



UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECP.30/3



UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

9 November 2016
Original: English

30th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Valletta, Malta 5-6 October 2016

Report of the Meeting

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

	Pages
Report	1-9
Annexes	
Annex I	List of Participants
Annex II	Agenda

I. Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

1. The 30th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 5-6 October 2016, in Valletta, Malta. The meeting was chaired by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator and attended by the Heads of all MAP Components, as well as the UNEP/MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues. The list of participants is presented in Annex I to this report.
2. Mr. Gaetano Leone, UNEP/MAP Coordinator opened the meeting at 09.30 and introduced the provisional agenda.

II. Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work

3. The Coordinator welcomed the ECP members and congratulated them for the organization of several successful events that took place since the 29th ECP meeting. He especially congratulated REMPEC for hosting the 30th ECP meeting and for the successful 40th anniversary high-level meeting that took place on the previous day.
4. The Coordinator also referred to recent and upcoming events of global dimension on oceans and marine issues as great opportunities in terms of visibility and to promote the work of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention and showcase the Mediterranean region as an example for environmental governance. He highlighted as upcoming opportunities, the 2017 “Our Ocean” Conference to be held in Malta, the fact that Malta will hold the EU Presidency in the first semester of 2017, the G7 meeting to be hosted by Italy, the high-level Conference organized by France in January 2017 on “Mediterranean Plan for blue growth”, the IPCC Special Report on climate change and the oceans and the cryosphere, the High-Level UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14 (co-hosted by the Governments of Fiji and Sweden), with this sequence of events being concluded by COP 20 of the Barcelona Convention at the end of 2017.
5. In view of his future planned attendance to several high level meetings, the Coordinator highlighted the importance of communicating the identity and work of the UNEP/MAP system in a concrete manner. ECP members agreed on the need for a more targeted UNEP/MAP communication strategy. Several proposals were discussed, including the possibility for each Component to prepare a short text on the issue, the possibility to hire a branding/communication expert, the possibility to further engage the Task Force on Information and Communication under the ECP and the possible need for a retreat. The need to increase the capacity/resources on Information and Communication was also highlighted in this respect.
6. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda that was prepared by the Secretariat, document UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECP.30/1. INFO/RAC informed the meeting that he would like to make a presentation on the InfoMAP under Any Other Matters, if time allowed. The Coordinator and MAP Components agreed.
7. The participants addressed all items of the Agenda during their two days meeting.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Identification of needs on branding/image making	INFO/RAC	November 2016
2.	Each MAP Component to send to the Coordinating Unit a short text on: “Who we are? What are we doing? Where we are going?”	All MAP Components	November 2016

3.	Suggestions in order to identify external company/expert to help build a UNEP/MAP system image	MAP Components, according to their expertise	November 2016
4.	Organization of a retreat on the vision and visibility of UNEP/MAP	Coordinating Unit	2017

III. Agenda item 3: Follow-up to the 29th ECP meeting

8. The Coordinator presented a brief overview of the follow-up to the 29th ECP meeting based on the document UNEP(DEPI)MED ECP.29/3. He thanked ECP members for their inputs and responsiveness in having fulfilled the major part of Action Items within the deadlines set at the 29th ECP meeting.

9. The Coordinator gave the floor to all ECP members to discuss progress and actions to be taken in the near future. He also reminded of the progress related to resource mobilization, referring to the voluntary financial contribution of the Italian government and the importance of UNEP/MAP partners and donors in the UNEP/MAP system's work.

10. On pending issues, the Coordinator informed MAP Components that the Planning and Priorities Tables was still under review by the Secretariat. Furthermore, regarding the introduction of a new template of the Host Country Agreements it was recognized that the progress since the previous ECP meeting was very limited.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
5.	Prepare compiled Planning and Priorities Table	Coordinating Unit	November 2016

IV. Agenda item 4: Implementation of the PoW 2016-2017

11. The meeting examined the status of implementation of the PoW 2016-2017 (Decision IG.22/20). A tour de table was initiated by the Coordinator for MAP Components to inform on main events and activities. An electronic version of the tentative calendar of MAP events prepared by the Secretariat was available on-screen.

12. PAP/RAC updated ECP members on the success of the Regional Consultation meeting that took place back to back with the Mediterranean Coast Day, on 28-29 September 2016 in Barcelona, Spain. She also stressed the pertinent support received from SCP/RAC and Plan Bleu while highlighting it as a good example of cooperation between MAP Components. PAP/RAC then informed on the status of the work on the Regional Framework on ICZM and the Conceptual Framework on MSP as well as on the progress of CAMP Italy and CAMP France and the launch of a new INTERREG project related to tourism.

