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and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Athens, Greece, 19-20 June 2017

Agenda Item 3: Progress Report for the Period September 2016-May 2017

Progress Report by the Secretariat on the Activities Carried Out for the Period September 2016-May 2017

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I. Introduction

1. This report covers the activities and outputs carried out in the period between 1 September 2016 and 17 May 2017.
2. The progress report is composed of a narrative part that highlights progress achieved and processes undertaken under the seven themes of the Programme of Work 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.
3. The Reports by the Secretariat on Specific Issues and on Financial and Administrative Issues are prepared as separate documents, namely UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.84/6 and UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.84/5 respectively. These documents address in a more detailed manner, a number of specific issues to be brought to the attention of the Bureau. Furthermore, the Progress Report by the Secretariat on the Implementation of COP 19 Decisions, is presented as document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.84/4.

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

Ratification of Barcelona Convention and its Protocols by all Contracting Parties supported

4. Since the last meeting of the Bureau, the Depositary has communicated to the Secretariat the deposit of the instrument of ratification of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol by Algeria, dated 14 November 2016. In accordance with Article 33 of the Barcelona Convention, this Protocol entered into force for Algeria on 14 December 2016. More information on the status of ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols is provided in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.84/6 "Report by the Secretariat on specific issues".

Governance meetings

5. During this period, the following meetings took place: (a) the 83rd Bureau Meeting (Tirana, Albania, on 25-26 October 2016). The conclusions and recommendations of the meeting are presented in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.83/7, (b) the 18th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee (Athens, Greece, 18 January 2017). The Report of the 18th MCSD Steering Committee is presented in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.428/6, (c) the 12th Compliance Committee Compliance Committee Meeting (Athens, Greece, 24-25 January 2017). The Report of the 12th Compliance Committee Meeting is presented in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED CC.12/10, (d) the Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the MAP II Assessment (16-17 May 2017). The Report of the latter is to be presented in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.440/4, and (e) three meetings of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP), namely the 30th ECP Meeting (Malta 5-6 October 2016), the 31st ECP Meeting (Tunis, Tunisia, 11-12 January 2017) and the 32nd ECP Meeting (Split, Croatia, 29-30 March 2017). The Reports of the ECP meetings are presented in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.84/Inf.5.
6. Furthermore, the Focal Point Meetings of the MAP Components took place as follows: The Plan Bleu/RAC Meeting of National Focal Points was held in Sophia Antipolis, France on 25-26 April 2017. The Meeting of SCP/RAC National Focal Points was held in Barcelona on 3-4 May 2017. The PAP/RAC Meeting of National Focal Points was held in Croatia on 3-4 May 2016. The 13th Meeting of SPA/RAC National Focal Points was held in Alexandria, Egypt on 9-12 May 2017. The 12th Meeting of REMPEC National Focal Points was held in Malta on 23-25 May 2017. Finally, the Meeting of MED POL Focal Points was held in Rome, Italy on 29-31 May 2017.

7. The Science Policy Interface and EcAp Coordination Group Joint Meeting on IMAP Scale of Assessment and QSR took place in Sophia-Antipolis, France, on 27-28 April 2017 (back-to-back with the Plan Bleu/RAC Focal Points meeting), and provided the opportunity to the members of the EcAp Coordination Group to comment on the first draft of the QSR.

Resource mobilisation (project proposals approved or submitted in the current biennium)

8. The Marine Litter Med Project funded by the EU GPGC/ENRTP became operational in June 2016. The required legal instruments to ensure project implementation with the support of SCP/RAC, REMPEC and SPA/RAC are operational, while legal agreements have been also prepared with several Contracting Parties in order to provide financial and technical assistance to implement “Fishing-for-litter” and “Adopt-a-beach” pilot projects related to NAP marine litter related measures. The project is to be implemented until May 2019, with a budget of 1,400,000 EUR.

9. The EU-funded ENPI SEIS II South Project in the framework of UfM’s H2020 Initiative was approved and became operational in September 2016. 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 implementation of the project, with a budget of 1,800,000 EUR, has already started. The project implementation will be shared among the Coordinating Unit, MED POL, Plan Bleu and INFO-RAC in close collaboration with the Contracting Parties.

10. The EU-funded project “Action Plans for Integrated Regional Monitoring Programmes, Coordinated Programmes of Measures and Addressing Data and Knowledge Gaps in Mediterranean Sea (ActionMed)” was successfully finalized in January 2017. The project was co-implemented with Plan Bleu. The results of this project on pollution and litter related measures were first submitted as a working document to the NAP Meeting (Marseille, October 2016) and to the MED POL Focal Points Meeting in May 2017, while the full report, covering all the main pressures on the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment will be submitted to the EcAp Coordination Group meeting.

11. The GEF one step Medium Sized Project “Implementation of Ecosystem Approach in the Adriatic Sea through Marine Spatial Planning” has been approved by the GEF CEO on 14 October 2016. The main objective of the project is to contribute to the restoration of the ecological balance of the Adriatic Sea and to reach the Good Environmental Status through the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and to improve sub-regional management capacity through the introduction of Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) as a viable marine management tool. The project has been endorsed by Montenegro and Albania and will be implemented in close cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina, with PAP/RAC and SPA/RAC as executing partners. The technical kickoff meeting was held at the end of May 2017 with a view to start the activities in Montenegro and Albania in August/September 2017.

12. The Terminal Evaluations of the GEF Projects *Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem – the MedPartnership* and *Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to Implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean* (ClimVar & ICZM) have been received in March 2017. The two evaluations were performed by independent consultants under the guidance of the UN Environment Evaluation office. The overall terminal evaluation rating for the MedPartnership is “Highly Satisfactory”, reflecting achievement of project outputs, outcomes, and objectives, and in some cases exceeding targets, as well as creation of excellent enabling conditions for sustaining the project outcomes in the countries and the region. The overall terminal evaluation of ClimVar & ICZM project was “Moderately Satisfactory” concluding that the project achieved its objectives and generated a considerable number of high quality reports, studies, guidelines, and tools but at the same time it did not express its full potential due to some technical lack in the original project design.

13. The Secretariat, in collaboration with the MAP components and other partners, prepared the proposal for the GEF Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security. The MedProgramme has been approved by the GEF Council on 26 October 2016. It is based on the overarching vision of the Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 and encompasses seven interconnected

projects (Child Projects). The MedProgramme will make use of and introduce in the region innovative practices and technologies in the fields of harmful chemical reduction, wastewater treatment and reuse, comprehensive coastal zone planning tools, sustainable production and consumption measures. The MedProgramme is funded through a large GEF grant (indicatively US\$ 47,390,000) coming from different GEF focal areas (IW, CW and BD). UN Environment and EBRD will act as GEF implementing agencies receiving US\$ 37,652,500 and US\$ 9,737,500 respectively. These resources will support the intervention of the MedProgramme at regional level as well as national level. The MedProgramme was endorsed by: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco and Tunisia. UN Environment in its role of GEF implementing Agency received the Project preparation Grants to prepare the Project Documents of the 7 Child Projects to the Programme by March 2017.

14. The Project Implementation Form (PIF) of the GEF Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) project *Enhancing regional climate change adaptation in the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas* was adopted by the GEF CEO in November 2016 authorizing UN Environment/MAP to develop the full project document, which is plan to be delivered by the end of 2017. The project aims to assist policy makers and stakeholders in the Mediterranean region to develop ICZM strategies and plans regarding climate change adaptation following the agreed strategic objective codified in the RCCAF, and has a financing of \$1,000,000.

15. The Secretariat with PAP/RAC and INFO/RAC are participating in two projects on MSP approved by DG MARE (Supporting Implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning, in Call for Proposals EASME/EMFF/2015/1.2.1.3), related to the Eastern and Western Mediterranean: Supporting Maritime Spatial Planning in the Eastern Mediterranean (SUPrEME) & Supporting Implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning in the Western Mediterranean region (SIMWESTMED). The activities of the projects focus on supporting implementation of the MSP process in the EU Members States, and developing transboundary collaboration to manage MSP initiatives.

16. The Coordinating Unit has signed on 14 September 2016 a Cooperation Agreement (MoU) with the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS), to support the implementation of the Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) with a particular focus on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs), marine litter and Integrated Coastal Zone (ICZM)/CAMPs. During the first year, the agreement will also support small-scale pilot projects on marine litter in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro.

17. PAP/RAC is a partner in the INTERREG MED project CO-EVOLVE, aiming at analyzing and promoting co-evolution of human activities and natural systems in touristic areas of the Mediterranean coastal zone based on the principles of ICZM and MSP. CO-EVOLVE couples the analysis at the Mediterranean scale of threats and enabling factors for sustainable tourism with local studies in representative pilot areas, to demonstrate through pilot actions the feasibility and effectiveness of an ICZM/MSP-based planning process. The project started in January 2015 for a duration of three years. It includes 10 partners from Croatia, France, Greece, Italy and Spain.

