

THIRD ANNUAL STOCKTAKING MEETING (ASM) OF THE MEDPROGRAMME

"The MedProgramme: Greater than the Sum of its Parts"

8-10 April 2025, Istanbul, Türkiye

Join Us in Writing the Future of the Mediterranean!

The GEF funded Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme) is more than a collection of projects, it's a powerful force for change, bringing together countries, partners, and sectors to drive environmental progress. We invite you to form part of this transformative journey, putting the pieces together, during the **Third Annual Stocktaking Meeting (ASM)**. Looking back to look forward, we'll build on collective achievements, share knowledge, and identify new ways for multiplying impact.

This year's theme, **"The MedProgramme: Greater than the Sum of its Parts"**, will guide our conversations. We'll explore how we can create a ripple effect through enhanced collaboration across projects, countries, and sectors. Through unconventional approaches and programming, stepping out-of-the-box, we unlock break throughs, which will lead to accelerated results for environmental security in the Mediterranean Basin.

Background

In the framework of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme) "Enhancing Environmental Security" (GEF ID 9607), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) / Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) is organizing the Third Annual Stocktaking Meeting of the GEF-UNEP Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme), convened in cooperation with the implementing agencies UNEP and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and the executing partners of the MedProgramme's eight (plus FishEBM) Child Projects. The meeting will be held in Istanbul, Türkiye, from 8 to 10 April 2025.

This is a unique opportunity to..

- ✓ **Share & Care** Exchange face-to-face with peers, partners, and experts from across the MedProgramme
- ✓ **Give & Receive** Share progress, success stories, challenges and solutions from the MedProgramme's eight Child Projects plus FishEBM, and receive insights and updates from the MedProgramme Coordinating Unit (MedPCU)
- ✓ **Connect & Play** Participate in interactive clinics, round tables, speed networking, and creative brainstorming sessions to identify cross-cutting opportunities
- ✓ **Write the Future!** Help define next steps and strategies for enhanced collaboration and impact

Tell me more!

Day 1: Integration is an art

We kick-off this year's ASM by exploring the meeting theme, integration, in an inspirational manner. What does it take to be greater than the sum of its parts? After setting the stage, we'll continue by revising the separate pieces of the puzzle, starting with the glue of the MedProgramme, Child Project 4.1 – an update on Gender, Communications and Knowledge Management activities. Subsequently, the implementation progress and way forward of the different Child Projects will be presented, preparing for the sessions on day 2.

Day 2: Putting the pieces together

This day will be fully dedicated to exploring key outcomes and progress, challenges and solutions of the different Child Projects. Through different styles of round table discussions, guided by experts and 'the arts', we deep dive into technical and social aspects of project implementation, challenges, synergies and integration of results.

Day 3: Closing the circle

To close the circle, the last day of this year's ASM finishes like it started, by exploring the concept of integration. We address cross-cutting issues spanning across the MedProgramme, which are at the same time relevant to ongoing conversations in the environmental space. Finally, we consolidate our findings, identify further potential for synergies, replication and integration, and outline the next steps for enhanced visibility, advocacy and joint delivery of a more interconnected MedProgramme.

*Note: This is not just a meeting; it's an invitation to **working sessions designed to co-create**. Your insights, expertise, and collaboration are what make the MedProgramme a thriving model for environmental cooperation.*

You'll be in good company

We are bringing together a diverse network of partners, including, but not limited to:

- Country representatives and technical experts of the UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention Network
- MedProgramme's implementing and executing agencies
- GEF Secretariat representatives
- Regional and global NGOs
- Project beneficiaries
- Private sector companies
- Media representatives

Inspired?

The MedProgramme Coordinating Unit (MedPCU) will support all logistical and meeting arrangements in line with United Nations rules and regulations. During the upcoming weeks, we'll reach out to key partners and countries to finetune the meeting agenda. A timetable for the agenda can be found in the Annex.

We hope you'll be part of the equation, making the MedProgramme truly Greater than the Sum of its Parts!

ANNEX
Timetable for the Third Annual Stocktaking Meeting of the MedProgramme
Istanbul, 8-10 April 2025

DAY 1 – 8 April 2025: INTEGRATION IS AN ART

09:00 – 9:30	Registration
09:30 – 10:30	Welcoming remarks: <i>Additional information will be shared in the upcoming weeks.</i>
10:30 – 11:30	Keynote lecture(s): “What’s in a name? The true meaning of integration.” <i>Name of speaker(s) and topics of presentation(s) will be shared in the upcoming weeks</i>
11:30 – 12:30	Session 1 Presentation of implementation progress and way forward of the different Child Projects, starting with the overarching Gender, Knowledge Management and Communications activities.
12:30 – 14:30	Lunch break
14:30 – 17:30	Session 1 (Continued) Presentation of implementation progress and way forward of the different Child Projects. Partner countries update on the different parts of the MedProgramme with a focus on potential synergies in countries. <i>Presentations will be developed with executing partners and countries prior to the meeting.</i>

DAY 2 – 9 April 2025: PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

09:30 – 12:30	Session 2 Round table discussions on challenges, synergies and solutions for integration of outcomes of Child Projects (nationally and regionally). <i>MedPCU will provide arts-inspired moderation and guidance for discussions streamlining themes, solutions and outcomes that can be cross-linked within and among the various working groups.</i>
12:30 – 14:30	Lunch break
14:30 – 17:30	Session 2 (Continued) Representatives of the working groups will provide a short presentation on the outcome of their discussions. <i>MedPCU will provide summary observations based on the discussions and presentations made by the working groups’ representatives, which will lead to the creation of an artwork for presentation of findings.</i>

DAY 3 – 10 April 2025: CLOSING THE CIRCLE

09:30 – 12:30	Session 3 This session is intended to synthesize the findings showcasing how the MedProgramme actions are contributing to wider global environmental management methods and tools. <i>This is illustrated through discussions of cross-cutting issues spanning across the MedProgramme including: Source to Sea, Social Sustainability and Gender equality, Collaborative Knowledge Management Mechanisms, Prevention of New POPs, Climate Change Adaptation, Sustainable Blue Economy</i>
12:30 – 14:30	Lunch break
14:30 – 17:30	Session 4 Conclusions and recommendations on the futureproof MedProgramme roadmap <i>How can the MedProgramme's aggregated impact leverage the greater policy agenda? (SDGs, MTS, UNEA, COPs)</i>
17:30	Closing remarks and conclusion of meeting

Contacts

- Ms. Shelley Farrington-Gavalas, Project Assistant, MedProgramme: shelley.farrington-gavalas@un.org
CC: Mr. Mohamad Kayyal, MedProgramme Management Officer: mohamad.kayyal@un.org