13. Plan Bleu referred to the MCSD peer-review process, the preparation of the MSSD dashboard (indicators) as well as the preparation of side events at COP 22 of UNFCCC. She also noted the importance to include activities on tourism within the work plan of each MAP Component, an issue for which a specific agenda item was foreseen in the meeting. INFO/RAC shared with MAP Components his difficulties in delivering. Reference was made to the the new ICZM reporting format and to the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS). He noted that a datacentre that would bring the BCRS and ICZM reporting systems together will be ready before the end of the current biennium.

14. MED POL updated the meeting on existing projects and on two very important meetings on NAPs Implementation and CORMON Pollution including Workshop on Science Policy Interface (to be held in Marseille, France, on 17-18 and 19-21 October 2016 respectively), co-organized with Plan Bleu, and on the situation regarding the limited human resources capacity.

15. REMPEC updated on projects and on past and upcoming events. Reference was made to the technical committee on SOx Emission Control Areas (SECAs) and on the relevant feasibility study to be shared with the MAP Legal Officer. He also referred to the contingency plan for the Adriatic and the technical assistance related to offshore exploitation following the agreement between Cyprus/Greece/Israel. Additional updates were made on ballast waters and the implementation of the relevant COP Decisions. REMPEC stressed the fact of being under-staffed and currently short of projects to rely on. He suggested that the next PoW could be more flexible so that it can adjust to changes of circumstances during the biennium.

16. SPA/RAC updated ECP members on three projects and on several events prepared and co-organized as well as future planned activities, including the MPA Forum (Tangier, 28/11-1/12/2016). He also highlighted the existence of links with REMPECs work regarding alien and endangered species. He informed participants on the initiative of a MPA joint working Group with GFCM to be launched soon.

17. SCP/RAC updated on the series of events it has organized or attended as well as on future planned activities, including the meeting on the MSSD and SCP indicators (Barcelona, Spain, 17/10/2016), SwitchMed Connect (Barcelona, Spain, 18-20/10/2016) and the training of entrepreneurs. He highlighted the positive feedback so far and informed on new projects, while he thanked MED POL for the, soon to be signed, PCA on Marine Litter.

18. The Secretariat clarified that Contracting Parties should officially inform the Coordinating Unit for changes in regard to the designated Component Focal Points, and that one list of Focal Points as well as one list of “reporters” for the Barcelona Convention (BCRS) and ICZM reporting systems should be held centrally. It was suggested that a reminder shall be sent once a year to MAP Components on the update of Focal Points lists. In regard to the Resource Mobilization Strategy, the Secretariat updated ECP members that ToRs were under preparation, while for the baseline indicators for the MTS, work was to start soon. The Coordinator also reported on the progress regarding the MedProgramme submission to be examined by the GEF Council. Finally, the Coordinator noted that he shared with ECP members his mission reports, as promised during the 29th ECP meeting.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
6.	Update Coordinating Unit on upcoming events, to update the tentative calendar	MAP Components	November 2016
7.	Data center linking BCRS and ICZM reporting systems	INFO/RAC	Before end of biennium
8.	Send new Project Fiches to Coordinating Unit, if any	MAP Components	Dynamic
9.	REMPEC to share with CU (Legal Officer) the draft / feasibility study on the designation of SECAs	REMPEC	November 2016
10.	Creation of centralized lists of Focal Points	Coordinating Unit and MAP Components (to ensure relevant	Dynamic

		information is sent to Coordinating Unit)	
11.	Secretariat to send reminder once a year in regard to Component Focal Points nominations, making the process clear to all Contracting Parties	Coordinating Unit	-
12.	List / agendas of COP 22 Side events where MAP is involved	Plan Bleu	Early November 2016

V. Agenda item 5: Preparation of the Regional Framework on ICZM and the Conceptual framework for MSP

19. The Director of PAP/RAC updated MAP components on developments regarding the Regional Framework on ICZM (Decision IG.22/11) and the Conceptual Framework for Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), and especially on the consultation meeting held in Barcelona, Spain, on 28-29 September 2016. MAP Components were also reminded that their inputs are pertinent, as the Regional Framework on ICZM and the Conceptual Framework for MSP relate to the work of all MAP Components.

20. Discussing the main outcomes of the consultation meeting, PAP/RAC noted that there was agreement to present ICZM and MSP together and on the need for a guidance document and not for another legally binding document. PAP/RAC also added that a Roadmap for the implementation of the Regional Framework will be embedded at the end of the document, so as to provide a clear added value on its implementation.