18. The MAVA foundation invited PAP/RAC, together with several other Mediterranean partners, to propose activities for the improvement of the status and management of three wetlands identified in the Mediterranean, i.e. Oristano (Italy), Buna Protected Landscape and Ulcinj saltpan (Albania and Montenegro), and Ghar El Melh (Tunisia). Besides the overarching issue, namely 'Governance' for which PAP/RAC is the lead partner, the Centre will contribute to the organisation of the national Coast Day events and assist partners in Tunisia to prepare the integrated resources management plan for the Gahr el Mehl area. The projects should be completed by 2021.

19. In the framework of the agreement signed between the global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues (IPIECA) and REMPEC, IPIECA has co-financed the review of the Mediterranean "Principles and Guidelines on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance related to Oil and HNS Pollution Incidents" and has co-financed the organisation of the technical regional workshop (MEDEXPOL) on cooperation arrangements in the field of preparedness and response to oil and HNS spills (Contribution: EUR 34,627).

20. REMPEC participated, as a partner, in joint project proposals, namely the Mediterranean Decision Support Service - Platform for Upgraded Service (MEDESS-PLUS) and Western Mediterranean Region Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Cooperation (West MOPoCo) in the framework of the Interreg MED Programme. As reported in the 83rd Meeting of the Bureau, the first round of applications was not successful, but REMPEC is determined to apply for a second time since the projects will be beneficial for the Contracting Parties.

21. The two year project for Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline clean-up and Oiled Wildlife interventions – POSOW II initiated on 1 January 2015 and completed on 31 December 2016. The total budget of the project amounted to EUR 578,035 including the contribution of the European Commission (i.e. EUR 410,174) and the contribution of the partners of the project (i.e. EUR 167,861).

22. IMO financially contributed to the implementation of the Programme of Work for the biennium 2016-2017 through the allocation of IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) budget, during the period under review, with total amount of USD 87,914.31. Furthermore, REMPEC implemented the Programme of Work through a number of activities and secured a total fund of USD 3,166.67. External partners contributed to the resource mobilization of REMPEC with a total amount of EUR 20,287.

23. SCP/RAC is leader of the INTERREG Med project named ACT4LITTER for the development of joint measures to preserve natural ecosystems from marine litter in the Mediterranean Protected Areas. The project started on the 1st of February 2017 and is expected to end on the 31st of July 2018. MedPAN, MIO-ECSDE and SSSUP are the main partners of ACT4LITTER but the project also involves a group of 21 associated partners that will act as advisory board of the project (mainly national, regional and local authorities having a role in MPA management). The total budget of the project is EUR 599,000.

24. SCP/RAC is also involved as partner in the PlasticBusters MPA project proposal that was submitted at the end of March 2017 to the INTERREG Med Secretariat. The project aims at preserving biodiversity from plastics in Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas. This integrated project, with a studying, a testing and a capitalising module is led by ISPRA (Italy) with the scientific support of the University of Sienna. If finally selected, the project could start at the end of 2017 and would last for 48 months. The proposed total budget is around EUR 6M.

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

25. The progress under this Strategic Outcome specifically related to ratification, compliance and reporting is reported in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.84/6 "Report by the Secretariat on specific issues".

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

26. MED POL participated through teleconference in the H2020 PRPI meeting held in Brussels on 4 April 2017. The meeting focused on the review of the UfM suggested Flagship Projects, which are closely linked with the NAPs investment portfolio and provided feedback on further development of the Flagship Projects prioritizing categories and scoring criteria. The possibility of updating the 2013 Pollution Reduction Investment Project Database developed by UfM Secretariat in collaboration with MED POL was also discussed.

27. The "Work plan for the MCSD Steering Committee and MSSD implementation (2015-2017)" and the "Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025. Implementation and Monitoring Plan", were prepared and sent to the Members of the MCSD Steering Committee for comments. The process of a simplified peer review mechanism has been set in motion. More details are provided in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR 84/6 "Report by the Secretariat on specific issues". Furthermore, work has progressed regarding the Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER) of National Strategies for Sustainable Development. The outcome of the pilot process was

discussed in a Meeting with the participation of the three countries involved, namely France, Morocco and Montenegro (Sophia Antipolis, France, 27 April 2017).

28. The Secretariat has been actively participating in the preparations of and contributing to the UN Ocean Conference. It has submitted a Joint Regional Input into the Concept Paper of the Secretary General in relation to Partnership Themes 2 and 4 with the GFCM Secretariat and a Regional Input into the Concept Paper of the Secretary-General of the Conference for the Partnership Dialogues in relation to themes 1 and 2. UN Environment/MAP has also contributed to the development of background documents of the UN Ocean Conference through coordinated UN Environment input and as such the Mediterranean example features highly in the relevant Partnership Dialogue Concept Papers of the Conference (with references to the UN Environment/MAP-GFCM MoU, to the Marine Litter Regional Cooperation Platform, to partnership between UN Environment/MAP and IMO, IAEA and EEA, to the Mid-Term Strategy and to the Ecosystem Approach Process and the Science-Policy Interface work under the EcAp-MEDII Project).

29. The Coordinating Unit met with WWF MEdPO on 8 March 2017 at the UN Environment/MAP premises and got the opportunity to explore ways to increase the impact of joint work on the basis of different but complementary mandates. On 23 March 2017, the GFCM Secretariat was also invited to the UN Environment premises and held a successful meeting with MAP Coordinating Unit where recent developments at both Organizations of relevance to their cooperation were discussed together with other technical and operational issues related to priority activities for the next year.

30. Work is currently being undertaken by EEA and MED POL in the framework of H2020 Review and Monitoring Group, with support from the ENI SEIS II South Project. In order to increase coordination and maximise synergies, the 1st SEIS Steering Committee was held jointly with the 7th meeting of the Horizon 2020 Review and Monitoring Group, bringing together the MED POL, H2020 and SEIS Focal Points (11-12 December 2016). During this meeting, the countries presented their draft national work plans and bilateral discussions were held with EEA and UN Environment /MAP, in view of further elaborating and updating their work plans.

31. The international conference «What solutions for the Mediterranean? » that gathered 200 representatives of the 21 Mediterranean countries (Paris, France, 23 February 2017) following an initiative to recapture marine ecosystems that was launched in 2016 by Ségolène Royal, French Minister of the Environment, the Energy and the Sea. All MAP components, in all workshop round-tables. The Meeting concluded that a lot of initiatives exist at regional level and highlighted the need to strengthen them with the implementation of key actions, with a focus on pollution.

32. The Coordinating Unit and REMPEC participated in the panel of the Plenary Session II-B: Blue Growth and the Environment, during the 2nd Forum of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR, Ioannina, Greece, 11-12 May 2017), jointly organised by EC and Greece. The forum attended by more than 600 participants, was a networking opportunity, where stakeholders gathered to discuss concrete suggestions, views and ideas on how to better achieve the EUSAIR Strategy objectives. Special focus was given to Blue Growth and its interrelations with the other EUSAIR pillars: Environmental quality, Sustainable tourism and Connectivity.

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

33. The preparation of the first Quality Status Report (QSR) for the Mediterranean is one of the most important outputs of the 2016-2017 Programme of Work (PoW). MED POL is responsible to ensure the technical coordination of the preparation of the QSR by the MAP components with inputs from and review by the Correspondence Group on Monitoring (CORMON). It also led the work to prepare a common template of the Guidance Factsheet for the IMAP Common Indicators. In this respect, a coordinated effort was undertaken by the Secretariat in close collaboration with the MAP Components to: (a) Provide effective legal and technical support to Contracting Parties in updating and/or preparing their National Monitoring Programmes, (b) Finalize common/harmonized factsheets, (c) Prepare the first draft of the Quality Status Report, (d) Preparation of five CORMON meetings: on

Pollution, Marine Litter Monitoring, Coast and Hydrography, and Biodiversity and Fisheries, as well as three workshops addressing science and policy interface for IMAP implementation with support from the EcAP MEDII Project. The gap analysis of regional measures undertaken during last biennium was enriched and updated taking into account the comments made by the EcAP Coordination Group meeting (Rome, Italy, September 2015) with a special focus on assessing and suggesting updated and or additional measures to achieve GES. Based on this analysis, including the socioeconomic assessment of selected key regional measures (extension of MPA network, plastic bag tax, no special fee for port reception facilities and fishing for litter), conducted by Plan Bleu, a list of potential new or updated existing measures were identified for further consideration, by the EcAP Coordinating Group Meeting on 11 September 2017.

34. Plan Bleu is leading the work for the MED2050 roadmap to be presented to COP 20 and the identification of partners and collaboration with scientist and NGOs, as IUCN, has been done. A roadmap with the main steps has been drawn and will be presented to the Plan Bleu National Focal Points meeting. Also, Plan Bleu is leading the preparation of the SoED 2019. The table of content and the roadmap will be presented to the Plan Bleu National Focal Points meeting then to the Parties. All MAP Components will be involved in preparing this report.

