



UNITED  
NATIONS

EP

UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.82/3



UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

18 March 2016  
Original: English

82<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the  
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment  
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Athens, Greece, 19-20 April 2016

**Agenda Item 3: Progress Report for January-February 2016**

**Progress report by the Secretariat on the activities carried out for the period January-February 2016**

For environmental and cost-saving reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

UNEP/MAP  
Athens, 2016

**Table of contents**

	<b>Page</b>
<b>I. Introduction.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>II Main Activities/Outputs per POW theme linked to specific outcome.....</b>	<b>3</b>
1 <i>Overarching Theme: GOVERNANCE.....</i>	3
2 <i>Core Theme I: LAND AND SEA-BASED POLLUTION.....</i>	7
3 <i>Core Theme II: BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS.....</i>	9
4 <i>Core Theme III: LAND AND SEA INTERACTIONS AND PROCESSES.....</i>	11
5 <i>Cross-cutting Theme I: INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT (ICZM)...</i>	11
6 <i>Cross-cutting Theme II: SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION (SCP).....</i>	12
<b>III. Issues at stake for a sound implementation of the 2016-2017 POW.....</b>	<b>13</b>

## **I. Introduction**

1. This report covers the activities and outputs carried out in the period between 1 January 2016 and 29 February 2016.
2. The progress report is composed of a narrative part that highlights progress achieved and processes undertaken during this period under the 7 themes of the Programme of Work 2016-2017 (POW 2016-2017): Governance, Land and Sea Based Pollution, Biodiversity and Ecosystems, Land and Sea Interaction and Processes, Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), Climate Change Adaptation. The description of activities and outputs or processes is aggregated at strategic outcome level.
3. The Reports by the Secretariat on Specific Issues and on Financial and Administrative Issues are prepared as separate documents (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.82/6 and UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.82/5) respectively.

## II. Main Activities/Outputs per POW theme linked to specific outcome

### II.1 Overarching Theme: GOVERNANCE

#### **Strategic Outcome 1.1: Contracting Parties supported in the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols. Regional Strategies and Action Plans**

4. The present report will focus on the progress achieved with regards to the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 19) and its deliverables, the preparations for implementing the 2016-2017 programme of work (POW) through specific UNEP/MAP project documents (Secretariat, including MED POL as well as the other relevant MAP components). It will also address progress achieved with regards to external resource mobilization.

#### Organization of COP 19

5. At the kind invitation of Greece, COP 19 was held on 9-12 February 2016 in Athens, Greece. COP 19 took place at a decisive moment following last year's breakthroughs on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals at the UN Summit in September 2015 and on climate change in Paris in December 2015. It also coincided with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mediterranean Action Plan and of the Barcelona Convention.

6. The Ministers adopted the Athens Declaration in which they pledged to implement the instruments, programmes, action plans and guidelines adopted at COP 19 to prevent pollution from maritime transport, marine exploration, and land-based activities, to protect biodiversity, to manage coastal zones, and increase the resilience of the Mediterranean to the impacts of climate change, as crucial means for the achievement of the objectives of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD).

7. COP 19 was attended by more than 150 delegates from the 22 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and MAP Partners, including civil society, IGOs, NGOs, UN Agencies, etc. The UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner addressed the participants in a recorded message highlighting the proud record of the Barcelona Convention as being the only legally binding instrument that addresses the management of the unique ecosystem of the Mediterranean.

8. COP 19 took major strategic, programmatic and operational decisions on key environmental and sustainable development issues related to marine and coastal environment. It also approved the 2016-2017 Programme of Work and Budget of UNEP/MAP, including an increase of the budget of 3% and the provision to cover the costs of COP and other MAP governance related meetings from the MTF.

9. During COP 19, two memoranda of understanding (MoU) were signed with the Black Sea Convention and the ACCOBAMS secretariats respectively.