21. On the timeline, the background documents will be completed by December 2016. The next steps is to share the latter with all MAP Components and with the Contracting Parties as a live document so to start working on the actual document of the Framework. The Framework is to be shared for a one month consultation in order to be discussed at the PAP/RAC NFPs meeting in April 2017 in Split, Croatia.

22. SPA/RAC noted that added value for marine biodiversity is much reduced if the Conceptual Framework on MSP does not go beyond territorial waters. PAP/RAC noted that the meeting in Barcelona agreed to retain for the time being the coverage in the territorial waters and then make an analysis of the implications of extending the geographical coverage.

23. The meeting also discussed the possibility to organize a side event on ICZM at COP20, and to use the opportunity of the ICZM Regional Framework to increase the number of ratifications of the ICZM Protocol.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
13.	Involvement of all MAP Components in the next stages of the preparation of the Regional Framework on ICZM and the Conceptual Framework for MSP	All MAP Components	Dynamic (emphasis in consultation phase, early 2017)
14.	Preparation of side event during COP 20	PAP/RAC (lead)	COP 20

VI. Agenda item 6: Sustainable Tourism

24. The Coordinator introduced the issue of Sustainable Tourism and gave the floor to Plan Bleu to present the document entitled “Guidelines towards a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Tourism” and to update on the actions that can be undertaken within UNEP/MAP on Sustainable Tourism, being also one of the proposed main themes for COP 20.

25. Plan Bleu referred to the internal work and to workshops organized on the theme of Sustainable Tourism until now. She stressed the importance of the sector in terms of impact on coastal communities and on the marine environment, while recognizing that there is not yet a mandate to proceed with a strategy for sustainable tourism for the Mediterranean. The Coordinator noted that Sustainable Tourism would be proposed as a possible theme for COP 20, during the 83rd Meeting of the Bureau. He also acknowledged the fact that Sustainable Tourism might be considered as a controversial issue, but this could on the other hand trigger very interesting and constructive discussions.

26. The Coordinator while acknowledging the leading role of Plan Bleu on this topic, highlighted that Sustainable Tourism is very relevant to the work of all MAP Components. He also suggested that this was an opportunity for the MAP system to work together, as each RAC can relate to it in its own field of expertise and mandate. The expected outcome of such exercise would be to develop a robust document showcasing why this issue is now relevant to the MAP mandate, and proposing to the Contracting Parties a process to be followed in order for the issue of Sustainable Tourism to be dealt with in the UNEP/MAP system. He also proposed for the MCSD to be involved in the process, since their involvement will be beneficial to all partners. Reference was also made to the relevance of presenting Sustainable Tourism as a possible theme for COP 20, considering that the United Nations (General Assembly had approved the adoption of 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
15.	Plan Bleu to update the document on Sustainable Tourism, based <i>inter alia</i> on the ECP discussions	Plan Bleu	End of 2016

VII. Agenda item 7: Preparation of the 2017 Quality Status Report

27. The meeting discussed the preparation of the 2017 Quality Status Report (2017 QSR) based on the draft concept table of contents and timeline for its preparation. MED POL noted the lack of resources and the tight deadlines, which make necessary the use of consultancy support. Inputs from MAP Components were discussed, setting a deadline for the end of 2016, since a consolidated first draft is expected by April 2017.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
16.	Input for the 2017 QSR zero draft	All MAP Components	20 December 2016

VIII. Agenda item 8: Preparation of the 83rd Bureau meeting

28. The meeting discussed the final preparations for the 83rd Bureau meeting (Tirana, Albania, 25-26 October 2016). The discussion was based on the background documents for the 83rd Bureau meeting, and especially on the Report on Specific Issues (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.83/6).

29. The Coordinator updated ECP Members on the 83rd Meeting of the Bureau preparations, while the RACs presented the latest update on the progress regarding their Host Country Agreements.

30. The UNEP/MAP Programme Officer informed ECP members of the two additional Protocol ratifications from Italy and Israel.

31. ECP members were also updated on the issue of the analysis undertaken by the Secretariat for shifting to a thematic Focal Point system, while the challenges of the first edition of the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award were also discussed.

IX. Agenda item 9: Preparations for COP 20

32. ECP members elaborated on the possible main themes of COP 20, the scope and focus of the potential COP 20 decisions and the process for the timely preparation of the relevant documents.

33. The Coordinator informed ECP members that following the need to change the date of COP 20 due to its overlap with UNEA-3 dates, two alternative dates were proposed to the Bureau. He added that Sustainable Tourism and ICZM are the two themes proposed by the Secretariat as possible themes for COP 20, noting that there is the possibility to combine them. He also noted that the opinion of the host country of COP 20, Albania, on the COP theme is very important.

