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20th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017

Agenda item 5: Ministerial Session

Cooperation with Partners: Implementation of the Memorandums of Understanding with the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfMS) and with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2017

A. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN UNEP/MAP AND UFMS – Draft milestones (updated October 2017)

Fields of cooperation as per MoU (Art. 1)	Indicative activities as per MoU (Appendix 1)	UfM specific implementation activities (milestones in chronological order as of signature of the MoU in December 2013)	UNEP/MAP specific implementation activities (milestones as from the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, February 2016)
<p>Pollution prevention and control of Mediterranean coastal and marine waters</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperate in updating the de-pollution National Action Plans and indicators; Collaborate in supporting capacity building initiatives and activities to countries with regard to de-polluting projects and promoting best results/practices dissemination and replication; Cooperate in supporting countries of the Mediterranean to assess the status of implementation and or update the list of priority de-polluting projects; Exchange on a regular basis data and information on the list of the above mentioned projects funded or likely to be funded according to technical reporting modalities agreed between both parties; Cooperate in the field of prevention of pollution from ships, specifically in the implementation of the Regional Strategy for 	<p><u>On UfM processes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorsement of the 2014 UfM Ministerial Declaration on ENV and CC by the 43 UfM countries, agreeing to the following ‘green economy’ package of actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> depollution, through the launch of Phase II of the ‘H2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean’ (previously called <i>H2020 Initiative for the Depollution of the Med Sea</i>); pollution prevention, through Sustainable Consumption and Production, climate action according to the endorsed UfM CC governance and operational structure (<i>Athens June 2014</i>); <p>The Declaration includes a specific call for cooperation between the Secretariats of the UfM and the Barcelona Convention through the implementation of the 2013 Memorandum of Understanding; and request for exploring ways to streamline MAP and H2020 Initiative focal points and related meetings:</p> <p><u>H2020 Initiative</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UfM Sec support to UfM EU and Jordan CoPresidencies in the organisation of the H2020 Core Group (latest H2020 Core Group held in March 2017) and Steering Committees; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land and sea based pollution is Core theme 1 of the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021, which was adopted in February 2016 by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 19). It is therefore included as such in the UNEP/MAP biennial programmes of work. NAPs updated based on the NAP Update Guidelines during 2015-2016 and endorsed by COP 19 in 2016. Co-chairing with UfM co-presidencies the Horizon 2020 (H2020) Capacity Building Group; and with the EEA the H2020 review and monitoring steering group (<i>ongoing</i>). Participation in and contribution to the Meetings of the H2020 Review and Monitoring Group (Athens, December 2016, and Barcelona, October 2017), and the 1st Meeting of the Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (Barcelona, March 2017). A list of core NAP follow-up indicators has been established and presented to the MED POL FP meeting in May 2017. The