#### Resource mobilisation

10. In accordance with the MTS and 2016-2017 POW, the MED POL Programme in collaboration with the RACs, prepared two full project proposals on:

- a) Marine litter management funded by the EU in the framework of UNEP/EC Strategic Partnership. With the ultimate objective of achieving the Good Ecological Status (GES) of

the Mediterranean Sea, “the Marine Litter-MED” project aims to support the Contracting Parties from Southern Mediterranean/EU Neighborhood countries to implement the Marine Litter Regional Plan through the implementation of a number of measures envisaged in the updated NAPs prepared in the framework of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol. The project will be implemented from June 2016- May 2019, with a budget of 1,400,000 EUR.

- b) ENPI SEIS II Project funded by the EEA in the framework of UfM H2020 Initiative. The specific objective of this project is to improve the availability and access to relevant environmental information to the benefit of effective and knowledge-based policy-making in the ENP South region. The work under the current project will build on the previous joint EEA-UNEP/MAP cooperation activities within the preceding ENPI-SEIS project (2010-2015).

11. REMPEC implemented the activity “Assess funding opportunities for the implementation of the Offshore Action Plan” by undertaking specific measures such as initial discussion with IMO HRS for a possible call for secondment within the IMO secondment programme and initial discussion with the oil industry to co-finance offshore related activities from the POW 2016-2017.

12. Following the successful Steering Committee Meeting and Final Event of the MedPartnership and ClimVar and ICZM projects held in November 2015 in Athens, the terminal evaluation and closure of the two projects is ongoing. Coherently with the legal agreements signed at the beginning of the projects, the co-executing partners have until the end of March 2016 to submit to the Secretariat their final progress and financial reports. This information will be used to produce the final reports of the two projects by the end of April 2016. These inputs will also facilitate the closure of the terminal evaluation of the project which was performed by the UNEP Evaluation Office in Nairobi. Once finalized, the final reports and evaluations of both projects will be shared with the MAP Focal Points.

13. Based on the input given by the countries involved in the MedPartnership and ClimVar and ICZM projects, which recommended developing a comprehensive strategy and proposals to ensure continuity and follow-up on the activities implemented under the two GEF projects, the Secretariat has started to work on a proposal for a new regional GEF programme.

14. The new programme will allow the Mediterranean countries to develop a comprehensive, integrated and long-term actions to accelerate and support the implementation of the measures and action plans, to address on the ground the major transboundary issues of concern affecting the integrity of the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem. The preparation of the programme proposal is ongoing with the view to submitting it to the GEF Secretariat in the second half of 2016.

15. The complete draft of the new GEF programme proposal will be shared by May 2016 with the Contracting Parties (both GEF eligible and non-eligible countries). This will ensure ownership and wide dissemination and consultation process.

### **Strategic Outcome 1.2: Contracting Parties supported in compliance with the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, Regional Strategies and Action Plans**

16. The progress under this Strategic outcome specifically related to ratification, compliance and reporting is reported in document UNEP DEPI BUR 82/6 “Report by the Secretariat on specific issues”.

**Strategic Outcome 1.3: Strengthened participation, engagement, synergies and complementarities among global and regional institutions**

17. The Secretariat contributed to the preparation of H2020 Initiative Steering Group Meeting which reviewed the implementation of the POW adopted in December 2014 by the joint meeting of the H2020 Steering Group and the MED POL Focal Points. It co-chaired the H2020 Capacity Building sub group meeting held in February 2016 in Brussels back to back with the H2020 Initiative Steering Group Meeting. .

18. The meeting acknowledged that in less than one year in 2015, the EU funded SWIM project and UNEP/MAP through MED POL and SCP/RAC jointly organized successfully several capacity building activities addressing the NAP update, contribution to policy and technical guidelines formulation for a number of key sectors such as PCB, Lube oil, Mercury, tanneries, Waste Water, etc, including training.

19. Work is ongoing by the MED POL Programme to establish a regional coordination mechanism as a tool to support and facilitate the work of the Contracting Parties for the implementation of the Marine Litter Regional Plan. In this respect the Secretariat is making the final preparations for hosting the first meeting of key regional partners, including GFCM, ACCOBAMS, etc. in September 2016.