34. The Secretariat raised attention to the need of minimizing the number of Decisions to be adopted at COP 20, as a lesson learned from COP 19. It was agreed that the COP Decisions, and especially the one on the Programme of Work and Budget (PoW+B), will be the main subject of the 31st ECP Meeting. The Coordinating Unit will use a transparent process for the preparation of the PoW+B, involving all MAP Components from the early stage of its preparation.

35. Regarding the proposals on new COP decisions by MAP Components, the Coordinator stressed that these should be kept to a minimum and that proposals should be accompanied by a justification. INFO/RAC mentioned the possibility of a future COP decision on Data Policy, while SPA/RAC referred to a combined decision on SPAMIs and new bird species. MED POL noted that a legal analysis is needed to clarify if Guidelines need to be adopted through a COP decision.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
17.	Legal analysis on the need of COP decisions to adopt Guidelines	Coordinating Unit (Legal Officer)	Before end of 2016
18.	Proposals for COP 20 decisions (including justification) and for possible side events at NFP meeting and COP	MAP Components (to send to Coordinating Unit)	Before 31 st ECP Meeting
19.	Documents for MAP FP meeting and COP to follow UN format	MAP Components	Timely for respective meetings
20.	Preparation and distribution of a short set of principles, guidelines and timetable for the development of the POW+B	Coordinating Unit (to send to all MAP Components)	30 November 2016
21.	Check Project Documents to confirm if budget of Component FP meetings lay with the MAP Component	MAP Components	November 2016

X. Agenda item 10: Date and Venue of the 31st ECP meeting

36. The ECP decided its 31st Meeting to take place on 11-12 January 2017. SPA/RAC offered to host the meeting in Tunis, Tunisia.
37. Dates and venue for the 32nd ECP Meeting were also discussed. It was proposed to hold the meeting on 21-22 (or alternatively 28-29) March 2017, in Split, Croatia.
38. The Coordinator reminded participants of the proposal to hold an ECP retreat. SCP/RAC offered to host the retreat in Barcelona, Spain.
39. Plan Bleu informed that the provisional dates for the Plan Bleu Focal Points meeting are 25-26 April 2017.

XI. Agenda item 11: Any Other Matters

40. The Meeting considered other issues, as follows:

(a) Updating of the SPA/RAC graphic charter

41. Concerns were raised by ECP Members, and especially SPA/RAC, regarding their naming that often proves to be not “market friendly” while causing frustration in communication. The use of an abbreviation or nickname/pseudonym was proposed as an alternative that could also help creating a sense of common identity between the RACs. The Coordinator stressed the need to have a common format in the abbreviation (i.e. the agreed acronym of the Centre followed by /RAC). He also noted that a change of the name of a MAP Component requires the agreement of the Contracting Parties.

42. The issue of graphic charter homogenization between MAP Components was also raised. SPA/RAC proposed that the existing Task Force on Information and Communication could make proposals on common rules for graphic charter format. REMPEC reminded ECP Members of the existence of a graphic charter containing UNEP/MAP technical rules on the use of logos and shared a printed copy with the ECP Members.

(b) Draft Reporting Template of MAP Components

43. REMPEC presented a Draft Reporting Template that takes into consideration the existing reporting processes of the MAP system and enables and facilitates data processing for reporting. REMPEC invited all ECP Members to consider, test and comment on this draft template. Its main goal is to allow the collection of data from all Components in one central database. It was noted that this is very useful for each Component but it may be too detailed for the Coordinating Unit to manage and check qualitatively. INFO/RAC suggested that it is more a management support tool than a reporting template.

(c) Importance of homogenous UN formatting and editing rules

44. The Coordinator welcomed progress already made in this field and stressed once again the importance of homogenous formatting and editing rules, based on UN guidelines. It was highlighted that respecting collectively such practices is extremely benefitting in terms of time and human capacity efficiency.

(d) Update on Human Resources at the Coordinating Unit

45. The Coordinator updated ECP Members on the new recruitments and ongoing recruitment processes at the Coordinating Unit. ECP Members were also informed of training opportunities offered by the UNEP Headquarters and the Coordinator warmly invited them to participate.

(e) Presentation of INFO/RAC on infoMAP (iMAP)

46. INFO/RAC made a presentation on the infoMAP architecture, noting that it is based on the SEIS architecture. MED POL highlighted the need to establish priorities since there are not adequate resources for all information and communication related activities. ECP members agreed with the proposal of INFO/RAC to use the groupware (groupware.info-rac.org) for uploading meeting documents.