35. A first version of the Mediterranean sustainability dashboard was discussed during a workshop organised jointly by Plan Bleu/RAC and SCP/RAC and held in Barcelona, Spain on 17 October 2016. A first version online of dashboard was presented to the Plan Bleu National Focal Points meeting in April 2017. The dashboard will be further discussed in the 17th MCSD meeting (Athens, Greece, 4-6 July 2017).

36. Plan Bleu participated to the MedCOP Climate 2016, in Tangiers, Morocco, on 17 -18 July 2016, to present the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025, and especially its 4th Objective "Addressing Climate Change as a priority issue for the Mediterranean". SCP/RAC also participated actively to the MedCOP by organizing a workshop on SCP, circular economy and climate change in the Mediterranean. The results of this workshop were also discussed during a specific event also organized by SCP/RAC during the COP of Marrakesh on circular economy within the AgoraMed COP.

37. Plan Bleu organized a first Regional Consultation Workshop held on Climate Change Science-Policy Interface in the Mediterranean (MedEcc) in Aix-en-Provence, France, on 10-12 October, gathering scientists and decision-makers. Two MedECC Thematic Workshops have been organized on 26 January 2017, and 13-14 March 2017, back-to-back with UfM WG on CC & Environment and CCEG Meetings. Several thematic workshops will be held in the following months: Rabat, Morocco, 10-12 May 2017 - WG1 Water, food, energy nexus; Lecce or Palermo, Italy, June 2017 - WG3 Health, human security, and development; Marseille, France, 17-19 July - WG2 Ecosystem & ecosystem services and Monaco, 18-19 October 2017, Regional Workshop "Human impacts on Mediterranean marine ecosystems and the economy".

38. The Secretariat (Coordinating Unit and Plan Bleu) was present in COP 22 of UNFCCC that took place in Marrakech, Morocco on 7-18 November 2016, and had two side events. Plan Bleu coordinated several side events at this international conference: "Towards an experts group on climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean (MedECC)", "MedClimate Day" (Organised by ENERGIES 2050 and its partners, Plan Bleu and the FEMISE/Institut de la Méditerranée) and "Strengthening Climate Risk Monitoring: A Method for Assessing Coastal Risk at Different Scales for the Mediterranean".

39. A number of activities were held under the auspices of the Coordinating Unit, in Athens, Greece, such as: a) the MedSOS cleanup the beach campaign (to which staff of UN Environment/MAP participated), on 7 May 2017, b) the Healthy Seas Fashion Project Exhibition which was under MAP auspices was taken to the Netherlands in 2017 where it will be displayed for two years, c) an orientation visit for students from the Athens Academy, in collaboration with REMPEC, on 9 May 2017.

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

40. The Barcelona Convention was the first regional Convention to join the Multilateral Environmental Agreement Information and Knowledge Management Initiative (MEA-IKM) and is working in close cooperation with InforMEA to provide data and content to the initiative. The Secretariat participated in the last meeting of the IKM Working Group (6 September 2016), where the recommendations of the 7th MEA-KIM Steering Committee were discussed. These ranged from outreach and awareness raising to e-learning and education to impact of SDGs on IKM. The Secretariat is working to identify how the Barcelona Convention could further contribute to InforMEAs in light of the recommendations of the MEA-KIM Steering Committee.

41. 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. INFO-RAC launched the Beta testing of the NBB system and developed the NBB info system guidelines. This would enable a smooth operation of NBB data submission including through PRTR.

42. Within the development of the Mediterranean clearing-house mechanism on marine and coastal biodiversity, SPA/RAC has launched within the framework of the Medkeyhabitats project the establishment of a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) for its georeferenced data which will be called the Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform (MBP). The Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform will provide three main services: (a) Discovery: search and access information, (b) View: Display spatial datasets on the interactive map (WebGIS features); and (c) Download: public users (or authorised users depending on Data Policy rules applicable to the specific dataset) will be able to select and download maps of their interest.

43. SPA/RAC has also launched the redesign of the (Standard Data-Entry Form) SDF web application in order to be integrated with the MBP. A firm was hired to enhance the data-model and the make the application user friendly.

44. Following the recent change in the management of INFO/RAC, a mission of the INFO/RAC team to the Coordinating Unit took place in February 2017. Discussion focused on information management and communication activities as well as operational matters. It was agreed that INFO/RAC will gradually take over information activities. To this end, a new workplan was discussed and finalized after the mission.

Strategic Outcome 1.6: Raised awareness and outreach

45. A new website and data base were developed. The website is available in three languages English, French and Arabic. It was regularly updated. News items were posted in three languages and disseminated through RACs websites, Mediterranean journalist network, DEPI Dispatch and UN Environment in Europe monthly newsletter. The handing over of communication activities to INFO/RAC was discussed with the new head of INFO RAC and a new plan was developed.

46. The Secretariat has published in hardcopy form (a) the SCP Action Plan (in English, and French), (b) regional climate change (in English and French), and (c) the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and related Assessment Criteria – IMAP (in English, French and Arabic). The Secretariat is widely distributing these publications, in UN Environment/MAP meetings as well as in country trainings, meetings of relevant other projects, etc, as appropriate, and share them online on its website, UN Environment and RACs websites.

47. The UN Environment/MAP participated in a number of outreach events during this period, as highlighted in Section G of document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.84/6.

48. UN Environment/MAP will actively participate in the UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14 that will be held from 5 to 9 June 2017 in New York. UN

Environment/MAP is also co-organizing three side-events during the Ocean Conference, including a high level one, on the Implementation of the ecosystem approach at the regional level for the coordinated achievement of the targets of SDG 14.

49. The Secretariat, with the support of Plan Bleu, has progressed work on the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award. A new plan with a clear timeline was developed together with a detailed leaflet, and the award was launched in mid-May 2017. A letter was addressed to MAP Focal Points urging them to encourage their local authorities to apply.

50. A cartoon on the Ecosystem Approach has been elaborated, screened and disseminated during two significant events: The Science Policy Interface workshop related to Biodiversity cluster organised within the MPA Forum (28 November 2016, Tangier, Morocco); The meeting of the Correspondence Group on Monitoring (CORMON), Biodiversity and Fisheries (28 February and 1 March 2017, Madrid, Spain). An infographic on the ecological role of *Posidonia* meadows has been produced (not yet disseminated). A customized exhibition stand featuring the new SPA/RAC tagline was elaborated and used for various regional and local events.

51. The preparatory activities for the 2017 Mediterranean Coast Day celebration on 25 September have started by PAP/RAC in collaboration with the Government of Montenegro and with the support of UN Environment/MAP. Since there is a good chance that the event will be hosted by the President of Montenegro, a letter was sent to him by the Executive Director of UN Environment in Nairobi.

52. At the occasion of the Adriatic Trilateral Initiative, inaugurated in Split, Croatia, on 10 February 2017, PAP/RAC received a visit of a delegation headed by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Albania, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro. The Croatia-Albania-Montenegro initiative was launched to contribute to the stability and security of this part of the Adriatic and Europe, and to intensify the dialogue on issues of common interest for these three countries. Some of the key areas include political dialogue, regional and international security, environmental protection, economy and tourism, transports, as well as energy and infrastructure.

53. The Communication Strategy for 2018-2023 is under preparation, for submission to the MAP Focal Points. The Strategy will aim at enhancing outreach activities building on the increased visibility of the MAP system and its work achieved in COP 19. It will also include an assessment of the current situation and suggest a roadmap of actions to further increase the visibility and impact of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system. In the meantime, the Secretariat has finalized the development of the revamped website of UN Environment/MAP in English, French and Arabic, and of its data base, in collaboration with the Division of Communication and Public Information of UN Environment. The website is being regularly updated in three languages.

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

Strategic Outcome 2.1: Strengthening regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and four pollution-related Protocols, and of programmes of measures in existing relevant Regional Strategies and Action Plans

54. The Coordinating Unit and REMPEC met the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (IOGP) in London, United Kingdom on 27 October 2016 to discuss the industry's possible contribution to assist the Coordinating Unit in the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan, through technical and financial support as well as staff secondment. The assessment of funding opportunities for the implementation of the Offshore Action Plan, were also addressed, in the context of the update of the Resource Mobilization Strategy.

55. A PCA was signed with SCP/RAC for the implementation of the activity related to the ban of single-use plastic bags in five countries. So far, four countries expressed their interest for this activity: Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Lebanon.

56. SCP/RAC is currently identifying existing innovative solutions to prevent the use of toxic

chemicals (PBT, EDC, vPvB, CMR) in products, which could be replicated in the Mediterranean Region by companies. One of those solutions will be turned into a pilot activity for its replication in one country. This activity is supporting the implementation of the SCP Action Plan, in particular the operational objectives related to the Goods Manufacturing Sector. Following a similar methodology, SCP/RAC is also identifying existing innovative solutions to prevent the generation of plastics ending up as Marine Litter. An initial list of 80 initiatives was established and 25 were finally selected and will be compiled in a publication. One of those initiatives will be turned into a pilot project. This activity is supporting both the implementation of the Regional SCP Action Plan and the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management.