	<p>Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, through identification and implementation of projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>On H2020 Capacity Building:</i> Participation/Co-Chairing of the H2020/SWIM Support Mechanism meetings (September 2016; next one planned for February 2018); synchronisation and co-organisation of UfM meetings and events with key CB regional activities, where possible; Integration of the UfM labelled BlueGreen project operational modalities into the EU funded H2020/SWIM SM as networking mechanism to ensure NGOs/CSOs involvement and participation to the H2020/SWIM capacity building activities up to 2019; UfM ongoing Technical Assistance to reinforce collaboration and support to southern and eastern NGOs/CSOs networking in the region. • <i>On H2020 investment component:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. In close collaboration with UNEP/MAP, UfMS Assessment of the investment component of the NAPs and of future needs up to 2025, as a contribution to the mid-term review of the H2020 Initiative (2013); presentation of the UfM assessment to UNEP/MAP and to Medpol Focal Points; input to the guidelines for the revision of the NAPs (2013/4); B. UfMS co-chairing with EIB the H2020 Investment Group (PRPI - Organisation of 4 annual <i>PRPI-Pollution Reduction and Prevention Investment</i> meetings as of 2014; latest held in April 2017); ensuring regular exchange and involvement of IFIs and donors in bringing 'priority investment projects' to FIs appraisal (kicked off in <i>November 2014</i>; PRPI Group annual meetings as of 2014; development of the UfM database for the preliminary application of criteria to priority investment projects under the H2020 Investment Component in close coordination with the MEDPOL Team (at the H2020 SC, December 2014); 	<p>meeting concluded that this list should be further refined, with the view to establish to the extent possible a common list for both NAP and H2020 progress evaluation This will serve as the basis for further developing as appropriate the list of H2020 indicators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation of the “Regional Meeting on NAPs implementation – lessons learnt and the way forward” in collaboration with the EU-funded Regional Project “SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism”, focusing on NAP common targets, measures, and indicators, updated hotspots list and investment portfolios. • Organisation of a training capacity building session with the support of SWIM and H2020 Support Mechanism aiming at bridging the investment needs and projects with NAP measures. • Contribution Agreement with EEA on the implementation of ENI SEIS II South Support Mechanism, participation in the 1st SEIS SC meeting and the SEIS Working Group on H2020 indicators. • MED POL participation in the PRPI Meeting in April 2017. • Invitation to and participation of UfMS in the MED POL FP Meeting (Rome, May 2017).
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		<p>C. UNEP/MAP participation and involvement in the H2020 Investment Component and meetings to streamline and coordinate all the steps of the H2020 Investment activities and NAPs processes, including NAPs revisions;</p> <p>D. As result of the UfMS consultancy and close collaboration with the countries and the H2020 core partners, identification of a preliminary set of criteria (geographical balance, environmental relevance, bankability, etc) for the identification of priority investment projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>H2020 Monitoring Component</i>: participation to the 1st and 2nd meetings of the ENI SEIS II Facility in Copenhagen at EEA in May and October 2017, preparing for the H2020 indicators assessment report in 2019; synchronisation or co-organisation of UfM meetings and events with key regional activities (ex. in October 2017) • Preparation of the 1st progress report on the implementation of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on ENV and CC in January/February 2017 (as requested by the Ministers themselves), through the voluntary contributions of the countries, implementing organisations and stakeholders involved; • Organisation of the first UfM WG on ENV and CC in March 2017 to report on progress in implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on ENV and CC; UNEP MAP is a permanent observer of said WG; the Agreed Conclusions adopted by the UFM CoPresidencies (EU and Jordan) and the 43 UfM MS include: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Marine Litter Regional Plan (MLRP) in the framework of the Article 15 of the LBS; adoption of Decision IG.22/10 on implementing the Marine Litter Regional Plan adopted by COP 19 in February 2016. • Support and participation in the Project “Plastic Busters for a Mediterranean free from litter”, labelled by UfM and coordinated by Siena University. • Collaborate with UfMS for establishing criteria to prioritize projects, aiming at aligning investment needs as outlined in the updated NAPs with the identified targets and programme of measures. • Presentation by UfM Sec of the UfM flagship project criteria for the prioritization of NAP investment projects and the 2013 Project database during the MED POL FP meeting (Rome, May 2017) • Work initiated to further develop the NBB Info system, strengthening the data infrastructure for reporting, and indicator populating. • Work on revising the reporting format of pollution related protocols in order to better assess the status of implementation of the LBS protocol that can be used for assessing the implementation of H2020, in
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		<p>annual technical and coordination meeting on ML held in June 2017, together with GIZ; UfM support to the publication of the Protocol on ML Bio-indicators, to be jointly published with University of Siena, GIZ, UNEPMAP; UfM Sec ongoing technical assistance to support the activation of funding for ML.</p>	
<p>Marine and Coastal Ecosystems and Biodiversity Protection in the Mediterranean region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperate in supporting implementation of regional and national measures which the Mediterranean countries have identified as a priority to advance implementation of the 11 Ecological Objectives of the Ecosystem Approach to human activities in the Mediterranean under the Barcelona Convention Cooperate in supporting capacity building initiatives and activities for the creation and management of priority Marine Protected Areas and National Action Plans for the Endangered Species and Vulnerable Habitats 	<p><u>On UfM processes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2014 UfM Ministerial Declaration on ENV and CC reaffirms the commitments of the countries to achieve the Aichi Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the commitments under the Barcelona Convention, in particular relating to marine protected areas, the ecosystem approach, and the action plan on ICZM (<i>Athens June 2014</i>) RAC/SPA and Medpan participation to the 1st UfM Stakeholders Conference on BE in February 2017; as well as to the 1st WG on ENV and CC (<i>Specific Biodiversity section in the 'Agreed Conclusions'</i>) UfM Sec Participation to the Marine Protected Areas Forum in Tangier, November 2016; UfMS close collaboration with the EU funded BLUEMED Initiative, endorsed also by the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Declaration on Research and Innovation in April 2017; UfMS technical assistance with OGS to support the extension of BLUEMED to southern and eastern Med countries. <p><u>On UfMS project-related activities:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity and ecosystems is Core theme 2 of the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021, which was adopted at COP 19, in February 2016. It is therefore included as such in the UNEP/MAP biennial programmes of work. The "Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security" has been approved by the GEF Council in October 2016. The preparation of one child project to the Programme, dealing with the reinforcement of biodiversity in Libya is planned for 2017 and 2018. The EC funded project "Towards and ecologically representative and efficiently managed network of Mediterranean MPAs" is being implemented according to the scheduled and is planned to be finalized at the end of 2018. The UfM Secretariat was informally consulted by SPA/RAC, among other regional/international organizations and potential donors, about a set of project concepts aiming at the implementation of SAP BIO national and regional priority actions. Projects preparation on species and habitat conservation in relation to fisheries with the donor MAVA foundation are ongoing.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Ongoing) Potential extension of the activities of the UfM labelled project on Marine Litter 'Plastic Busters' to (selected) Med Marine Protected Areas • H2020 related investment project contributing directly to safeguard Marine and Coastal Ecosystems and Biodiversity Protection (for ex. In the case of the UfM labelled Investment Project of Lake Bizerte, Tunisia) • UfMS facilitating coordination and operational links between the EU funded project PANACEA and H2020 Support Mechanism 	<p>Once ready, the labelling of UfM may reinforce attractiveness for further donors and reinforced countries' support for current and future extended implementation.</p>
<p><i>Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperate to promote ICZM as a tool for reaching sustainable development in the Mediterranean coastal zones, and in particular to implement the Action Plan related to the ICZM Protocol adopted by the Mediterranean States under the Barcelona Convention 	<p><u>On UfM processes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone management are at the core of the 2015 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Blue Economy (promoting the application of cross-cutting policy tools, such as maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal zone management, taking into account land-sea interactions through an ecosystem based approach and the importance to accelerate efforts in taking necessary measures to develop a coherent and well-managed network of marine protected areas to meet the objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan) and are referred to in the 2014 UfM Ministerial Declaration on ENV and CC (the application of the cross-cutting policy tools available under Integrated Maritime Policy, such as marine spatial planning, to integrate environment <i>and climate change concerns into relevant horizontal policies</i>); MSP and ICZM were/are also dealt within the UfM Blue Economy Forum, a process made of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – UfM Working Group on Blue Economy (3 WGs held between May 2015 and July 2017); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICZM is Cross-cutting theme 1 of the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021, which was adopted at COP 19, in February 2016. It is therefore included as such in the UNEP/MAP biennial programmes of work. • The “Implementing of ecosystem approach in the Adriatic Sea through Marine spatial Planning” GEF funded Project has been approved by the GEF CEO in November 2016 and is beginning its implementation in the 2nd semester of 2017. • The “Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security” has been approved by the GEF Council in October 2016. The preparation of one child project to the Programme, dealing with ICZM, IWRM and coastal aquifers is planned for 2017 and 2018. • Preparation of the Common Regional Framework for ICZM and the Conceptual

