Country Ownership and driven-ness is rated Moderately Satisfactory.

3.6.6 Financial planning and management (will elaborate WAITING FOR FINANCIAL REPORT for final revision)

222. The estimated and actual costs as well as the expenditure ratio (actual/planned) of the project are summarized in **Error! Not a valid bookmark self-reference.** below. The total project's value was USD 8,474,945. The project was financed with USD 2,298,545 from GEF grant, USD 2,380,000 in kind contribution from participating countries, USD 3,082,400 cash and/or in kind contribution from executing partners (GWP-Med, PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu) and finally with in kind contribution of USD 714,000 from UNEP/MAP. The cash and in kind co financing was complement the GEF funded activities as per the project's budget.

223. Complicated financial procedures and reporting; the different co-finance templates added more constraint and burden on the financial team. Additional efforts could be put in place by UNEP to simplify financial execution issues; through developing the single web-based tracking template for budget revisions (comparable to EC financial tracking tools)

Table 9: Summary of project expenditures (as per 31 December 2015)[3]

GEF Grants			
Budget Categories	Estimated cost at design (US $)	Actual cost (US $)	Expenditure ratio (actual/planned)
Staff & Other Personnel Costs	269,545	242,105	0.90
IP Direct (project partners, Sub-contracts, MoU's/LA's for UN cooperation Agency)	1,890,000	1,968,051	1.04
Travel and meetings (PSC, PCG, workshops, missions, etc.)	126,000	32,039	0.25
Operating And Other Costs	13.000	224	0.02
Total GEF Grants:	2,298,545	2,242,419	0.97
Co-Financing			
	Total Planned (Cash and in-kind)	Actual (Cash and in-kind)	ratio (actual/planned)

[3] Project management comments "The information provided by the FMO use the categories defined in UMOJA therefore it is not possible to report the budget with the categories defined by the evaluator. Table 10 provides the expenditure till the 31 December 2015.

UNEP/MAP	714,000	399,802	0.56
PAP-RAC	1,164,000	1,164,000	1.00
GWP Med	612,000	273,500	0.45
Plan Blue	1,306,400	1,668,805	1.27
Participating Countries	2,380,000	2,159,219	0.91
Total Co-financing:	6,176,400	5,665,327	0.92
TOTAL:	8,474,945	7,907,746	0.93

Project co-financing

224. The ClimVar received Co-financing committed by co-executing agencies as a part of the project financing. Participating countries also supported follow on activities from their national budgets as a part of the project co-financing package. In addition, the project received Leveraged resources as additional resources beyond those committed to the project, by GWP-Med, NGO organization. The cash and in kind co financing committed per stakeholders and amount is shown in table 11.

225. As mentioned earlier, ClimVar received co-finance funding, USD 2,380,000 in kind contribution from participating countries, and USD 3,082,400 cash and/or in kind contribution from executing partners (GWP-Med, PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu) and finally with in kind contribution of USD 714,000 from UNEP/MAP. The cash and in kind co financing playing a crucial role in successfully implementing project activities.

226. The project budget revision was made before submission to the PSC to support the timely and efficient implementation of the activities on ground in view of their finalization by June/September 2015 and the project extension until the end of 2015. Efforts have been made in order to streamline the funds' allocation to be accomplished in time, to ensure that all goals would be achieved, and that fund allocation would make the execution of all the activities under the project financially sustainable. As the budget for the financial years 2008 to 2013 was consolidated and endorsed by consecutive meetings of the PSC, two formal project revisions were carried out in the financial years 2014 and 2015. The analysis of the project budget was broken down by budget lines, namely: project personnel, sub-contract, training, equipment and premises and miscellaneous.

227. The total expenditures in 2014 combined with the proposed budget for 2015 for the project personnel component, had a deviation of USD 33,855.63 (saving), thanks to the optimization of cost of the PMU and consultants working at the project. The total expenditures in 2014 combined with the proposed budget for 2015 for the sub-contract, training, equipment and premises and miscellaneous components, had a cumulative deviation of USD 33,855.63 (over-expenditure). This deviation was perfectly compensated by the saving under the project personnel component. The additional funds allocated in these 3 components were mainly used to finance two SDI trainings. The training targeted all the participating countries which were divided in two groups: francophone countries in Tunisia and English speaking in Turkey.

In-kind contributions

228. With respect to the in-kind contributions, the time contributed by UNEP-CEP personnel, who provided oversight and facilitated the coordination of various exchange meetings, workshops and other training activities of the project, was estimated at $300,000.00,as projected in the project budget. However, no evidence of that amount was presented.

Table 10: Summary of project co-financing

Co-financing Source and Type	Amount (USD)	
	Planned	Actual
United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean ActionPlan (UNEP/MAP) In kind	714,000	$399,802
Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) (cash &In kind)	1,164,000	1,164,002
Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med) (cash &In kind)	612,000	273,500
Plan Bleu – Regional Activity Centre, Plan/RAC (cash &In kind)	1,306,400	1,668,805
Sub Total	3,796,400.	3,506,108
Participating Countries		
The Kingdom of Morocco, Ministry of Energy, Mining, Water and Environment	60,000	54,434
Albania, Ministry of Environment , Forest and Water Administration	400,000	362,894
Arab Republic of Egypt, Ministry of State for Environment Affairs, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency	400,000	362,894
Republic of Croatia, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical planning and Construction (in kind)	400,000	362,894
Montenegro, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism (In kind)	350,000	317,532
Palestinian National Authority, Environment Quality Authority (In kind)	120,000	108.868
Republic of Tunisia, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment	400,000	362,894
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (In kind)	250,000	226,809
Sub-total	2,380,000	2,159,219
Total	6,176,400	5,665,327

Overall project financial planning and management is Satisfactory.

3.6.7 Supervision, guidance and technical backstopping

229. Supervision and backstopping were under the responsibility of the UNEP Task Manager (TM). Based on the interviewed national FPs and project team, the evaluation found that the countries were very satisfied with the support and advice received from UNEP-GEF. Many project participants noted the high degree of commitment, responsiveness and cooperation on the part of the UNEP-GEF coordinating team and Task Managers, as well as the quality of outputs, despite the challenges that faced the project.

230. As found by the evaluation, most stakeholders and national project team expressed their appreciation for financial support, supervision, and administration by UNEP, although generally the oversight was less rigorous than EU funding framework, particularly with respect to project design and the difficult project execution arrangements. Regarding the poor design of the project, it is recommended that UNEP develops a strong innovative reviewing system for selecting the highly competitive project design.

231. Through interviews in country visits, it has been observed that, some of the national and local stakeholders were not familiar with the UNEP Regional Activity Centres (RAC) and how they work, so for any project –financed by UNEP/GEF, outreach information sessions should be organized in-line with project activities, to increase awareness of UNEP, the projects' mission, objectives, components and their role. This was also requested by stakeholders during demonstration country visits.

232. Based on some of the interviewed GEF national Focal Points, the evaluator observed a lack of coordination between the GEF FPs and national agencies and other MAP FPs. It is recommended that, GEF should develop a mechanism to monitor the performance of its Focal Points. On the other hand, the GEF FPs, expressed their need for simplification of the technical process required to develop and submit GEF proposals, in order to avoid/reduce delays in receiving the approval decisions for the projects.

233. It should be considered that, for the countries that were affected by revolutions e.g. Tunisia and Egypt, there were many changes documented in the attitude of the people. For instance, they became resistant to the regulations and they lost the confidence in their governments which the project structures were working through. The evaluator notes the importance of accommodating the changes that have occurred in these countries. There were many suggestions to build the trust, one of them was increasing the confidence in any program that works in these countries, through appropriate project design to promote country ownership, and also through concrete training and education program and site visits to allow public sector to share their experience and learn new practices.

Overall UNEP supervision and backstopping is Satisfactory.

3.6.8 Monitoring and evaluation

M&E design

234. The project followed UNEP standard reporting and evaluation processes, consistent with UNEP and GEF Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) requirements. The Project has been monitored and throughout UNEP implementation. An indicative Monitoring and Evaluation Work Plan and corresponding budget were included in the project design. Basic M&E reporting requirements and templates are an integral part of the UNEP legal instrument. M&E plan and budget included and conformed to GEF and UNEP requirements and project needs, and the design; M&E design consisted of the standard tools including PSC meetings, annual PIRs, semi-annual progress reports, annual project reviews, financial reports a and a final project evaluation by the independent UNEP Evaluation Office. The Project's log frame (Annex B of Project Document) was updated in the inception phase(see updated version Annex I) –

The M&E design is rated as Satisfactory.

M&E plan implementation

235. The project progress has been reported on a yearly basis as part of the MedPartnership's annual report, in addition to the project Implementation Review (PIR), which has been done in parallel with the MedPartnership's PIR was very useful for M&E. The half-yearly financial report of the project has been regularly produced. These documents had been submitted to UNEP DEPI as implementing agency, as well as, shared with all Steering Committee members. Furthermore, due to the project's short duration, a mid-term management review or evaluation was not planned. An independent terminal evaluation was undertaken at the end of project implementation. The Evaluation Office of UNEP managed the terminal evaluation process. A review of the quality of the evaluation report will be done by EO and submitted along with the report to the GEF Evaluation Office not later than 6 months after the completion of the evaluation.

236. A brief intervention logic with one assumption for each project component was presented, but no TOC was constructed in the project design. The project results framework (Annex I) provided list indicators and milestone for each component and the progress of project Key deliverables is measured by list of benchmark. The targets or milestones are appropriate and sufficient for progress tracking.

237. This evaluation noted that, the M&E section in project document had no mechanisms for involving key project stakeholder groups in the M&E plan, and the responsibilities of co-executing agencies were without a specific mechanism in M&E. The evaluator recommended that project monitoring should be a responsibility for all parties (project countries, executing organizations). The project's technical monitoring using consolidate Key Performance Indicators (KPI), apart from the administrative monitoring, should be part of M&E plan in the project design.

The M&E plan implementation is rated as Moderately Satisfactory.

4 CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS & LESSONS LEARNED

4.1 Conclusions (will be revised again)

The "Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean" (ClimVar; in further text, ClimVar&ICZM) project was endorsed in January 2012 by GEF CEO. The duration of the project was two years. ClimVar was designed to complement actions related to the existing UNEP/MAP GEF Strategic Partnership for the MedPartnership project, to take advantage of its convening power and catalytic potential to disseminate knowledge and raise awareness among project partners and stakeholders of the negative impact of climate variability and positive impacts of ICZM Protocol and its contribution to the adaptation to climate variability and change.

Generally, The ClimVar Project was able to achieve its objectives and produce several quality products which have great potential for replication in the future. The project has experienced, overall, considerable effectiveness issues from the perspective of achievement of project objectives and attainment of the planned products. The project generated a certain level of engagement of local and national stakeholders particularly in the demonstration countries.

A formal comparison between project achievements and log frame showed that the project produced high quality results, despite the delay in start-up and the fact that project implementation experienced some severe challenges such as political instability in some countries. The principal challenge was lack of appropriate data and information which affected the implementation of some activities in some project countries.

In addition, there was a disparity in the appropriateness of project activities from country to country as the project's tools and methodologies, which had been selected for assessment of CV&C vulnerability, were not well-matched with the capacity and the available data in some participating countries. There were delays in response from some countries. In this case the evaluator argues that greater flexibility in the project design could have offered possibilities to refine and fine-tune the project implementation strategy in the inception phase. The absence of sufficient flexibility is seen as a project design deficiency. The project design should have been carefully re-assessed before the project started, taken into account the variable country capacities and cultures and the rapidly changing geo-political contexts at that time.

The project responded to the countries priorities and needs with respect to the implications of climate variability and change for the ICZM protocol and other related national policies. However, as the target of the project was the integration of climate variability concerns and changes into policies, it is important to count the most problematic issue facing the adaptation of CV&C, which is uncertainty. Uncertainty is a hotly debated issue among politicians, stakeholders and scientists.

As described previously, the political instability affected the implementation of the project activities in some countries. The evaluator noted that, although the project objectives were in accordance with the project countries' priorities, country ownership was a highly variable. In countries like Croatia, the ownership was very high. However in others, it was low (as manifested by delay of start-up and in response for requests of executing organization). Country ownership was affected by the limited stakeholders' awareness and understanding of the importance of coastal and marine resources, and the lack of engagement of private sector involvement in execution of project activities

While ClimVar project focused on the vulnerability of coastal area, there are other sectors and activities; such as fishing, which are mostly affected by climate changes threats were not taken into account in the project implementation framework. Fisher community are the most vulnerable group to CV&C and more exposed to climate changes risks in their daily lives.

The complex project management and administration structure was highlighted by interviewed national project team. ClimVar management framework was quite complex, involving a wide range of executing organizations. Project management was supported by external international consultants. From the interviews, it seems that, the use of international consultants instead of local consultants appeared to have been an uncomfortable issue for local stakeholders and project team.

The level of sustainability and replication can't be expected to be homogenous across all the project countries, as each country has its own resources and specific environment that would limit its ability to sustain and replicate the project outcomes. Sustainability of the ClimVar outcomes relies on the regular updating of the Data Sharing Platform (MedICIP); and, through collective efforts by MAP national focal points in the project countries, (Representatives of their government), as well as, the replication of methodology tools and demonstration activities for integrating CV&C consideration into ICZM protocol implementation.

Awareness and educational activities have been produced for demonstration countries for local and national stakeholders, local authorities and government members had benefit from these events. However, little effort was devoted to capacity building and/or training of stakeholders, due to the lack of a distinct component, or cross-cutting approaches for capacity building in the project design. Stakeholder perceptions gathered from the project Terminal Evaluation indicated that, few received either awareness-raising information or training and this was below the expected level of participation in a project such as ClimVar.

Gender issues were considered in the project implementation framework by the number of women involved in the implementation and administration of the project, which were outnumbered the number of men, and by number of women involved in the awareness-raising and education activities (which were limited in number and scope).

The various materials and experiences produced through Climvar have been used to raise awareness and education of targeted groups in project countries and in MedPartnership community. These products had a broader potential for use and replication in other areas and other countries and could conceivably have had a catalytic effect to increase resilience of watersheds, marine and coastal environment to the adverse impacts of Climate Variability and change.

ClimVar provided support to ICZM Protocol implementation, focusing on the finalization of a Climate Adaptation Framework, based on the request of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. The project activities have been country driven and have addressed hotspot issues identified in countries national reports. The project indeed provided important benefits, and offering and creating a positive trend and a momentum that added support to the implementation of the ICZM protocol of Barcelona Convention in Mediterranean countries.

The Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework (RCCAF) to increase the resilience of marine and coastal areas in the Mediterranean to the effects of climate change and variability, was developed based on the request of the contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention and endorsed by MAP FPs, It was submitted for COP19 of the Barcelona Convention in February 2016. The framework was a unique instrument to identify and reach agreements among the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention on the priorities to be addressed to increase the resilience to climate change and variability in the Mediterranean marine and coastal areas. The RCCAF will be useful to the countries to secure more projects for CVC adaptation.