57. SCP/RAC is currently finalizing the preparation of the Project Identity Forms with the countries for the activities it will develop in the framework of the SWIM H2020 Expert facility of the SWIM H2020 Supporting Mechanisms project. The activities will consist in strengthening the development of the national policy framework for SCP, circular economy and pollution prevention and will take place in Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan and Palestine.

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

58. MED POL developed updated guidelines on management of dredged materials and on placement for artificial reefs under the Dumping Protocol in order to bring them in line with the latest IMO relevant developments, where appropriate, and streamline relevant GES targets. It also developed updated guidelines on desalination activities.

59. The Regional Meeting of Experts to review the Draft Desalination and Dumping Protocol Guidelines was held in Greece, 4-6 April 2017, and reviewed the proposed draft updated Desalination Guidelines, and the updated Guidelines under the Dumping Protocol of the Barcelona Convention related to Dredged Materials and Artificial Reefs. All the proposed Updated Guidelines, in accordance with the conclusions and recommendations of the experts meeting, were submitted for review by the MED POL Focal Points Meeting.

60. The Meeting of the Mediterranean Informal Network on Compliance and Enforcement (Loutraki, Greece, 6-7 April 2017) reviewed two Guides prepared by the Secretariat. The Guide on BAT aims to assist the permitting authorities of the Contracting Parties to extract and evaluate the necessary information to assess the information provided by the applicants for permits concerning BAT introduction in industrial installations and support the operators in their application for a permit on the selection of BAT options. The Guide on Inspection of Industrial Facilities comprises a practical guidance tool to support the relevant national authorities in promoting BAT application in the inspection process addressing both overall processes related to inspection (planning, effectiveness, follow up, indicators, etc.) and the check lists required to facilitate the inspection process with the view to be used as guidance for the conduction of inspections in selected industrial sectors.

61. One of the outputs of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED Project, is the strengthening of the implementation of harmonized approaches at regional and sub-regional levels to reduce and prevent marine litter generation from land-based and sea-based sources including pilot preventions (EU countries to participate on a no-cost basis). In this context, MED POL will develop in cooperation with SCP/RAC, REMPEC and SPA/RAC specific tools/guides/guidelines in accordance with the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean. Further information is presented at the project document that can be accessed and downloaded in the UN Environment/MAP website: http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/id/54013/ProjectDoc_MarineLitterMED.pdf.

62. MED POL has undertaken an assessment of the Annexes of the Pollution-related Protocols (Dumping, LBS, HW and Offshore), to propose for consideration by the MED POL Focal Points possible revisions, in the light of relevant global and regional developments, where appropriate, with the view to achieve GES. In this regard, relevant global and regional instruments were reviewed, including the London Dumping Convention and Protocol, the Stockholm Convention, the Basel Convention, the Minamata Convention, as well as developments under relevant EU legislation including the MSFD, WFD, EIA Directive etc.

63. In addition, MED POL, with support from the EU-funded ActionMed Project prepared an analysis (policy paper) on potential future pollution prevention and control programmes of measures required to achieve GES based on existing studies related to sectors/drivers development. Work on the development of PRTR, in line with the MAP PoW 2016-2017 will be undertaken in the framework of the ENI SEIS II South Project, with the development of PRTR Guidelines, the development of PRTR legislation in all SEIS countries, the implementation of SEIS pilots in five partner countries.

64. The revised Mediterranean “Principles and Guidelines on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance related to Oil and HNS Pollution Incidents”, which evolved to a Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents, were discussed at the Workshop on cooperation arrangements in the field of preparedness and response to oil and HNS spills (MEDEXPOL 2016) held in Malta from 14 to 15 December 2016. 14 Contracting Parties as well as Regional and International Organisations participated in this meeting. The Meeting approved a set of Conclusions and Recommendations. and the “Draft Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents” for consideration by the 12th Meeting of REMPEC National Focal Points.

65. In the framework of the SWIM H2020 Supporting Mechanisms project, SCP/RAC prepared terms of reference for the preparation of two technical studies that will aim at screening the best practices, circular economy measures and technologies for the target countries of SWIM-H2020 SM. The Selected sectors are the olive oil sector and the cement sector, with focus on the best practices for the waste minimization, water and energy consumption and valorisation of the sub-products of the olive oil production, and on the best practices for the waste to energy process in order to avoid or minimize environmental issues, respectively.

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

66. Work has advanced in assessing the information provided in the updated NAPs/PoM regarding in particular the list of updated 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. A regional meeting was held in Marseille, France, on 17-18 October 2016 (co-organized by MED POL, Plan Bleu and the EU funded SWIM H2020 Support mechanism). The objective of this meeting was to draft a roadmap for the implementation of the updated NAPs/PoM and identify key common targets, measures and priorities. The meeting was an opportunity for the Contracting Parties to share best practices, and exchange experiences on success stories, lessons learnt and challenges faced during the NAP update process and strengthen their capacities for better prioritizing the programmes of measures and elaborating the investment project fiches, in view of achieving GES and H2020 targets on pollution and litter.

67. The Regional Expert Meeting on National Action Plans for the Implementation of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) was organised by REMPEC in Barcelona, Spain from 8 to 9 November 2016. The principal objective of the Meeting was to support the preparation of NAPs for the implementation of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021). The Meeting was attended by 26 participants from 18 Contracting Parties

68. Following the Meeting of the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS) organised in Toulon, France, from 29 September to 1 October 2015, REMPEC, between May and September 2016, prepared an analysis of relevant information at Mediterranean level and synthesised findings into short reports on: (a) IMO mandatory reporting system under MARPOL; (b) specific marine oil pollution detection/investigation reports; (c) applicable sanctions applied by Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention with regard to illicit ship pollution discharges; and (d) developments on the review of Recommendation 19/14 of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (Helsinki Commission) on a harmonized system of fines in case a ship violates anti-pollution regulations.

Strategic Outcome 2.4: Marine Pollution Monitoring and Assessment

69. Work is ongoing to support up to ten Contracting Parties to establish updated national monitoring programmes in line with the IMAP (Pollution and Marine Litter Cluster). Related legal agreements have been developed and signed with Israel, Morocco and Lebanon. Work is ongoing to sign the agreements with Algeria, Libya and Tunisia.

70. MED POL undertook a review from the data of the MED POL Monitoring Programme (2000 to date) and from the Contracting Parties reporting. A number of Focal Points were contacted with summarized reviews of their reporting and results of their participation in the 2015 Quality Assurance Programme, and training. The Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Pollution Monitoring (Marseille, France, 19-21 October 2016) discussed in depth the current status of the MED POL Monitoring Programme database, and the results of the 2015 Quality Assurance Programme and training. The CORMON meeting recommended that the countries which have not yet done so should report without further delay the pollution monitoring data as provided for in the provisions of the Convention and the LBS Protocol including past monitoring reports and expressed concern on the results of the proficiency tests carried out in 2015 with regards to eutrophication and contaminants and noted the imperative need to maintain a proper quality assurance of the data. For the current biennium (2016-2017), as of the 28 April 2017, data submissions have been received by Croatia (2011-2014), Cyprus (2013, 2014 and 2015), France (2010, 2011, 2012) Morocco (2013, 2014, 2015), Montenegro (2014, 2015, 2016) Slovenia (2014 and 2015) and Tunisia (printed report for 2014).

71. As mentioned under the Strategic Outcome 1.2 the CORMON Meetings on pollution (contaminants and eutrophication) and marine litter were held in October 2016 and February-March 2017 respectively. The CORMON on Pollution reviewed the status of the marine pollution monitoring regional data base and reporting, MED POL database gaps and related quality assurance issues, and agreed on solutions to address them; reviewed the proposal for Background Concentrations (BC)/Background Assessment Concentrations (BACs)/Environmental Assessment Concentrations (EACs) for contaminants and biomarkers at Mediterranean and sub regional scales; and discussed the Science Policy Interface (SPI) strengthening related to marine pollution monitoring. In addition the meeting discussed to process to develop the 2017 Quality Status Report (QSR) including sources of information to be used and case studies to be developed. The CORMON on Marine Litter provided Contracting Parties with a training programme on specific elements of marine litter monitoring and related best practices, and ensured the exchange information on the revision of their national monitoring programmes in relation to Marine Litter to be updated in light of the Integrated Monitoring and assessment programme (IMAP) adopted by COP 19. The draft Indicator Guidance Factsheets on Marine Litter and the first completed Quality Status Report (QSR) Assessment Factsheets Common Indicators 22 and 23 were reviewed in detail. In addition, the meeting agreed on the process to further develop Marine Litter Metadata Templates and Monitoring Protocols, led by France Spain and Italy.

72. A joint training on monitoring the ingestion of marine litter on sea turtles is planned for the coming July 2017 in Naples, Italy, while a francophone training will be organized at a later stage in France (tbc). Moreover, MED POL is in the advisory board of the MEDCIS EU-funded project (Support Mediterranean EU Member States towards coherent and Coordinated Implementation of the second phase of the EU MSFD), facilitating the overall coordination and communication of the project.