**Strategic Outcome 1.4: Knowledge and understanding of the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast enhanced through mandated assessments for informed policy-making**

20. The MED POL Programme is preparing a Roadmap for the development of the UNEP/MAP 2017 Quality Status Report. The process should be fully participatory involving UNEP/MAP components, inputs and peer review from the Contracting Parties as well as consultation with Partners.

21. One of the objectives of the EcAp-MED II project is to support the Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties to implement IMAP. The Secretariat informed the Contracting Parties about the project implementation and requested them to nominate project contact points. The EcAp-MED II project foresees also sub-regional monitoring activities.

22. Plan Bleu/RAC organized a specific science-policy workshop that took place in December 2015 in Sophia Antipolis, France. The outcome of this workshop, identifying the key science-policy gaps and stronger cooperation opportunities will be the basis for further work on science-policy interface in the Mediterranean region with regards to IMAP implementation.

23. In addition, the Secretariat is currently undertaking in collaboration with the concerned MAP components country capacity assessment for the implementation of IMAP, focusing on the needs of project eligible countries. This will enable planned national targeted trainings for IMAP implementation to start by early summer 2016.

**Strategic Outcome 1.5: MAP knowledge and MAP information system enhanced and accessible for policy-making, increased awareness and understanding**

24. The MED POL Programme is in close dialogue with INFO/RAC to ensure that the MED POL online database which was developed in 2012 is made available to all Contracting Parties to report their monitoring data and view their past reports. The online database has required some revision from the "testing phase" to ensure clear and easy accessibility and uploading of data. Also past MEDPOL data from 2000 is in the process of being re-uploaded by INFO/RAC into the system.

25. Work is ongoing to publish the Marine Litter assessment report 2015 (in English and French), the SAP MED /NAP implementation evaluation report (in English) as well as the results of the survey on lost fishing gears in the Mediterranean carried out in 2015 (in English).
26. The Guidelines on ESM on Mercury, Lead batteries, PCB, Lube oils and Tanneries were designed for publication on line with support from SCP/RAC. The publications were prepared in line with UNEP publication policy and will be on line by the end of April 2016.
27. As part of a programme of bilateral meeting with MAP components, INFO/RAC organized a web conference with SPA/RAC (18 February 2016) to present and discuss the state of play and operation of the InfoMAP platform and SPA/RAC information systems, including: network of users, data policy, Information and Communication Technology infrastructure, data content and information services provided. The review of future SPA/RAC data/information needs and requirements was performed, in order to guide the InfoMAP development in the long term perspective, as well as to identify and plan future activities of mutual interest.
28. INFO/RAC participated in the ActionMed Workshop “Gaps and Needs in data and information management infrastructures” (Venice, 25-26 February 2016), to present the state of play of the InfoMAP platform and discuss possible future coordination with EMODnet and other relevant regional information platforms. INFO/RAC ensured continuous Helpdesk service to access the Barcelona Convention online Reporting System.

#### **Strategic Outcome 1.6: Raised awareness and outreach**

29. COP 19 had an impressive coverage with the cooperation of all stakeholders. UNEP, UNEP/MAP and the Regional Activity Centres as well as 12 Contracting Parties/Ministries of environment shared the information on their websites in English, French and Arabic.
30. Concerning media coverage all the information was shared with the UNEP/MAP media list and the network of Mediterranean environment journalists. In total, the meeting was mentioned more than 200 times in articles and blogs in different languages. A number of interviews were made during the ministerial session, by the Greek TV and News Agency as well as the Turkish media.
31. All the COP 19 related news items were shared on the MedPartnership and UNEP Facebook pages. Their reach scored a total of 4896, with 2847 for the news on the Ministerial session only. All the coverage was sorted in a document available at the following link: <http://195.97.36.231/dbases/clippings/COP19clippings.pdf>
32. The Secretariat, the Contracting and the MAP Partners organized a number of side events:
- Tackling marine litter in the Mediterranean by UNEP/MAP-MED POL and MIO-ECSDE
  - Tools for Mediterranean conservation: The Atlas of Seamounts, the Red List of Anthozoans by IUCN
  - Introducing the Blue Card ship waste tracking system by Turkey
  - Applying ecological footprint accounting by Montenegro
  - Blue growth in the Mediterranean sea: The challenge of good environmental status - WWF MedTrends report By WWF
  - Conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean by ACCOBAMS and SPA/RAC
  - Paving the Road to Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Mediterranean - Greece and Integrated Maritime Policy - Israel by Israel and PAP/RAC

33. Apart from COP 19 related events, the SPA/RAC website and graphic charter were updated, and biodiversity related databases' systems were enhanced.