The project was a value added to other GEF and non-GEF initiatives. This project was an add-on to an existing UNEP/GEF project, the MedPartnership, with work spanning IW, POPs and BD (through co-finance) focal areas. Since IW community deals also with land, and concerned with sea floods, the ClimVar contributed to the larger GEF IW portfolio by delivering seven lessons learned. Furthermore, the Project was designed to complement the existing MedPartnership project, through integrating CV&C issues into and ICZM plans. This complementarity was also reflected in the institutional framework and implementation arrangements adopted for the project execution.

The project countries were, on the whole, very satisfied with the support and advice received from UNEP-GEF. A high degree of commitment, responsiveness and cooperation on the part of the UNEP-GEF coordinating team and Task Managers, were noted through the interviews, despite the challenges that faced the project.

Overall, the Project was able to generate a considerable number of high quality reports, studies, guidelines, and tools, which were available in the MedPartnership Web page, along with lessons learned, brochures and countries fact sheets. All the reports have been filed in an interactive bibliography with hyperlinks to the documents. Some of these products could have a broader potential for up-scaling the project best-practices beyond the project, and could have had a catalytic effect concerning sustainable use of natural resources. In addition, these outputs could potentially support countries to further the implementation of the ICZM protocol, if their institutional capacity is improved . This institutional capacity should be united through a well-functioning and robust policy and regulatory frameworks, as well as improved links between national-local policy and NGOs.

The project indeed provided important benefits and offered a foundation for future national and regional CV&C adaptation programmes in the Mediterranean. It also created a positive trend and a momentum that added support to the implementation of the ICZM protocol of Barcelona Convention. The increase resilience of watersheds and marine and coastal environment to the adverse impacts of climate variability and change can be attained in the longer term if the countries replicate this experience and cope with their challenges.

The project was also benefiting of information and experience exchange with other relevant initiatives of European Commission (EC), and the Union for Mediterranean (UfM) Climate Change Expert Group which was created. In light of all this progress, it is reasonable to expect that the

project will influence Mediterranean wide agreements for future actions towards adaptation to climate variability and change in the marine and coastal zones.

ClimVar project addressed the most important issue for the future which is, mainstreaming climate variability and change into policy, in other words; mainstreaming scientific findings into policy, which it is not an easy job to transfer the knowledge from science to politics. However, ClimVar opened the door to invest more in this issue, offering more comprehensive information for politicians to increase the success rate of the development plans.

Table 11: Summary of Evaluation criteria, assessment and ratings (see Table 12: Summary of Evaluation Ratings)

Criterion	Summary Assessment	Ref.	Rating
A. Strategic relevance		3.1	
B. Achievement of outputs		3.2	
C. Effectiveness: Attainment of objectives and planned results		3.3	
1. Achievement of direct outcomes as defined in the reconstructed TOC		3.3.1	
2. Likelihood of impact using ROtI approach		3.3.2	
3. Achievement of formal project objectives as presented in the Project Document.		3.3.3	
D. Sustainability and replication			
1. Socio-political sustainability		3.4.1	
2. Financial resources		3.4.2	
3. Institutional framework		3.4.3	
4. Environmental sustainability		3.4.4	
5. Catalytic role and replication		3.4.5	
E. Efficiency		3.5	
F. Factors affecting project performance			
1. Preparation and readiness		3.6.1	
2. Project implementation and management		3.6.2	
3. Stakeholders participation, cooperation and partnerships		3.6.3	
4. Communication and public awareness		3.6.4	
5. Country ownership and driven-ness		3.6.5	
6. Financial planning and management		3.6.6	
7. Supervision, guidance and technical backstopping		3.6.7	
8. Monitoring and evaluation		3.6.8	
i. M&E design		*3.6.8*	
ii. M&E plan implementation		*3.6.8*	
Overall project rating			

4.2 Recommendations

4.3 Lessons Learned

5 ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: Table 5 Project Logical Framework

Component	Outcome	indicators	Output	Activity	End-of-project target	Responsible Partner
1. Establishment of a Climate Variability and Change information sharing platform	1.1. Multi-country data platform on climate research supports ICZM planning and management	1. Platform designed according to coordination and harmonization needs and capacity assessments	1.1.1. Assessment of regional and national programs for monitoring and tracking Climate Variability and Change and its impacts, including capacity assessments	1.1.1.1. Identify existing Climate Variability and Change monitoring programs and available data in eachparticipating country, as well as options for data sharing in view of developing amulti-countryInformation sharing platform	User-friendly, state of the art Platform, with data sharing from all countries and linking to other relevant regional/global databases	BP/RAC
				1.1.1.2. Regional synthesis of data availability and gaps as well as sharing options.		BP/RAC
		2. Countries agree to sharing data and coordinate climate research	1.1.2: Regional consensus achieved on mechanism for Climate Variability and Change data sharing.	1.1.2.1. Regional Consensus/validation of synthesis report	Formal consensus of all countries on CV&C data sharing	UNEP/MAP
		3. Relevant ICZM bodies in countries and stakeholders use harmonized CV&C indicators and actively participate by interacting	1.1.3. Online Multi country Information Sharing Platform on Climate Variability and Change monitoring data in coastal areas	1.1.3.1. Identify a set of Climate Variability and Change indicators and preparation of the Terms ofReference for the Online Multi CountryInformation Sharing Platform on Climate Variability and	Results of Platform Test (Activity 1.3.3.3.) indicate proactive participation of all countries and of major	BP/RAC

Component	Outcome	indicators	Output	Activity	End-of-project target	Responsible Partner
		with the platform.	developed	Changemonitoring data	stakeholders.	
				1.1.3.2. The Online Multi-country Information Sharing Platform on Climate Variability and Change monitoring data		BP/RAC
				1.1.3.3. : Testing and improving the Information Sharing Platform		BP/RAC
2. Strengthening the knowledge base on regional climate variability and change	2.1. Improved understanding of Climate Variability and Change in the Mediterranean basin, enables countries to assess likely impacts on the coastal environment	1. All countries actively participate to the regional assessment of CV&C impacts based on agreed upon methodology and indicators, addressing (i) present and expected environmental and socio-economic impacts of CV&C on coastal zones, (ii) identification of vulnerable zones and hot spots, and (iii) response options.	2.1.1. Regional analyses of Climate Variability and Change impacts in terms of sea level rise and storm surges, of changes in water characteristics and marine acidification, and with special focus on river deltas and on the identification of vulnerable areas/hotspots	2.1.1.1: Develop a methodology for the regional analysis of physical and socio-economic impacts of Climate Variability and Change	Report on regional assessment of CV&C impacts, including identification of vulnerable hot spots, future scenarios and response options, documents active participation of all countries	BP/RAC
				2.1.1.2. Collection of data on indicators on physical impacts of Climate Variability and Change at regional level		BP/RAC
				2.1.1.3. Analysis of data on environmental and socio-economic impacts of Climate Variability and Change and identify their consequences for ecosystems and human activities and identify vulnerable activities		BP/RAC
		2. Countries enabled for	2.1.2. Assessment of	2.1.2.1 Croatia demonstration:	Methodology for	PAP/RAC

Component	Outcome	indicators	Output	Activity	End-of-project target	Responsible Partner
		assessing and planning responses to environmental and socio-economic impacts of CV&C in coastal zones at the local level (demonstrations in Tunisia and Croatia)	environmental and socioeconomic impacts in two critically vulnerable sites, and evaluation of response options	Developing, upgrading and combining tools; implementation of the project; dissemination of results.	assessing CV&C impacts and response options at local level developed and tested in two vulnerable zones	BP/RAC
				2.1.2.2 Tunisia demonstration: Developing, upgrading and combining tools; implementation of the project; dissemination of results.		PAP/RAC
						BP/RAC
						GWP-Med / GRID
			2.1.3. Regional assessment of socio-economic impacts of Climate Variability and Change and adaptation options in coastal zones for various scenarios	2.1.3.1. In-depth analysis of Impacts of Climate Change in specific hotspots or sectors (to be identified)		BP/RAC
3. Support to ICZM Protocol implementation and capacity building	3.1. Science based methodological approach enabling countries to integrate climate variability and	1. Pilot ICZM Plan produced for vulnerable zone applying integrated methodological approach.	3.1.1. Methodology and tools for mainstreaming climate variability considerations into national ICZM planning and practices developed considering	3.1.1.1. Updating Guidelines on National ICZM Strategies and Plans with the climate change proofing tool	Methodology and tools for mainstreaming climate variability and change into national ICZM planning and practices developed and tested on the	PAP/RAC with
						GWP Med
				3.1.1.2. Meeting of the DIVA/ CIImagine experts with the IWG of MedPartnership		PAP/RAC with
						GWP Med

Component	Outcome	indicators	Output	Activity	End-of-project target	Responsible Partner
	change issues into ICZM policies, plans and programs		synergy with other related national plans (IWRM, NSSD, CCA, etc)	3.1.1.3. Developing on-line module for the Climate Variability and Change to be integrated into MedOpen – virtual ICZM course	ground	PAP/RAC with GWP Med
		Coastal plan in Reghaia; Trans boundary Integrated management coastal plan in Buna/Bojana; and National ICZM strategies in Montenegro and in Algeria	3.1.2. Integrated management plan developed in one of the locations identified in the activity 2.1.2.2.	3.1.2.1: Drafting of Integrated Management Plan integrating Climate Variability and Change issues		PAP/RAC with
			3.1.3. Provide support to MedPartnership ICZM demonstration projects in Montenegro and Algeria with regard to Climate Variability and Change	3.1.3.1. Coastal plan in Reghaia; Trans boundary Integrated management coastal plan in Buna/Bojana; and National ICZM strategies in Montenegro and in Algeria		PAP/RAC
	3.2. Increased knowledge, capacity and awareness improve inter-sectoral coordination in mainstreaming climate variability and change issues into ICZM	1. Already existing governmental inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms include CV&C issues in their deliberations on ICZM protocol implementation	3.2.1.: Existing inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms capacitated to mainstream climate variability and change issues into ICZM planning processes.	3.2.1.1. Facilitating inter-ministerial coordination for incorporating Climate Variability and Change issues into ICZM	Inter-ministerial committees in all countries supported though the project for longer term planning and implementation of coastal and marine planning (ICZM, IWRM, and/or MPAs and others)	UNEP MAP
		Regional and national	3.2.2. Awareness	3.2.2.1. Assessment of the banking	National experts	PAP/RAC with

Component	Outcome	indicators	Output	Activity	End-of-project target	Responsible Partner
	Protocol implementation process	workshops on capacity building	raising, policy dialogue and capacity building for Policy makers and stakeholders in participating countries on implications of climate variability, ICZM protocol and other related national policies	and insurance sector	trained on Spatial Data Integration	GWP Med
				3.2.2.2. Preparing central Coast Day 2013 with the theme of Climate Variability and Change		PAP/RAC
				3.2.2.3. Developing media packages		PAP/RAC
				3.2.2.4. Regional Workshop for Members of Parliaments and Media on climate variability and change with emphasis on interlinked ICZM and IWRM issues	Parliamentarians and media aware of and contributing to ICZM and CV&V regional debate	PAP/RAC with GWP Med
				3.2.2.5. Contribute to build capacity and advance policy dialogue on climate variability and change with emphasis on ICZM and IWRM issues		GWP Med With UNEP/MAP
				3.2.2.6. Assessment of Non-Regret Policies and Actions for Climate Variability and Change in relation to water and the coastal area in the Mediterranean		GWP Med
		Number of countries endorsing the Framework to Climate Change Adaptation and regional assessment of climate variability and	3.2.3. Regional assessment of Climate Change Adaptation for Mediterranean Coastal Zones and integration	3.2.3.1. Policy document including recommendations for integrating climate variability considerations into marine and coastal zone planning	All participating focal points support the Regional Assessment on climate variability and change impacts Regional Assessment	GWP-Med with UNEP/MAP

Component	Outcome	indicators	Output	Activity	End-of-project target	Responsible Partner
		change impacts	into policies/plans		and Framework to Climate Change Adaptation presented and endorsed by MCSD members and the Contracting Parties in 2015	
	3.3. Project experience and lessons disseminated to larger IW community	1. Projects features prominently in IWC 6 and 7, and in IW LEARN website	3.3.1. Project web site created following IW:Learn standards, and further linkages with IW:Learn made	3.3.1.1. Project web site and contributing to IW LEARN	Project results and experiences broadly disseminated through IWCs and other IW LEARN mechanisms	UNEP/MAP
4. Project Management	4.1 Project implemented effectively and efficiently to the satisfaction of partners		4.1.1. Capable human resources, consultation and Efficient systems support project implementation			UNEP MAP
			4.1.2. Monitoring and advisory mechanisms support project implementation			UNEP MAP

ANNEX 2: Table 6 Summary of the project's success in producing programmed outputs

Component	Outcome	Outputs [4]	completion date [5]	Status as of 30 June 2013 (%)	Status as of 30 June 2014 (%)	Status as of 30 June 2015 (%)	status as of 31 December 2015 (%)	Remarks
1. Establishment of a Climate Variability and Change information sharing platform	1.1. Multi-country data platform on climate research supports ICZM planning and management	Activity 1.1.1.1: Identify existing Climate Variability and Change monitoring programs and available data in each participating country, as well as options for data sharing in view of developing a multi-country Information sharing platform [Plan Bleu]	Dec 2014	60%	80%	100%		Status details on data availability for each country fully developed. As lesson learned reinforcement of the agreement on data sharing is needed to tackle countries' resistant to share data.
		Activity 1.1.1.2: Regional synthesis of data availability and gaps as well as	June 2014	40%	75%	100 %		Expected feedbacks from countries were received.

[4] Outputs and activities as described in the project logframe or in any updated project revision.

[5] As per latest workplan (latest project revision)

Component	Outcome	Outputs [4]	completion date [5]	Status as of 30 June 2013 (%)	Status as of 30 June 2014 (%)	Status as of 30 June 2015 (%)	status as of 31 December 2015 (%)	Remarks
		sharing options. [Plan Bleu]						
		Activity 1.1.2.1: Regional Consensus/validation of synthesis report [Plan Bleu]	Dec 2014	0%	0%	100 %		A virtual consultation has been done to gather feedbacks from countries.
		Activity 1.1.3.1: Identify a set of Climate Variability and Change indicators and preparation of the Terms of Reference for the Online Multi Country Information Sharing Platform on Climate Variability and Change monitoring data [Plan Bleu and UNEP/MAP]	Dec 2014	50%	50%	100 %		A regional workshop took place in November 2014. A report has been drafted by Plan Bleu and feedbacks from countries' participants were gathered. A regional report is available.
		Activity 1.1.3.2: The Online Multi-country Information Sharing Platform	Sept 2014	20%	50%	100%		The platform (MedICIP) is fully developed and operative.