		<p>UNEPMAP together with other key regional organisations is a permanent observer of the BE WG;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Regional Technical Seminars (run through the EU funded IMP-Med Facility; 2 Seminars held so far; 2nd Regional seminar held in May 2017 in Barcelona was on MSP and Aquaculture) – Stakeholders’ Conferences (Western Med Stakeholders Conference held on 2nd February 2017 in Barcelona; UfM Regional Stakeholders Conference on Blue Economy, Naples, 29-30 November 2017) – VKC as targeted tool for the Med BE community (Transfer of the Virtual Knowledge Centre on Blue Economy (http://www.med-vkc-blueconomy.org) from DG MARE to UfM Sec; under translation into French and Arabic) • UfM Interdivisional/Cross sectoral Task Force on Blue Economy; technical support of Inter-Mediterranean Commission of CPRM (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions) • UfMS technical assistance, in coordination and collaboration with the EU funded IMP-Med project and Plan Blue/RAC, to prepare a compilation of publicly available info/projections on Blue Economy • UfM Technical Assistance on the extension of the Bluemed Initiative to southern and eastern non EU countries 	<p>Framework for MSP, for consideration by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation of the Med Coast Day in Barcelona on 27 September 2016 focused on Blue Economy. The UfM representative made a speech during the opening ceremony. • Participation of PAP/RAC in the meeting of the UfM working group on blue economy (Brussels, 8 November 2016) – PAP/RAC made a presentation on ICZM, MSP and Blue Economy links. • Preparation of the Med Coast Day, Montenegro, 25 September 2017, with theme “Protect our sea”. Opening by the President of Montenegro, Mr. Filip Vujanović.
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		<p><u>On UfMS projects related activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission for UfM labelling of the Project MedCoastxBluegrowth, lead promoter: the Inter-Mediterranean Commission of CPRM (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions), co-promoter: PAP RAC. 	
<p>Urban Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperate to conclude and make operational, the UFM Guidance framework for sustainable Euro-Mediterranean cities and territories for decision-makers and practitioners; Develop a set of recommendations on how to shape urban development by enabling a shared perspective in urban and territorial strategies, taking into consideration the Barcelona Convention and its protocols, particularly for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol and Action Plan 	<p><u>On UfM processes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorsement of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Urban Development in April 2017, Cairo, Egypt The UfM Ministerial Declaration on ENV and CC recognizes <i>“that the Mediterranean region is becoming increasingly urbanised. While the region’s cities concentrate environment and climate challenges, they also provide the opportunity for focused and effective solutions, which will improve the quality of life of their citizens. Initiatives such as the Eco-Cities of the Mediterranean launched by Jordan, or the UfM, EU, Barcelona Convention and Covenant of Mayors initiatives on sustainable cities are recognised as important vehicles for advancing action and sharing engagement”</i> <p><u>On UfMS projects related activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Housing and Construction” is one of sectors covered by the UfM labelled Project Post Rio +20 Med Re SCP (on Resource Efficiency/Sustainable Consumption and production promoted by EBRD together with SCPRAC and UNIDO), complementing the EU funded SWITCH MED Programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development 2016-2025 (adopted at COP 19, in February 29016), includes “Planning and managing sustainable Mediterranean cities” as its 3rd Objective. Under this objective, several national and regional actions are included, as well as two Flagship Initiatives, namely the “sustainable urban toolbox” and the “Istanbul Environment Friendly City” Award. The latter’s first edition was launched in 2017, with the award to be delivered during COP 20 of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017). The Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean (adopted at COP 19, in February 2016), includes “Housing and Construction” as one of its four priority areas. This followed “Housing and Construction” being one of the priority sectors under SWITCH Med (and complementary programme Med Re SCP).
<p>Other fields related to Sustainable Development, including Sustainable</p>	<p>Indicative activities are presented per specific field in the table below:</p>		