73. The 2016 Quality Assurance Programme for trace elements in sediment sample and chlorinated pesticides, PCBs and petroleum hydrocarbons in biota; the Quality Assurance of data regarding eutrophication parameters; the Biological effects studies and organization of an Inter-calibration exercise were successfully finalized. Final reports of the 2016 proficiency tests on trace metals and organics in sediments and biota will be shared with MED POL Focal Points and laboratory codes for each laboratory will be sent individually.

74. MED POL has worked closely with REMPEC to develop monitoring guidance related to shipping and offshore activities. The First Meeting of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG) Sub-Group on Environmental Impact of Offshore Monitoring Programmes was held in

Loutraki, Greece, on 3-4 April 2017, with the support of the EU-funded EcAp MED II project. The Meeting reviewed the proposed outputs related to the establishment of National and Regional Offshore Monitoring Programmes, including pollutants, parameters and minimum requirement, and gave guidance to the Secretariat for the further preparation of the required documentation in relation to offshore monitoring. The meeting decided that the correspondence group will be led by Cyprus and France.

75. REMPEC provided technical support to the development of a quality assurance programme for oil and hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) pollution from ships and offshore data reporting and collection in line with the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP) (Decision IG.22/7), within the framework of the EcAp-MED II Project. Kick-off Meetings were convened in Athens, Greece, from 20 to 21 and from 22 to 23 September 2016 respectively.

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

76. In consultation and collaboration with the Secretariat of the Agreement for cooperation in dealing with pollution of the North Sea by oil and other harmful substances, 1983 (Bonn Agreement), REMPEC sponsored two representatives from Algeria and Tunisia to participate, as observers, in the Special Co-ordinated Extended Pollution Control Operation (Special CEPCO 2016) organised in the Netherlands from 5 to 9 September 2016 within the context of the Bonn Agreement. The National Training Course on Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Response, prepared by REMPEC in cooperation with the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) initially scheduled for 3-8 September 2016 was postponed to the second half of 2017. This activity to be held in Cairo, Egypt is financed by IMO ITCP.

77. The 2-year project for Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline clean-up and Oiled Wildlife interventions – POSOW II was completed on 31 December 2016. The trainers who attended the two four-day “Train the Trainers” courses on the 6 POSOW themes between 19 and 22 and between 26 and 29 April 2016, ran a National Pilot Training Course in their respective countries, drawing on the materials available in their language. Six National Pilot Training Courses have been organized in Egypt between 27 and 29 November 2016, in Morocco between 20 and 21 December 2016, in Tunisia between 11 and 13 October 2016 and in Turkey between 11 and 13 October 2016. For Libya, with the in-kind contribution of MOIG, a Train the Trainers course was organised in Tunisia between 22 and 24 November 2016. All the trainees, including 43 representatives for the Train the Trainers courses and 133 participants for the National Pilot Training Courses have been recorded in the POSOW database by REMPEC. 173 volunteers from 16 countries are now registered in the POSOW database. All the project promotion documents (movie, leaflet, presentations, newsletters) and training materials prepared during POSOW I and POSOW II are freely available in several languages on the POSOW website: www.posow.org, for further dissemination in the Mediterranean region.

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

78. With the theme “Cooperation in the Mediterranean to Prevent and Combat Marine Pollution from Ships”, REMPEC launched on the 4th October 2016, the celebrations of its 40th Anniversary. Further information is provided in Section G of document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.84/6.

79. Within the framework of the “Joint Declaration of Intent on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection” signed by the Ministers responsible for environment of Cyprus, Greece and Israel in Jerusalem April 2016, the competent national authorities of the three countries agreed to develop and implement a joint sub-regional marine pollution contingency plan and requested the assistance of REMPEC. The Competent National Authorities for the Preparation of the CGI SCP was, held in Barcelona, Spain on 9 December 2016, to review and discuss the National Contingency Plans (NCPs) of each Party, the concept for the development of the SCP and the preliminary proposal of its contents. A second Meeting of the Competent National Authorities for the Preparation of the CGI

SCP, was convened in Valletta, Malta, on 13 December 2016, and the Working Group on the Drafting of a Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan met on the invitation of the Government of Cyprus on 23 February 2017 in Nicosia, Cyprus, to further review the draft CGI SCP. During the latter, a programme was agreed including the next Meeting of the competent national authorities, to be held in Cyprus, in July 2017, with a view to ensuring the signature of the Agreement related to the CGI SCP prior to the end of 2017.

80. Further to a request from the Minister for Environment and Sustainable development of Tunisia, REMPEC mobilised funds from IMO's ITCP to support the Tier 3 exercise to be organised by the Government of Tunisia in September 2017 to test the "Supporting Operational Document (Manuel de Procedure) for the implementation of the National Contingency Plan", recently finalised by the Tunisian National Agency for the Protection of the Environment (ANPE). REMPEC will facilitate the participation of representatives from Algeria and Morocco, as neighbouring countries and Parties to the Agreement concerning the Sub-Regional Contingency Plan for the South-Western Mediterranean signed in 2005 between Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, with a view to strengthening cooperation and revitalising the sub regional agreement.

81. The renewal of REMPEC's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the framework of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU) with the Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) is in its final stage, whilst the final draft MoU with Federazione Nazionale dell'Industria Chimica (FEDERCHIMICA) was approved and is pending signature following the update of the list of experts in annex to the MoU. The MoUs between REMPEC and Sea Alarm, between REMPEC and the Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution (CEDRE) as well as between REMPEC and the Mediterranean Operational Network for the Global Ocean Observing System (MONGOOS) were renewed. In addition, from 9 March to 15 March 2017, REMPEC activated the MAU through MONGOOS - Emergency Response Office (ERO) for the preparation of simulations of the worst case scenario of pollution incident in Ras Lanuf and Es Sidra Terminals according to data provided by REMPEC's OPRC focal point in Libya and those available on MEDGIS-MAR, in the context of a potential risk of marine pollution from the said terminals.

Strategic Outcome 2.7: Identifying and tackling new and emerging issues, as appropriate

82. Regarding the assessment of the feasibility of designation as a SOx Emission Control Area (ECA) certain areas of the Mediterranean Sea or the whole of the Med Sea, REMPEC established the technical committee of experts under Specific Objective 15 of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021). So far, nominations have been received from 14 Mediterranean coastal States and the European Union.

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

83. The 2016 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (Tangier, Morocco, 28 November-1 December), organised by MedPAN, SPA/RAC and the '*Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte Contre la Désertification*', gathered around 300 key players involved in the marine environment (representatives of national environmental agencies, fishing and tourism, land managers, scientists, non-governmental and civil society organisations, local economic actors and Mediterranean and international institutions) coming from 33 countries. This Forum was an opportunity for a mid-term assessment of the implementation of the 2012 MPA Roadmap and led to propose new recommendations to tackle the challenges faced by MPAs, especially those related to climate change, with an integrated and long term vision (the Tangier Declaration).

84. SPA/RAC started, during the 2016 MPA Forum (Tangier, Morocco, 28 November-1 December), a reflection on the design and rationale behind the creation of the Ad hoc group of experts on Mediterranean MPAs, in consultation with relevant regional organisations. The rationale and terms of reference of such advisory group were presented for discussion and approval by the 13th Meeting of Focal Points for SPAs (Alexandria, Egypt, 9-12 May 2017).

85. Geo-referenced data on the extension of MPAs as well as qualitative data on their management have been collected by SPA/RAC and MedPAN and led to the updating of the MAPAMED dataset as of 2016. Data has been analysed and a leaflet of the main findings was produced and disseminated during the 2016 MPA Forum, as well as a poster showing MPA distribution in the Mediterranean. The full status report will be produced and spread in 2017 through an online user-friendly interface.

86. Regarding the collection in documents of data on pressures and impacts in ABNJ or where limits of jurisdictions have not yet been defined, to support the Parties for working together in the planning of management measures tailored to different sub regions to improve status of environment in ABNJ, the output documents produced through the MedOpenSeas project were edited and published on line for three subregions: West Mediterranean (Alboran Sea), Adriatic (Adriatic Sea) and Central Mediterranean (Sicily Channel), on their ecology, key vulnerable species (cartilaginous, turtles, marine birds, cetaceans) marine resources and related pressures and impacts in those areas, including fisheries overviews for each of them. A GIS compilation is also being developed with data and metadata following INSPIRA standard and including features, biota, marine areas and pressures embracing ABNJ, notably increased, reaching so far over 160 georeferenced layers. They are hosted on SPA/RAC databases and ready for inclusion in online map portals. Further, a synthesis document on legal points to be aware of for the protection of BBNJ has been prepared.

87. SPA/RAC collaborated with the University of Nice Sophia-Antipolis (France) and other partners in the elaboration of the Mediterranean version of the educational booklet "The Science of Marine Protected Areas" (called PISCO booklet). The booklet was launched during the 2016 Mediterranean MPA Forum (Tangier, November 2016). It is presently being translated into Mediterranean languages. SPA/RAC will ensure the coordination and technical supervision of the Arabic version.