Component	Outcome	Outputs [4]	completion date [5]	Status as of 30 June 2013 (%)	Status as of 30 June 2014 (%)	Status as of 30 June 2015 (%)	status as of 31 December 2015 (%)	Remarks
		on Climate Variability and Change monitoring data [Plan Bleu and UNEP GRID Geneva]						
		Activity 1.1.3.3: Testing and improving the Information Sharing Platform	Dec 2014	0%	0%	95%	100%	A contract addendum has been done to further develop and update the design of the platform to make it more user-friendly and efficient. The official launching of the platform has been done in November 2015
2. Strengthening the knowledge base on regional climate variability and change	2.1. Improved understanding of Climate Variability and Change in the Mediterranean basin, enables countries to assess likely impacts on the coastal environmen	Activity 2.1.1.1: Develop a methodology for the regional analysis of physical and socio-economic impacts of Climate Variability and Change [Plan Bleu]	March 2015	5-10%	15%	100%		A regional report on physical and socio-economic impacts of Climate Variability and Change is available.
		Activity 2.1.1.2: Collection of data on indicators on physical impacts of Climate Variability and Change at	March 2015		30%	90%		Collection of indicators from various project/initiatives/databases are all completed (PEGASO, EU, other regional seas etc). Political issues in some countries did not allow to be exhaustive.

Component	Outcome	Outputs [4]	completion date [5]	Status as of 30 June 2013 (%)	Status as of 30 June 2014 (%)	Status as of 30 June 2015 (%)	status as of 31 December 2015 (%)	Remarks
	t	regional level [Plan Bleu, UNEP/MAP]					100%	A regional report on physical andsocio-economic impacts of ClimateVariability and Change is available.
		Activity 2.1.1.3: Analysis of data on environmental and socio-economic impacts of Climate Variability and Change and identify their consequences for ecosystems and human activities and identify vulnerable activities [Plan Bleu]	March 2015		15%	100%		For consistency it has been decided that this report would be merged with the report developed under in activity 2.1.1.1. This allow to have a more complete an exhaustive report on these issues
		2.1.2.1. Croatia demonstration: Developing, upgrading and combining tools; implementation of the project; dissemination of results [PAP/RAC & Plan Bleu]	Dec 2014		50%	95%	100%	Additional calculations asked from the contractors in order to improve policy recommendations. Since the contractors are research institutions they accepted. Final report

Component	Outcome	Outputs [4]	completion date [5]	Status as of 30 June 2013 (%)	Status as of 30 June 2014 (%)	Status as of 30 June 2015 (%)	status as of 31 December 2015 (%)	Remarks
		2.1.2.2. Tunisia demonstration: Developing, upgrading and combining tools; implementation of the project; dissemination of results [PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu, GWP-Med & UNEP GRID-Geneva]	March 2015		35%	100%	100%	A regional report + a synthesis report + participatory process reports are finalized and available. A complementary analysis on CV&C impacts was undertaken with international and Tunisian experts, results are presented in July 2015.
		Activity 2.1.3.1. In-depth analysis of Impacts of Climate Change in specific hotspots or sectors (to be identified) [Plan Bleu]	Dec 2014	10%	10%	100 %		A pilot case has been evaluated where all the necessary data were available. This activity links with activities 2.1.1.1 and 2.1.1.3
3. Support to ICZM Protocol implementation and capacity building	3.1. Science based methodological approach enabling countries to integrate	Activity 3.1.1.1: Updating Guidelines on National ICZM Strategies and Plans with the climate change proofing tool [PAP/RAC, GWP-	October 2014	15%	30%	100%		Finalized

Component	Outcome	Outputs [4]	completion date [5]	Status as of 30 June 2013 (%)	Status as of 30 June 2014 (%)	Status as of 30 June 2015 (%)	status as of 31 December 2015 (%)	Remarks
	climate variability and change issues into ICZM policies, plans and programs	Med]						
		Activity 3.1.1.2: Meeting of the DIVA/CIImagine experts with the IWG of MedPartnership [PAP/RAC]	June 2014	0%	0%			No need for a particular meeting. All parties met at the regular meetings of PAP/RAC National Focal Points.
		Activity 3.1.1.3: Developing on-line module for the Climate Variability and Change to be integrated into MedOpen – virtual ICZM course	September 2014	10%	10%	100%		Document finalized
		Activity 3.1.2.1: Drafting of Integrated Management Plan integrating Climate Variability and Change issues (Croatia) [PAP/RAC]	September 2014	20%	70%	90%	100%	Document finalised
		Activity 3.1.3.1.Coastal plan in Reghaia;			70%	97%	100%	3. Support to ICZM Protocol implementation and capacity

Component	Outcome	Outputs [4]	completion date [5]	Status as of 30 June 2013 (%)	Status as of 30 June 2014 (%)	Status as of 30 June 2015 (%)	status as of 31 December 2015 (%)	Remarks
		Trans boundary Integrated management coastal plan in Buna/Bojana; and National ICZM strategies in Montenegro and in Algeria (PAP/RAC)						building
	3.2. Increased knowledge, capacity and awareness improve inter-sectoral coordination in mainstreaming climate variability and change issues into ICZM Protocol implementation process	Activity 3.2.1.1: Facilitating inter-ministerial coordination for incorporating Climate Variability and Change issues into ICZM [UNEP/MAP]	Dec 2014	10%	10%	100%		The CVC IMC have been combined for those set up for the ICZM national strategies in Algeria, Croatia and Montenegro.
		Activity 3.2.2.1: Assessment of the banking and insurance sector [PAP/RAC, GWP-Med]	December 2014	5%	5%	100%		Low reply rate to the questionnaire. Document finalized
		Activity 3.2.2.2: Preparing central Coast Day 2013 with the theme of	October 2013	5%	55%	100%		Document finalized With some remaining funds from2014, PAP/RAC contributed to 3countries Coast

Component	Outcome	Outputs [4]	completion date [5]	Status as of 30 June 2013 (%)	Status as of 30 June 2014 (%)	Status as of 30 June 2015 (%)	status as of 31 December 2015 (%)	Remarks
		Climate Variability and Change [PAP/RAC]						Day celebration in2015.
		Activity 3.2.2.3: Developing media packages [PAP/RAC]	Dec 2014	0%	50%	100%		Work completed
		Activity 3.2.2.4: Regional Workshops for Members of Parliaments and Media on climate variability and change with emphasis on interlinked ICZM and IWRM issues [GWP-Med]	Dec 2014		50%	50%	100%	The second Workshop has been organised back-to-back with the MedPartnership/ClimaVar SC Meeting, beginning of November 2015, in Athens Works completed
		Activity 3.2.2.5: Contribute to build capacity and advance policy dialogue on climate variability and change with emphasis on ICZM and IWRM issues	Dec 2014	15%	60%	95%	100% 100%	Final report has been prepared by UNEP GRID and approval by September 2015. Works completed

Component	Outcome	Outputs [4]	completion date [5]	Status as of 30 June 2013 (%)	Status as of 30 June 2014 (%)	Status as of 30 June 2015 (%)	status as of 31 December 2015 (%)	Remarks
		[GWP-Med]						
		Activity 3.2.2.6: Assessment of Non-Regret Policies and Actions for Climate Variability and Change in relation to water and the coastal area in the Mediterranean [GWP-Med]	Nov 2014	85%	95%	95%	100%	Parts of the Assessment are revised to include elements of a Water-Food-Energy-Environment-Climate Nexus approach. Works completed
		3.2.3.1. Policy document including recommendations for integrating climate variability considerations into marine and coastal zone planning (UNEP/MAP, GWP-Med)	May 2015	10%	20%	90%	100%	The recommendation have been included in the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework and its background documents. The latter includes an overview of the adaptation issues in the Mediterranean, an analysis of how the existing Protocols and other instruments of the Barcelona Convention, including those in preparation, address the objectives of the Framework and a proposal of a strategy towards a possible Action Plan to implement the Framework. The RCCA was endorsed by the Barcelona Convention COP19, February 2016,

Component	Outcome	Outputs [4]	completion date [5]	Status as of 30 June 2013 (%)	Status as of 30 June 2014 (%)	Status as of 30 June 2015 (%)	status as of 31 December 2015 (%)	Remarks
								Athens.
	3.3. Project experience and lessons disseminated to larger IW community	Activity 3.3.3.1: Project web site and contributing to IW LEARN [UNEP/MAP]	Dec 14	10%	50%	90%	100%	Climate variability page has a prominent place within the newly revamped website of the MedPartnership, on its English and French page. It is visible at the home page and being updated regularly A bibliography including allpublications produced under theproject was prepared and is currently available online on the website

Annex III Summary of Evaluation Findings and Lessons

ClimVar and ICZM project: PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

1. Achievement of Outcomes

Outcomes	Status (summary of what was achieved)	Rating
1- Multi-country data platform on climate research supports ICZM planning and management	-Mapped & assessed the existing national and regional existing CV&C databases, to be used for feeding the MedICIP, and implementation of other activities. - Identified a set of indicators for CVC and ICZM linked to the EcAp, to follow-up the projects' several plans on the regional (Framework for Adaptation CVC) and national level (Demo in Sibenik-Knin). -Developed & launched online data and information sharing platform "MedICIP". The Platform will be hosted by UNEP/GRID Geneva for two years beyond the project.The project strategy has no formal plan, neither to maintain it working in the future, nor to guarantee the input from countries who will provide key data to the platform.	MS
2- Improved understanding of CV&C in the Mediterranean region, enables countries to assess impacts on the coastal environment.	- Assessed the economic impacts of CVC in Šibenik-Knin, Croatia, for preparation of the coastal zone management plans and national ICZM strategies. - Assessedthe sea-level rise and storms in Montenegro, to contribute to the overall understanding of the impacts of CVC in the narrow coastal areas, and to enable integration of the ICZM principles into spatial planning. Four scenarios of sea-level rise were proposed, to be taken into account for future coastal planning. -Demos for local assessment of CVC impacts and evaluation of response options, were implemented in, Šibenik-Knin, Croatia, and in Kerkennah, Tunisia. - The Multi-Scale Coastal Risk Index (CRI-MED) method was developed and applied regionally in the 11 countries, thus, ranking the relative risk of each coastal region in relation to potential coastal hazards, that led to identification of climate hot-spots along the Mediterranean coastline, placing more assertion on emerging priorities for adaptation to CVC, and promoting the use of ICZM in the participating countries.	S
3- Science based methodological approach enables countries to integrate climate variability and change issues into ICZM policies, plans and programs.	- The ICZM Plan was fully developed in one demonstration site (Šibenik-Knin, Croatia) Including CV&C coping strategies. Other participant countries expressed the intention to integrate CVC strategies into ICZM plans. - Applied morphdynamic tool box, and provided manual for assessments of coastal erosion at various spatial scales in the Mediterranean. Thus, providing predictions of beach retreats ranges', induced by sea level changes under varying geo-environmental conditions. -Provided guidelines of adapting of CV&C for planner and policy makers in the Med. -CVC considerations are included in three ICZM strategies and were developed under MedPartnership.	S
4- Increased knowledge, **capacity, and awareness** improve inter-sectoral coordination in mainstreaming climate variability and change issues into the ICZM protocol implementation process.	- Assessed the available best practices in major banking and insurance companies to address CV&C in the Mediterranean, focusing on property and land-use to provide insight on their role in the implementation of ICZM and CVC adaptation. - Two workshops for parliamentarians, media and civil society. - -Workshop for project countries (national project team). - -MedOpen virtual ICZM training, - & - Coast Day - -Two workshops for project national team. - Developed a Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework, based on the request of the contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention, which was approved by MAP FPs and will be submitted for COP19 of the Barcelona Convention in February 2016.	S
5- Project experiences and lessons to larger GEF IW community	-ClimVar page in the MedPartnership shared via **IW-Learn**. - Lessons learned (Template IW) and seven guidelines shared with GEF IW - Project presented at 16th LME Conference and in EU maritime day (2015). -Project brochure. Leaflets in English and French.	S

1. Overall objective(s)

Objectives	Status	Rating
(i) strengthening the understanding of the impacts of CV&C on the coastal zones of the Mediterranean region by (ii) Establishing the needed information exchange mechanisms, capacity and regional pilot experiences.	- The project produced a numerous number of reports, studies, guidelines, demonstration activities and countries' fact sheets, which will be available in the MedPartnership Web page, along with an interactive bibliography with hyperlinks to these documents. - Developed a Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework, based on the request of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention which was approved by MAP FPs, and will be submitted for COP19 of the Barcelona Convention in February 2016. Generally, the output of ClimVar provides the basis for understanding many important CVC issues and highlighting the weaknesses and needs for future CV&C adaption planning.	S

2. Factors affecting performance and outcomes (positive and negative, any major issues encountered)

A. Positive factors:

- Countries are willing to increase their knowledge concerning the CV&C.
- Implementation of the project within a Barcelona convention, Mediterranean ICZM protocol.
- The issue of climate change is the dominant on the scene, a focus of attention of every country.
- High qualification of the implementing and co-executing agencies.
- Sharing of experience between project teams thus, increasing the spirit of teamwork.
- Communication and interaction between the PMU and executing partners, assisting the implementation of project' activities in due time.

B. Negative factors, weaknesses and Gaps:

- Political transition, delay in the project start-up and short duration of the project
- Lack of appropriate data and information in most of the participant' countries
- Incompatible project tools and methodologies with human and technical capacity of the project countries.
- The inter-Ministerial Committee does not exist except in the two countries.
- Complex process in co-finance.
- Lack of cooperation between local stakeholders and national project team.
- Scientific communities, NGOs are not include in the project framework
- Lack of capacity building programme in project design.

Lessons Learned: Based on interviews, documents reviewed and consultant experience

1. Sharing data chiefly relevant to coastal region is a common problem in the project countries, which led to disparities among countries in achieving the project's objectives and caused a substantial burden on the project management team to achieve progress. Therefore, a flexible design should be provided for the project to subjugate the activities to available data, enabling the project to achieve its objectives and results.
2. Project focal points in some countries require support and capacity enhancement, which led to weak cooperation between national/local stakeholders and executing organizations. The project needs consistent follow-up, and evaluation the performance of national team and focal points, as a part of the E&M project framework, to enable them to effectively carry out their responsibilities.
3. Scientific institutions and NGOs are not a part of the project main stakeholders, thus the project has lost an important scientific support and technical guidance. They should be effectively involved in the project implementation framework with a clear role.
4. Lack of human experience and technical capacity, as well as, financial resources particularly in the southern Mediterranean countries, hindered the applying the project's methodologies in these countries. Thus,
5. countries' capability to use tool or methodology needs to be assessed in the project inception phase, to give an opportunity to refine these tools and fine-tune the activities.

6. National/local stakeholders are not in good knowledge of the project objectives and outcomes, which resulted in low country ownership, more effort should be done to acknowledge them.
7. The risk mitigation plan included in the project design is not efficient, it should be regularly updated and remediated during project implementation, to enable the project to achieve its goals and objectives.
8. The project outcomes and replication of best practices were handed over to the participating countries without follow-up or road map from the project, resulting in the inappropriate impacts. Thus, a learning programme in "*outcomes-based managem*ent"is essential for up-scaling the project best-practices.