<p>Consumption and Production (SCP), Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency</p>			
<p>Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the updating the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD) and reviewing its indicators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable development is at the basis of all the UfM Ministerial Declarations (2014 Environment and Climate Change, 2015 Blue economy, 2017 Water, 2017 Sustainable Urban Development, etc.) The priority areas of activity of the UfM Road Map (approved ministerial segment of the UfM Regional Forum (MoFAs) in January 2017) include: Youth employability and Inclusive Growth, Women Empowerment, Sustainable Development UfMS assists with the Mediterranean Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development, unanimously endorsed on 13/05/2014 by the UfM Ministers of Environment of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM); and the implementation of its Action Plan, approved in Nicosia, 8-9 December 2016 UfMS contribution to the 6 discussion groups set up to revise the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development; Participation of UfMS as member to the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, as per Decision IG. 22/17 adopted at COP 19, in July 2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development 2016-2025, was adopted at COP 19, in February 2016. UfMS became a member of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, as per Decision IG. 22/17 adopted at COP 19, in February 2016. UfMS participated in the 17th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (Athens, Greece, 4-6 July 2017). The 17th MCSD meeting discussed <i>inter alia</i> the implementation and monitoring of the MSSD 2016-2025, including the indicators of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard, the Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER) of National Strategies on Sustainable Development and the MED2050 Roadmap. The above issues are addressed in a draft Decision submitted to the MAP Focal Points Meeting, for further transmission to COP 20. UfM is being closely involved in the preparation of the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard, including the list of indicators for the follow-up and monitoring of the MSSD 2016-2025.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To this end, UfMS participated in the Technical Workshop “How to monitor the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 and the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean?” co-organized by Plan Bleu and SCP/RAC (Barcelona, Spain, 17 October 2016).
<p>Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperate on methodologies, studies, analysis and economic evaluations to increase the share of marine and coastal renewable energy used in the Mediterranean and take this progress into account in updating and implementing the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development; Take full advantage of available carbon finance tools to support renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in the Mediterranean area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorsement of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Energy in December 2016, Rome, Italy; Setting up of three UfM platforms on Renewable Energy, Electricity and Gas 	
<p>Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperate in the implementation of the commitments that the Mediterranean countries undertake under the Barcelona Convention to implement common regional priorities to shift to Sustainable Consumption and Production; Cooperate in the support to Mediterranean countries in 	<p><u>On UfM processes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2014 UfM Ministerial Declaration on ENV and CC identifies SCP as priority for green growth and sustainable development, as well as complementary approach to de-pollution (Athens June 2014) and climate action; the EU funded Switch Med and UfM labelled Post Rio+20 Med ReSCP are recognised by the declaration itself as key programmes/interventions; The 2017 Water Ministerial declaration builds, among others, on the concept of water efficiency; the UfM water multiannual and biannual work plans are 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean, was adopted at COP 19, in February 2016. SCP is Cross-cutting theme 2 of the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021, which was adopted at COP 19, in February 2016. SCP is therefore included as such in the UNEP/MAP biennial programmes of work.

	<p>mainstreaming SCP in their national development policies</p>	<p>under preparation by the UfM Water Expert Group as well as a specific financial strategy;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UfMS participation as observer to the annual SCP/RAC FPs meetings and to the EU funded Switch Med Programme Steering Committees; • UfMS technical assistance in collaboration with SCP/RAC to support green entrepreneurship related studies in Palestine and Jordan, complementing the work already carried out in other 4 southern med countries; compilation and assessment of the results and commonalities (<i>ongoing</i>); • UfMS TA in collaboration with SCP/RAC to support crowdfunding activities for a set of green entrepreneurs/start up operating in the blue economy sectors and involved in the EU funded Switchmed Program • UfMS, GFCM, UNIDO, UNEP MAP- SCP/RAC, PAP/RAC, Plan Blue, CPRM, and PB/RAC, joint preparation of a study on 'SCP applied to Blue Economy' • UfMS preparation of a Blue Economy Compendium <p><u>On UfM projects related activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UfMS facilitation of Austrian Funding for the implementation of the UfM labelled Post Rio+20 Med ReSCP, promoted by EBRD, SCP/RAC and UNIDO; UfMS and the project are quoted as partners for implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean; under the project Med ReSCP, UfMS facilitation of EBRD assignment to SCP/RAC of a sub 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the SWITCH Med programme (Policy, Demonstration and Networking component). • As noted under the actions related to the MSSD, UfMS participated in the Technical Workshop "How to monitor the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 and the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean?" co-organized by Plan Bleu and SCP/RAC (Barcelona, Spain, 17 October 2016). • The list of indicators for the monitoring of the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean are addressed in a draft Decision submitted to the MAP Focal Points Meeting, for further transmission to COP 20.
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		<p>project for country study and training activities on green entrepreneurship for national banks in Montenegro</p>	
<p>Climate Change</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the CC section of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on ENV and CC, including the creation of a Climate Change Expert Group (CCEG) • UNEP/MAP is a permanent observer of the UfM CCEG and therefore participate in all UfM CCEG meetings. • UNEP/MAP presented the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas during the 2nd, 3rd and 4th UfM CCEG meetings, respectively in May 2015, October 2015 and May 2016. • In March 2017, following the working on Environment and Climate Change assessing the progress made in the implementation of the UfM Ministerial Declaration, a new work program of the UfM CCEG was adopted. 4 activities are foreseen: peer exchange on sectoral climate policies, cooperation on climate finance, scientific assessment of vulnerabilities and addressing regional concerns in international fora. • One of the activity of the 2017-2022 Work program of the UfM CCEG adopted in March 2017 aims to provide a sound and comprehensive scientific basis for the development of nationally determined contribution of at least one macro-ecosystem of the UfM region. In this respect, the UfM Secretariat is considering to support the “Mediterranean Experts Network on Environmental and Climate Change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas, was adopted at COP 19, in February 2016. • Climate change adaptation is Cross-cutting theme 3 of the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021, which was also adopted at COP 19, in February 2016. It is therefore included as such in the UNEP/MAP biennial programmes of work. • The “Enhancing Regional Climate Change Adaptation in the Mediterranean marine and Coastal Areas” GEF funded project has been approved by the GEF CEO in December 2016. The preparation of the project document is planned for 2017 and 2018. • Regarding the Flagship Initiative of the MSSD 2016-2025 related to science-policy interface, Plan Bleu/RAC, UfMS and other partners are considering to provide support to the “Mediterranean Experts Network on Environmental and Climate Change (MedECC).

		<p>(MedECC), in close collaboration and coordination with PB/RAC and in close coordination with the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSA).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• UfMS participated in the MedCOP Climate 2016 in Tanger, as well as in the COP22 in Marrakech. During the COP22, the UfMS obtained the observer status to the UNFCCC.• UfMS has supported the emergence of project, the Cluster Med Climate Transparency Initiative, aiming at strengthening the cooperation among governmental institutions ensuring the follow-up of the implementation of the Paris Agreement in the UfM region.	
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B. TABLE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MOU BETWEEN UNEP/MAP AND GFCM (updated at the bilateral meeting of 23 March 2017)

AREA/SUB-AREA OF COOPERATION	ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES
1. Promoting ecosystem based approaches for the conservation of the marine and coastal environment and ecosystems and the sustainable use of its living and natural resources	
Contribute to the formulation/implementation of a regional framework strategy based on the ecosystem approach and on agreed indicators and reference points (ecological, biological, etc.) to monitor the status of the marine environment and coastal ecosystems and that of marine living natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COP 19 adopted the Mediterranean Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme. For EO3, four indicators were endorsed by GFCM and two are still under validation (including a transversal EO1 – EO3 indicator on discards). Further collaboration in process to develop the monitoring and assessment programme for EO 4 and EO 6. - Following COP 19 Decision on IMAP, work is ongoing to support countries to develop national monitoring programmes in line with IMAP. MAP/GFCM collaboration continues in providing coordinated support to countries as well as using where appropriate regional assessment approaches for EO3. - GFCM initiated the preparation of assessment reports for CI7-CI12, plus will collaborate with UNEP/MAP on the preparation of the assessment report for CI6 (NIS) - GFCM contributed to the recent Biodiversity and Fisheries CORMON, and prepared and presented the fisheries related common indicator guidance fact sheets. - Cooperation is ongoing on a sub-regional pilot for the monitoring of the non-indigenous species common indicator with a focus on fisheries in the Eastern Mediterranean
Cooperate in undertaking assessments of the state of marine environment and ecosystems and that of marine living resources, including socio economic aspects relating to the impact of the exploitation of fisheries on marine environment and ecosystems, the impact of the establishment of marine protected areas on marine living resources, and the impact of coastal and marine aquaculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GFCM Working Group on MPAs. - Creation of an intra-governmental network on MPAs related issues. Synergies between GFCM WG to be explored. - Collection of socio-economic data on fisheries ongoing. - Ongoing process of exchange of data, information and collaborative approaches between both organizations. - Bilateral meetings took place on expert level with GFCM on their input into the draft Quality Status Report (<u>note</u>: draft Quality Status Report to be discussed again in April 27-28 in the Joint SPI/EcAp Coordination Group Meeting and final version to be presented to the September EcAp Coordination Group Meeting). Draft Assessment factsheets to be completed by the end of March 2017.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GFCM Scientific Advisory Committee meeting for Eastern Mediterranean (SRC-EM) as well as CORMON meeting on Biodiversity and Fisheries reviewed the concept note about the Sub-regional Pilot Activity for the Eastern Mediterranean on Non-Indigenous Species (NIS) (EO2) in relation to Fisheries. - Working group of experts on biodiversity and fisheries will develop/agree on an implementation plan of the sub-regional pilot initiative for monitoring (two planned in-person meetings).
<p>Collaborate in formulation/development and implementation of key regional strategies to integrate the environment in social and economic development especially in relation to fisheries and aquaculture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussions on the Joint Cooperation Strategy on Spatial-based Protection and Management Measures for Marine Biodiversity among the Secretariats of ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN-Med, UNEP/MAP through SPA/RAC and in collaboration with MedPAN”, are ongoing, following the 83rd Bureau meeting of the Barcelona Convention (25-26 October 2017, Tirana, Albania) which concluded that “the engagement of the Contracting Parties [of the Barcelona Convention] is to be sought, in developing a joint cooperation strategy on marine protected areas and other area-based management tools among the Intergovernmental Organizations, in order to enhance the protection and sustainable use of marine biodiversity”. - Action 1.2.5 of the Mediterranean Strategy of Sustainable Development 2016-2025 on “Safeguard the Mediterranean fisheries by ensuring that all fish stocks are being fished sustainably and effectively” provides an important entry point for collaboration. - UNEP/MAP participated in the GFCM Mid-Term Strategy Intersessional Meeting 21-23 September 2016 and provided input to the GFCM’s “Mid-term strategy (2017–2020) towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries”. - Development of GFCM recommendations to ensure compatibility with the Barcelona Convention and the SPA/BD Protocol ongoing. - Adoption of regional complementary strategies to accelerate progress towards the implementation of UN SDG 14 and Aichi Targets. - Launch of FishForum under mid-term strategy, inclusive of a full thematic session related to environment; UNEP expected to be a major active partner and contributor.
<p>2. Mitigating the impact of fisheries and aquaculture activities on the marine habitats and species</p>	

<p>Collaborate in the elaboration, including extra-budgetary fundraising, of a joint regional project on the evaluation and mitigation of by-catch of endangered and non-target species and of the impact of fishing gears on marine habitats</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under ActionMed Project, socio economic analysis included for pollution prevention/reduction measures related to aquaculture. Aquaculture is one of the Sectors in the Med with potential for pollution reduction and control measures. Bilateral discussion between UNEP/MAP and GFCM may be required. - Joint ACCOBAMS-GFCM project on mitigating the interactions between endangered species (cetaceans, marine turtles, marine birds and cartilaginous fishes) and fishing activities with RAC/SPA as partner (to be funded by MAVA Foundation). - GFCM has adopted a mid-term strategy towards sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries. Target 4 therein addresses interactions between fisheries and environment and ecosystems and collaboration with UNEP is expected to be instrumental in implementation of activities on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) UNEP/MAP led project relating to marine litter in the Mediterranean Sea ii) coordinated actions towards an adaptation strategy for climate change iii) bycatch monitoring programme iv) awareness campaigns on bycatch v) work on invasive species
<p>Consider initiatives to develop the concept of marine spatial planning in a manner that takes into account fisheries and aquaculture activities, activities for the preservation of marine habitats and associated species, and possible conflicts between these activities and other uses of the sea (e.g. shipping, marine renewable energies, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNEP/MAP is participating in two projects funded by the EC related to MSP: WestMED led by France and EastMed led by Italy. GFCM possible participation is being explored. UNEP/MAP is leading the GEF funded project “<i>Implementation of Ecosystem Approach in the Adriatic Sea through Marine Spatial Planning</i>” on MSP in the Adriatic. The project will be executed in Albania and Montenegro and aims to restore the ecological balance of the Adriatic Sea through implementation of the Ecosystem Approach and improve sub-regional management capacity through Marine Spatial Planning. Work under the above projects is expected to start soon. - GFCM took part of the Ad hoc meeting to update the Reference List of Marine Habitat Types for the Selection of Sites to be included in the National Inventories of Natural Sites of Conservation Interest in the Mediterranean (22-23/02/2017) in Blanes, Spain.
<p>Exchange data and information on deep sea habitats in order to further the knowledge of these habitats, their biodiversity and their living resources for the purpose of better management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GFCM collected additional information on deep sea fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea, included in the FAO publication on deep-sea fisheries (published). - A joint side-event on the work done to protect vulnerable marine habitats was organized on occasion of the third session of the BBNJ as well as the SOI dialogue meeting. - GFCM is involved as supportive Partner in the Joint OCEANA, IUCN and UNEP/MAP-SPA/RAC project on deep-sea conservation in Lebanon. This project «Deep Sea Lebanon» has

	<p>started in 2016. One-month expedition has been concluded in deep-sea in previously unstudied areas of Lebanon and more than 200 species, including new records for the Mediterranean Sea, had been found.</p>
<p>Collaborate in initiatives that raise awareness and mitigate major impacts such as those related to reduce amount of fishing gear as litter, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNEP/MAP through its MEDPOL programme is coordinating the EU-funded “Marine Litter MED” project to assist the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean. - Fisheries management measures aimed to minimize the production of litter from fishing activities (e.g. ALDFG, gear marking etc.) in line with Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean (Article 9 – Prevention of Marine Litter). Pilot projects are ongoing in several countries and cooperation with GFCM is needed. A MoU has been signed between UNEP/MAP and Italy and some FfL pilot projects will be supported in three countries (Albania, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina). - GFCM is liaising with the FAO Fishing Department on work against Abandoned fishing gears, including through appropriate marking on fishing gears.
<p>3. Identification, protection and management of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), marine areas of particular importance (hot spots of biodiversity, areas with sensitive habitats, essential fish habitats, areas of importance for fisheries and/or for the conservation of endangered species, coastal wetlands)</p>	
<p>Enhance collaboration with other relevant organizations as appropriate, including those whereby other MoUs have been signed, to create a common regional database of sites of particular importance for biodiversity conservation and for fisheries management, complementary and coherent to the MAP database on pollution and biodiversity monitoring</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Both UNEP/MAP and GFCM have concluded additional MOUs such with ACCOBAMS, IUCN, Black Sea Commission, which provide the ground to foster cooperation towards the establishment of a regional database or the compilation of existing databases. Further collaboration with SPA/RAC and INFO/RAC is needed to enhance information systems and data sharing, especially in line of IMAP requirements. A specific bilateral meeting is foreseen on this issue between GFCM and UNEP/MAP (INFO/RAC) in the second half of 2017.
<p>With regard respectively to the Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) and the Fisheries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resolution GFCM/37/2013/1 on area based management of fisheries, including through the establishment of Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs) in the GFCM convention area and

<p>Restricted Areas (FRAs) in particular those located partially or wholly on the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), the Parties will collaborate to harmonize existing respective criteria to identify those areas, for the cases where their location may be coincident and in the selection of mechanisms needed for their establishment</p>	<p>coordination with the UNEP/MAP initiatives on the establishment of SPAMIs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The rationale, objectives and terms of reference of the Mediterranean Ad hoc Advisory Group of Experts for MPAs (AGEM) are being drafted and will be presented at the 13th meeting of Focal Points for SPAs (Alexandria, 9-12 May 2017) for discussion and endorsement. GFCM and the other relevant organizations will be invited to participate and contribute to this technical and scientific advisory body under the Barcelona Convention's SPA/BD Protocol. Synergies will be sought with the GFCM Working Group on MPAs (see also Area of Cooperation 1 above). - <i>Ad hoc</i> meeting to update the Reference List of Marine Habitat Types for the Selection of Sites to be included in the National Inventories of Natural Sites of Conservation Interest in the Mediterranean. - CBD Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in the Black Sea and Caspian Sea Region, 25 to 29 April 2017 - Baku, Azerbaijan.
<p>The Parties will cooperate to promote respective Parties adoption of eventual Management Schemes developed within SPAMIs and FRAs to ensure that measures are consistent with the objectives pursued and respectful with the Mandates of both organisations. Measures with potential impact on fisheries in SPAMIs will be discussed by the Parties with the spirit of optimizing common goals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COP 19 adopted the Roadmap for a Comprehensive Coherent Network of Well-Managed MPAs to Achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean, which recommends to the Parties to identify and propose area-based conservation/management measures for listing in the regionally recognized area-based management classifications, including SPAMIs and FRAs. The roadmap also encourages regional organizations, such as MAP and GFCM, to facilitate for joint scientific surveys in Mediterranean high sea zones with the view of providing data for the establishment of SPAMIs, FRAs or the implementation of other relevant area-based conservation measures.
<p>Monitor the status of the species listed in Annexes 2 and 3 to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean; pursue to ensure that exploitation of all species included in Annex 3 is regulated, following Article 12, paragraph 4 of the SPA/BD Protocol</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint ACCOBAMS-GFCM project on mitigating the interactions between endangered species (cetaceans, marine turtles, marine birds and cartilaginous fishes) and fishing activities with SPA/RAC as partner. - Promote existing research proposals developed under the regional cartilagenous Action Plan to funding agencies (PoW 2016-2017). SPA/RAC is supporting the elaboration of the National Action Plan for the conservation of cartilaginous fishes in Turkey. - Project on monitoring incidental catches of vulnerable species and testing of mitigation measures being developed with selected partners, including RAC/SPA, for MAVA funding.
<p>Cooperate in undertaking assessments of the state of coastal lagoons and other relevant coastal wetlands to be</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GFCM publication on coastal lagoons.

<p>used for the formulation and dissemination of sustainable management measures and sustainable use of its living resources</p>	
<p>4. Integrated Maritime Policy</p>	
<p>Study the impacts of climate change on the marine environment and ecosystems and their marine living resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNEP/MAP will prepare and publish the Quality Status Report in 2017. Efforts will be made to also address the impacts of climate change. - GFCM initiated the preparation of assessment reports for CI7-CI12, and will collaborate with UNEP/MAP on the preparation of the assessment report for CI6 (NIS).
<p>Contribute to the formulation and adoption of appropriate fisheries and aquaculture adaptation and mitigation measures to climate change in relation to the environment, and including enhancing knowledge and communication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COP 19 adopted the Regional Strategic Framework on Climate Change Adaptation in the Mediterranean (RCCAF). The RCCAF aims to: i) promoting the correct environment for mainstreaming adaptation in national and local planning; ii) promoting and exchange of best practices and low-regret measures; iii) Promoting the leveraging of necessary funding; and iv) exchanging and accessing best available data, knowledge, assessments and tools on adaptation. - UNEP/MAP is leading the preparation of the GEF Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) project “<i>Enhancing regional climate change adaptation in the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas</i>”. The goal of the project is to assist countries to increase the resilience of the Mediterranean marine and coastal areas to the impacts of climate change with the view to influencing wider development processes in the region. It will be develop over the 2017 with the view to begin the implementation in 2018. - Under Target 4, Output 4.2 of mid-term strategy, GFCM is in liaison with FI climate change group, also participating into an informal reflection group: FI, GFCM, WWF on the Med.
<p>Strengthening scientific advice on issues of common interest, including the negative effects of pollution of the marine environment and ecosystems on marine living resources and ways to better address cumulative impacts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The GFCM SAC has devoted significant attention at its last sessions, including on issues such as alien species. - The GFCM entered into a MOU with OceanCare with a view, among others, to address the issue of ocean noise pollution thus contributing to the EcAp process further. - COP 19 adopted IMAP and candidate indicators related to noise that were developed together with ACCOBAMS. - GFCM and UNEP/MAP prepared a concept note for a sub-regional joint pilot on non-indigenous species (NIS) in the Eastern Mediterranean. Further cooperation is foreseen during the implementation of this pilot.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPA/RAC is assisting Egypt, Israel, Cyprus and Lebanon to elaborate their national Action Plan concerning species introduction and invasive species. It is recommended to take into consideration this development in the Eastern Mediterranean sub-regional pilot on non-indigenous species, in relation to fisheries.
Explore new fields of investigation applied to the conservation of marine environment and marine ecosystems and the sustainable use of marine living resources to promote an integrated approach to environmental and fisheries related issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The GFCM and UNEP/MAP have been both attending the BBNJ sessions as well as other international and regional fora. Further work would be needed given the ongoing momentum and the uniqueness of the cooperation existing at the Mediterranean level.
Collaborate in initiatives related to the implementation and monitoring of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) approach and marine spatial planning as well as other zoning approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Both GFCM and UNEP/MAP are very active in the context of DG MARE meetings on ICZM and have been observers to the MSP EU funded project on the Adriatic-Ionian initiative.
Develop and implement a joint pilot project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The new projects as mentioned above on MSP EastMed and WestMed offer opportunities to develop a pilot project. - Furthermore, a concept note for a joint sub-regional pilot on monitoring fisheries NIS in the Eastern Mediterranean was prepared. It was presented and welcomed both by the Eastern-Mediterranean Sub-Regional SAC and by the Biodiversity and Fisheries CORMON (February/March 2017).
5. Legal, institutional and policy related cooperation	
Consult regularly on policy issues of common interest to identify synergies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is constant ongoing consultation. - In the framework of the Marine Litter Management Regional Plan adopted by COP 18 of the Barcelona Convention, the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter has been established gathering on voluntary and equal basis more over than 20 organizations. GFCM is member of the Platform. The platform envisages joint activities among several partners on monitoring, awareness and best practice sharing on marine litter reduction and prevention measures.
Promote exchanges of information and data as appropriate, and share the results of this cooperation through a website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is constant ongoing exchange of information and data. - SPA/RAC has launched within the framework of the Medkey habitats project the establishment of a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) for its georeferenced data which will be called the Mediterranean biodiversity Platform (MBP). The MBP is accessible at