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

88. In the context of the assessment of the level of implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management, in August 2016, REMPEC sent a Circular Letter to all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the purpose of reviewing, amending and completing the content of their specific Assessment Templates. In early 2017, 16 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention reviewed their specific Assessment Template. The Synthetic Report on the Assessment, which provides a succinct account of the general status of implementation in statistical terms and specific recommendations under each Strategic Priority of the Mediterranean BWM Strategy as well as general conclusions, was presented to the 12th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC for its consideration, prior to onward transmission, as appropriate, to the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points as well as COP 20 for their consideration.

89. Moreover, in its capacity of Regional Coordinating Organisation (RCO), REMPEC coordinated the implementation of the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships Programme in the Mediterranean region, in collaboration with SPA/RAC. In particular, the Centre participated in the following meetings for which it also coordinated, together with the PCU, the participation of Lead Partnering Countries in the region, namely Croatia and Turkey, as appropriate:

- (a) the First Croatia-GloBallast National GIA Conference on BWM (Zagreb, Croatia; 14-15 November 2016), for which it participated, as a speaker;
- (b) the Regional Training Workshop on practical aspects of RA and PBBS related to the implementation of the BWM Convention (Zagreb, Croatia; 16-17 November 2016); and
- (c) the Fifth Global Project Task Force (GPTF) Meeting (Panama City, Panama; 16-17 March 2017) convened back-to-back with the Panama Maritime XIII World Conference and Exhibition (Panama City, Panama; 12-15 March 2017).

90. The 2011 Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species (Biofouling Guidelines), which were approved by the IMO Marine

Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) at its sixty-second session in July 2011 and circulated as Resolution MEPC.207(62), as well as the Guidelines for the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping to address adverse impacts on marine life, which were approved by MEPC at its sixty-sixth session in April 2014 and circulated as MEPC.1/Circ.833 were presented to the Twelfth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC for the perusal of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

91. SPA/RAC is elaborating a short practical guide on gap analysis and MPA system planning adapted to the Mediterranean context to be used by Mediterranean countries' planners and decision-makers and other stakeholders involved in MPA planning processes, based on the most recent available technical tools, literature and best practices developed at international level. This guide will be ready by July 2017 and will be made available in English and French.

92. SPA/RAC has developed the following Guidelines within the implementation of the Action Plan for the conservation of Marine turtles in the Mediterranean: (a) Guidelines for the long term Monitoring programmes for marine turtles nesting beaches and standardize monitoring methods for nesting beaches, feeding and wintering; (b) Guidelines to standardize methodologies to estimate demographic parameters for marine turtles populations in the Mediterranean.

93. The Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine and Coastal Bird Species Listed in Annex II of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, which includes an update on the 25 species has been updated and is presented to the 13th SPA Focal Points meeting.

Strategic Outcome 3.3: Strengthening national implementation of biodiversity conservation policies, strategies and legislation measures

94. An ecological characterisation of three ecologically important sites in Lebanon: Batroun, Medfoun and Byblos, has been carried out from 28 September to 7 October 2016, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment of Lebanon, the National Council for Scientific Research of Beirut, the University of Alicante (Spain) and IUCN-ROWA. The report of the ecological characterisation is under finalisation.

95. The process for the elaboration of a management plan for the Jbel Moussa future MPA in Morocco has started in November 2016. An inception meeting bringing together the main stakeholders at local level was organised on 7 April 2017 in Tangier.

96. The process for the elaboration of a management plan for the North-Eastern part of the Kerkennah Islands in Tunisia has started in May 2017, with the process for the elaboration of a management plan for the Sallum MPA in Egypt is expected to start during the second semester of 2017.

97. In the framework of the CAMP Var (France) programme, SPA/RAC is collaborating with the Conservatoire du littoral, PAP/RAC and other partners in the elaboration of three short films highlighting the good management practices acquired through the "Archipel d'excellence" initiative and implemented in the Var region SPAMIs (the Port-Cros National Park and the Embiez Archipelago) and other islands of the Var Department.

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

98. SPA/RAC is supporting the southern Mediterranean countries to update their national monitoring programme following the IMAP recommendations. Concerned countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia) elaborated their respective drafts of monitoring programme related to biodiversity and NIS. Those drafts will be validated through national workshops involving stakeholders and institutions engaged in biodiversity monitoring in order to agree on the list of species, habitats and invasive NIS that will be considered in the short and medium terms of the IMAP implementation.

99. SPA/RAC collaborated early 2017 with the relevant authorities in Algeria and Italy in order to carry out the ordinary periodic review of the Banc des Kabyles Nature Reserve and Habibas Islands (Algeria), and the Portofino Marine Protected Area (Italy).

100. The SPAMI ordinary review was carried out using the procedure adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2008, and allowed the testing and improvement of a new format, that is proposed for discussion and endorsement by the 13th Meeting of Focal Points for SPAs (Alexandria, Egypt, 9-12 May 2017). The new format is available through the following link: http://rac-spa.org/spami_eval/spami.php. This online platform will allow the monitoring of SPAMIs evolution across their repetitive ordinary reviews.

101. SPA/RAC prepared a draft report on the evaluation of the implementation of the 2009 Regional working programme on MCPAs supported by the 2016 Roadmap on MPAs, in view of its presentation to the 13th Meeting of Focal Points for SPAs (Alexandria, Egypt, 9-12 May 2017), and eventually to the 2017 ordinary MAP Focal Points meeting and COP 20 for information.

102. SPA/RAC has supported the achievement of the following activities:

- (a) Survey and monitoring of the common dolphin population around the islands of Corfu, Paxos/AntiPaxos, Lefkada, Ithaki/Kephallonia (Greece),
- (b) Satellite telemetry applied to fin whales in the Mediterranean Sea” carried out by the “Tethys Research Institute” around Lampedusa Island (Italy),
- (c) A photo –identification survey on the bottlenose population in the Bay of Bizerte (North of Tunisia) achieved by the Tunisian Association for Taxonomy, Tunisia,
- (d) Dolphin Project: population size and habitat use for bottlenose and common dolphins along the North of Tunisia, which is ongoing by “L’ Association Nationale du Développement Durable et de la Conservation de la Vie Sauvage”,
- (e) The Monitoring and conservation of sea turtles and their habitat in Albania,.: main actions have been focused on bycatch monitoring, data collection, capacity building, Education and Awareness raising,
- (f) The monitoring of Marine and coastal birds in Palm Island (SPAMI, Lebanon),
- (g) The monitoring of Marine turtles nesting (Kuriat island, Tunisia),
- (h) Improving the conditions and the functioning of the rescue centre in Monastir (Tunisia),
- (i) The functioning of the Mediterranean database on cetaceans stranding (MEDACES) in collaboration with the Secretariat of ACCOBAMS,
- (j) The implementation of the ACCOBAMS-GFCM Project on mitigating interaction between endangered marine species and fishing activities, SPA/RAC, as partner to this project, is coordinating the achievement of actions on “Purse seine small pelagic fisheries in Kelibia” and “Bottom and surface longline fisheries in the Gulf of Gabès”.

103. All the map produced within the framework of Medkeyhabitats project concerning the distribution of marine key habitats and in particular Posidonia meadows and coralligenous assemblages were uploaded to the Mediterranean Platform on Biodiversity (MBP) and can be found at <http://data.medchm.net>.

104. As decided by COP19, SPA/RAC has launched the updating of the Reference List of Marine and Coastal Habitat types for the Mediterranean region, taking into account dark assemblages. The updating should also be in line with the EcAp Process. The draft reference list was reviewed during an ad hoc meeting held in Blanes, Spain, on 22-23 February 2017, in the presence of a number of Mediterranean experts and regional partner organizations (GFCM, IUCN-Med, OCEANA and ETC/BD). The Reference List of Marine and Coastal Habitat types for the Mediterranean region is presented for consideration by the 13th SPA Focal Point Meeting.

105. The MAMIAS database was updated until September 2016 and another updating is currently

underway. SPA/RAC is working to enable to report Invasive Alien Species occurrences in the Mediterranean allowing citizens to contribute to early detections of new invaders. Since October 2016, MAMIAS became a data partner to EASIN (European Alien Species Information Network) which is a platform developed by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre to enable easy access to data on Alien Species reported in Europe.

106. SPA/RAC collaborated with Oceana (partner of the "Dark Habitats" action plan) to prepare a draft document describing the basic guidelines for inventorying and monitoring Mediterranean "Dark Habitats" (i.e. caves & deep-sea assemblages), as a follow up to the Action Plan for the conservation of habitats and species associated with seamounts, underwater caves and canyons, aphotic hard beds and chemosynthetic phenomena in the Mediterranean Sea. The aim of the guidelines is to make a census of the main methods used for inventorying and monitoring dark assemblages in the Mediterranean, and to better understand their benefits, limitations and conditions of use. The draft guidelines are presented to the 13th SPA Focal Point Meeting.