34. The Secretariat concluded the communication activities of the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM projects. Partners continue to share the documents prepared under the projects. An updated version of the bibliographies of the two projects is expected to be finalized by April 2016 pending on receiving all the documents from the partners. The project was also featured during the COP 19.

## **II. 2 Core Theme I: LAND AND SEA-BASED POLLUTION**

### **Strategic Outcome 2.2: Development or update of new/existing action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines**

35. REMPEC updated Principles and Guidelines on cooperation and mutual assistance, by secured 15,000 EUR from IPIECA – The Terms of Reference for the provision of services for the provision of consultancy services for the revision of the Principles and Guidelines were completed in February 2016 and the Call for proposal launched on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

36. Under the new Marine Litter Project expected to start soon, the provisions have been included for the development of the following tools in accordance with the Marine Litter Regional Plan:

- (a) *guidance document to determine the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, application of No-Special-Fee system;*
- (b) *risk assessment tool for identifying where in the Mediterranean accumulations of ghost nets pose a threat and should be removed*
- (c) *guidelines on 'Adopt a beach' best practice*
- (d) *template of legislation/regulation on the non-single use of plastic bags and Extended Producer responsibility with regards to plastic and microplastic materials*
- (e) *specific guidelines and training material to prevent the generation of plastics and wastes ending up as marine litter*

### **Strategic Outcome 2.3: Strengthening and implementation of marine pollution prevention and control legislation and policies at national level, including through enforcement and integration into sectorial processes**

37. The first consolidated drafts of the NAPs were delivered by most Contracting Parties. Work has started to support, also through the EU funded Action Med Project, a number of activities related to the preparation of a policy paper on new or updated programmes of measures to achieve GES with regards to pollution and litter ecological objectives adopted by COP 17 (Paris, France, 2012).

38. The MED POL Programme has started work to assess the information provided in the updated NAPs regarding in particular the status of hotspots and sensitive areas, loads of pollutants, operational targets to achieve GES, envisaged national programmes of measures, capacity building needs, list of indicators to assess the NAP implementation and priority project fiches.

39. The Secretariat has planned a regional meeting on the NAPs in collaboration with UfM Secretariat and MEHSIP Programme with the participation of national NAP teams. The objective of this meeting is to draft a roadmap for the implementation of the NAPs and identify key common priorities. The meeting will be an opportunity for the Contracting Parties to share



best practices, lessons learnt and challenges faced during the NAP update process and build capacities for better prioritizing the programmes of measures and elaborating the investment project fiches.

40. REMPEC has provided expertise for the development and implementation of the national preparedness and response systems by participating to the Stakeholder Consultation Meeting – National Oil Spill Contingency Plan – “Gap Analysis, Challenges and Way Forward”, Beirut, Lebanon, 11-12 February 2016, to contribute to the development of the Lebanese National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP). Moreover it supported the preparation of NAPs according to a common template including national assessment by securing €32,400 from IMO's ITCP.

#### **Strategic Outcome 2.4: Marine Pollution Monitoring and assessment**

41. MED POL undertook a review from the data of the MED POL Monitoring Programme (2000 to date) and from the Contracting Parties reporting. Short reports per country were prepared including the results of the 2015 Quality Assurance programme that will be shared shortly with the respective MED POL Focal Points.

