



WES-BCA
Water and Environment Support -
Biodiversity and Climate Action
in the Neighbourhood South region



Funded by
the European Union



Convention on
Biological Diversity



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
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WES-BCA INFO BULLETIN


HORIZONTAL ACTIVITY ON SUPPORTING THE WES-BCA PARTNER COUNTRIES IN PREPARING THEIR 7TH NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY REPORTS UNDER THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (UNCBD)

April 2026

Overview

As part of the “Water and Environment Support-Biodiversity and Climate Action (WES-BCA) project in the Neighbourhood South region”, a Horizontal Activity “Support for WES-BCA Partner Countries (PCs) in preparing their 7th National Biodiversity Reports (7NRs) under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)” (C1_HOR-3) was prepared and delivered by the WES-BCA experts. On the 21st of January 2026, a Regional Webinar was held, involving designated participants representing different stakeholders from the WES-BCA PCs.

Objectives

 The main objective of the activity was to provide targeted support to PCs by giving them the opportunity to discuss with the CBD Secretariat effectively aligning with the CBD, the Kunming-Montreal GBF, as well as the Mediterranean biodiversity commitments, but also benefitting as much as possible from relevant regional approaches including the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.

Its specific objectives were to:

- Strengthen the technical capacity of the PCs to align their 7NRs with CBD requirements and Mediterranean biodiversity commitments.
- Promote alignment between national strategies and regional frameworks to ensure coherence with the biodiversity commitments under the Barcelona Convention (United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and its protocols), the Union for Mediterranean (UfM) and relevant European Union policies and initiatives.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange, regional cooperation and peer learning on biodiversity challenges and commitments in the Mediterranean through webinars and coaching.
- Provide a “close-to-end” opportunity and easily accessible way for the PCs to clarify any questions, address uncertainties, fill in gaps and resolve challenges related to the preparation of the 7NR.

Methodology and Implementation

In order to design and implement the activity that was completed with a Regional Webinar, the following tasks were carried out:

Task 1: Communication with key actors and background assessment

Communication with key actors, such as the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), regional actors involved in biodiversity-related issues in the Mediterranean, Directorate-General for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf (DG-MENA), Directorate-General for the Environment (DG-ENV), UNEP/MAP and the UfM, was carried out, to discuss the outline of the collaboration for this activity and agree on the scope of the Webinar.

In parallel, a **background assessment** was carried out to identify recent challenges, gaps, and priorities in biodiversity reporting, based on feedback collected by the PCs concerning their progress on the preparation of the 7NR, the challenges and the clarifications needed by the SCBD.

In September 2025, a **short survey** was circulated among CBD Focal Points concerning the progress in the 7NR preparation and potential needs for assistance.

In December 2025, a **second survey** was circulated to identify questions, gaps, and challenges they were facing in the preparation of the 7NR, as well as to communicate their progress.

Feedback from PCs was collected and its assessment helped to refine the regional webinar agenda, inform the Q&A sessions, and guide the selection of speakers.

□ Task 2: Provide Coaching

Targeted support was provided, upon request from PCs, through [coaching sessions](#).

These sessions aimed to further strengthen technical and institutional capacities to ensure the timely finalisation of the 7NRs.

The key actions undertaken include:

Algeria: A WES-BCA expert participated in the Biodiversity Intersectoral Committee of Algeria convened to finalise the adoption of the NBSAPs aligned with the GBF, met with the national consultant for the preparation of the 7NR and the Algerian CBD focal point to discuss the results.

Tunisia: The WES-BCA Senior Biodiversity Expert in Tunisia met with CBD Focal Point of the Ministry of the Environment of Tunisia and senior officials. The WES-BCA expert was the keynote speaker at the opening session and contributed to the discussions during the national validation workshop of Tunisia's 7NR in February 2026.

Palestine: Under Activity C1_N-PS-1, the WES-BCA project provides technical support to Palestine's Environmental Quality Authority (EQA), serving as the National Focal Point, to facilitate the preparation of its 7NR to the CBD.

This activity, which aligns with the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), focuses on conducting a rapid stocktaking of existing data from the National Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) and the 2022 National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to identify information gaps and prioritise technical needs and provide support for the report.

A team of international and local experts assisted the EQA in interpreting national and global indicators and synthesizing data into the required CBD formats to support a comprehensive assessment of Palestine's progress toward its 17 National Targets.

This project team is collaborating with EQA to support the drafting of the 7NR.

□ Task 3: Organising a Regional Webinar on Reporting Structures and Indicators

The Regional Webinar on Reporting Structures and Indicators was organised on the 21st of January 2026. It provided a "close-to-end" opportunity and easily accessible way to clarify any questions, addressed uncertainties, filled in gaps and resolved challenges related to the preparation of the 7NR.

The Webinar was held online to allow for the participation of the PCs and the representatives of the SCBD. Indeed, 71 people attended the meeting, amongst which representatives of seven (7) PCs, as well as representatives of the SCBD, of the UfM, the Barcelona Convention's SPA/RAC, DG MENA, DG Environment of the European Commission, and IUCN.

Presentations were made on the EU's 7NR preparation, the activities of the Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centre (TSSC) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature-Mediterranean (IUCN) Regional Programme to organise coordinated technical and scientific support mechanisms for the implementation of the GBF in the Mediterranean region through the operation of the TSSCs.

Discussions were held among the representatives of the PCs on the status of 7NRs and technical issues related to the report's preparation.

□ Task 4: Compile a synthesis report

A synthesis report on the progress, outcomes of the horizontal activity and lessons learned was prepared.

Results

- ✓ The main result of the horizontal activity was to assist the PCs in addressing gaps and challenges in preparing their 7NRs to the CBD, ensuring they meet their commitment to submit the reports on time.
- ✓ It also provided a platform for dialogue between the representatives of the SCBD and the PCs to address the technical difficulties, gaps and challenges facing the preparation of their 7NR based on the report template contained in decision 15/6 of the COP and the revised template adopted by decision 16/32 in October 2024.
- ✓ The activity promoted the exchange of experiences and best practices among the PCs on the preparation of the 7NR.
- ✓ It offered a forum for the PC to seek clarification and technical support from the SCBD.



Useful Links

https://www.wes-bca.eu/activity/c1_hor-3-support-for-wes-bca-pcs-in-preparing-their-7th-national-biodiversity-reports-under-the-convention-on-biological-diversity-uncbd/



WES-BCA Project

The EU funded “Water and Environment Support-Biodiversity and Climate Action (WES-BCA) project in the Neighbourhood South region” is the continuation of the WES project and aims to improve the protection of the environment, the restoration of biodiversity and the management of scarce water resources, while enhancing the resilience to climate change in the Mediterranean region, strengthening the formulation and enforcement of the relevant policies of the PCs and the two regional political frameworks, namely the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Barcelona Convention.

For any further information on WES-BCA project, please visit: www.wes-bca.eu

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