	<p>http://data.rac-spa.org. Further collaboration with SPA/RAC is needed to enhance data sharing concerning fishing data.</p>
<p>Participate (as permanent member in the case of the GFCM) to the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development so to formulate sustainable development frameworks and guidelines for coastal areas management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The GFCM has been participating in the work of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development - UNEP/MAP has been participating in the meetings of GFCM and its committees, increased presence is being considered (see also Area of Cooperation 1 above).
<p>Exchange views regarding the governance of the Mediterranean, with particular regard to those areas located beyond national jurisdiction and take part, where possible, to ongoing initiatives aimed at improving the said governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is constant exchange of views and participation in joint initiatives.
<p>Organize joint side events, where necessary and including together with other organizations, while being in attendance of meetings held in other international fora that could be relevant to further the promotion of the goals and objectives of this MoU</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNEP/MAP and GFCM participated and made a joint presentation in the Ocean Governance Workshop held in Brussels in November 2015 and co-organized by UNEP and the EC. - UNEP/MAP and GFCM participated with presentations, including on their joint work, in the UNEP/EC Workshop on area-based management and regional cooperation for the implementation of ocean related Sustainable Development Goals (Brussels, Belgium, February 2016). - UNEP/MAP and GFCM co-organized a joint side-event at the 2nd Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for an international legally binding instrument (August 2016); - UNEP/MAP and GFCM delivered a joint presentation at the Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations (RSOs) and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) on Accelerating Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (26-29 September 2016, Seoul, S. Korea).
<p>Promote cooperation and exchange of information at the level of their compliance committees, as set up under UNEP/MAP and the GFCM framework, to address issues of common concern (discharges into sea, illegal, unreported and unregulated [IUU] fishing, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider the possibility for organizing back to back meeting as appropriate of Compliance Committees and exchange information of common interests. No specific actions have been implemented up to March 2017, however this is an important issue for further follow-up. - Consider participation in the respective compliance committee meetings.
<p>Be involved, as appropriate, in those projects implemented by the other Party</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GFCM is participating on a non-cost basis in the implementation of the EcAp-MEWDII project and leads jointly, as part of the project, a sub-regional pilot on implementing the NIS

	<p>common indicator monitoring, with a focus on fisheries in the Eastern Mediterranean.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is constant involvement in other respective projects (see also under other Areas of Cooperation).
<p>Be invited to regional/sub-regional meetings and subsidiary bodies meetings of interest as organized respectively by each Party, such as SPA/RAC meetings and meetings related to the implementation of the ecosystem approach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are regular invitations sent, while participation in respective meetings has taken place as described under the respective Areas of Cooperation above.
<p>Coordinate positions within international fora which involve both Parties</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A joint presentation was delivered at the CBD SOI on the ongoing implementation of the MoU between GFCM and UNEP/MAP (Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations (RSOs) and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) on Accelerating Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (26-29 September 2016, Seoul, S. Korea - see also above). The MoU was recognized as a best practice between for cooperation between an RSO and an RFB. - A presentation was delivered by GFCM in the UNEP/EC Workshop on Area-based management and Regional Cooperation for the Implementation of Ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals (9-10 February 2017, Brussels, Belgium). The subject of the presentation was the experience of cross-sectoral cooperation between fisheries and environment, following the submission of the case study “Mediterranean cooperation on protection of marine ecosystems between GFCM, MAP and others (IUCN, WWF, MedPAN, ACCOBAMS) (GFCM)”. UNEP/MAP was also present in the Workshop and both organizations highlighted the key points and benefits of their collaboration. - Discussions are ongoing on coordinating positions further, including on new side events, in relation to global fora gathering in 2017 (UN SDG 14 Conference, Our Oceans, UNEA, etc.).