42. The 2015 Quality Assurance programme for trace elements in sediment sample and chlorinated pesticides, PCBs and petroleum hydrocarbons in biota; and the Quality Assurance of data regarding eutrophication parameters; Biological effects studies and organization of an Inter-calibration exercise were successfully finalized. New activities to support countries in their monitoring and quality assurance activities are under preparation as provided for in the POW as well as EcAp-MED II Project.

43. The MED POL Programme also contributed to UNEP's global work through the preparation of the Mediterranean chapter on the Global Marine Litter assessment as well as the development of a set of UNEP Regional Seas Global Indicators, the DOALOS's report on Recent and Ongoing Assessments and reviewed the World Ocean Assessment<sup>1</sup>.

#### **Strategic Outcome 2.5: Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building**

44. REMPEC assisted in the development and implementation of the national training programme on response to oil and HNS spills by securing €18,500 from IMO's ITCP. It also implemented the project for Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline clean-up and Oiled Wildlife interventions – POSOW. Hence it launched a call for proposal for printing of training material. An invitation was sent to beneficiary countries (Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey) to nominate six (6) representatives to attend the Train the Trainer Courses to be held in April 2016, Brest, France.

45. SCP/RAC has allocated SwitchMed funds to launch and develop a number of SCP Pilot projects: (i) Concerning the project on giving value to co products of wineries through the composting of organic waste in Lebanon, a visit of a Lebanese Delegation in Spain is planned and work plan update on-going, (ii) Concerning the project on developing a solution for onsite biogas production in farms and cooperatives in Morocco, the interviews were conducted and a detailed project proposal and budget were developed, (iii) Concerning the SCP project proposals in Algeria, the proposals were evaluated, the projects to be visited were pre-selected, and the country mission is in preparation, and finally (iv) concerning the project on giving value to co products of organic olive oil production in Tunisia, interviews were conducted and the project proposal and budget are under preparation.

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.un.org/depts/los/global\\_reporting/WOA\\_RegProcess.htm](http://www.un.org/depts/los/global_reporting/WOA_RegProcess.htm)

46. The new Marine Litter Project expected to start soon will have a strong national component with pilots to be implemented by the southern Mediterranean countries to ensure a better management of sea-based litter in ports; to enhance the regulatory framework related to non-single use of plastic bags and promote EPR; to support the implementation of Fishing for Litter guidelines adopted by COP 19; to implement “Adopt a Beach” system, and to contribute to the assessment of impacts of marine litter and micro litter in biota with a particular focus on endangered species.

**Strategic Outcome 2.6: Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels to prevent and control marine pollution**

47. REMPEC supported the organization of sub regional joint activities and meetings by securing €8,000 from IMO's ITCP. It also supported the participation of Adriatic countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro) to the Third Adriatic Spill Conference, May 2016, Opatija, Croatia to discuss bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Moreover it organized a technical regional workshop (MEDEXPOL) and a high level meeting on cooperation arrangements in the field of preparedness and response to oil and HNS spills by securing €15,000 from IPIECA and €19,500 from IMO's ITCP.

48. REMPEC maintained the level of preparedness of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU), for assisting the Contracting Parties in case of emergency by exchanging with FEDERCHIMICA and ISPRA on insurance related issues and liaising with IMO to possibly include MAU experts in IMO insurance. Finally it prepared 2 project documents and implemented the Marine Oil and HNS Pollution in the Western Mediterranean Region (West MOPoCo and West MOPoEx) by drafting a project proposal coordinated by REMPEC in collaboration with Algeria, France (Cedre), Italy (ISPRA), Libya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia as well as IMO, ITOPIF, IPIECA and RAMOGE.

**II. 3 Core Theme II: BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS**

**Strategic Outcome 3.1: Strengthening regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention, and its relevant Protocols and other instruments**

49. SPA/RAC helped in maintaining, updating and improving the database on MPAs in the Mediterranean (MAPAMED), including relevant regional inventories and systems of sites of conservation interest. It elaborated the 2016 MPA Status Report by continuing, with MedPAN, the data collection campaign among SPA/RAC focal points and Mediterranean MPA managers. The collected data will serve for updating the MAPAMED database and undertaking an assessment of the regional MPA system, which will be published as the “2016 Mediterranean MPA Status Report” (following the previous one published in 2012). The online version of MAPAMED database has not been updated since 2012 due to technical problems. However, and thanks to the continuous data collection efforts, an up-to-date version of MAPAMED dataset is available at SPA/RAC and MedPAN and can be provided upon request.