107. SPA/RAC is assisting Egypt to develop the National Action Plans for the conservation of marine vegetation, the conservation of marine turtles, and the species introduction and invasive species. Support was also offered to Cyprus, Lebanon and Israel for the elaboration of their NAPs concerning species introduction and invasive species.

108. Following a request from its Turkish Focal Point, SPA/RAC supported TUDAV for the organisation of a workshop on the Lionfish in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea (Antalya, Turkey, 9 - 10 February 2017). Problems and new solutions were discussed. SPA/RAC is supporting the elaboration of the national Action Plan for the conservation of cartilaginous fishes in Turkey. A national workshop was held on 10 of March 2017 in Istanbul to set up the outlines of the NAP.

109. In the framework of the MedKeyHabitats project, SPA/RAC continued the implementation of the activities planned for the Project objective 1, concerning the inventory and the mapping of the marine key habitats in the concerned countries, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Montenegro. For more details and the report of the activities can be found on the website of SPA/RAC at <http://rac-spa.org/publications#enmedkey>. The maps produced were uploaded to the MBP and can be found at <http://data.medchm.net>.

110. In order to present the results of the project and to benefit from the presence of more than 300 participants, a closing workshop was held during 2016 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean from 28 November to 1 December 2016 in Tangier, Morocco.

111. In order to promote the standardized techniques/methodologies adopted in the framework of the Barcelona Convention, the following tools were published and distributed through the SPA/RAC website as from December 2015: (a) Manual of interpretation of marine habitat types for the selection of sites to be included in national inventories of natural sites of conservation interest, (b) Standardized methods for the inventory and monitoring of coralligenous and maërl stands and lists of stands of the coralligenous and main species to be considered in the inventories and monitoring, (c) Guidelines for the Standardization of the Methods of Cartography and Surveillance of Marine Magnoliophytes in the Mediterranean, and (d) Protocol for the establishment of a monitoring of Posidonia meadows.

112. The Deep Sea Lebanon Project "Towards Deep-Sea Conservation in Lebanon" is based on a request by the Ministry of Environment of Lebanon, in line with its Marine Protected Areas strategy. This project relies on scientific data collected, compiled and analyzed by project partners OCEANA, IUCN and SPA/RAC, representatives from the Ministry of Environment with the support of CNRS-L (scientific partner), GFCM and ACCOBAMS, and funded by MAVA Foundation. The Deep-Sea Lebanon Project has concluded a one-month deep-sea expedition (October 2016) embracing five canyon systems, in previously unstudied areas in Lebanon, reaching a record survey depth of 1050,9 m. In total, more than 200 species were observed, including new records for the Mediterranean Sea that had only previously been found in the Atlantic Ocean and in Polar Regions.

Strategic Outcome 3.5: Technical assistance and capacity building at regional, sub-regional and national levels to strengthen policy implementation and compliance with biodiversity -related

national legislation

113. In Libya, the activity of mapping marine key habitats in the framework of Medkeyhabitats project was interrupted and a training program was developed instead in collaboration with the Libyan FP for SPA. Participants from the General Authority for the Environment have been selected based on their ability to dive and their current and future work on habitats and marine protected areas.

114. SPA/RAC has supported the participation of Tunisian students to attend national trainings on marine turtles nesting monitoring (Kuriat islands, August 2016) and birds' identification methodologies (Djerba, January 2017). A training workshop on monitoring Biodiversity and NIS common indicators will be held in Kuriat Islands (Tunisia) from 18 to 24 July 2017. Three representatives from French speaking eligible countries (Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia) will take part to this training, including MPA managers and stakeholders involved in biodiversity monitoring. The main objectives of this training is to introduce the different monitoring protocols detailed in the common indicators guidance factsheets. The second training will be dedicated to English speaking eligible countries (Egypt, Libya and Israel) will take place in Greece (17-24 September 2017).

115. SPA/RAC is carrying out a long-term evaluation of its training programmes provided to MPA practitioners and marine conservationists since 2010. The detailed recommendations that will result from this review will be considered to improve SPA/RAC capacity-building planning and delivery approach and techniques and increase its effectiveness.

116. The facilitation of a Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Capacity meeting with the CBD Secretariat for the Mediterranean marine spatial planning and management was undertaken (CBD Secretariat proposal pipelined for spring 2018).

117. SPA/RAC achieved external EC funding for a four and half years project to develop an interoperable observatory platform, integrating networks of marine environment and maritime activity observing and forecasting systems across the Mediterranean basin, addressing both the open sea and the coastal zone. At least two country-level training workshops of practitioners and two coordination meetings of technical country representatives to operate them in North Africa countries are ensured this way, with the aim to cover Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Egypt.

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

118. The text of the "Joint Cooperation Strategy on Spatial-based Protection and Management Measures for Marine Biodiversity among the Secretariats of ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN-Med, UN Environment/MAP through SPA/RAC and in collaboration with MedPAN" (the draft Joint Strategy) has been revised and the related document will be presented (as an information document) to the SPA focal points meeting. Meanwhile, joint cooperation projects are being drafted, aimed to achieve external funding to the partners to facilitate common activities among the Secretariats fully in line with their existing mandates.

Strategic Outcome 3.7: Identifying and tackling with new and emerging issues, as appropriate

119. In order to progress on "coordination with the ongoing process towards the adoption of an implementing agreement on BBNJ" and strengthen the visibility of the Mediterranean in the international BBNJ process, contribution was provided to the UN Environment/MAP inputs to the BBNJ process meetings taking place in UN HQs, to develop a comprehensive global regime to better address the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (UNGA Res. 69/292), and a compilation on the ongoing BBNJ process links to the Mediterranean Region was done in a document for the Parties.

120. A new Memorandum of Understanding between the Permanent Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS) and SPA/RAC was signed in March 2017 including an update joint work programme.

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

Strategic Outcome 4.1 Strengthening regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocol, and of programmes of measures in the existing Regional Strategies and Action Plans

121. PAP/RAC continued providing assistance to the CPs with regards to the ratification and implementation of the ICZM Protocol. In February 2017, PAP/RAC hosted a high-level delegation composed of parliamentarians and representatives of national authorities from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, organized by WWF North Africa. Regulatory perspectives in North Africa regarding the ICZM Protocol were discussed, with particular emphasis on the support needed for its ratification in Algeria and Tunisia.

122. Owing to a great interest of Greek institutions and universities actively involved in the process of ratification of the ICZM Protocol, PAP/RAC organized, together with its NFP, a half-day meeting to introduce the work on the Regional Framework for ICZM, the links between ICZM and MSP, the UN Environment/MAP work on IMAP and EcAp indicators and their utilization for planning purposes, in particular MSP. The meeting was held in Athens, on 7 April 2017, with the participation of 28 representatives of the Ministries of Environment and Energy; Tourism; Economy and Development; and Rural Development and Food, as well as representatives of scientific and research organisations coming from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, National Technical University of Athens, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research and Pan-Hellenic Society of Technologists-Ichthyologists. All participants deemed this kind of exchange very useful, hoping that it was the first of the many collaborative meetings to come.

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

123. As recommended by the consultation meeting held in Barcelona in September 2017, PAP/RAC proceeded with the drafting the MSP chapters that will be included in the Regional Framework for ICZM. This decision was taken because of the intrinsic relations between the terrestrial and marine parts of the coastal zone, as defined by Art.3 of the ICZM Protocol.

Strategic Outcome 4.3: Strengthening national implementation

124. Under the main theme of "Caring for our Coasts – Mediterranean and Italian Experiences", the CAMP Italy held its final conference on 17 January 2017 in Rome. The conference was an occasion to present the main results and methodologies of this two and a half-year project, and their integration within the Mediterranean and international contexts. The three project regions developed strategies and procedures for the rational use of coastal and marine resources and the environmental protection. These tools and methodologies were developed not only for the purpose of implementation of the CAMP Italy, but are also replicable within the network of CAMPs and useful for the institutions in charge of coastal management. They can be downloaded from the project web site (<http://www.camp-italy.org/the-project>), where it is also possible to find the CAMP Italy project video shared with the conference participants.

125. The second edition of the Land and Sea Forum of the CAMP Var (France) was organized in Saint-Raphaël on 15-16 November 2016 with the focus on coastal governance and sustainable and responsible boating. This was also an opportunity to present the results of the survey "The Var, the sea and the coastline" conducted in the entire Var territory and to broadcast two video interviews on governance approaches in other French coastal areas. The Forum also included a workshop intended to set several priorities for the management of the sea and the coast in the Var, to be relayed to local decision-makers. Six working groups were established to encourage actors from different backgrounds to reflect, discuss and decide together on actions to be implemented in the Var.

126. The Feasibility Study for a CAMP project in Bosnia-Herzegovina was contracted and a working meeting with the selected consultant organized in Split, in January 2017. End April, the first draft of the study reached PAP/RAC for comments.