Recommendations for ClimVar

a) **The project** is ambitious in time, funding and expected outcomes, the overall project strategy could be better refined in the inception phase and the implementation agenda should be integrated with other relevant national initiatives, and work close with countries' priorities.
b) **MedICIP** is a key project' outcome for CVC &ICZM data sharing, has no formal plan, neither to maintain it working in the future, nor to guarantee the input from countries who will provide key data to the platform. The project design must have a financial and sustainable plans, to keep Platform working. It is recommended that, GEF / UNEP future projects support sustaining this platform.
c) **Early stage awareness of the value of data sharing**, the project did not put an effort to educate national stakeholders from the beginning, how they can benefit from the data, what to do with different information in other words, create a window to see the future to build the trust.
d) **South-south cooperation**, the project did not invest in this issue in a pragmatic way, a *cooperation-oriented agenda* should be incorporated in the project design*, focusing* on the sharing of data and skills, and facilitating the replication of best-practices.
e) **The project results and the progress** need to be regularly disseminated as soon as acquired to make information and products generated available to all stakeholders, outreach and dissemination events in participant's countries should be counted in the project implementation strategy.
f) **The responsibilities** of project focal points, national agencies, project consultants, and executing agencies within a project need to be clearly set-up from the very beginning of the project (Who is leading what & why), to avoid losing the way during project life time. It is crucial for the flexibility and success of any project, to make all actors acquainted with their role and responsibility.
g) The project downplayed the role and activities assigned for of local authorities/municipals in the implementation phase, although they have local knowledge and power to make change and solve the problems.
h) **Uncertainty about climate change** for most national interviewees is a debated issue and also problematic for adaptation plans, ClimVar needs a solid awareness programe to improve the knowledge and handling of this issue for national/local stakeholders.
i) **Gender mainstream** should be clearly defined in the project design; women experienced inequality in decision-making in ICZM plans, they should occupy a vital role in the project strategy.
j) **The project monitoring** should be a responsibility for all parties (project countries, executing organizations,..), a project technical monitoring using consolidate KPI, apart from the administrative monitoring, should be part of M&E plan in the project design.

RECOMMENDATIONS for future projects and planning

a) Project' countries recognized the importance of data and knowledge for future development or adaptation plans in coastal area. In this regard, supporting countries, especially southern Mediterranean, to build a robust body of data and information on climate variability and changes, this issue could be part of the new funding initiatives. (UNEP, GEF, EC, WB,.).
b) There is a great number of CVC adaptation-ICZM related projects and initiatives, are currently supported by national and international funding agencies in all project countries. The results of such projects could be used as foundation ground for the new funding projects. (UMEP, GEF, other finding agencies).
c) Inconsistency between different national authorities such as ministries, municipals, civil organizations and private professional on the use and management of coastal area are still take place and hinder the implementation of ICZM strategies in many countries. So, to seek success in the implementation of development plans, it would important to manage the coastal areas through one authorized body or platform to facilitate the communication. (Countries).
d) Limited or lack of institutional capacities in southern Mediterranean countries are one of important challenges that hinder the implementation of the successful policies and measures in the field of climate

change and ICZM. Future funding initiatives in this area could be helpful to promote ICZM protocol. (GEF, UNEP).

e) **Private sector-NGOs** have an important role, scope and recently become partners for many national governments. They becoming more concerned of climate changes risks, thus they taking CVC into their business agenda. The new funding project should enroll them as full project partners (GEF, UNEP).

f) There are national ICZM strategies or plans and CVC regulations in most of project countries, however, these strategies and regulations are rarely practiced. It is important in the future projects that, creating a national expert team "training the trainers," along with other activities to improve skills and to equip them to help their countries. (UNEP, Countries)

g) In the future climate changes projects, when the most vulnerable areas to climate change are identified, the most vulnerable people should also be identified, e.g., fishermen (more than 55 million world's fishers and fish farmers live and work under the risk of Climate changes the fisheries and aquaculture (FAO 2005), and ensure that their needs and priorities are reflected in the project output. (UNEP, GEF, others funding programs).

Terms of Reference for the Evaluation

TERMS OF REFERENCE
Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP/GEF Project
"Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem – Regional Component: Implementation of agreed actions for the protection of the environmental resources of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas " and
"Integration of climatic variability and change into national strategies to implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean"

1. Project General Information[6]

Table 1. Project summary

UNEP PIMS ID:	GF/ 6030 – 08 - 15	**IMIS number:**	GFL-2322-4A05-2731 GFL-2322-4B32-2731
Sub-programme:	International Waters-9: Land & Water Cuts across	**Expected Accomplishment(s)[7]:**	Four of the six cross-cutting thematic priorities: The ecosystem management objective The environmental governance objective The harmful substances and hazardous waste objective Resource efficiency
UNEP approval date:	11 August 2008 30 April 2012	**PoW Output(s):**	Promoting regional and multi-country cooperation to achieve global environmental benefits
GEF project ID:	2600 3990	**Project Type:**	FSP
GEF OP #:	OP 14 SP 1, SP	**Focal Area(s):**	International Waters, POPs
GEF approval date:	9 April 2008 17 January 2012	**GEF Strategic Priority/Objective:**	GEF 4 IW 2: "To catalyze transboundary action addressing water concerns" 1. To foster international multi-state cooperation on Priority transboundary water concerns. 2. To catalyze transboundary action addressing water concerns. SP1 SP3
Expected Start Date:	September 2008 January 2012	**Actual start date:**	August 2009 29 June 2012
Planned completion date:	August 2013 1 October 2014	**Actual completion date:**	September 2015 August 2015
Planned project budget at approval:	$ 49,447,200 $ 8,474.945	**Total expenditures reported as of [date]:**	
GEF Allocation:	$ 12,891,000 $ 2,298,545	**GEF grant expenditures reported as of [date]:**	
PDF GEF cost:	$ 700,000 $ 156,000	**PDF co-financing:**	US$ 1,258,500
Expected MSP/FSP co-financing:	$ 35,597,700 $6,176,400	**Secured MSP/FSP co-financing:**	
First Disbursement:	November 2008 29 June 201	**Date of financial closure:**	
No. of revisions:	2	**Date of last revision:**	
Date of last Steering Committee meeting:	17-20 February 2014		
Mid-term review/ evaluation (planned date):	MedPartnership Project September 2012	**Mid-term review/ evaluation (actual date):**	MedPartnership July 2013

[6] MedPartnership Project Document – GEF Data Base

[7] The MedPartnership project was formulated several years prior to the publication of the UNEP Medium-Term Strategy 2010-2013 that sets out UNEP's Expected Accomplishments and Programmatic Objectives, so there are no explicit references to alignment in the project document (Source MidTerm Review)

Terminal Evaluation (actual date):	Sept- Dec 2015		

2. Project rationale

The ClimVar and ICZM project to integrate CV&C into ICZM national implementation processes

19. The countries of the Mediterranean recognize that with current projections there will be a number of climate impacts, including increased summer temperatures and decreased annual precipitation, increased water-related extreme phenomena like floods and persistent droughts, enhanced water scarcity and increased desertification, the loss of, or shift in vegetation zones, threatened food production as a result of increased irrigation demands and more numerous incidents of plant diseases, human health hazards, particularly with regard to infectious diseases and increased heat-related mortality. It is critically important that research work advances our understanding of how climate variability will impact the coastal zone communities, natural resources and marine and coastal biodiversity of the Mediterranean. However, it is equally as important to ensure that scientific information, thus generated, be made accessible to decision makers, and that actions be taken to integrate them within the context of ICZM as well as into current land use and water policies and practices, in order to improve sustainability in view of future climatic scenarios.

20. ICZM is a long established management approach in Mediterranean coastal regions. Its importance for the regional countries has been strengthened by the entry into force of the ICZM Protocol to the Barcelona Convention (March 2011). The Mediterranean ICZM protocol is intended to reap development benefits through implementation of a management approach that will facilitate sustainable economic growth; help conserve natural habitats and species; assist in controlling pollution of coastal waters; contribute to the more efficient use of coastal resources; help rehabilitate degraded resources; provide mechanism and tools for rational resource allocation based on appropriate valuation of ecosystem services; and help mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate variability and change. The ICZM protocol is the first regional ICZM legal instrument that deals extensively with the issue of climate change, both at the strategic level (by requesting countries to mainstream climate change issues into national ICZM strategies and plans) and local levels (by requesting countries to define, inter alia, the coastal setback zone).

21. This project was intended to be complementary to the MedPartnership initiative - and aimed to support the implementation of the ICZM Protocol through the development of the region wide capacity, enabling environment, and tools needed to address climate variability and change in the Mediterranean Region. It is expected that the project will result in an updated TDA of the Mediterranean Sea LME integrating Climate Variability and Change (CV&C) issues, in the establishment of effectively functioning mechanisms for capacity building, sharing of data on CV&C impacts in coastal areas and experiences in coping strategies, and in the development of a pilot ICZM plan integrating measures related to climate variability and change ready for implementation.

21. These actions are based on the priorities identified in the Strategic Action Programme to address pollution from land-based sources (SAP-MED), the Strategic Action Programme for the conservation of biological diversity (SAP- BIO) along with the National Action Plans (NAPs) developed during the GEF UNEP project “Determination of Priority Actions for the Further Elaboration and Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Mediterranean Sea”, completed in 2006. As such GWP-Med and PAP/RAC, responsible for the execution of activities related to IWRM and ICZM respectively, can participate in this project to ensure incorporation of climate variability into the development of ICZM planning and practices at the national and regional level.

22. The project intended to integrate CV&C issues into the framework of MedPartnership by updating the Mediterranean Sea LME Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis, and by providing concrete local examples of CV&C assessments and ICZM plans integrating climate issues to be replicated region-wide through MedPartnership.

23. The effective implementation of the project requires combining policy and technical work with awareness raising and capacity building/training activities that aim at mainstreaming the acquired knowledge

on climate variability and change in national ICZM plans, demonstration projects and other relevant interventions. In order to promote this effectively, the project aimed to work in a coordinated manner with MedPartnership and to utilize the coordination, communication and dissemination mechanisms developed under the Partnership.

24. The current project has been setup bearing in mind the fact that the MedPartnership project was currently under implementation and also implemented by UNEP/MAP. In this regard, operational costs as well as personnel costs (i.e. Project Manager, Administrative Assistant) were to be jointly shared, thus adopting a cost effective implementation modality. Steering Committee Meetings will be organized back to back with those of the MedPartnership project: Premises, and miscellaneous expenses, were to be shared thus maximizing cost effectiveness. Other managerial modalities in daily operations will also be followed (i.e. economies of scale, etc.)

25. The ClimVar Project was designed to complement actions related to CV&C the existing MedPartnership Project. In fact, climate variability and change and their impacts on Mediterranean ecosystems were not considered during the design of MedPartnership in the early 00s. Their relevance, in particular for coastal zone resources and habitats, were in fact fully appreciated only in later years. The "complementary" nature of the project is reflected in the institutional framework and implementation arrangements adopted for its execution. The Project was designed to utilize the management and coordination structure of the UNEP/MAP led component of MedPartnership, and to benefit from the replication and communication strategy developed for the project, as shown in the figure below. The joint PMU was responsible for the successful implementation of both the Regional Component of MedPartnership and the present project, ensuring that they function as a single, integrated project.

Table 5. Responsible Co-executing agencies – ClimVar and ICZM

Component/Sub-Component	**Responsible Co-executing agencies**
COMPONENT 1: ESTABLISHMENT OF A CLIMATE VARIABILITY & CHANGE INFORMATION SHARING PLATFORM	
Outcome 1.1. Multi-country data platform on climate research supports ICZM planning and management	Plan Bleu, UNEP/MAP, UNEP GRID Geneva/University of Geneva
COMPONENT 2: STRENGTHENING THE KNOWLEDGE BASE ON REGIONAL CLIMATE VARIABILITY AND CHANGE	
Outcome 2.1. Improved understanding of Climate Variability and Change in the Mediterranean basin, enables countries to assess likely impacts on the coastal environment	Plan Bleu, PAP/RAC, GWP-MED and UNEP GRID Geneva/University of Geneva
COMPONENT 3: SUPPORT TO ICZM PROTOCOL IMPLEMENTATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING	
3.1. Science based methodological approach enables countries to integrate climate variability and change issues into ICZM policies, plans and programs	Plan Bleu and PAP/RAC
3.2. Increased knowledge, capacity and awareness improve inter-sectoral coordination in mainstreaming climate variability and change issues into ICZM Protocol implementation process	UNEP/MAP, PAP/RAC, GWP-MED and UNEP GRID Geneva/University of Geneva
3.3. Project experience and lessons disseminated to larger IW community	UNEP/MAP

26. The project was designed to utilise the same steering and coordination mechanisms (Steering Committee, Coordination Group) of the MedPartnership Project and managed by MedPartnership's PMU in Athens, Greece, and to benefit from the Replication and Communication mechanisms as part of the MedPartnership.

5. Project Cost and Financing[8]

Table 7. Project cost ClimVar Project[9]

Funding source	Cost ($)	%
GEF	2,298,545	27.1
Co-financing executing agencies	3,796,400	44.8
Participating countries	2,380,000	28.1
TOTAL	8,474,945	100

5. Implementation Issues

238. 27. The official day of the MedPartnership Project start, is August 2009. The Strategic Partnership Steering Committee (SC) requested a 12-month no-cost extension in February 2010 bringing the completion date of this 60-month project to August 2014. Another extension was approved on **17-20 February 2014** and the date of project closure was extended to **December 2015**.

239. 28. Half way during project implementation of Med PartnershipProject, the ClimVar& ICZM Project was taken over under the umbrella of MedPartnership Project. Both projects planned to be completed by **31 December 2015** are complementary to the implementation of ICZM Protocol. ClimVar Project is using the current management structures, human resources, partnerships and coordination structures set up by MedPartnership.

29. The evaluation should assess both Project MedPartnership Project and ClimVar Project as a single, integrated project, developing a single ToC and assessing how well both projects were integrated and functioned to achieve intended output and outcomes. A separate ToC for the ClimVar and ICZM Project is also required to clearly identify the pathways from outputs, to outcomes and likely impact for this Project.

30. The evaluation section on the lesson learned should focus on evidencing the project experiences and showcase the successes and to reflect on the failures. It is required that the lessons learned, indicate how the positive experiences can be replicated and how mistakes can be avoided for the benefit of future projects. It is suggested that for the Med Partnership Project, specific attention is paid in distilling lesson learned from the ICZM processes, the TEST MED, the disposal and capacity building activities related to PCB, the reinforcement of MPA management plan and creation of new MPAs, and the NAP update process.In the same perspective, the ClimaVar Project's activities which need to be considered for lessons learned purposes are the SPA/RAC aiming at the inclusion of Climate Change and Variability into ICZM process, the Regional Climate Change adaptation Framework and the MedICIP platform for data sharing.

31. Other activities of particular interest to be validated as Lessons Learned for the future 1) the value of the creation of inter-ministerial committee 2) the level of data sharing among countries and the factors

[8] Source Project Document – GEF Database, Umbrella Prodoc_060208 final

[9] Source: ClimVarProDoc, GEF database

influencing it in different countries 3) and how well the partnership Med Partnership Project, ClimVar Project and the investment component has worked to exercise pressure at national level. Also, the quality of approaches, methodologies, guidelines, and other tools produced by the project need to be assessed for the purpose of evaluating the level of technical assistance provided by the project to the selected countries.

6. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE EVALUATION

a. Objective and Scope of the Evaluation

32. In line with the UNEP Evaluation Policy[10] and the UNEP Programme Manual[11], the Terminal Evaluation is undertaken at completion of the project to assess project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine outcomes and impacts (actual and potential) stemming from the project, including their sustainability. The evaluation has two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote operational improvement, learning and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP and main project partners. Therefore, the evaluation will identify lessons of operational relevance for future project formulation and implementation.

33. It will focus on the following sets of **key questions**, based on the project's intended outcomes, which may be expanded by the consultants as deemed appropriate:

(a) To what extent has the project's achieved these objectives in the target countries:

- Facilitation of harmonized policy, institutional and legal reforms for the protection of biodiversity and pollution reduction from land-based sources consistent with the provision of the SAP MED and SAP BIO;

- Provision of assistance to countries in advancing their ICZM and IWRM plans (including the management of aquifers) with emphasis on the protection of biodiversity and the prevention of pollution from land-based sources;

- Execution of demonstration projects that address biodiversity protection, pollution from land-based sources and enhanced application of ICZM, IWRM and management of aquifers;

- Effective involvement of all stakeholders in the implementation of activities at regional and national level, and enhancement of capacity in Governments to address environmental problems and to incorporate environmental considerations into national planning.

(b) To what extent has the project is contributing towards the full implementation of SAPs and NAPs thus reducing pollution from land-based sources and preserving the biodiversity and ecosystems of the Mediterranean from degradation, in line with MDG/WSSD Environmental targets?

(c) To what extent the projects have created an enabling environment for the integration of CV&C to cope into ICZM policies, plans and programs of the Med countries?

(d) To what extent have the projects contributed to the strengthening the understanding of the priority fields of actions to tackle the adverse effects of CV&C on the coastal zones of the Mediterranean region and the development of information exchange mechanisms?

(e) To what extent mechanisms for future financial and political sustainability/ownership of SAP and NAPs-related activities by COPs to the Barcelona Convention are in place and will they ensure a long term financing?

(f) To what extent the project is anticipated to contribute to reversing marine and coastal degradation trends and living resources depletion?

[10] http://www.unep.org/eou/StandardsPolicyandPractices/UNEPEvaluationPolicy/tabid/3050/language/en-US/Default.aspx

[11] http://www.unep.org/QAS/Documents/UNEP_Programme_Manual_May_2013.pdf

(g) To what extent the MedPartnership management structure was adequate, responsive and well-functioning to ensure co-ordination among the two Projects?
(h) Will the sustainability of approaches developed by both project be ensured beyond the life span of the project?
(i) To what extent and how have the recommendations of the MTE MedPartnership Project been implemented?
(j) Did the partnership between MedPartnership Project and ClimVar& ICZM Project resulted in successful strategic framework which brought together, all partners/donors/countries working in the Mediterranean, and ensured a common vision and direction of effort in past and future projects?

a. Overall Approach and Methods

34. The Terminal Evaluation of the Project will be conducted by independent consultants under the overall responsibility and management of the UNEP Evaluation Office in consultation with the UNEP Task Manager and the Sub-programme Coordinators of the UNEP International Waters-9: Land & Water Cuts across sub-programme.

35. It will be an in-depth evaluation using a participatory approach whereby the UNEP Task Manager, key representatives of UNEP/MAP and the executing partners, and other relevant staff are kept informed and consulted throughout the evaluation process. The consultants will liaise with the UNEP Evaluation Office, the **UNEP Task Manager** and UNEP MAP on any logistic and/or methodological issues to properly conduct the assessment in as independent a way as possible, given the circumstances and the resources offered. Both quantitative and qualitative evaluation methods will be used to determine project achievements against the expected outputs, outcomes and impacts. It is highly recommended that the **consultant(s) maintains close communication with the project team and promotes information exchange throughout the evaluation implementation phase in order to increase their (and other stakeholder) ownership of the evaluation findings**.

36. The final evaluation will assess both projects as an integral project and make the best use of existing information, and take in results of monitoring missions, mission reports, stakeholders' meetings, MTE (regional component) and other evaluation or reviews that have been undertaken for each component or specific donors.

37. The findings of the evaluation will be based on the following:

(a) A **desk review** of:

A desk review of project documents including, but not limited to:

- Relevant background documentation, including - inter alia – SAPs and NAPs, relevant information on other existing regional and national policy framework aimed at promoting IWRM, ICZM, and reduction of pollution, any parallel development schemes and initiative promoted by international organizations (e.g. UNEP, UNESCO, EU, WB, European Investment Bank) as relevant;
- Preparatory papers and the approved project document;
- Memoranda of Understanding, Implementation and Partnership agreements;
- Project Communication strategy; NGO Involvement Plan; and Replication Work-plan;
- Project monitoring reports (such as progress and financial reports, Coordination Group and Steering Committee reports, Annual Project Implementation Review (PIR) reports to GEF) and relevant correspondence;
- Documentation related to planning and implementation of demonstration projects (components 1,2,3);
- Other project outputs, such as:

✓ Regional action plan on coastal aquifers (draft); Regional plan for eco-hydrogeological management, land degradation and protection of priority coastal wetlands (draft); Regional guidelines on national ICZM strategies; Integrated methodological framework for coastal aquifer management and integration with ICZM; Assessment of risk and uncertainty and vulnerability maps of coastal aquifer; analysis of impacts of ratification of ICZM Protocol on

national legislation; Integrated Methodological Framework (IMF) guidelines for local coastal plans; Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean (draft);

- ✓ ClimVar and ICZM Project outputs
  - Guidelines for pollution reduction and policy reform papers (draft);
  - MPAs Management Plan
  - MTE MedPartnership Project
  - UNEP Medium Term Strategy 2010-2013
  - UNEP Programme of Work (2012-2013), GEF Framework Priorities
  - Project website (http://www.themedpartnership.org/)or other relevant online publications (newsletters, papers, articles, etc.)
  - ClimVar Project Document
  - Monitoring and Evaluation missions
  - Mission reports

(b) **Interviews (individual or in group) with**:

- Task Manager UNEP/GEF International Water Division, Africa Portfolio
- UNEP/DEPI Nairobi office GEF project manager
- MAP Coordinator and PMU staff, located within UNEP MAP (Executing Agency), Athens;
- UNIDO staff (Executing Agency, Component 2), Wien;
- The EU (especially for Component 3.1) and other co-financiers;
- Co-executing agencies and project partners: four UNEP MAP RACs (CP, SPA, PAP and INFO RACs) and the Programme for Pollution MEDPOL; UNESCO/IHP; FAO GFCM; WWF-MedPO; GWP-Med; MIO-ECSDE;
- Members of the SPSC (the President of the Bureau of COPs of the Barcelona Conventions, major donors' representatives, NGOs);
- Project beneficiaries, including: National Government representatives and policy makers (e.g. marine resources, tourism, trade and industry); private sector representatives; beneficiaries of demonstration projects and fishermen;
- Other relevant key persons.
- ClimVar Project key Partners (PB)

(c) **Surveys:** questionnaires and electronic surveys will be considered.

(d) **Field visits:** the evaluator(s) will visit a selected number of demonstration projects and pilot project from a selected country sample. During the visits, the evaluator will conduct interviews with the interested parties, project partners, national participating Institutions and Government officials, GEF Focal Points, beneficiaries of demonstration projects to seek the views of stakeholders who participated in the different trainings and assess the project's effectiveness in this respect. The country selection criteria will be: adequate regional diversity, level of progress of the country, good representation of project's successes and failures, availability and access to a large number of stakeholders. One of the evaluators will also participate in the final PSC which will take place in Athens, by the beginning of November 2015, where he will have the opportunity to meet key stakeholders and introduce the evaluation to them.

b. Key Evaluation principles

38. Evaluation findings and judgements should be based on **sound evidence and analysis**, clearly documented in the evaluation report. Information will be triangulated (i.e. verified from different sources) to the extent possible, and when verification was not possible, the single source will be mentioned. Analysis leading to evaluative judgements should always be clearly spelled out.

39. The evaluation will assess the project with respect to **a minimum set of evaluation criteria** grouped in six categories: (1) Strategic Relevance; (2) Attainment of objectives and planned result, which comprises the assessment of outputs achieved, effectiveness and likelihood of impact; (3) Sustainability and replication; (4) Efficiency; (5) Factors and processes affecting project performance, including preparation and

readiness, implementation and management, stakeholder participation and public awareness, **country ownership and driven-ness, financial planning and management, UNEP supervision and backstopping**, and project monitoring and evaluation; and (6) Complementarity with the UNEP strategies and programmes. The evaluation consultants can propose other evaluation criteria as deemed appropriate.

40. **Ratings.** All evaluation criteria will be rated on a six-point scale. Annex 3 provides guidance on how the different criteria should be rated and how ratings should be aggregated for the different evaluation criterion categories.

41. **Baselines and counterfactuals**. In attempting to attribute any outcomes and impacts to the project intervention, the evaluators should consider the difference between *what has happened with, and what would have happened without, the project*. This implies that there should be consideration of the baseline conditions, trends and counterfactuals in relation to the intended project outcomes and impacts. It also means that there should be plausible evidence to attribute such outcomes and impacts to the actions of the project. Sometimes, adequate information on baseline conditions, trends or counterfactuals is lacking. In such cases this should be clearly highlighted by the evaluators, along with any simplifying assumptions that were taken to enable the evaluator to make informed judgements about project performance.

42. **The "Why?" Question.** As this is a terminal evaluation and a follow-up project is likely [or similar interventions are envisaged for the future], particular attention should be given to learning from the experience. Therefore, the "*Why?*" question should be at the front of the consultants' minds all through the evaluation exercise. This means that the consultants need to go beyond the assessment of "*what*" the project performance was, and make a serious effort to provide a deeper understanding of "*why*" the performance was as it was, i.e. of processes affecting attainment of project results (criteria under category F – see below). This should provide the basis for the lessons that can be drawn from the project. In fact, the usefulness of the evaluation will be determined to a large extent by the capacity of the consultants to explain "*why things happened*" as they happened and are likely to evolve in this or that direction, which goes well beyond the mere review of "*where things stand*" at the time of evaluation.

c. A key aim of the evaluation is to encourage reflection and learning by UNEP staff and key project stakeholders. The consultant should consider how reflection and learning can be promoted, both through the evaluation process and in the communication of evaluation findings and key lessons.
d. Communicating evaluation results. Once the consultant(s) has obtained evaluation findings, lessons and results, the Evaluation Office will share the findings and lessons with the key stakeholders. Evaluation results should be communicated to the key stakeholders in a brief and concise manner that encapsulates the evaluation exercise in its entirety. There may, however, be several intended audiences, each with different interests and preferences regarding the report. The Evaluation Manager will plan with the consultant(s) which audiences to target and the easiest and clearest way to communicate the key evaluation findings and lessons to them. This may include some or all of the following; a webinar, conference calls with relevant stakeholders, the preparation of an evaluation brief or interactive presentation.
e. Evaluation criteria

5.1.1 Strategic relevance

43. The evaluation will assess, in retrospect, whether the project's objectives and implementation strategies were consistent with global, regional and national environmental issues and needs.

44. The evaluation will assess whether the project was in-line with the GEF international waters and POPs focal area's strategic priorities and operational programme(s).

45. The evaluation will also assess the project's relevance in relation to UNEP's mandate and its alignment with UNEP's policies and strategies at the time of project approval. UNEP's Medium Term Strategy (MTS) is a document that guides UNEP's programme planning over a four-year period. It identifies UNEP's thematic priorities, known as Subprogrammes (SP), and sets out the desired outcomes [known as Expected Accomplishments (EAs)] of the SubProgrammes. The evaluation will assess whether the project makes a tangible/plausible contribution to any of the EAs specified in the MTS 2010-2012. The magnitude and extent of any contributions and the causal linkages should be fully described.

- The evaluation should assess the project's alignment / compliance with UNEP's policies and strategies. The evaluation should provide a brief narrative of the following:

a. *Alignment with the Bali Strategic Plan (BSP)*[12]. The outcomes and achievements of the project should be briefly discussed in relation to the objectives of the UNEP BSP.
b. *Gender balance*. Ascertain to what extent project design, implementation and monitoring have taken into consideration: (i) possible gender inequalities in access to and the control over natural resources; (ii) specific vulnerabilities of women and children to environmental degradation or disasters; and (iii) the role of women in mitigating or adapting to environmental changes and engaging in environmental protection and rehabilitation. Are the project intended results contributing to the realization of international GE (Gender Equality) norms and agreements as reflected in the UNEP Gender Policy and Strategy, as well as to regional, national and local strategies to advance HR & GE?
c. *Human rights based approach (HRBA) and inclusion of indigenous peoples issues, needs and concerns*. Ascertain to what extent the project has applied the UN Common Understanding on HRBA. Ascertain if the project is in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, and pursued the concept of free, prior and informed consent.
d. *South-South Cooperation.* This is regarded as theexchange of resources, technology, and knowledge between developing countries. Briefly describe any aspects of the project that could be considered as examples of South-South Cooperation.

46. Based on an analysis of project stakeholders, the evaluation should assess the relevance of the project intervention to key stakeholder groups.

5.1.2 Achievement of Outputs

47. The evaluation will assess, for each component, the project's success in producing the programmed outputs and milestones as presented in Table 2 and Table 3 above, both in quantity and quality, as well as their usefulness and timeliness.

48. Briefly explain the reasons behind the success (or failure) of the project in producing its different outputs and meeting expected quality standards, cross-referencing as needed to more detailed explanations provided under Section F (which covers the processes affecting attainment of project results). Were key stakeholders appropriately involved in producing the programmed outputs?

5.1.3 Effectiveness: Attainment of Objectives and Planned Results

49. The evaluation will assess the extent to which the project's objectives were effectively achieved or are expected to be achieved.

50. **The Theory of Change (ToC)** of a project depicts the causal pathways from project outputs (goods and services delivered by the project) through outcomes (changes resulting from the use made by key stakeholders of project outputs) towards impact (long term changes in environmental benefits and living conditions). The ToC will also depict any intermediate changes required between project outcomes and

[12] http://www.unep.org/GC/GC23/documents/GC23-6-add-1.pdf

impact, called 'intermediate states'. The ToC further defines the external factors that influence change along the major pathways; i.e. factors that affect whether one result can lead to the next. These external factors are either drivers (when the project has a certain level of control) or assumptions (when the project has no control). The ToC also clearly identifies the main stakeholders involved in the change processes.

51. The MTE of MedPartnership Project (regional component) had already reconstructed the ToC of the project based on a review of project documentation and stakeholder interviews. For this evaluation, the evaluators are expected to update the current ToC in view of the addition of the ClimVar Project half way during project implementation, test the project against it and ensure that it explains the project based on what happens on the ground. The evaluators are expected to discuss the reconstructed TOC with the stakeholders during evaluation missions and/or interviews in order to ascertain the causal pathways identified and the validity of impact drivers and assumptions described in the TOC. This exercise will also enable the consultant to address some of the key evaluation questions and make adjustments to the TOC as appropriate.