47. On other issues, the Coordinator stressed the need for continuing resource mobilization, noting that opportunities should be explored and seized as appropriate, as long as they are relevant to the Programme of Work or/and the Mid-Term Strategy of UNEP/MAP and in full transparency with the rest of the system. ECP members noted the need that MAP Components follow a harmonized approach in resource mobilization and do not compete with each other.

48. The meeting also referred to the issue of publications. The Coordinator stressed the importance of publications for the visibility of UNEP/MAP, noting that there is a limited budget available. He proposed the issue to be discussed in the Information and Communication Task Force, and noted the possibility to recruit somebody at the Coordinating Unit or INFO/RAC. INFO/RAC will develop and share a common template, where each MAP Component can develop its own publications, using the UN publication format.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
22.	Proposals on common rules for graphic charter format (noting the UNEP rules for the use of logos)	Task Force on Information and Communication	Early 2017
23.	Research on updates in relation to the 2001 UNEP rules on logos/graphic charter	Coordinating Unit	November 2016
24.	Distribution of the draft Reporting Template	REMPEC	October 2016
25.	Test draft Reporting Template and provide feedback on its use	MAP Components	Before 31 st ECP meeting
26.	Support regarding information & communication services (e.g. upload of factsheets, update software/web hosting)	INFO/RAC	Before the end of the biennium
27.	Share the UN Editing Manual and Guidelines	Coordinating Unit	November 2016
28.	Advice on publications (incl. use of UN format, software and licensing)	Task Force on Information and Communication	-
29.	Develop and share with MAP Components a common template for publications	INFO/RAC	-

XII. Agenda item 12: Closure of the Meeting

49. The Coordinator thanked all participants and closed the 30th ECP meeting at 17.30.

Annex I

List of participants

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COORDINATION PANEL**MED POL**

Ms. Tatjana Hema
MED POL Programme Officer
Tel: +30 210 727 3115
Email: tatjana.hema@unep.org

INFO/RAC

Mr. Claudio Maricchiolo
Director
Tel: +39 06 5007 2177
Email: claudio.maricchiolo@isprambiente.it

**PLAN BLEU REGIONAL
ACTIVITY CENTRE (PB/RAC)**

Ms. Anne France Didier
Director
Tel: +33 04 9238 7138
Email: afdidier@planbleu.org

**PRIORITY ACTIONS
PROGRAMME REGIONAL
ACTIVITY CENTRE (PAP/RAC)**

Ms. Zeljka Skaricic
Director
Tel: +385 2134 0471
Email: zeljka.skaricic@paprac.org

**REGIONAL MARINE
POLLUTION EMERGENCY
RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
(REMPEC)**

Mr. Gabino Gonzalez
Head of Office
Tel: +356 2258 3113
Email: ggonzalez@rempec.org

**SPECIALLY PROTECTED
AREAS REGIONAL ACTIVITY
CENTRE (SPA/RAC)**

Mr. Khalil Attia
Director
Tel: +216 7120 6649; +216 7120 6851
Email: director@rac-spa.org

**SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION REGIONAL
ACTIVITY CENTRE (SCP/RAC)**

Mr. Enrique de Villamore Martin
Director
Tel: +34 9 3553 8792
Email: evillamore@scprac.org

**SECRETARIAT TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION - COORDINATING UNIT OF THE
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

Mr. Gaetano Leone

Coordinator

Tel: +30 210 727 3101

Email: gaetano.leone@unep.org

Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis

Programme Management Officer

Tel: +30 210 727 3132

Email: ilias.mavroeidis@unep.org

Ms. Elli Sfyroeras

Programme Management Assistant

Tel: +30 210 727 3129

Email: elli.sfyroeras@unep.org

Annex II
Agenda

Agenda

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Agenda item 1 | Opening of the Meeting |
| Agenda item 2 | Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work |
| Agenda item 3 | Follow up to the 29 th ECP meeting |
| Agenda item 4 | Implementation of the PoW 2016-2017 |
| Agenda item 5 | Preparation of the Regional Framework on ICZM and the Conceptual Framework for MSP |
| Agenda item 6 | Sustainable Tourism |
| Agenda item 7 | Preparation of the 2017 Quality Status Report |
| Agenda item 8 | Preparation of the 83 rd Bureau meeting |
| Agenda item 9 | Preparations for COP 20 |
| Agenda item 10 | Date and Venue of the 31 st ECP meeting |
| Agenda item 11 | Any Other Matters |
| Agenda item 12 | Closure of the Meeting |