50. SPA/RAC contributed to the activity related to the 2016 Mediterranean MPA Forum (second edition) in collaboration with MedPAN and other relevant partners.

51. SPA/RAC, MedPAN and the High Commission for Water, Forests and Desertification Control of Morocco organized on 1 March 2016 in Rabat, the first meeting of the Steering Committee of the 2016 Forum of MPAs in the Mediterranean. This meeting was preceded on 29 February 2016, by a meeting with Mr. High Commissioner for Water, Forests and

Desertification Control. The Forum will be held from 28 November to 1 December 2016 in Tangiers and will provide a unique opportunity for managers, policy-makers, socio-economic actors, civil society and the scientific community to address the challenges of MPAs in the Mediterranean in view of the 2020 Aichi Targets deadline. Representatives of ACCOBAMS, City of Marseille, Conservatoire du Littoral, French MPA Agency, IUCN, MedWet, Plan Bleu, Tour du Valat and WWF were participants to the Steering Committee.

**Strategic Outcome 3.2: Development of new action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines for the conservation of Coastal and Marine biodiversity and ecosystems**

52. REMPEC supported the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management and Action Plan by securing €12,000 from IMO's ITCP. €45,000 was secured from Globallast Partnership Programme. Finally REMPEC supported the participation of Mediterranean countries to the 6th IMO-GloBallast R&D Forum, Montreal, Canada, 16-18 March 2016.

53. Concerning the implementation of the Regional Strategy for the conservation of the Monk seal in the Mediterranean and the updated cetaceans Action Plan, SPA/RAC is implementing, as ACCOBAMS Sub-regional Coordination Unit for the Mediterranean region, the Project on mitigating interactions between endangered marine species and fishing activities in collaboration with ACCOBAMS and GFCM (project financed by the MAVA Foundation).

54. In this regard, two Memoranda of Understanding have been signed between SPA/RAC, ACCOBAMS and INSTM (National Institute for Marine Science and Technology of Tunisia) to carry out two pilot actions in Tunisia related to: (i) purse seine small pelagic fisheries in Kelibia, and (ii) bottom and surface longline fisheries in the Gulf of Gabes. SPA/RAC is also contributing in the implementation of the Component II of this project related to the promotion of ecotourism in Tunisia and Morocco.

55. Concerning the maintenance and further development of the Marine Mediterranean Invasive Alien Species Database (MAMIAS), in the framework of the Action Plan concerning species introductions and invasive species in the Mediterranean Sea and as provided for in the IMAP SPA/RAC started the organization of an ad hoc meeting to discuss criteria to declare an alien species invasive in the Mediterranean Sea, which will be used for the proper running of the Early Warning System part of MAMIAS.

56. This ad hoc meeting will take place on 24 April 2016 in Hammamet (Tunisia) back-to-back with the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference of the Tunisian Association of Taxonomy (22-24 April 2016).

57. SPA/RAC also made the necessary arrangements to support the participation of 3 Mediterranean experts to take part in the EuroMarine workshop on "Management of Bio-invasions in the Mediterranean Sea - the way forward (Ischia-Naples, Italy, 4-5 May 2016).

**Strategic Outcome 3.4: Monitoring, inventory and assessment of biodiversity with focus on endangered and threatened species, non-indigenous species and key habitats**

58. Concerning the support of the development and regional harmonization of country specific monitoring plans for biodiversity and NIS and in order to assist the Southern Mediterranean countries in establishing their country-specific IMAP Monitoring Plans, SPA/RAC has started the work for the preparation of the monitoring and assessment programme Guidelines in coherence with IMAP.

59. With the view to start the assessment of the progress made in implementing the Roadmap on MPAs by the Contracting Parties SPA/RAC has initiated the process for evaluating the implementation of the “Regional Work Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean including the High Sea”, supported by the “Roadmap for a Comprehensive Coherent Network of Well-Managed MPAs to Achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean”. This process will be run in a parallel and in a complementary way with the “mid-tem” evaluation of the MPA Roadmap (resulting from the 2012 Forum of MPAs in the Mediterranean, Antalya, November 2012) that will be presented at the 2016 edition of the MPA Forum (Tangiers, Morocco, 28 November-1 December 2016).

**Strategic Outcome 3.6: Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels to protect and conserve biodiversity and ecosystems**

60. The preparation of the draft joint strategy between SPA/RAC, ACCOBAMS, GFCM and IUCN with the collaboration of MedPAN is ongoing. The objective is to ensure the development and implementation of an agreed strategic framework for the activities related to Mediterranean marine spatial management and conservation measures with key regional Bodies. The joint strategy includes a guiding document on necessary steps towards a joint proposal for the establishment and management of area-based measures at multinational level. The draft guiding document has been prepared and is currently being jointly revised by all the concerned partners.

**II. 4 Core Theme III: LAND AND SEA INTERACTIONS AND PROCESSES**

**Strategic Outcome 4.2: Development of new action plans, programmes of measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines**

61. PAP/RAC undertook preparatory activities for the mid-term conference of the CAMP Italy to be held in Bologna on 21-22 March 2016. Moreover preparatory activities were held for the Land-Sea Forum within the CAMP France to be held in Grimaud (Var) on 30-31 March 2016.

62. The GEF Adriatic project proposal “Implementation of ecosystem approach in the Adriatic Sea through marine spatial planning” was finalized. PAP/RAC also contributed to the preparation, from the MAP National Focal Points and partners from the Adriatic region, of the project proposal “Portal of tools and data for sustainable management of coastal and marine environment” (PORTODIMARE) to be submitted to the ADRION call.

**II. 5 Cross-cutting Theme I: INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT (ICZM)**

**Strategic Outcome 5.1: Strengthening regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and of programmes of measures in existing Regional Strategies and Action Plans**

63. PAP/RAC finalized the reports on the MedPartnership and ClimVar and ICZM projects. It also completed the updating of the French version of the MedOpen on-line training course.

64. Work is starting for the preparation of the Mediterranean Regional Framework for ICZM and the conceptual framework for MSP. These two strategic processes will need large consultation including with the Bureau members, PAP/RAC and MAP National Focal Points.

**Strategic Outcome 5.6: Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels**

65. INFO/RAC provided technical advice and support to PAP/RAC for the development of a concept and technology of the ICZM Network. Moreover support was provided by INFO/RAC to the CAMP-Italy project, for the development of a customized SDI on the InfoMAP platform.

**II. 6 Cross-cutting Theme II: SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION (SCP)**

**Strategic Outcome 6.1: Development of new action plans, programmes of measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines and implementation of current ones**

66. SCP/RAC has managed to allocate SwitchMed funds to launch and develop 2 pilot projects in Tunisia, the creation of an ecotourism tour operator and the development of an ecotourism site. Interviews were conducted and the detailed project proposal and budget are being currently prepared.

**Strategic Outcome 6.3: Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building**

67. SCP/RAC is running in the 8 target countries the training programme on Green Entrepreneurship (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Palestine and Lebanon). Up to date, 3,500 applications have been received. 966 green entrepreneurs have started or have already completed the training programme and 30 green entrepreneurs will be eligible for the incubation phase. The selection process of a “High Level Jury” for the selection of the green entrepreneurs for the incubation phase is ongoing. Two National Workshops for civil society-led initiatives on ecological innovation were organised, one in Lebanon (February 19<sup>th</sup>–22<sup>nd</sup>) with 22 participants and one in Algeria (February 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>) with 20 participants. The selection process of the two best civil society-led initiatives on ecological innovation in Tunisia, Lebanon and Algeria is ongoing. 59 success stories on eco and social innovation solutions are posted in the ‘*The Switchers*’ platform ([www.theswitchers.eu](http://www.theswitchers.eu)). Finally the preparation of the National Synergy Workshop in Tunisia and Morocco is ongoing.

**Strategic Outcome 6.4: Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels to prevent and control marine pollution**

68. A Green paper for scaling up of the UNIDO MED TEST II activities is being disseminated. The second phase is kicked off, the report on the status of the sharing economy business models and study on open innovation platforms are being disseminated and missions to the European financing institutions are being made (Marseille, attendance at the CoopMed Social Impact Fund Launch).

69. Many industry and service providers, start-ups & entrepreneurs, civil society organizations corners of the Mediterranean SCP Hub are being constantly updated. The different stories for the Country Hubs section are in preparation. Approximately 2-3 news items per week are being posted. The preparation of the next newsletter and the social media accounts

are regularly maintained with the SCP Action Network reaching 1,000 members. The national stakeholder communities on the SCP Action Network are being informed with the last updates on the latest events. The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of SwitchMed Connect dates are already announced, it will be the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The venue has already been booked and an early draft agenda is being prepared.

### **III. Issues at stake for a sound implementation of the 2016-2017 POW**

70. The implementation of the ECAP-MED II project activities was affected by the delay of the PCA signature with the project partners due to UMOJA implementation.

71. The preparation of the new GEF programme is a complex and challenging process which requires extensive consultations with countries and programme partners. The quality of the programme and its capacity to tackle the main priorities in the region in line with the Mid-Term Strategy fully depends on the timely and quality inputs received from countries and partners. The same applies to the definition of its funding and co-financing needs which have to be set out consistently with the activities implemented and with the requirements of the donors.

72. The difficult situation in some countries slowed down the selection process of the SCP Pilot projects. Regarding the civil society training and support programme, the main challenge remains the fact that sustainable consumption and ecological innovation are still incipient and emerging realities in the target countries.

73. As discussed at COP 19, the Secretariat is concerned about the impact that limited resources approved to cover operational costs will have on the delivery of the activities. This is particularly relevant for some of the RACs. In the case of the Coordinating Unit, this is compounded by delays in the recruitment of staff, with currently more than half Professional positions being vacant.

74. Due to the postponement of COP 19 in 2016 and the subsequent delay in signing of the ProDoc, the time for the implementation of the 2016-2017 POW will be limited. Given the amount of activities to be completed, and in particular the time needed for the preparation of and consultation on the strategic processes such as the regional frameworks for ICZM and MSP, Status Quality Report and other important outputs, timely implementation is challenging.

75. The implementation of the proposed activities in the POW for the biennium 2016/2017 in relation to the Offshore Action Plan could depend on the secondment of Programme Officer (Offshore) in REMPEC, as the current staffing is mainly involved with the remaining and numerous activities scheduled for 2016/2017. Possibilities for such secondment are being envisaged including the possible vacancy announcement within the framework of the IMO Secondment Programme.

76. A number of activities under the leadership of REMPEC depend on the successful selection of submitted project proposals. Alternative sources of funding are being considered including within the private sector. Finally there could be use of unspent REMPEC's transition funds from the 2014-2015 biennium for unfunded activities or for activities requiring additional funding in the biennium 2016-2017.

77. Concerning information, the scarce funding made available to INFO/RAC may jeopardize efforts to develop and maintain relationships, networking and data/information sharing with the Contracting Parties.

78. An Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ, established under the umbrella of the UNGA completed its mandate in 2015. This may create difficulties in ensuring coordination and collaboration in the process towards the adoption of an implementing agreement on BBNJ under UNCLOS, from which the following expected outcome and related main activity of MAP POW emanates: Key output 3.7.1 “Coordination with the ongoing process towards the adoption of an implementing agreement on BBNJ” (namely concerning marine genetic resources, marine protected areas BNJ, and SIA) and the Activity: 1. Coordinate with the ongoing process towards the adoption of an implementing agreement on BBNJ (namely concerning marine genetic resources, marine protected areas BNJ, and SIA).