52. The assessment of effectiveness will be structured in three sub-sections:

    (e) Evaluation of the **achievement of outcomes as defined in the reconstructed ToC**. These are the first-level outcomes expected to be achieved as an immediate result of project outputs. For this project, the main question will be to what extent the project has contributed to the immediate outcomes.
    Other key questions:
    - Did the project help to among key target audiences (international conventions and initiatives, national level policy-makers, regional and local policy-makers, resource managers and practitioners).
    - Did the outputs of the project articulate options and recommendations for? Were these options and recommendations used? If so by whom?
    - To what extent did the project outputs produced have the weight of scientific authority and credibility necessary to influence policy makers and other key audiences?

    (f) Assessment of the likelihood of impact using a Review of Outcomes to Impacts (ROtI) approach[13]. The evaluation will assess to what extent the project has to date contributed, and is likely in the future to further contribute, to [intermediate states], and the likelihood that those changes in turn to lead to positive changes in the natural resource base, benefits derived from the environment and human well-being.

    (g) Evaluation of the achievement of the formal project overall objective, overall purpose, goals and component outcomes using the project's own results statements as presented in the Project Document[14]. This sub-section will refer back where applicable to the preceding sub-sections (a) and (b) to avoid repetition in the report. To measure achievement, the evaluation will use as much as appropriate the indicators for achievement proposed in the Logical Framework (Logframe) of the project, adding other relevant indicators as appropriate. Briefly explain what factoK5rs affected the project's success in achieving its objectives, cross-referencing as needed to more detailed explanations provided under Section F. Most commonly, the overall objective is a higher level result to which the project is intended to contribute. The section will describe the actual or likely contribution of the project to the objective.

    (h) The evaluation should, where possible, disaggregate outcomes and impacts for the key project stakeholders. It should also assess the extent to which HR and GE were integrated in the Theory of Change and results framework of the intervention and to what degree participating institutions/organizations changed their policies or practices thereby leading to the fulfilment of Human Rights and GE principles (e.g. new services, greater responsiveness, resource re-allocation, etc.)

[13] Guidance material on Theory of Change and the ROtI approach is available from the Evaluation Office.

[14] Or any subsequent**formally approved** revision of the project document or logical framework.

5.1.4 Sustainability and replication

53. Sustainability is understood as the probability of continued long-term project-derived results and impacts after the external project funding and assistance ends. The evaluation will identify and assess the key conditions or factors that are likely to undermine or contribute to the persistence of benefits. Some of these factors might be direct results of the project while others will include contextual circumstances or developments that are not under control of the project but that may condition the sustainability of benefits. The evaluation should ascertain to what extent follow-up work has been initiated and how project results will be sustained and enhanced over time. The reconstructed ToC will assist in the evaluation of sustainability, as the drivers and assumptions required to achieve higher-level results are often similar to the factors affecting sustainability of these changes.

54. Four aspects of sustainability will be addressed:

(i) *Socio-political sustainability.* Are there any social or political factors that may influence positively or negatively the sustenance of project results and progress towards impacts? Is the level of ownership by the main stakeholders sufficient to allow for the project results to be sustained? Are there sufficient government and other key stakeholder awareness, interests, commitment and incentives? Did the project conduct 'succession planning' and implement this during the life of the project? Was capacity building conducted for key stakeholders? Did the intervention activities aim to promote (and did they promote) positive sustainable changes in attitudes, behaviours and power relations between the different stakeholders? To what extent has the integration of Human Rights and Gender Equality led to an increase in the likelihood of sustainability of project results? Additionally:
To what extent the management response has been able to adjust the scope of activities and ensure effective implementation in countries where political and social turmoil has significantly affected security conditions and/or the political sustainability of any intervention?

(j) *Financial resources.* To what extent are the continuation of project results and the eventual impact of the project dependent on financial resources? What is the likelihood that adequate financial resources[15] will be or will become available to use capacities built by the project? Are there any financial risks that may jeopardize sustenance of project results and onward progress towards impact?

(k) *Institutional framework.* To what extent is the sustenance of the results and onward progress towards impact dependent on issues relating to institutional frameworks and governance? How robust are the institutional achievements such as governance structures and processes, policies, sub-regional agreements, legal and accountability frameworks etc. required to sustaining project results and to lead those to impact on human behaviour and environmental resources, goods or services?

(l) *Environmental sustainability.* Are there any environmental factors, positive or negative, that can influence the future flow of project benefits? Are there any project outputs or higher level results that are likely to affect the environment, which, in turn, might affect sustainability of project benefits? Are there any foreseeable negative environmental impacts that may occur as the project results are being up-scaled?

(m) Likelihood of replication of methodologies and practices in eligible countries beyond the life span of the project. Is there any replication strategy in place?

55. **Catalytic role and replication**. The *catalytic role* of UNEP interventions is embodied in their approach of supporting the creation of an enabling environment and of investing in pilot activities which are innovative and showing how new approaches can work. UNEP also aims to support activities that upscale new approaches to a national, regional or global level, with a view to achieve sustainable global environmental benefits. The evaluation will assess the catalytic role played by this project, namely to what extent the project has:

[15] Those resources can be from multiple sources, such as the national budget, public and private sectors, development assistance etc.

(n) *catalyzed behavioural changes* in terms of use and application, by the relevant stakeholders, of capacities developed;
(o) provided *incentives* (social, economic, market based, competencies etc.) to contribute to catalyzing changes in stakeholder behaviour;
(p) contributed to *institutional changes*, for instance institutional uptake of project-demonstrated technologies, practices or management approaches;
(q) contributed to *policy changes* (on paper and in implementation of policy);
(r) contributed to sustained follow-on financing (*catalytic financing*) from Governments, private sector, donors etc.;
(s) created opportunities for particular individuals or institutions ("*champions*") to catalyze change (without which the project would not have achieved all of its results).

56. *Replication* is defined as lessons and experiences coming out of the project that are replicated (experiences are repeated and lessons applied in different geographic areas) or scaled up (experiences are repeated and lessons applied in the same geographic area but on a much larger scale and funded by other sources). The evaluation will assess the approach adopted by the project to promote replication effects and determine to what extent actual replication has already occurred, or is likely to occur in the near future. What are the factors that may influence replication and scaling up of project experiences and lessons?

5.1.5 Efficiency

57. The evaluation will assess the cost-effectiveness and timeliness of project execution. It will describe any cost- or time-saving measures put in place in attempting to bring the project as far as possible in achieving its results within its (severely constrained) secured budget and (extended) time. It will also analyse how delays, if any, have affected project execution, costs and effectiveness. Wherever possible, costs and time over results ratios of the project will be compared with that of other similar interventions. The evaluation will also assess the extent to which HR and GE were allocated specific and adequate budget in relation to the results achieved.

58. The evaluation will give special attention to efforts by the project teams to make use of/build upon pre-existing institutions, agreements and partnerships, data sources, synergies and complementarities with other initiatives, programmes and projects etc. to increase project efficiency.

5.1.6 Factors and processes affecting project performance

59. **Preparation and readiness**. This criterion focusses on the quality of project design and preparation. Were project stakeholders[16] adequately identified and were they sufficiently involved in project development and ground truthing e.g. of proposed timeframe and budget? Were the project's objectives and components clear, practicable and feasible within its timeframe? Were the capacities of executing agencies properly considered when the project was designed? Was the project document clear and realistic to enable effective and efficient implementation? Were the partnership arrangements properly identified and the roles and responsibilities negotiated prior to project implementation? Were counterpart resources (funding, staff, and facilities) and enabling legislation assured? Were adequate project management arrangements in place? Were lessons from other relevant projects properly incorporated in the project design? What factors influenced the quality-at-entry of the project design, choice of partners, allocation of financial resources etc.? Were any design weaknesses mentioned in the Project Review Committee minutes at the time of project approval adequately addressed?

60. **Project implementation and management**. This includes an analysis of implementation approaches used by the project, its management framework, the project's adaptation to changing, the performance of the implementation arrangements and partnerships, relevance of changes in project design, and overall performance of project management. The evaluation will:

[16] Stakeholders are the individuals, groups, institutions, or other bodies that have an interest or 'stake' in the outcome of the project. The term also applies to those potentially adversely affected by the project.

(t) Ascertain to what extent the project implementation mechanisms outlined in the project document have been followed and were effective in delivering project milestones, outputs and outcomes. Were pertinent adaptations made to the approaches originally proposed?

(u) Evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of project management and how well the management was able to adapt to changes during the life of the project.

(v) Assess the role and performance of the teams and working groups established and the project execution arrangements at all levels.

(w) Assess the extent to which project management responded to direction and guidance provided by the UNEP Task Manager and project steering bodies including, project management, coordination bodies and structures etc.

(x) Identify operational and political / institutional problems and constraints that influenced the effective implementation of the project, and how the project tried to overcome these problems.

(y) Effectiveness of the cooperation agreement (ICA) signed between UNEP DGEF and UNEP/MAP functioned

(z) PMU effectiveness in ensuring coordination of the Strategic Partnership, as well as the synergy between the regional component and ClimVar Project;

(aa) SPSC effectiveness (stemming from its composition, representativeness / relevant expertise by national focal points in all subject areas, regularity and frequency of meetings, and functioning feedback loop mechanisms in place);

(bb) Degree of collaboration with the WB's Investment Fund initiative, and how the move to the Sustainable MED Programme has affected project results.

61. **Stakeholder participation, cooperation and partnerships.** The Evaluation will assess the effectiveness of mechanisms for information sharing and cooperation with other UNEP projects and programmes, external stakeholders and partners. The term stakeholder should be considered in the broadest sense, encompassing both project partners and target users of project products. The TOC and stakeholder analysis should assist the evaluators in identifying the key stakeholders and their respective roles, capabilities and motivations in each step of the causal pathways from activities to achievement of outputs, outcomes and intermediate states towards impact. The assessment will look at three related and often overlapping processes: (1) information dissemination to and between stakeholders, (2) consultation with and between stakeholders, and (3) active engagement of stakeholders in project decision making and activities. The evaluation will specifically assess:

(cc) the approach(es) and mechanisms used to identify and engage stakeholders (within and outside UNEP) in project design and at critical stages of project implementation. What were the strengths and weaknesses of these approaches with respect to the project's objectives and the stakeholders' motivations and capacities?

(dd) How was the overall collaboration between different functional units of UNEP involved in the project? What coordination mechanisms were in place? Were the incentives for internal collaboration in UNEP adequate?

(ee) Was the level of involvement of the Regional, Liaison and Out-posted Offices in project design, planning, decision-making and implementation of activities appropriate?

(ff) Has the project made full use of opportunities for collaboration with other projects and programmes including opportunities not mentioned in the Project Document[17]? Have complementarities been sought, synergies been optimized and duplications avoided?

(gg) What was the achieved degree and effectiveness of collaboration and interactions between the various project partners and stakeholders during design and implementation of the project? This should be disaggregated for the main stakeholder groups identified in the inception report.

(hh) To what extent has the project been able to take up opportunities for joint activities, pooling of resources and mutual learning with other organizations and networks? In particular, how useful are partnership mechanisms and initiatives to build stronger coherence and collaboration between participating organisations?

[17] [If the ProDoc mentions any opportunities for collaboration with other projects and programmes, present these here in the footnote]

(ii) How did the relationship between the project and the collaborating partners (institutions and individual experts) develop? Which benefits stemmed from their involvement for project performance, for UNEP and for the stakeholders and partners themselves? Do the results of the project (strategic programmes and plans, monitoring and management systems, sub-regional agreements etc.) promote participation of stakeholders, including users, in environmental decision-making?

(jj) To what extent the ClimVar Project has successfully cooperated with the MedCLIVAR, and the CLIM-RUN projects from the perspective of climate variability and change, and ICZM? What have been the level and the results of cooperation with PEGASO project and the AMCOW/GWP Water and Climate for Development Programme (WACDEP) in Africa? Also the evaluation should assess the partnerships developed with WACDEP and PEGASO Projects.

(kk) Assess the efficiency and effectiveness of project management within MAP, and the role and performance of execution arrangements at all levels. Pay special attention to the way relationships with executing partners have been administered, the extent to which GEF focal points, MAP and RAC Focal Points, and the National Participating Institutions have been involved, and how smooth the relationship between the latter and the PMU has been;

(ll) Identify administrative, operational and/or technical problems and constraints that have influenced the effective implementation of the project, and how the project management and partners tried to overcome these problems;

(mm) Assess the quality of information provided by PMU and partners to the Coordination Group, and the effectiveness of the latter in ensuring overall coordination of the Strategic Partnership, as well as the synergy between the regional component and the investment fund;

(nn) Assess the effectiveness of the SPSC (stemming from its composition, representativeness / relevant expertise by national focal points in all subject areas, regularity and frequency of meetings, and functioning feedback loop mechanisms in place).

62. The existing ROtI analysis (developed during the MTE) should assist the consultant in identifying the key stakeholders and their respective roles, capabilities and motivations in each step of the causal pathway from activities to objectives to impact. The consultant should revise the current ROtI and update it based on the current changes and revisions of the project.

63. **Communication and public awareness**. The evaluation will assess the effectiveness of any public awareness activities that were undertaken during the course of implementation of the project to communicate the project's objective, progress, outcomes and lessons. This should be disaggregated for the main stakeholder groups identified in the inception report. Did the project identify and make us of existing communication channels and networks used by key stakeholders? Did the project provide feedback channels?

64. **Country ownership and driven-ness.** The evaluation will assess the degree and effectiveness of involvement of government / public sector agencies in the project, in particular those involved in project execution and those participating e.g. project Steering Committee, partnership arrangements:

(oo) To what extent have Governments assumed responsibility for the project and provided adequate support to project execution, including the degree of cooperation received from the various public institutions involved in the project?

(pp) How and how well did the project stimulate country ownership of project outputs and outcomes?

65. **Financial planning and management**. Evaluation of financial planning requires assessment of the quality and effectiveness of financial planning and control of financial resources throughout the project's lifetime. The assessment will look at actual project costs by activities compared to budget (variances), financial management (including disbursement issues), and co-financing. The evaluation will:

(qq) Verify the application of proper standards (clarity, transparency, audit etc.) and timeliness of financial planning, management and reporting to ensure that sufficient and timely financial resources were available to the project and its partners;

(rr) Assess other administrative processes such as recruitment of staff, procurement of goods and services (including consultants), preparation and negotiation of cooperation agreements etc. to the extent that these might have influenced project performance;

(ss) Present the extent to which co-financing has materialized as expected at project approval (see Table 1). Report country co-financing to the project overall, and to support project activities at the national level in particular. The evaluation will provide a breakdown of final actual costs and co-financing for the different project components (see tables in Annex 4).

(tt) Describe the resources the project has leveraged since inception and indicate how these resources are contributing to the project's ultimate objective. Leveraged resources are additional resources—beyond those committed to the project itself at the time of approval—that are mobilized later as a direct result of the project. Leveraged resources can be financial or in-kind and they may be from other donors, NGO's, foundations, governments, communities or the private sector.

66. Analyse the effects on project performance of any irregularities in procurement, use of financial resources and human resource management, and the measures taken UNEP to prevent such irregularities in the future. Determine whether the measures taken were adequate.

67. **Supervision, guidance and technical backstopping.** The purpose of supervision is to verify the quality and timeliness of project execution in terms of finances, administration and achievement of outputs and outcomes, in order to identify and recommend ways to deal with problems which arise during project execution. Such problems may be related to project management but may also involve technical/institutional substantive issues in which UNEP has a major contribution to make.

68. The evaluators should assess the effectiveness of supervision, guidance and technical support provided by the different supervising/supporting bodies including:

(uu) The adequacy of project supervision plans, inputs and processes;

(vv) The realism and candour of project reporting and the emphasis given to outcome monitoring (results-based project management);

(ww) How well did the different guidance and backstopping bodies play their role and how well did the guidance and backstopping mechanisms work? What were the strengths in guidance and backstopping and what were the limiting factors?

69. **Monitoring and evaluation**. The evaluation will include an assessment of the quality, application and effectiveness of project monitoring and evaluation plans and tools, including an assessment of risk management based on the assumptions and risks identified in the project document. The evaluation will assess how information generated by the M&E system during project implementation was used to adapt and improve project execution, achievement of outcomes and ensuring sustainability. M&E is assessed on three levels:

(xx) *M&E Design*. The evaluators should use the following questions to help assess the M&E design aspects:

- Arrangements for monitoring: Did the project have a sound M&E plan to monitor results and track progress towards achieving project objectives? Have the responsibilities for M&E activities been clearly defined? Were the data sources and data collection instruments appropriate? Was the time frame for various M&E activities specified? Was the frequency of various monitoring activities specified and adequate?
- How well was the project logical framework (original and possible updates) designed as a planning and monitoring instrument?
- SMART-ness of indicators: Are there specific indicators in the logframe for each of the project objectives? Are the indicators measurable, attainable (realistic) and relevant to the objectives? Are the indicators time-bound?
- Adequacy of baseline information: To what extent has baseline information on performance indicators been collected and presented in a clear manner? Was the methodology for the baseline data collection explicit and reliable? For instance, was there adequate baseline information on pre-existing accessible information on global and regional environmental status and trends, and on the costs and benefits of different policy options for the different target audiences? Was there sufficient information about the assessment capacity of collaborating institutions and experts etc. to determine their training and technical support needs?

- To what extent did the project engage key stakeholders in the design and implementation of monitoring? Which stakeholders (from groups identified in the inception report) were involved? If any stakeholders were excluded, what was the reason for this? Was sufficient information collected on specific indicators to measure progress on HR and GE (including sex-disaggregated data)?
- Arrangements for evaluation: Have specific targets been specified for project outputs? Has the desired level of achievement been specified for all indicators of objectives and outcomes? Were there adequate provisions in the legal instruments binding project partners to fully collaborate in evaluations?
- Budgeting and funding for M&E activities: Determine whether support for M&E was budgeted adequately and was funded in a timely fashion during implementation.
- Assess level of updating and realism of GEF 4 tracking tools

(yy) *M&E Plan Implementation*. The evaluation will verify that:

- the M&E system was operational and facilitated timely tracking of results and progress towards projects objectives throughout the project implementation period;
- PIR reports were prepared (the realism of the Task Manager's assessments will be reviewed)
- Half-yearly Progress & Financial Reports were complete and accurate;
- the information provided by the M&E system was used during the project to improve project performance and to adapt to changing needs.

5.1.7 The Consultants' Team

70. For this evaluation, the evaluation team will consist of a Team Leader and one Supporting Consultant. Details about the specific roles and responsibilities of the team members are presented in Annex 1 of these TORs. The Team Leader should have extensive evaluation experience, including of large, regional or global programmes and using a Theory of Change approach; and a broad understanding of large-scale, consultative assessment processes and factors influencing use of assessments and/or scientific research for decision-making. **The Supporting Consultant will have a solid environmental education and professional experience; adequate monitoring and evaluation experience; and experience in managing partnerships, knowledge management and communication.**

71. The Team Leader will coordinate data collection and analysis, and the preparation of the main report for the evaluation, with substantive contributions by the Supporting Consultant. Both consultants will ensure together that all evaluation criteria and questions are adequately covered.

72. By undersigning the service contract with UNEP/UNON, the consultants certify that they have not been associated with the design and implementation of the project in any way which may jeopardize their independence and impartiality towards project achievements and project partner performance. In addition, they will not have any future interests (within six months after completion of the contract) with the project's executing or implementing units.

5.1.8 Evaluation Deliverables and Review Procedures

73. The lead evaluator is also expected to prepare a 5-10 slide presentation summarizing the evaluation's scope and execution. This presentation will be presented by the UNEP Task Manager or the Lead Consultant at the next meeting of project stakeholdersin Athens from 03 to 04 November 2015. The purpose of this presentation is to introduce the evaluation to the project partners and ensure their active and effective participation in the evaluation process.

74. The evaluation team will prepare an **inception report** (see Annex 2(a) of TORs for Inception Report outline) containing a thorough review of the project context, project design quality, a draft reconstructed Theory of Change of the project, the evaluation framework and a tentative evaluation schedule.

75. It is expected that a large portion of the desk review will be conducted during the inception phase. It will be important to acquire a good understanding of the project context, design and process at this stage. The review of design quality will cover the following aspects (see Annex 7 for the detailed project design assessment matrix):

- Strategic relevance of the project
- Preparation and readiness;
- Financial planning;
- M&E design;
- Complementarity with UNEP strategies and programmes;
- Sustainability considerations and measures planned to promote replication and up-scaling.

76. The inception report will present a draft, desk-based reconstructed Theory of Change of the project. It is vital to review the prepared ToC (MTE for MedPartnership Project) and develop a new one including the ClimVar Project, *before* most of the data collection (review of progress reports, in-depth interviews, surveys etc.) is done, because the ToC will define which direct outcomes, drivers and assumptions of the project need to be assessed and measured – based on which indicators – to allow adequate data collection for the evaluation of project effectiveness, likelihood of impact and sustainability.

77. The inception report will also include a stakeholder analysis identifying key stakeholders, networks and channels of communication. This information should be gathered from the Project document and discussion with the project team. See annex 2 for template.

78. The evaluation framework will present in further detail the overall evaluation approach. It will specify for each evaluation question under the various criteria what the respective indicators and data sources will be. The evaluation framework should summarize the information available from project documentation against each of the main evaluation parameters. Any gaps in information should be identified and methods for additional data collection, verification and analysis should be specified. Evaluations/reviews of other large assessments can provide ideas about the most appropriate evaluation methods to be used.

79. Effective communication strategies help stakeholders understand the results and use the information for organisational learning and improvement. While the evaluation is expected to result in a comprehensive document, content is not always best shared in a long and detailed report; this is best presented in a synthesised form using any of a variety of creative and innovative methods. The evaluator is encouraged to make use of multimedia formats in the gathering of information eg. video, photos, sound recordings. Together with the full report, the evaluator will be expected to produce a 2-page summary of key findings and lessons. A template for this has been provided in Annex 10 (under construction).

80. The inception report will also present a tentative schedule for the overall evaluation process, including a draft programme for the country visit and tentative list of people/institutions to be interviewed.

81. The inception report will be submitted for review and approval by the Evaluation Office before the any further data collection and analysis is undertaken.

82. **The main evaluation report** should be brief (no longer than 40 pages – excluding the executive summary and annexes), to the point and written in plain English. The report will follow the annotated Table of Contents outlined in Annex 2. It must explain the purpose of the evaluation, exactly what was evaluated and the methods used (with their limitations). The report will present evidence-based and balanced findings, consequent conclusions, lessons and recommendations, which will be cross-referenced to each other. The report should be presented in a way that makes the information accessible and comprehensible. Any dissident views in response to evaluation findings will be appended in footnote or annex as appropriate. To avoid repetitions in the report, the authors will use numbered paragraphs and make cross-references where possible.

    Review of the draft evaluation report. The evaluation team will submit a zero draft report to the UNEP EO and revise the draft following the comments and suggestions made by the EO. Once a draft of adequate quality has been accepted, the EO will share this first draft report with the Task Manager, who will alert the EO in case the report would contain any blatant factual errors. The Evaluation Office will then forward the first draft report to the other project stakeholders, in particular in particular MAP RACs, UNIDO, FAO/GFCM, UNESCP/IHP, WWF, GWP-Med, MIO-ESCDE, WB METAP, and ClimVar's partners Plan Bleu, UNEP GRID Geneva/University of Geneva for review and comments. Stakeholders may provide feedback on any errors of fact and may highlight the significance of such errors in any conclusions. It is also very important that stakeholders provide feedback on the proposed recommendations and lessons. Comments would be expected within two weeks after the draft report has been shared. Any comments or responses to the draft report will be sent to the UNEP EO for collation. The EO will provide the

comments to the evaluation team for consideration in preparing the final draft report, along with its own views.

83. The evaluation team will submit the final draft report no later than 2 weeks after reception of stakeholder comments. The team will prepare a **response to comments**, listing those comments not or only partially accepted by them that could therefore not or only partially be accommodated in the final report. They will explain why those comments have not or only partially been accepted, providing evidence as required. This response to comments will be shared by the EO with the interested stakeholders to ensure full transparency.

84. **Submission of the final evaluation report.** The final report shall be submitted by Email to the Head of the Evaluation Office. The Evaluation Office will finalize the report and share it with the interested Divisions and Sub-programme Coordinators in UNEP.

    At UNEP/DEPI
    Director
    GEF Coordination Office
    Nairobi, Kenya
    Ms Christine Haffner Sifakis
    UNEP/GEF Task Manager for IW Africa Portfolio
    Mail: Christine.haffner-sifakis@unep.ch

    Mr. Gaeatano LEONE / Coordinator UNEP/MAP
    UNEP/MAP
    48, Vas.Konstantinou, 11610 Athens
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    Mr Rodney Vorley
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    Email: Rodney.vorley@unep.org

    MrKumikoYatagai
    UNEP/MAP
    48, Vas.Konstantinou, 11610 Athens
    Greece
    E-mail: kumiko.yatagai@unepmap.gr

    The final evaluation report will be published on the UNEP Evaluation Office web-site www.unep.org/eou.

85. As per usual practice, the UNEP EO will prepare a **quality assessment** of the zero draft and final draft report, which is a tool for providing structured feedback to the evaluation consultants. The quality of the report will be assessed and rated against the criteria specified in Annex 3.

86. The UNEP Evaluation Office will assess the ratings in the final evaluation report based on a careful review of the evidence collated by the evaluation consultants and the internal consistency of the report. Where there are differences of opinion between the evaluator and UNEP Evaluation Office on project ratings, both viewpoints will be clearly presented in the final report. The UNEP Evaluation Office ratings will be considered the final ratings for the project.

87. At the end of the evaluation process, the Evaluation Office will prepare a Recommendations Implementation Plan in the format of a table to be completed and updated at regular intervals by the Task Manager. After reception of the Recommendations Implementation Plan, the Task Manager is expected to complete it and return it to the EO within one month. (S)he is expected to update the plan every six month until the end of the tracking period. As this is a Terminal Evaluation, the tracking period for implementation of recommendations will be 18 months, unless it is agreed to make this period

shorted or longer as required for realistic implementation of all evaluation recommendations. Tracking points will be every six months after completion of the implementation plan.

5.1.9 Logistical arrangements

88. This Terminal Evaluation will be undertaken by two independent evaluation consultants contracted by the UNEP Evaluation Office. The consultants will work under the overall responsibility of the UNEP Evaluation Office and will consult with the EO on any procedural and methodological matters related to the evaluation. It is, however, the consultants' individual responsibility to arrange for their travel, visa, obtain documentary evidence, plan meetings with stakeholders, organize online surveys, and any other logistical matters related to the assignment. The UNEP Task Manager and project team will, where possible, provide logistical support (introductions, meetings etc.) allowing the consultants to conduct the evaluation as efficiently and independently as possible.

5.1.10 Schedule of the evaluation

89. Table 7 below presents the tentative schedule for the evaluation.

Table 7. Tentative schedule for the evaluation

Milestone	Deadline
TOR preparation	August
Selection of evaluators	August
Inception Mission – Final workshop	October-November
Inception Report -	November
Evaluation Mission –	December
Telephone interviews, surveys etc.	November - December
Note on preliminary findings and recommendations	January - February
Zero draft report	April 2015
Draft Report shared with UNEP Task Manager	
Draft Report shared with project team	
Draft Report shared with Evaluation Reference Group	
Draft Report shared with stakeholders	
Final Report	

Response to stakeholder comments

Response to stakeholder comments received but not (fully) accepted by the evaluator

EVALUATION PROGRAM

TERMINAL EVALUATION of ClimVAR and Medpartnership projects

Country' visits

Interview Questions

Please note, the following evaluation questions for two Projects

1- **Integrated Climate variability and changes into ICZM (ClimVar&ICZM project)**
2- **MedPartnership project**

Activities of both projects are:

- **Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to Implement the ICZM Protocol by the University of Geneva / GRID Geneva, PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu and GWP-Med**
- **Kerkennah demonstration site**
- Management of coastal aquifers includingcoastal wetlands by UNESCO-IHP
- National policy dialogue activities on IWRM byGWP-Med
- MED TEST by UNIDO
- Establishment of the management unit of theCap Negro-Cap Serrat MPA by WWF
- Development of the future MPA of Kuriat Islandsby SPA/RAC

- Evaluator to note the names of each interviewee, affiliation (or obtain business cards) and their specific role in the project and how long involved.

Overall view of project and impacts

a. Were you made aware of the projects goals and objectives from the start? Did you understand what the project was trying to achieve?
b. What is your overall impression of the project- has it helped the country, responded to the country's needs for management of coastal and marine resources and addressing climate change impacts, major strengths and weaknesses, etc.
c. What are the project's greatest achievements and impacts in the country? How has the country benefitted, who are the major beneficiaries?

Project achievements and effectiveness

a. To what extent has the project's achieved the following in the country:

1. Creation of an enabling environment for the integration of **Climate Variability and Changes(CV&C)** considerations into **Integrated Coastal Zone Development (ICZM)** policies, plans and programs of the countries;
2. Strengthening the understanding of the priority actions to tackle the adverse effects of **CV&C** on the coastal zones of the Mediterranean region and the development of information exchange mechanisms.
3. Provision of assistance to Tunisia in advancing their **ICZM** and **Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) planning;**

4. Facilitation of harmonized policy, institutional and legal reforms for the protection of biodiversity and pollution reduction from land-based sources consistent with the provision of the SAP MED and SAP BIO;
5. Execution of demonstration projects that address biodiversity protection, pollution from land-based sources and enhanced application of ICZM, IWRM and management of aquifers. Were the demonstration projects appropriate and successful in achieving their objectives?
6. Identified effective stress reduction measures to address specific sources of stress on marine and coastal ecosystems;
7. Enhancement of capacity in Governments to address the priority environmental problems and to incorporate climate change considerations into national planning. Was the capacity building provided adequate?

b. What major factors affected the project's success (or failure) in achieving its objectives?
c. Was data and information availability adequate?

Sustainability, replication and catalytic role

a. Are there any follow up activities to sustain the gains of the project? Is there institutional uptake or mainstreaming of project results in the country? Have any actions been taken to replicate the project experiences in other areas? Describe briefly.
b. Has the project influenced policy and decision-making in the country, if so, briefly explain how and/or give specific examples?
c. Are the project results being used in the country? If so, by whom and how. For example, are the results being used to design climate change adaptation programmes.
d. Has the project catalyzed action and changes in behaviour of stakeholders for management of the Med. Give examples?
e. What is the likelihood that adequate financial resources will become available to implement the programmes, plans, agreements, monitoring systems, etc. prepared and agreed upon under the project?
f. Are there any financial, institutional, political, social and environmental factors that may influence positively or negatively the sustenance of project results and progress towards long term impacts?
g. What strategy is in place for monitoring, lesson learning and replication? Is implementation continuing for the demonstration projects in the countries? What are the factors that may influence replication and scaling up of project experiences and lessons?
h. What is being done to extend training and to ensure that capacity is retained in the countries after end of the project?
i. If there is to be a follow up project, what should be the focus?

Stakeholder participation and Public awareness

a. Was there an adequate level of collaboration and interactions between the various project partners, national institutions, local communities, NGOs, the private sector and other relevant projects, etc?
b. Was there adequate consultation with stakeholders in developing and executing project activities?
c. Were awareness raising activities adequate and did the project help to raise a significant level of awareness? Are awareness raising activities continuing following end of the project?
d. To what extent has the project provided incentives and created opportunities for particular individuals or institutions ("champions") to catalyze change.

e. Was there an adequate level of communication among partners and stakeholders during the project? Did you receive information in a timely manner throughout the project and were there appropriate communication channels for 2-way communication?
f. Have the project results been widely disseminated? Do you have access to the project outputs?
g. To what extent did the policies, strategies and plans developed consider gender? To what extent were women and other vulnerable groups taken into consideration in the project activities?
h. Has the project had any adverse gender effects - on women or men?

Country Ownership and Driven-ness

a. Has the government assumed responsibility for the project and provided adequate support and commitment to project execution?
b. Has an Inter-ministerial committee been set up, how well did it function, and is it still functioning?
c. What is the level of ownership by the main national and local stakeholders- low, high?
d. To what extent has the political and institutional framework of the country been conducive to (supported) project performance?
e. Were the expectations regarding the country's support and contribution to the project (e.g. staff time, financial support, facilities) understood by the relevant persons in the country? Were there any difficulties in meeting these expectations?

Performance of PMU and partners

a. Has the technical support provided by the PMU or partners been adequate? If not, explain what was lacking.
b. Are you satisfied with the responsiveness of the PMU and partners when there were any problems or when support or information was needed?
c. Were any major problems encountered in project management and execution and how were they addressed? Explain.
d. Did the partners have adequate expertise and capacity for execution of their respective components?

What are the key lessons learned?

Do you have any major recommendations that can help improve design and implementation of other projects.

I. Frist Country : TUNISIA

Activities of ClimVar and Medpartnership

- Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to Implement the ICZM Protocol by the University of Geneva / GRID Geneva, PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu and GWP-Med
- Kerkennah demonstration site
- Management of coastal aquifers including coastal wetlands by UNESCO-IHP
- National policy dialogue activities on IWRM by GWP-Med
- MED TEST by UNIDO
- Establishment of the management unit of the Cap Negro-Cap Serrat MPA by WWF
- Development of the future MPA of Kuriat Islands by SPA/RAC

List of the stakeholders and policy makers of Medpartnership

- Mr. Mohamed Ali Temessek (Medpartnership Focal Point), ", Ministry of Environment

- Mr.Nabil Hamada, General Director , Ministry of Environment
- Ms.Kawther TLICHE –Director of APAL, Ministry of Environment
- Mrs.SabaGuellauz--- MPA focal point at APAL.
- Mr. Adel hakim Aissawi --- Director of Ecology and combat Desertification
- Samira NEFZI – Ministry of agriculture
- Mrs. Rania BANI--- Ministry of Industry (Food production Company-ctaa)
- Mr Bakar TARAFIA --- FP of Phosphogypsum company
- Ms.Soha El Asmey --- Project Manager of MedMPA net
- Mr.Atef Leman – project officer of MedMPA net
- Mrs.Awatef Al Arabi Al Messai --- Focal Point of "Management of Aquifer", Ministry of Environment

➢ **Local stakeholders from demo sites visit (Kerkennah Island) 21st -22nd December**

Demo site focal point,

- M. FEKI Morsi : Regional Department – Coastal Agency –APAL , (morsitn@yahoo.fr ; tel : 00 216 97 266 586) -- Safax
- Faycal El MESHRI (00216 94 163 000): Municipality of Kerkennah
- M. KEBAILI Taoufik (00216 24 288 558) : Municipality of Kerkennah
- M. KACHOURI Nejib (mohamednejibkachouri@gmail.com ; Tel : 0021626 567 623): NGO El Majarra.
- Habib BEN SHEKHA (habib.be@hotmail.com), Agriculture Agency

  Three stakeholders from: NGO Association Kraten pour le Développement Durable, la Culture et les Loisirs (AKDDCL)

  - M. SOUISSI Ali (souissy-aly@yahoo.fr ; tel : 00 216 99 531 956)
  - Shafik WATBA,
  - Habib Khashar

II. Algeria Mission

All interviewswere organized at different directorate of the Ministry of Environment and Water resources

Activities of ClimVar and Medpartnership projects

- Algerian Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy by PAP/RAC Mr.Samir GRIMES, MAP focal Point
- Reghaia Coastal Plan implemented by PAP/RAC with the support of UNESCO-IHP and SPA/RAC - Ms.Soha El ASMEY & Mr Atef LEMAN(the interview done in Tunisia, in SPA/RAC-MedMPA and with PAP/RAC in Athens and via email)
- Management of Algerian coastal aquifers by UNESCO-IHP,HAOUCHINE Abdelhamid and Raouf HADJAISSA
- Pilot project on recycling and regeneration of used lubricating oils by MEDPOL Mme DAHLEB Faiza.

First Day 28/12/2015. 9:30 a.m. to 18:00 p.m.

- Ms. Naima GHALEM (MED POL Focal Point)-(9:00 to 10:30)
- Ms.Souad BOSUTIFA (project team)-(11:00 – 13:00)
- Ms.FaizaDahleb, (Director-& FP of Lube- oils uses). (15:00 to 18:00 p.m.)

Second Day 28/12/2015. 7:30 a.m. to 16:30 p.m.

- Mr. Samir GRIMES (ICZM PCR). (7:30 to 10:30)
- MakhloufBoutiba (10:30 to 12:00)
- Mr Khaber Omar (director of Coastal and water directorate) (12:00-13:00)
- RachidKhelloufi and (13:00 to 14:30).
- Mr.Rouf HADJ ESSA (14:00 to 16:30 p.m.)-Deputy Director and organizers of My mission

III. EGYPT Visit

All interviews were organized at the Ministry of Environment

First Day (17th Jan 2016) Ministry of environment, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)

- Mrs.HebaSharawy--- Medpartnership Focal point in Egypt
- Eng. ElhamRefaat Abdel Aziz ---- Manager of Integrated Management for PCBs Task General Director of Environmental Development Department
- Dr.ManalSamyFarag --- PCBs
- Mrs.SoherLabib ---- PCBs
- Dr.Nahed El Sayed El Arab----Ministry of water resources, Ground water Institute
- Mr. Mohamed Said Abdel warth ------- RAC/SPA Focal Point

Second Day (18th Jan 2016)- Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency

- Eng. Ahmed Abu El Seoud – Chief Executive of Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency and MAP Focal point.
- Mr. Mohamed Farouk Osman ---- Director of Environmental studies Directorate
- Ms.Hoda Omar --- GEF Focal Point
- Mrs.HebaSharawy-(Medpartnership FP) for wrap up

N.B; No activities of ClimVar in Egypt

Names of interviewees

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- *ClimVar project design document*
- *Medpartnership design document*
- *Med Climate Variability Logical Framework and revise results framework*
- *Med Climate Variability results' Framework (original and revised)*
- *ClimVarSTAP Scientific and Technical screening of the Project Identification Form (PIF)*
- *GEF Secretariat Review for FULL/MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECT*
- *ClimVar PRC chicklist*
- *ClimVar- Inception Report _ Feb 2014*
- *MedPartnership TE Inception report Regionalcomponent draft 1 HM*
- *Climvar Project supervision plan, with associated budget*
- *ClimVar& ICZMBudget Revision for the ClimVar Project (2012-2014)*
- *Barcelona Convention, ICZM protocol*
- *UNEP Programme Manual (2013)*
- *MTE report (Regional Component)*
- *Steering Committee meeting documents, including agendas, meeting minutes, and any summary reports*
- *MTE Implementation Plan (for MTE recommendations)*
- *ClimVar& ICZMImplementation Review Reports (PIRs)*
- *ClimVar& ICZMPRC Checklist*
- *ClimVar& ICZMProgress Report (2013)*
- *MedPartership website (*http://www.themedpartnership.org/*)*
- *MedICIP portal* http://medicip.grid.unep.ch/
- *Climvar Tunisia deomostration site (Kerkennah Island)* http://kerkennah.grid.unep.ch/
- *MedPartnership design document*
- *MedPartnership Logical Framework*
- *ClimVarBiblography_files*
- *UNEP GEF ClimVarProject Implementation Reports (PIR)*
- *Management memos related to Climvar project*
- *Other documentation of supervision feedback on project outputs and processes (e.g. comments on draft progress reports, etc.).*
- *Climvar Project revision and extension documentation*
- *Specific project outputs: guidelines, manuals, training tools, software, websites, press communiques, posters, videos and other advertisement materials etc.*
- *Medpartnership documents and outputs and any other documents deemed useful for the evaluation*
- *ClimVarSpecific project outputs: guidelines, manuals, training tools, software, websites, press communiques, posters, videos and other advertisement and awareness materials etc.*
- *Any other relevant document deemed useful for the evaluation*

PROJECT COSTS AND CO-FINANCING TABLES

UNEP BUDGET LINE/OBJECT OF EXPENDITURE as in UMOJA

UMOJA Categories	Total to 2014 (Umoja) US$	Expenditure 2015 US$	Expenditure 2016 US$	Total Exp To Date (Including Commitments) US$	Budget as restated per Umoja US$	Balance Of Budget US$
Staff & Other Personnel Costs (MAP)	135,821.81	106,283.00	13,036.25	255,141.06	225,634.68	-29,506.38
IP Direct	980,908.20	987,142.34	0.00	1,968,050.54	2,005,366.52	37,315.98
Travel	26,875.23	5,164.00	4,723.40	36,762.63	62,409.92	25,647.29
(MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT	133.88	90.00	0.00	223.88	5,133.88	4,910.00
Total costa	1,143,739.12	1,098,679.34	17,759.65	2,260,178.11	2,298,545.00	38,366.89

PRESENTATION

Any other communication and outreach tools used to disseminate results (e.g. power point presentations, charts, graphs, videos, case studies, etc.)

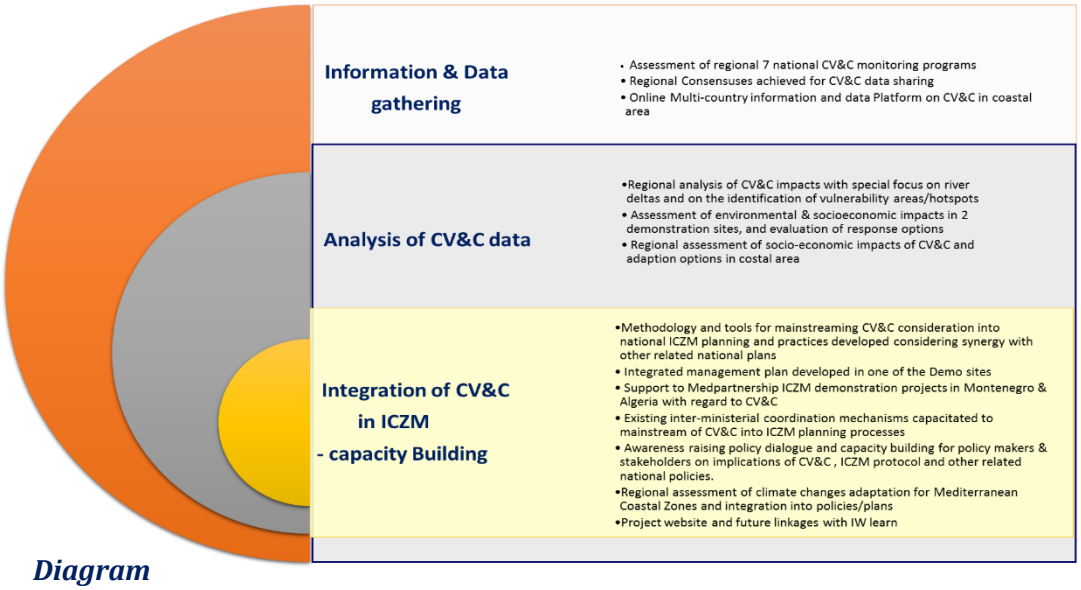

Diagram showing summary of the projectactivities

Some photos from Country' visits

1- Tunisia Visit

Consultant RÉSUMÉ

Prof. Suzan Kholeif, consultant

Prof. Suzan Kholeif, is an oceanographer, marine geologist and ecologist since 1984. She has a massive experience (28/8/1994- until date) in the field of climate changes, monitoring of marine pollution; coastal and land use, including map surveys tools on the coast (coastal topography), Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) of water bodies. Prof. Kholeif has gained skills in developing and managing both managerial and technical tasks, as is demonstrated through her work experience in the role of *Director of Scientific Documentation and Media Unit, Head of Marine Geology Lab and Director of National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Alexandria, Egypt*, as well as across several national and international projects and consultancies in the field of marine environment, climate change, Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) and management of fisheries and aquaculture. She also acquired a solid reputation as expert, consultant and evaluator, in the last 10 years at both national and international levels, especially in the field of water resources monitoring and planning and ICZM in Mediterranean countries (particularly in Egypt and North Africa countries), by developing guidelines for sustainable use and innovation methodology for management of wild resources, focusing on ecological cycles of the aquatic resources in the Mediterranean region and developing an Integrated Coastal Zone Management strategy of Nile Delta, Egypt, as well as capacity building and education guidelines for Egyptian scientists, and public sector.

Suzan Kholeif holds PhD of Marine Geology, Faculty of Science, Cairo University (with support of TU Berlin, Germany, with practical part, as a scientific channel), and promoted to Professor of marine geology (Climate change; marine pollution monitoring by bio-indicators), National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries-NIOF, Alexandria, Egypt.

Current Position: Director of National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries - Mediterranean and Northern Lakes Branch, Alexandria Egypt.

- Head of the Oceanography and food production Standing Committee for professors promotions