Strategic Outcome 4.5 Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building

127. On 26 and 27 October 2016, the first training workshop on indicators related to coast and hydrography was organized in Rabat, Morocco, in the framework of the EcAp Med II project (http://www.pap-thecoastcentre.org/pdfs/Rapport%20reunion_Rabat-FINAL-low.pdf). In addition to two PAP/RAC representatives and three experts, the workshop was attended four national consultants nominated by their governments, two representatives of the Moroccan Ministry of Environment and a UN Environment/MAP expert. PAP/RAC experts presented the indicators individually to define precisely the monitoring arrangements, and provided concrete examples of their use in some countries already implementing them. One of the main requests formulated by the national experts was the establishment of a sub-regional expert group for a better coordination of the monitoring.

128. The second training workshop took place in Rome on 24-25 April 2017. The main objective was to train national consultants on how to prepare their national IMAP on Coast (EO8) and Hydrography (EO7) indicators, taking into account the improvements of the Guidance Fact Sheets made at the CORMON meeting in Madrid (3 March 2017). More specifically, the objectives were to review the work done on drafting the national IMAPs; to train on the monitoring guidance for the three indicators; to discuss links to EO1 on habitats and the SEIS principles; and to exchange experiences and provide specific suggestions to national consultants drafting IMAPs. Seven EcAp Med II project eligible countries attended the workshop as well as representatives of Turkey.

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

129. PAP/RAC continued the process of the preparation of the Regional Framework for ICZM. The first step was the preparation of a Background Document (http://www.pap-thecoastcentre.org/pdfs/SP%20ICZM-MSP_Bgrd%20Doc_draft2.pdf) as a starting point for discussion with regional stakeholders at the occasion of a consultation meeting organized back-to-back with the Mediterranean Coast Day celebration in Barcelona, Spain, on 28-29 September 2016. The meeting was attended by 56 participants, including MAP and PAP NFPs and a number of invited experts. The comments and suggestions received during the discussions were used for the elaboration of the Regional Framework itself in which the Conceptual Framework for MSP was merged. A meeting to discuss the first draft of the Regional Framework was organized in Athens, Greece, on 5-6 April 2017. The Italian Ministry of Environment and Protection of Land and Sea supported the organization of the meeting. The meeting was attended by PAP/RAC NFPs of 13 CPs or their representatives.

Strategic Outcome 5.5 Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building

130. In order to respond to the great interest of the target users of the MedOpen on-line training course, PAP/RAC updated and organized several training sessions, namely: advanced training course in French (September-December 2016); translation and opening of the Basic Course in Italian; advanced training on the CVC module in French (April-May 2017).

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

131. With the assistance of INFO/RAC, PAP/RAC prepared ToRs and opened the call for the implementation of the ICZM Platform as a major tool to support the implementation of ICZM in the

Mediterranean, with the objective to: facilitate dialogue and networking; provide forum for knowledge and capacity development in the field of ICZM; enhance awareness on coastal issues.

132. PAP/RAC has provided support to the CPs with the creation and functioning of national and sub-national coordination mechanisms which are of utmost importance for the implementation of ICZM, such as: the Inter-sectoral Committee for ICZM of the Šibenik-Knin County of Croatia, established with the adoption of the ICZM Plan by the County Council in 2016; the Montenegrin National Council for sustainable development, climate change and ICZM, chaired by the President of Montenegro; the Interministerial Commission established for the preparation and implementation of the Croatian “Marine and coastal strategy”, responding to the requirements of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the ICZM Protocol.

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

133. Pilot actions have been identified for Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria and activities for their implementation (as described in document UNEP(DEPI)MED BUR.83/3) have continued.

Strategic Outcome 6.2: Monitoring and assessment

134. SCP/RAC developed a set of SCP indicators in order to follow SCP mainstreaming and streamlining in the Mediterranean, following the request of the Contracting Parties in the Regional SCP Action Plan. The process consisted in a first screening of existing indicators (in particular SDGs and FAO indicators). The first selection was presented in October 2016 during a technical workshop jointly organized with Plan Bleu in Barcelona that gathered countries representatives and experts. The updated and reduced list was then shared for an online consultation with SCP/RAC NFP at the end of 2016. The received comments were integrated and presented to the SCP/RAC National Focal Points. A common decision between the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard (MSSD indicators) and the SCP indicators is being prepared.

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

135. The training and support programme for green entrepreneurs is running in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Palestine and Lebanon. To date, 3,961 entrepreneurs have submitted their applications for the training programme and 1,558 green entrepreneurs have been trained in the framework of 79 workshops. From all the trainees, 153 green entrepreneurs have been selected as eligible for the incubation phase and supported to improve their green business model. 25 green entrepreneurs have been selected for the incubation phase and are being supported through coaching/mentoring and technical assistance. A second phase of training is being planned. The development of an access to finance guide for green businesses and meeting between investors and green entrepreneurs in the eight countries are being planned.

136. Regarding the impact and assessment of the green entrepreneurship training programme, a survey has been conducted among all the 1,558 trainees and 540 respondents provided extremely positive feedback: 83% say the programme met their expectations and that the programme was good or very good. Moreover, 154 green entrepreneurs have been able to launch their green business (66% say the impact of the training programme was high or very high in the launch of their business). Regarding the trainees who have not launched their business, 95% believe the training provided them useful skills and 98% are still willing to get support to create their business. 38% of the trainees were women and 62% of the trainees were men.

137. The green entrepreneurship training methodology is also being applied in the framework of other programmes, such as a support initiative for 350 young unemployed in Jordan developed by our local partner BDC with the support of UNDP and the Government of Jordan.

138. The training and support program for CS SCP drivers is running in the eight countries. Support services and coaching to 8 selected civil society-led eco-innovation initiatives in Tunisia, Lebanon, Algeria and Morocco is continuing through coaching/mentoring and technical assistance. In Egypt, Jordan, Israel and Palestine, local partners and local trainers have been selected, local trainers have been trained and the National Workshops for civil society ecological innovation initiatives have been held. The best initiatives will be selected for the support phase.

139. Regarding the National Synergy workshops for the promotion of green entrepreneurship and grassroots eco-innovation in eight countries, the final versions of the White Papers from the Workshops in Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia are being drafted. The preparation of the Synergy Workshops in the rest of the countries is ongoing.

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

140. Actions and studies for scaling-up tools for green industries and green entrepreneurs in the Mediterranean have been launched. An initial analysis i.e. a benchmarking exercise was done reviewing the services of 19 entrepreneurship support programmes.

141. Missions to Morocco, Tunisia and Lebanon took place under the framework of the Green Impact Investing Network Initiative (GIIN) in partnership with European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks (FEBEA). Interviews with relevant stakeholders (more than 20 in each country) have been made and mappings were completed (<http://www.switchmed.eu/en/corners/impact-investors/actions/actions/MENA-Touring>).

142. As the Mediterranean SCP Hub, the SwitchMed website is being managed and systematically updated with relevant news and information on SCP actions:

- The SCP Action Network of the Platform has increased to more than 1,100 members;
- Two-three news items per week have been posted on the website;
- The 7th and 8th SwitchMed newsletters have been circulated;
- Social media accounts have been regularly maintained (Performance of reach: FB 3.350+; Twitter 1.100+; Linked-In 430);

143. On 18-19-20 October, SwitchMed Connect 2016 took place with more than 360 registrations, 36 sessions and more than 100 speakers. The event website includes all necessary information on sessions and speakers: <http://switchmedconnect.com/en/agenda/>. All summaries of the 36 SwitchMed Connect sessions are available at: <http://www.switchmed.eu/en/switchmed-connect/switchmed-connect-2016>. The event video is available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcRBqdNJDv&t=57s>. Feedback survey carried out: 100 responses received; 87% of those surveyed said that their expectations were met; 73% said that the overall quality of the content was excellent or very good; 85% said they made connections.

144. The identification and selection of new Switchers has continued. To date, a total of 120 Switchers have been selected and 106 have already been uploaded on *The Switchers*, the web platform showcasing stories from Mediterranean champions offering eco and social innovative solutions (www.theswitchers.eu).

145. A survey among green entrepreneurs was conducted to learn about their profile and their professional needs. In total, 450 answers were received, 98 from the community of Switchers, and a further 112 interested in joining the community. Among the most important needs were the right connections for their business, media coverage, participating in international events, trainings in business development and marketing, access to finance, and connecting to peers in the region that are working in the same fields.

146. SCP/RAC has participated in many events and disseminated SCP practices and approaches. The full list of events is provided in the SwitchMed website under <http://www.switchmed.eu/en/news/news-1/coopmed-new-impulse-for-social-finance-in-the-mediterranean-countries>.

II.6 Cross-cutting Theme III: CLIMATE CHANGE

Strategic Outcome 7.4: Monitoring and assessment

147. With regard to the need of Climate Change vulnerability issues to be considered in existing monitoring programmes, a guideline document has been elaborated on 5 priority indicators of climate change impact, been used in Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance.