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Meeting of the MAP Focal Points

Athens, Greece, 10-13 September 2017

**Agenda Item 5: Specific Matters for Consideration and Action by the Meeting, including Draft Decisions**

**Draft Decision: Governance**

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UNEP/MAP  
Athens, 2019

## **Note by the Secretariat**

The issues addressed in this Draft Decision stem from the governance-related Decisions adopted at previous Meetings of the Contracting Parties (COP), as described below. Furthermore, this Decision has been prepared by the Secretariat in close cooperation with and with the guidance of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, at its 85<sup>th</sup> (Athens, Greece, 18-19 April 2018), 87<sup>th</sup> (Athens, Greece, 6-7 November 2018) and 88<sup>th</sup> Meetings (Rome, Italy, 21-22 May 2019). This note refers to each governance-related issue separately, for ease of reference.

### *a) UNEP/MAP Operational Communication Strategy*

With Decision IG.23/3 on Governance, adopted at the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 20) (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017), the Contracting Parties acknowledged the elements the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Communication Strategy 2018–2023 as an initial approach towards the Communication Strategy. In the same Decision, the Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication (INFO/RAC) and other Mediterranean Action Plan components, as appropriate, to further work on the basis of those elements to develop an operational Communication Strategy, including clear and concrete objectives, target audiences, key messages, methodologies, gap analysis, relevant implementation activities, timelines and indicators, and to submit them to the Contracting Parties at their 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019).

The Operational Communication Strategy 2020-2021, presented in Annex I of the present Draft Decision, developed on the basis of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/MAP Communication Strategy 2018-2023, aims at supporting the implementation of the Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) for the period 2020-2021 and contributing, through joint communication and advocacy, to the successful implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. The strategy is in line with the UNEP publishing, media and visual identity guidelines; it is also in line with the UN system-wide efforts to achieve greater coherence in communication activities with a growing emphasis on the “*Communicating as One*” approach. Activities already initiated in the previous biennium will be reinforced in 2020-2021 and new ones are being planned, bearing in mind the need for concrete and measurable deliverables, particularly in terms of feasibility of planned deliverables, number and extent of actions envisaged and the aggregation of actions of similar nature (PoW 2020-21). The planned deliverables have been proposed considering that delivering activities may extend beyond 2021 also to allow flexibility in linking with the incoming preparation of the new Medium-Term Strategy. The annexed Strategy was reviewed and agreed by the INFO/RAC Focal Points Meeting (Rome, Italy, 16-17 April 2019). Given that the Public Information Officer reported for duty at the Coordinating Unit after the INFO/RAC Focal Points Meeting, refinements of the text are proposed by the Secretariat in square brackets.

### *b) Main Elements and Roadmap for the Preparation of a UNEP/MAP Data Management Policy*

A common data policy is needed to cover environmental data and information collected, acquired, processed and disseminated by UNEP/MAP through the INFO/RAC System called InfoMAP. To this end, the Main Elements and Roadmap for the Preparation of a UNEP/MAP Data Management Policy are presented, as Annex II of the Draft Decision. The document, which was reviewed by the INFO/RAC Focal Points Meeting (Rome, Italy, 16-17 April 2019), presents the general framework to develop a data policy within the MAP-Barcelona Convention system in order to support its data flows. The UNEP/MAP Data Management Policy applies to all kinds of data shared and provided from the MAP-Barcelona Convention system, with particular reference to the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS) and the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP).

On the basis of the version reviewed by the INFO/RAC Focal Points Meeting, the Secretariat has continued working on revising the text of the Main Elements and Roadmap, mostly for accuracy and editing purposes. The version presented in Annex II includes these editorial changes and updated references to the legislation of the Contracting Parties and other policy documents. These changes did not affect the substantive content of the document.

The Data Management Policy will be the UNEP/MAP's reference document to ensure data sharing and use. To ensure that the Data Management Policy is relevant to each type of data treated in the InfoMAP System, it is necessary to bridge the gap of information at country level. To this end, close collaboration with the Contracting Parties is needed and bilateral meetings are foreseen for the roadmap implementation in the next biennium.

c) *MAP Partners*

In accordance with Article 17 of the Barcelona Convention, and as per Decision IG.19/6 on MAP/Civil society cooperation and partnership of the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 16) (Marrakesh, Morocco, 3-5 November 2009), the Secretariat has received and assessed 19 new applications for MAP Partners, as well as 18 applications for the renewal of accreditation of MAP Partners endorsed at the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 18), since according to Decision IG.19/6, every 6 years MAP Partners should ask the Secretariat to renew their accreditation. As per the conclusions of the 85<sup>th</sup> (Athens, Greece, 18-19 April 2018), 87<sup>th</sup> (Athens, Greece, 6-7 November 2018) and 88<sup>th</sup> (Rome, Italy, 21-22 May 2019) Meetings of the Bureau, as well as through relevant electronic communication, the applications were considered eligible and approved by the Bureau for onward transmission to the MAP Focal Points Meeting 2019 (Athens, Greece, 10-13 September 2019) and the Meeting of the Contracting Parties for final endorsement. The list is attached as Annex III to this Draft Decision. Additional background information on the applications is contained in document UNEP/MED WG.468/Inf.24.

d) *Composition of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development*

The 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 20) confirmed through Decision IG.23/3 on Governance the composition of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) for the biennium 2018-2019, as set out in Decision IG.22/17 and called upon the MCSD Members, MAP Partners and the Secretariat to mobilize expressions of interest in membership of the Commission from 2020. As per paragraph 9. II. of the "*Composition of the MCSD*" (Annex I of Decision IG.22/17), nine MCSD Members were considered for replacement after having completed three consecutive mandates, namely: *Association of Italian Local Agenda 21*; *Med Cities*; *Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)*; *Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises (UMCE)*; *World Wide Fund for Nature – Mediterranean Programme Office (WWF Mediterranean)*; *Environnement et Développement au Maghreb (ENDA Maghreb)*; *Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)*; *International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)*; *Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE)*. At its 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Budva, Montenegro, 11-13 June 2019), the MCSD welcomed the proposal of the MCSD Membership, as contained in Annex IV and recommended to the Secretariat to submit it for adoption by the Contracting Parties at COP 21. The Commission also expressed its wish to identify possible ways to keep the outgoing Members involved in its work; this is reflected in the operative paragraphs of the Draft Decision.

e) *Medium-Term Strategy*

With Decision IG.22/1 of COP 19 (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016) the Contracting Parties adopted the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 (MTS), as the framework for the development and implementation of the Programme of Work of UNEP/MAP. With the same Decision, the Parties requested the Secretariat to "*launch an independent evaluation of the MTS implementation*

*in 2020 for the consideration of COP 22 in 2021, with special emphasis on the interlinkages with the objectives of the MSSD 2016-2025 and the UNEP/MAP EcAp-based Ecological Objectives".* The Bureau, at its 85<sup>th</sup> meeting (Athens, Greece, 18-19 April 2018), requested the Secretariat *"to develop a roadmap for the evaluation of the current MTS and the preparation of the next MTS, taking into account the relevant evaluation and assessment processes"*. Following the Bureau's request, the proposed roadmap was presented to the Bureau at its 88<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Rome, Italy, 21-22 May 2019).

The Bureau at its 88<sup>th</sup> meeting provided guidance especially on the modalities of the preparation of the new MTS and the diverse expertise required. Furthermore, the Bureau recommended that the process for elaboration of the new MTS should be based on an evaluation of the current MTS and should be in line with the relevant global developments. The Bureau also recommended that the development of the new MTS is accompanied by an in-depth assessment of the current structure and needs for enabling the Secretariat to deliver the new MTS, and especially the Coordinating Unit, including MED POL Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean (MED POL), and other MAP Components. The revised roadmap for the evaluation of the current MTS and the preparation of the next MTS is presented in Annex V of the Draft Decision.

f) *Shift to Thematic Focal Points*

With Decision IG.21/13 of COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, 3-6 December 2013), the Contracting Parties decided to *"adopt the measures to strengthen the Barcelona Convention/MAP Governance and Management"*. Decision IG.22/1 of COP 19 (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016), in its Annex entitled *"UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021"* (MTS) defines the following key output of the MTS: *"1.1.3 Strengthen interlinkages between Core and Cross-cutting themes and facilitate coordination at national level across the relevant sectors. In this context, examine the impacts of a transition to Thematic Focal Points within UNEP/MAP system for consideration at the COP 20."*

Following the relevant work by the Secretariat under the guidance of the Bureau, the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) prepared and held on a trial basis, the meeting of the thematic focal points for Specially Protected Areas/Biological Diversity for the biennium 2018–2019, under the guidance of the Coordinating Unit, with the objective to achieve the greatest possible integration with the other themes of the Mid-Term Strategy.

The 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Specially Protected Areas/Biodiversity (SPA/BD) Thematic Focal Points took place in Portorož, Slovenia, on 18-21 June 2019. The meeting was attended by more than 50 participants, including 20 SPA/BD and 6 MAP Focal Points as well as representatives of MAP Components. In line with Decision IG.23/3, requesting the Coordinating Unit to present the results of the assessment of that trial exercise, together with any other relevant analysis, to the Contracting Parties prior to their twenty-first meeting, the relevant assessment is presented as Annex VI to the Draft Decision.

g) *Joint Cooperation Strategy among Secretariats*

The development of the Joint Cooperation Strategy on Spatial-based Protection and Management Measures for Marine Biodiversity (draft Joint Strategy) aims mainly to better harmonize the activities of the respective organizations, regarding marine spatial management, building on their mandate and existing structures and work. Developments of this process have been presented during 2016 in various meetings of the respective bodies of the partner organizations. As such, the 40<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (St. Julians, Malta, 30 May-3 June 2016) welcomed the process leading up to the draft Joint Strategy, at the highest level. Furthermore, the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) welcomed the draft Joint Strategy through Resolution 6.11 of their Sixth Meeting of the Parties (Monaco, 22-25 November 2016). Within the MAP-Barcelona Convention system, the Bureau at its 83<sup>rd</sup> meeting (Tirana, Albania, 25-26 October 2016)

discussed the issue and requested the Secretariat to prepare a paper for consideration at the next MAP Focal Points Meeting in 2017.

The Meeting of the MAP Focal Points (Athens, Greece, 12-15 September 2017) considered that the draft Joint Strategy merits further attention and asked the Secretariat to share it with the Contracting Parties and to continue consultations with the partners under the guidance of the Bureau. At COP 20, the Contracting Parties, through Decision IG.23/3 on Governance, invited the Secretariat to continue discussions on the Draft Joint Cooperation Strategy on Spatial-based Protection Management Measures for Marine Biodiversity with the Contracting Parties and relevant partners for submission of the conclusions of these discussions at COP 21 for its consideration.

Following Decision IG.23/3, the Bureau at its 85<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Athens Greece, 17-18 April 2018) asked the Secretariat to launch a formal written consultation of the SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points on the draft text of the Joint Cooperation Strategy to collect the comments and proposals for amendments and to prepare an advanced draft text accompanied by an explanatory note for submission to the next Bureau meeting. Following this consultation, the Secretariat prepared an explanatory note (which also included references to area-based management measures within signed MOUs between MAP and the other partners of the draft Joint Strategy), which was submitted to the 87<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau (Athens Greece, 6-7 November 2018). The Bureau at its 87<sup>th</sup> meeting requested that a revised version of the draft Strategy be prepared to reflect the comments received through the consultations with the Thematic Focal Points for SPA/BD and during the 87<sup>th</sup> Bureau Meeting. This revised version was prepared and submitted, together with requested explanatory notes, at the 88<sup>th</sup> Bureau meeting (Rome, Italy 22-23 May 2019). The Bureau at its 88<sup>th</sup> meeting took note of the revised version prepared by the Secretariat and requested the Secretariat to finalize it following the comments received during the meeting and to transmit it to the MAP Focal Points meeting, so that consultations with the Partners may be finalized for signing the Strategy, if possible at COP 21.

The draft Strategy was also presented and discussed at the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points (Portorož, Slovenia, 18-21 June 2019). The draft Joint Strategy is presented in Annex VII of the Draft Decision.

*h) Refined Appendix to the Updated Resource Mobilization Strategy*

With Decision IG.23/5 on the Updated Resource Mobilization Strategy, adopted at COP 20 (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017), the Contracting Parties adopted the updated Resource Mobilization Strategy. With the same Decision, Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat to further refine for consideration at COP 21 the Appendix to the Updated Resource Mobilization Strategy, to take account of the resources' requirement for each strategic outcome, and the relevance of potential donors to each of these outcomes. The refined Appendix to the Updated Resource Mobilization Strategy, presented in Annex VIII to the Draft Decision, provides (a) additional indicative information on the resource requirements for each strategic outcome and related Indicative Key Outputs (generally aligned with the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 and Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-2021); and (b) an indicative list of possible donors' strategies and funding instruments of potential relevance to the individual outcomes.

*i) Areas of Cooperation with the UNESCO/Man and the Biosphere Intergovernmental Programme*

Since the 1970's, the Man and the Biosphere intergovernmental programme of UNESCO (UNESCO/MAB) has been working to improve the relationship between people and the environment. By combining the natural and social sciences with economics, education and capacity-building, and through its World Network of Biosphere Reserves, the UNESCO/MAB promotes the sustainable use and conservation of biological diversity and natural resources, boosting cooperation at global and regional level in research, training, exchange and capacity-building projects and activities.

The Bureau at its 87<sup>th</sup> Meeting, welcomed “*the proposal by Italy to develop for COP 21, a MOU between UNEP/MAP and UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme on the establishment of a strong cooperation among Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas and the network of Man and Biosphere reserves, in order to contribute to the achievement of the Aichi Target 11 and the SDG 14. The Bureau ask[ed]the Secretariat to liaise with the UNESCO Secretariat in order to prepare a possible draft for consideration at its 88<sup>th</sup> Bureau meeting;*”. A first draft of the possible areas of collaboration between the two Secretariats was then prepared by the Coordinating Unit and SPA/RAC and shared with the UNESCO/MAB Secretariat for comments. At its 88<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Rome, Italy, 21-22 May 2019), the Bureau “*welcome[d] the progress in the preparation of an MoU with UNESCO/Man and Biosphere and agree[d] with the possible areas of cooperation, as proposed. The Bureau request[ed] the Secretariat to finalize the draft MoU, in consultation with the UNESCO Secretariat, for submission to the MAP Focal Points Meeting for consideration and approval and then to COP 21 for signature;*”.

Following consultations, the UNESCO/MAB Secretariat has expressed agreement with the proposed three main areas of cooperation, as presented in Annex IX to the present Draft Decision. From the bilateral discussions, the need emerged to further explore and identify the most appropriate legal instrument for articulating the cooperation. The UNESCO/MAB Secretariat proposed a “partnership agreement” instead of an MoU. In addition, a Letter of Agreement (LOA) – i.e. a simplified instrument used among UN organizations whenever no resources are to be transferred or in order to formalize a programmatic collaboration – is being explored in conjunction with UNESCO/MAB Secretariat.

*j) Development of Host Country Agreements for Regional Activity Centres (RACs)*

With Decision IG.20/13 of the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 17) (Paris, France, 8-10 February 2012), the Parties decided to “*urge countries hosting MAP Regional Activity Centers to finalize the new Host Country Agreements as soon as possible, in accordance with the draft prepared and submitted to them by the Secretariat and attached as Annex I to this decision, taking into account domestic laws, regulations and practices, while respecting the common interest of all parties in better coherence and coordination and in the financial implications for the MTF*”. This call was repeated in Decision IG.21/13 of COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, 3-6 December 2013). Since COP 17, the Secretariat has undertaken negotiations with the Parties hosting RACs in order to comply with these requirements. Such work has given uneven results and it has proven difficult to achieve the harmonization of the texts of all these Agreements or establish them when not available. Challenges were mainly encountered to progress towards: (i) the harmonization of the diverse and complex legal status of RACs, which makes the adoption of a common legal HCA across the board difficult; (ii) the involvement of different national competent authorities and associated challenges in coordination; and (iii) the specific requirements of the domestic legislation across the countries where RACs operate.

With Decision IG.23/3 on Governance, adopted at COP 20 (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017), the Parties urged the Coordinating Unit, in consultation with the Contracting Parties hosting Regional Activity Centres, to find and propose, under the guidance of the Bureau, ways and means to address a list of common reference provisions to be applied, taking into account the specificities of each Centre, with a view to have a discussion and a possible agreement by the Contracting Parties at their twenty-first meeting. At the request of the 85<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau, the Secretariat prepared a first draft of minimum common provisions to ensure effective operation of the RACs, which was presented at the 87<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau for discussion. This draft was revised to reflect the inputs provided during the meeting and further refined after consultation with the RACs during and following the 37<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (Geneva, Switzerland, 9-10 January 2019).

The refined draft listed the following common provisions, which are meant to be the baseline elements for future negotiation between UNEP and Host Country Governments in developing Host Country Agreements for each RAC: (a) identification of the Parties entering into the HCA, (b) purpose for

entering into the HCA, (c) legal status of RACs, (d) regional role of RACs, (e) financial resources, (f) contribution of the Host Country Government, (g) property, funds and assets of the RACs, (h) personnel of RACs, (j) meetings and conference, (k) director, (l) steering committee, and (m) financial standard clauses on settlement of disputes and on entry into force, duration and amendment of the HCA. The refined draft was transmitted to Host Country Governments for comments.

Three Host Country Governments responded and, based on the inputs received, the Secretariat prepared a revised, consolidated, version of the minimum common provisions, together with a short explanatory note, which was presented to the Bureau at its 88<sup>th</sup> Meeting. The 88<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau considered this consolidated version and requested the Secretariat to finalize the minimum common provisions taking into account the comments received during the meeting, and to follow-up with the remaining Host Countries of RACs in order for them to provide their inputs in time for the preparation of the Draft Decision on Governance to be submitted to the MAP Focal Points Meeting. The Secretariat followed-up with the Host Countries and received the two remaining inputs.

In light of these inputs and the comments made at the 88<sup>th</sup> Bureau Meeting, an updated version of the minimum common provisions has been prepared, showing in track changes all input received. This updated version of the minimum common provisions for Host Country Agreements for RACs, with the inputs received in track mode, is presented in Annex X to the present Decision. The inputs received by Host Governments of RACs are presented in full in document UNEP/MED WG.468/Inf.23. In addition, specific points identified by the Secretariat in addressing the comments received are provided below for the consideration of MAP Focal Points.

***Points identified by the Secretariat for consideration of the MAP Focal Points:*** The following paragraphs address some of the comments made by Host Country Governments, which in the view of the Secretariat raise particular issues to consider during discussion:

(1) The proposal to insert the words “*as appropriate*” in the first sentence of paragraph 1 after “*The proposed minimum common provisions are meant to be used*”, and in the first sentence of paragraph 2 after “*Minimum common provisions refer*”, may be construed as potentially leading to different minimum common provisions from one Host Country Government to another. This would not be in line either with the COP 21 mandate in Decision IG. 23/3 to address “a list of *common* reference provisions” (emphasis added) or the request of the 85<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau to prepare “a first draft of minimum *common* provisions” (emphasis added). The Secretariat understands that should different common minimum provisions across the RACs be the result of this exercise, the objective of identifying commonalities to build on would not be met. This does not mean that once identified a set of minimum common provisions for all RACs, for each provision different options may emerge depending on the concerned RAC. It would be up to the Host Country Government to reflect these options as appropriate for the RAC that it hosts;

(2) The proposal to delete the last sentence of paragraph 2 (c), reading “In this context, and to the extent permissible under national laws, RACs should be accorded their own independent legal personality” could be interpreted as ruling out the option for RACs to hold their own legal personality, if the national law so provides. Some RACs have already their own independent legal personality. In this context, the deletion proposed could be construed as suggesting re-negotiation of this point with the relevant Host Country Governments;

(3) The proposal to insert the sentence “*equal core share of financial support from the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) to ensure the implementation of their mandate*” in paragraph 2 (e)(i) requires specific guidance on the parameters and a Decision by the Contracting Parties, who approve the Programme of Work and Budget (Article 18 of the Barcelona Convention). In addition, RACs’ mandates as established in COP 16, Decision IG.19/5, vary from one RAC to another, and consequently the transfer of financial resources to them from the MTF;

(4) The proposal to delete the words “*free of charge*” before the sentence “*adequate premises for the RAC*” in paragraph 2(f) is suggested to be reformulated as replacing “*free of charge*” with “*at no*”

*cost for MAP*”, so that the sentence would read: *“To spell out the responsibility the of the Host Country Government in providing at no cost for MAP adequate premises for the RAC”* ;

(5) The proposal to insert the following sentence *“As appropriate, and taking into account into consideration the legal nature of the concerned RAC and its regional mandate”* in paragraphs 2(g), 2(h)(ii), 2(j)(ii) and 2(j)(k) is suggested to be shortened for the sake of simplicity to read *“As appropriate”*;

(6) The proposal to insert the text *“Identification of standard procedures and criteria for the recruitment of personnel of RACs, including consultants (to be included as an Annex to the HCA)”* in paragraph 2(h) needs further elaboration, as the recruitment of the personnel of RACs is under the terms of national law. In this context, encouraging consultation with the Coordinating Unit when it comes to recruitment of RAC personnel is suggested instead;

(7) The proposal to insert a new paragraph 2(l) reading *“Projects and partnerships: identification of standard procedures and criteria for the participation of RACs in projects and partnerships that are not included in the Programme of Work of UNEP/MAP and in relevant Decisions (to be included as an Annex to the HCA)”* is felt that it is a matter outside the intended purpose of the minimum common provisions. The provisions cover the functioning of RACs as entities with a regional mandate as per COP16 Decision IG. 19/5 on the *“Mandates of the Components of MAP”*. Activities of the RACs which are not related to their UNEP/MAP-related mandate do not fall under the minimum common provisions. In this context, the suggestion would be to request concerned Host Country Governments and RACs to ensure that such activities do not interfere or affect the UNEP/MAP mandate of RACs;

(8) The proposal to insert a new paragraph 2(m) reading *“Memorandum of Understanding: identification of standard procedures and criteria for the signature of Memoranda of Understanding by RACs (to be included as an Annex to the HCA)”* may be better addressed in the framework of the ongoing work with the MAP Components to set up a framework for consultation among RACs, the Coordinating Unit and the Bureau as regards the development and conclusion of MoUs and other legal instruments;

(9) On the comments about the privileges and immunities that may be accorded to RACs to perform their mandates as per Decision IG.19/5 adopted at COP 16, further discussions are required on the most appropriate way to articulate the idea that, given the regional mandate of RACs in implementing the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work, a special regime to further facilitate their functioning should be articulated, to the extent permissible under national laws. The special regime for RACs may take inspiration from the General Convention. The commonality of this would reside on the fact that all Host Country Agreements should include provisions addressing the special regime accorded to RACs, within the national regulatory framework.

The implementation of this Decision is linked to Outputs 1.1.2, 1.1.4, 1.3.1 and 1.6.1 of the proposed Programme of Work. It has budgetary implications on MTF and external resources, reflected in the proposed budget.



## **Draft Decision IG.24/2**

### **Governance**

*The Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean at their twenty first meeting,*

*Recalling* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, in particular the paragraphs relevant to the institutional framework for sustainable development and the engagement of major groups and other stakeholders,

*Recalling* also General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

*Bearing in mind* the international community’s commitments expressed in the Ministerial Declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session,

*Recalling* Decision IG.17/5 on the governance of the Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention system, adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting (COP 15) (Almeria, Spain, 15-18 January 2008), and Decision IG.19/6 on the Mediterranean Action Plan Civil Society Cooperation and Partnership, adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting (COP 16) (Marrakesh, Morocco, 3-5 November 2009),

*Recalling also* Decisions IG.20/13 and IG.21/13 on governance, addressing the transition from Mediterranean Action Plan components to thematic focal points, and host country agreements in line with a unified template, adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 17<sup>th</sup> (COP 17) (Paris, France, 8-10 February 2012) and 18<sup>th</sup> (COP 18) (Istanbul, Turkey, 3-6 December 2013) Meetings respectively,

*Recalling further* Decision IG.22/1 on the Mid-Term Strategy for 2016–2021 of the Mediterranean Action Plan, adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting (COP 19) (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016),

*Recalling* Decision IG.22/17 on the Reform of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) and Updated MCSD Constitutive Documents, adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting (COP 19) (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016),

*Recalling also* Decision IG.22/3 on governance, adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting (COP 20) (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017),

*Stressing* the importance of a strengthened institutional framework in the Mediterranean region which responds coherently and effectively to current and future challenges, by *inter alia* enhancing coherence and coordination, avoiding duplication of efforts and reviewing progress in implementing the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) Medium-Term Strategy (2016-2021),

*Appreciating* the guidance and advice provided to the Secretariat by the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention on all policy and administrative matters related to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols during the 2018–2019 biennium, and *having considered* the reports of their 85<sup>th</sup>, 87<sup>th</sup> and 88<sup>th</sup> Meetings held in April 2018, November 2018 and May 2019 respectively,

1. *Adopt* the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) Operational Communication Strategy 2020-2021 as set out in Annex I to the present Decision;

2. *Request* the Secretariat (INFO/RAC) to fully implement the UNEP/MAP Operational Communication Strategy, under the guidance of the Coordinating Unit and in close cooperation with the MAP Communication Task Force;
3. *Encourage* the Contracting Parties to broaden their efforts to achieve the objectives outlined in the UNEP/MAP Operational Communication Strategy 2020-2021, by enhancing networks and building foundations for partnerships with MAP partners and other relevant stakeholders;
4. *Endorse* the Main Elements and Roadmap for the Preparation of a UNEP/MAP Data Management Policy, as set out in Annex II to the present Decision, and *request* the Secretariat (INFO/RAC) to develop such Policy, in close cooperation with the other MAP components and with the full involvement of the Contracting Parties, and to submit it to the Contracting Parties at their 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting (COP 22);
5. *Endorse* the list of new and renewed MAP partners, set out in Annex III to the present Decision and *request* the Secretariat and MAP components to further promote the participation and effective engagement of MAP partners and other relevant stakeholders in the delivery of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system mandate, based on their expertise and relevance to that mandate;
6. *Approve* the membership of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSDD) for the biennium 2020-2021, as set out in Annex IV to the present Decision;
7. *Call upon* the members of the MCSDD, the Secretariat and the MAP partners to mobilize expressions of interest in membership of the MCSDD for the biennium 2022-2023, and *request* the MCSDD Steering Committee, with support from the Secretariat, to identify and implement possible ways to keep the outgoing members of the Commission involved in its work;
8. *Approve* the Roadmap for the Evaluation of the 2016-2021 Medium-Term Strategy and the preparation of the 2022-2027 Medium-Term Strategy, as set out in Annex V to the present Decision;
9. *Request* the Secretariat to prepare the UNEP/MAP 2022-2027 Medium-Term Strategy in close cooperation with MAP components and with the full involvement of the Contracting Parties, and to submit it to the Contracting Parties at their 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting (COP 22);
10. *Take note* of the results of the assessment of the meeting of the thematic focal points for Specially Protected Areas/Biological Diversity organized on a trial basis in the biennium 2018–2019 and the relevant analysis as set out in Annex VI to the present Decision, and *request* the Secretariat to [ ... ];
11. *Endorse* the Joint Cooperation Strategy on Spatial-based Protection Management Measures for Marine Biodiversity, as set out in Annex VII to the present Decision and *request* the Secretariat to take the necessary action for its finalization and implementation in close collaboration with the MAP components and especially SPA/RAC, and with the involvement of the relevant stakeholders;
12. *Take note* of the “Refined Appendix to the Updated Resource Mobilization Strategy”, as set out in Annex VIII to the present Decision;
13. *Take note* of the areas of cooperation with the UNESCO/MAB Programme, as set out in Annex IX to the present Decision and *urges* the respective Secretariats to formalize it and ensure the most effective and beneficial partnership in the relevant fields;
14. *Adopt* the list of minimum common provisions for Host Country Agreements of Regional Activity Centres, as set out in Annex X to the present Decision and *invite* Contracting Parties hosting MAP Regional Activity Centres, in collaboration with the Secretariat, to start the process to develop Host Country Agreements accordingly, for finalization and signature possibly by COP 22.

**Annex I**

**UNEP/MAP Operational Communication Strategy 2020-2021**

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## 1. Background

The Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Coordinating Unit and Components jointly operate on the basis of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and on the basis of the Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 (MTS).

This Operational Communication Strategy aims at supporting the implementation of the MTS for the period 2020 – 2021 and contributing, through joint communication and advocacy, to the successful implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. It was developed on the basis of MAP Communication Strategy 2018-2023 (Annex I to Decision IG.23/3 – Governance).

The strategy is in line with the UN Environment publishing, media and visual identity guidelines. The strategy is also in line with the UN system-wide efforts to achieve greater coherence in communication activities with a growing emphasis on the Communicating as One approach. Relevant further policies and guidance issued by the organization will also be taken into account in its implementation.

The activities already carried out from the previous biennium will be reinforced in 2020-2021 and the new ones will be planned bearing in mind the need for concrete and measurable deliverables, particularly, in terms of feasibility of planned deliverables, number and size of actions envisaged and the aggregation of actions of similar nature (PoW 2020-21).

The planned deliverables have been proposed considering that delivering activities will extend beyond 2021 also in order to implement flexibility with the incoming preparation of the new MTS.

The Operational Communication Strategy is compliant with the new organization of thematic Focal Points.

## 2. Gap analysis

The following gap analysis highlights MAP’s communication gaps in terms of (1) Identity, (2) Messages and content, (3) Channels and networks. It also presents the strategic opportunities that can be achieved by addressing these gaps through the present Operational Communication Strategy.

<b>MAP Identity</b>	<b>Gaps</b>	<p><b>Brand building:</b> MAP components communicate mainly in silos, implementing their respective visual identities and communicating different messages. As a result, it is challenging for external audiences to perceive MAP as one unified entity.</p> <p><b>MAP’s name:</b> MAP’s full name ‘UN Environment / Mediterranean Action Plan – Barcelona Convention Secretariat’, is complex. This is reinforced further when it is used in combination with MAP components’ names, making it challenging to perceive MAP as a single entity.</p>
	<b>Opportunity</b>	<p><b>Position MAP as One System, composed of different components, but Communicating as One on regional priority issues; with the goal to unify and strengthen MAP’s “Brand identity”.</b></p>

<p><b>Messages and Contents</b></p>	<p><u>Gaps</u></p>	<p><u>Choice of topics:</u> The majority of MAP’s communication activities are reactive, initiated on the occasion of meetings/events. MAP does not follow a plan and schedule with strategic priority topics to be highlighted within a specific timeframe.</p> <p><u>Data availability:</u> Raising awareness about the state of the environment in the Mediterranean requires data-driven communication. However, consolidated data/trends on key topics at a regional level is sometimes unavailable.</p> <p><u>Style:</u> MAP’s style is often technical and challenging to understand for non-technical audiences.</p> <p><u>Language:</u> English and French are more commonly used for communication. Yet, Arabic and Spanish are also MAP official languages, with 7 contracting parties having Arabic as an official language.</p>
	<p><u>Opportunity</u></p>	<p>[<u>The publication of the QSR and SoED reports:</u> the reports will provide a basis for the articulation of messages on the state of the environment as part of the ongoing MAP narrative-building. This will in turn bolster advocacy efforts undertaken by MAP Leadership.]</p> <p>[<u>The increasing awareness of the importance of the oceans:</u> whether in the context of the global response to climate change (carbon sinks), or in relation to livelihoods and food security (sea-level rise, acidification, warming, declining fish stocks, pollution/microplastics), oceans (in the broadest sense) are taking centerstage.]</p> <p>[SDG 14 (Life below Water): as a global goal specifically dedicated to oceans and seas, SDG14 provides an opportunity to link MAP work to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is captivating the attention of policymakers and citizens around the world, including in the Mediterranean region.]</p> <p>[<u>The recognized status of the MAP-system</u>]: the most advanced legal and institutional framework to have been set up on a Regional Sea;</p> <p>[The favorable momentum in the Mediterranean region]: evidence of such momentum includes but is not limited to the latest ratifications of the ICZM protocol and the Emission Control Area (ECA) initiative.</p> <p><b>Communicate strategically, focusing on clear and concrete objectives, in a language and a style that are tailored to MAP audiences.</b></p>

<b>Channels and Networks</b>	<u>Gaps</u>	<p><u>Traditional Media:</u> MAP has a limited presence in traditional media. For example, in 2017, MAP’s name was mentioned less than 10 times in main Mediterranean online newspapers. Media coverage of recent important events (new ratification) and main reports (QSR), was limited, in recent years.</p> <p><u>Social Media:</u> MAP’s main counterparts communicate on Twitter (the large majority of Contracting Parties, Contracting Parties’ officials, NGOs, International Organizations, etc.), sometimes mentioning MAP. However, MAP does not maintain a corporate account on any social media platform. Four RACs maintain Twitter accounts.</p> <p>[Unlike several other MEAs, BC Secretariat does not have an account tweeting on developments under the Convention, including but not limited to amendments of protocols, the designation of new SPAMI, or additions to existing lists of endangered species (inter alia).]</p> <p>[There is a need for a #Hashtag referring to the MAP mandate and objectives (examples: #HealthyMediterranean; #Action4Med; #MedEnvironment).]</p> <p><u>Network:</u> Currently, MAP rarely communicates in partnership, yet, MAP has a wide and growing network of partners.</p>
	<u>Opportunity</u>	<p><b>Develop MAP presence on key channels and promote communication through MAP network of partners to help raise awareness on MAP shared issues and promote understanding of MAP’s work.</b></p> <p>[<u>The vibrant Mediterranean Civil Society:</u> Partnerships with Civil Society offer opportunities for amplifying MAP broadcasting capabilities to reach a wider audience, including at the national level. Mutually beneficial communication partnerships can be sought with Mediterranean Civil Society Organizations (including but not necessarily limited to MAP network members), for instance through the production of downloadable communication toolkits (containing printable posters, flyers, videos, etc.) on key MAP--BC themes that CSOs could use for their outreach and awareness-raising activities. Joint outreach sessions with “grassroot” organizations can also be envisaged thus giving MAP access to unchartered territories in terms of public engagement.]</p>

### 3. Objectives

**Through the Operational Communication Strategy, MAP aims to implement the three Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) objectives related to communication, as well as a new cross-cutting objective:**

1. Knowledge and understanding of the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast enhanced through mandated assessments for informed policy-making.
2. MAP knowledge and MAP information system enhanced and accessible for policy-making, increased awareness and understanding.
3. Raised awareness and outreach.
4. The MAP brand and messages strengthened by “Communicating as One”.

The objectives set in the Communication Strategy 2018-2023 are classified under the 4 main objectives above, as appropriate:

	<b>Objectives of the Communication Strategy 2018-2023</b>
<b>Objective 1</b>	Strengthen MAP's status as an authoritative voice on the environment in the Mediterranean.
	Improve quality and dissemination of information materials.
<b>Objective 2</b>	Secure the commitment of key stakeholders in order to support MAP issues and activities; and act as advocates, directly and indirectly.
	Improve the quality and dissemination of information materials.
	Encourage participation among researchers or partner bodies.
<b>Objective 3</b>	Ensure the visibility of MAP, its role and achievements.
	Raise awareness, among a wide but defined group of audiences [Certain MAP communication products, such as the MAP newsletter, can nonetheless be aimed at a well-defined audience group while remaining accessible to a larger audience through a "ripple effect".] and user groups, about the critical role that the UN Environment/MAP system plays in the protection of the Mediterranean environment and the promotion of sustainable development in the region.
	Highlight the need for good governance and integrated marine and land ecosystem management in the Mediterranean.
	Inform and mobilize the Mediterranean population with our narrative through key information and media channels.
	Increase quality and quantity of media coverage.
<b>Objective 4</b>	Improve internal communication practices within the MAP Coordinating Unit and its components.

#### 4. Communicating as One: A new cross-cutting objective

Communicating as One supports MAP components to enhance understanding and knowledge of MAP, harmonize their messages and magnify their message and impact. Joint communication presents MAP as a coherent entity without replacing the communication efforts of individual components but rather harnessing and amplifying them in a strategic way. The below principles and guidelines are in line with the United Nations 'Communicating as One' guide. [The overall coordination of MAP communications is ensured by the CU under the supervision of the MAP Coordinator Office]

##### 4.1 Guiding principles

The Guiding principles for Communicating as One are:

- **Emphasize the shared values, mandate and key messages of the MAP system.** Joint MAP communication strengthens each component work through underlining the importance of joint efforts towards the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.
- **Adapt the guidance to the component-specific context.** These guidelines are to be interpreted according to the particular context and applied flexibly to meet each component needs and capacities.
- **Component-specific messages must be consistent with agreed common positions** and should complement joint MAP mandated efforts.
- **Consistent and coherent messaging is a shared responsibility among the Coordinating Unit and MAP components.** Communicating as One does not mean that only one entity speaks or acts as the spokesperson for MAP. MAP components can jointly identify a spokesperson on a particular issue or to lead communication and advocacy initiatives in sectoral/thematic areas according to mandates and technical competence.



- **Coordination and sharing timely information among the Coordinating Unit and MAP components is important**, particularly on component-specific communication activities covering critical or sensitive issues or issues that may have system-wide implications. Coordination on these issues at regional level is important.

## 4.2 Modes of presentation

There are three presentation options for communication activities. These modes apply to all published materials, such as websites, statements, press releases, signage, publications, events, etc. The Information Task Force members (please see section 9 for detailed information on the Task Force) have flexibility in deciding which approach responds most appropriately to a given communication initiative or product.

- **Option 1: Presenting MAP as one identity:** This method is for jointly produced or supported communication materials, or on communication materials which aim to strategically communicate that MAP is a single entity. This presentation features the identity of MAP, represented by MAP logo and MAP visual identity guidelines (3.4).
- **Option 2: Presenting MAP components together in partnership:** This coordinated presentation features multiple components identities through the use of MAP and components logos and MAP visual identity guidelines (3.4). It conveys that the components are working together in partnership or are co-authors of the published materials.
- **Option 3: Presenting a component separately:** For mandate-specific communications, it is recommended to use a separate, singular identity presentation that shows one component logo and its brand, in accordance with component-specific guidance.

## 4.3 MAP Identity Guidelines

### Terminology:

To facilitate the perception of MAP as one single system, MAP is referred to as ‘The Mediterranean Action Plan’ (MAP) in external communication materials.

When appropriate, MAP is explained by mentioning that the Mediterranean Action Plan is a Regional Seas Programme of UN Environment which serves as the Secretariat to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

[An elaborate and consistent narrative that explains the MAP mandate and considers the achievements/success stories of components as well as progress under the BC will be crafted with inputs from the MAP Communications Taskforce].

### Visual Identity:

When “presenting MAP as one identity – option 1” or when “presenting MAP components together in partnership – option 2”, a common join visual identity must be used. The consistent use of a limited color set and font help maintain a coherent and coordinated look across all products. MAP’s visual identity is aligned to the UN Environment visual identity guidelines:

- **Typeface:** The typeface family “Roboto” is UN Environment typeface for English, French and Spanish languages. Noto Kufi is UN Environment typeface for all communication in Arabic. They should be used for all external communication purposes.
- **Color:** The primary color selected is cyan, the color of the UN Environment.

### Language and style

To mobilize and inspire action, MAP needs to combine scientific knowledge with accessible language and style. MAP should seek to adapt our voice and tone to meet the needs of each audience and situation.

In line with the UN Environment content strategy, MAP's style and language should:

- **Embrace being:** inspirational, accessible, credible, collaborative, human, action-oriented, simple, respectful, diverse.
- **Avoid being:** staid, ivory tower, sensational, exclusive, cold, idle, complex.

MAP official languages are Arabic, English, French and Spanish, and efforts must be made to ensure the availability of communication materials in all languages as much as possible.

#### 4.4 Representation of UN Environment identity

All logos are an endorsement of the contents of the products on which they appear; the use of logos on published material indicates that it has been cleared by the designated official. The UN Environment logo must be used with caution. In particular:

- Publications featuring UN Environment logo must be approved by UN Environment Publishing Board (UN Environment Publishing Guidelines).
- Media material, such as press releases, featuring UN Environment logo must be approved by UN Environment designated official.

### 5. Key messages

Key messages empower individuals to speak knowingly and passionately about the organization, its work, and their own role in supporting its mandate. Key messages represent a simplified strategic framework that guides communication and tone. They describe succinctly MAP's vision and mandate. MAP key messages are in line with the UN Environment Narrative Framework.

MAP key messages are:

- **Issue:** We believe that the Mediterranean Sea and coastal area are threatened by our collective and ongoing exploitation of environmental resources.
- **Goal:** Changing our current course of action begins by informing, inspiring, and empowering people and governments to take meaningful and collective action.
- **Call to Action:** As the leading authority on environmental sustainability in the Mediterranean, we strive to set a regional agenda that leads with research, policies, and economic incentives.
- **Solution:** We will have succeeded when the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols are implemented ensuring "a healthy Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems that are productive and biologically diverse, contributing to sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations".

During communication campaigns and scheduled events, key messages will also be developed for specific topics.

### 6. Methodology

The methodology is based on three basic steps which decline messages and adapt the message to the various channels and targets. The three steps should be at the basis of any communication action:

1. Clearly identify the message;

2. Identify the target audience and tailor the message accordingly;
3. Disseminate the message through appropriate channels.

[The following elements are to be considered:

-The upgrading, enhancement and strengthening of MAP own broadcasting platforms, including websites and social media platforms;

-Entering into strategic partnerships with media organizations and other multipliers, including Mediterranean CSOs that are known to have substantial reach at the national level;

-Leveraging support from UN Environment and other institutional partners, including UN Information Centres, UN regional commissions, the EU and the Arab Maghreb Union.]

Target audiences:

1. **Primary:** Decision makers relevant to MAP's mandate, such as Contracting Parties officials, and Focal Points;
2. **Second:** Main actors relevant to the MAP mandate at the [national], regional and international levels, such as, MAP partners, Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEA), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Intergovernmental organization (IGOs), MCSD members, donors and business;
2. **Third:** Influencers, such as journalists, scientific community, academic community, NGOs.

Priority channels:

Audiences		Platforms					
		Meetings	Media	Social media	Website	E-Mail	Online platforms
<b>External</b>	<b>Primary audience:</b> Decision makers	X		X	X	X	
	<b>Second audience:</b> Main actors	X		X		X	
	<b>Third audience:</b> Influencers	X	X	X	X		
<b>Internal</b>	<b>Task force members</b>	X				X	X
	<b>ALL MAP staff</b>	X				X	X

## 7. Key activities

The activities presented in this strategy aim to complement the activities established under the Programme of Work / Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021.

The following table presents the activities to be implemented jointly, at the regional level, by the MAP Coordinating Unit and the MAP components. Each component should continue to support local mandate-specific or sub-regional project-specific communication activities, messages and products, applying their respective brand identities, provided that such mandate specific messages are consistent with the agreed common positions within the MAP system and that they complement joint MAP communication efforts.

**Overview of the Operational Communication Strategy activities:**

<b>OBJECTIVE 1: Knowledge and understanding of the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast enhanced through mandated assessments for informed policy-making.</b>	
<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Activities</b>
1.1. MAP flagship publications are accessible and tailored to MAP target audiences.	1.1.1 Develop a communication pack for MAP flagship publications.
1.2. MAP is a reference for information on Mediterranean environment, on both general and emerging topics.	1.2.1 Produce communication material to enhance accessibility of key information related to MAP mandate.
	1.2.2 Produce a biennial publication on emerging topics/threats highlighting existing knowledge gaps.

<b>OBJECTIVE 2: MAP knowledge and MAP information system enhanced and accessible for policy-making, increased awareness and understanding.</b>	
<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Activities</b>
2.1. MAP's multiple database and information systems are leveraged to raise awareness and understanding.	2.1.1 Create a single data visualization public interface highlighting key data from MAP multiple databases.

<b>OBJECTIVE 3: Raised awareness and outreach.</b>	
<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Activities</b>
3.1. MAP is reaching its targeted audiences by communicating through key channels.	3.1.1 Develop MAP presence on the Twitter social media platform.
	3.1.2 Increase engagement with the media, both in a proactive and reactive way.
3.2. Knowledge on the state of the environment is enhanced.	3.2.1 Conduct one communication campaign for each 'State of the Mediterranean Environment' publication.
	3.2.2 Conduct one communication campaign on the key topic identified for the biennium.
	3.2.3 Conduct communication campaigns at the occasion of key dates such as UN observances related to the Environment.
3.3 Knowledge on MAP mandate and action is enhanced	3.3.1 Improve accessibility of general information on MAP website, ensuring content is tailored to each targeted audience
	3.3.2. Produce an annual report highlighting MAP key achievements.
	3.3.3 Conduct a communication campaign for each COP.
	3.3.4 Enhance MAP visibility at high level events.
	3.3.5 Enhance MAP visibility through a periodic publication: MED News
	3.3.6 Enhance MAP visibility through multimedia products: Videos, spots, slide shows, scientific documentaries

<b>OBJECTIVE 4: The MAP brand and messages strengthened by “Communicating as One”.</b>	
<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Activities</b>
4.1. MAP “brand” is strengthened and unified.	4.1.1 MAP Coordinating Unit, components and project management units follow the “Communicating as One” guidelines for joint MAP products and communications.
	4.1.2 Create a set of relevant templates to be used by all MAP components and projects.
	4.1.3 Create a set of presentation material (PowerPoint video, factsheet, brochure, map, roll-up and posters).
	4.1.4 Create MAP-branded regional visibility items.
	4.1.5 Corporate graphical layout for MAP publications: series of publication layouts.
4.2 MAP's reach is increased by joint communication.	4.2.1 MAP Coordinating Unit, components and project management units promote the annual communication campaigns.
4.3 Internal communication between Information Task Force members is enhanced.	4.3.1 Conduct regular Information Task Force meetings.
4.4 MAP Staff communication capacity is enhanced	4.4.1 Conduct communication training for MAP staff.
	4.4.2 Internal MAP networking and share of information enhanced: a. Directory of all the MAP network maintenance and update (repository of NFPs designations); b. On-line Event Calendar of all the MAP network initiatives maintenance and update; c. Groupware of all the MAP network available: communication tool for document repository and interest groups management; d. Surveys and questionnaires platform available; e. Help desk and assistance for all the components of InfoMAP network.

## 8. Monitoring

To evaluate success, a two-pronged approach to measurement will be applied, combining relevant metrics, strategic interpretation and forward-looking insights, including the following:

1. **Quantitative measures:** quantitative indicators and targets for each activity are defined in Annex 2 - Monitoring plan;
2. **Qualitative measures:** advocacy and reputation are measured by conducting online surveys addressed to each of the target audiences.

### Monitoring timeline:

Monitoring exercises and reports presenting their results will be prepared on an annual basis, as follows

- Baseline evaluation to be conducted in January 2020; report to be delivered by March 2020;
- Mid-term evaluation to be conducted in January 2021; report to be delivered by March 2021;
- Final Evaluation to be conducted in January 2022 report to be delivered by March 2022.

Further information about the planned monitoring activities are provided in the Annex 1.

## 9. Responsibilities

While noting that communication is “everybody’s business”, certain staff have specific responsibilities for implementing the operational communication strategy. The responsibility of the implementation of each activity is specified in Annex 1 - Detailed Activities.

MAP’s main mechanism to coordinate communication activities is the “MAP Communication Task Force”. It provides a platform for information exchange and coordination. In particular, the Information Task Force responsibilities include:

- Support the implementation of the MAP Operational Communication Strategy;
- Enhance inter-component collaboration on communication on a timely basis;
- Promote a coherent image of MAP, and ensure quality and consistency of messaging on critical issues for which MAP needs to communicate with one voice;
- Identify new and innovative ways to demonstrate how MAP is delivering results;
- Capture and share lessons learned from both joint and component-specific communication work to support improved communication.

A focal point from each component is appointed by the component’s representative to participate in the ‘MAP Communication Task Force’. Currently representation is ensured as followed:

- CU Public Information Officer and Information Assistant;
- INFO/RAC EcAp and CE&D Senior officer.
- PAP/RAC Programme officer;
- PB Project Officer Information-Communication-Web;
- REMPEC Junior Programme Officer;
- SCP/RAC Communication Officer;
- SPA/RAC Communication assistant;

Each member should also act as the focal point for projects implemented under the leadership of its component.

The Communication Task Force is open to network with focal points of all MAP projects.

## 10. Timeline Schedule

The timeline shows the planned activities for the biennium 2020-21. Some activities will be carried out in continuous, other ones scheduled at the appropriate time and other ones will be preceded by a preparation period. Further information about content and schedule of the planned activities are provided in Annex 2.

2020-2021	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
1.1.1.			X	X			X	X
1.2.1.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1.2.2.								X
2.1.1.	X	X	X	X				
3.1.1.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3.1.2.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3.2.1.	X	X	X	X				
3.2.2.					X	X	X	X

3.2.3.			X				X	
3.3.1.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3.3.2.				X				X
3.3.3.								X
3.3.4.		X		X		X		X
3.3.5	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3.3.6			X				X	
4.1.1.				X				
4.1.2.		X						
4.1.3.						X		
4.1.4.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4.1.5.	X	X	X	X				
4.2.1.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4.3.1.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4.4.1.		X		X		X		X
4.4.2.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

UNEP/MAP Operational Communication Strategy – Annex 1: Detailed activities

ACTIVITIES	DELIVERABLES	ACTIVITIES DETAILS	FOCAL POINTS	TIMELINE	AUDIENCES	CHANNELS
<b>OBJECTIVE 1: Knowledge and understanding of the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast enhanced through mandated assessments for informed policy-making</b>						
1.1. MAP flagship publications are accessible and tailored to MAP target audiences	1.1.1 Develop a communication pack for MAP flagship publications	A communication pack for MAP flagship publications  Produce a set of communication material tailored to MAP audiences to increase the accessibility and the relevance of MAP's flagship publications (such as the State of the Mediterranean Environment). The communication pack can include: an executive summary, data visualization products, an interactive report webpage, factsheets at country level to provide localized content, etc. Dissemination of the communication pack is ensured through activity 3.2.1.	INFO/RAC and CU with MAP COM TF	To be initiated 12 months before the publication date	Primary, second and third	Websites, emails, social media
1.2. MAP is a reference for information on Mediterranean environment, on both general and emerging topics	1.2.1 Produce communication material to enhance accessibility of key information related to MAP mandate	Communication material to enhance accessibility of key information related to MAP mandate  Produce a set of communication material tailored to MAP audiences to increase the accessibility of information on key topics (biodiversity, pollution, etc.). Material can include: factsheets, data visualization products, videos, etc.	INFO/RAC and CU with MAP COM TF	January - December 2020	Primary, second and third	Websites, emails, social media
	1.2.2 Produce a biennial publication on emerging topics/threats highlighting existing knowledge gaps	Biennial publication on emerging topics/threats highlighting existing knowledge gaps  Every biennium an emerging topic/threat with a knowledge gap is identified and a publication is developed to present available knowledge on the topic and relevant MAP activities. Dissemination of the publication is ensured through Activity 3.2.2.	INFO/RAC and CU with MAP COM TF	To be initiated 12 months before the publication date	Primary, second and third	Websites, emails, social media
<b>OBJECTIVE 2: MAP knowledge and MAP information system enhanced and accessible for policy-making, increased awareness and understanding</b>						
2.1. MAP's multiple	2.1.1 Create a single data visualization public interface highlighting key data from MAP multiple databases	Maps and data products  MAP multiple databases (MED POL, BCRS, etc) are leveraged and connected	INFO/RAC			Websites



<p>database and information systems are leveraged to raise awareness and understanding</p>		<p>elaborations using a customized data visualization public interface highlighting key data from MAP multiple databases -</p>	<p>through a single platform highlighting a selected set of pertinent data/information. The platform is user friendly and accessible to all MAP audiences. To increase accessibility, data are presented through data visualization tools such as maps or graphics. The data visualization tools are automatically generated from MAP databases. Information presented include data on the state of the environment, MAP actions, Status of ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, information on Focal Points. The platform can generate dashboards, ready to be downloaded and used off-line.</p>		<p>January - December 2020</p>	<p>Primary, second and third</p>	
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**OBJECTIVE 3: Raised awareness and outreach**

<p>3.1. MAP is reaching its targeted audiences by communicating through key channels</p>	<p>3.1.1 Develop MAP presence on the Twitter social media platform</p>	<p>MAP presence on the Twitter social media platform developed</p>	<p>A MAP corporate Twitter account is created and facilitate the dissemination of information on MAP activities and achievements, as well as on the State of the Environment in the Mediterranean.</p>	<p>CU and with the support of MAP COM TF</p>	<p>March 2020</p>	<p>Primary, second and third</p>	<p>Social media</p>
	<p>3.1.2 Increase engagement with the media, both in a proactive and reactive way</p>	<p>Engagement with the media, both in a proactive and reactive way Increased</p>	<p>Engagement with the media is increased both in a proactive and reactive way to ensure MAP is perceived by journalists as a reference on all issues linked to the Mediterranean environment:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proactive: a powerful news is identified and actively pitched to journalists. Type of news should be considered carefully, and MAP needs to engage with the media only when there is something powerful to say.</li> <li>• Reactive: MAP is responding to a news story that was generated by an external actor. Reactive media opportunities require minimal effort and can result in significant exposure.</li> </ul> </p>	<p>CU and with the support of MAP COM TF</p>	<p>Continuous</p>	<p>Third</p>	<p>Email, social media, and in-person</p>

3.2. Knowledge on the state of the environment is enhanced	3.2.1 Conduct one communication campaign for each 'State of the Mediterranean Environment' publication	A) One communication campaign for each 'State of the Mediterranean Environment' publication	Regional campaigns are conducted in partnership with MAP's components and projects at the occasion of the launch of publication or/and key dates (environment day, Mediterranean Coast Day, etc.) with the goal to improve knowledge on the state of the environment. Each campaign is using multiple channels to reach all MAP targeted audiences, in particular traditional and social media.	INFO/RAC and CU, with MAP COM TF for the dissemination	To be initiated 12 months before the publication date	Primary, second and third	Media, Social media, websites
	3.2.2 Conduct one communication campaign on the key topic identified for the biennium	B) One communication campaign on the key topic identified for the biennium					
	3.2.3 Conduct communication campaigns at the occasion of key dates such as UN observances related to the Environment	C) Communication campaigns at the occasion of key dates such as UN observances related to the Environment					
3.3 Knowledge on MAP mandate and action is enhanced	3.3.1 Improve accessibility of general information on MAP website, ensuring content is tailored to each targeted audience	Accessibility of general information on MAP website improved, ensuring content is tailored to each targeted audience	MAP evergreen webpages are redesigned/rewritten, and data-visualization tools are used in order to facilitate understanding for all MAP targeted audiences.	INFO/RAC and CU, with MAP COM TF	January - December 2020	Third	Websites
	3.3.2. Produce an annual report highlighting MAP key achievements	Annual report highlighting MAP key achievements	An annual concise report is produced to highlight MAP key achievements. The report is not exhaustive but focus on a limited number of selected topics/actions which are all summarized and accessible to targeted audiences.	INFO/RAC and CU, with MAP COM TF	Report to be ready by mid-December every year	Primary	Websites and email
	3.3.3 Conduct a communication campaign for each COP	Communication campaign for COP 22	A communication package is prepared for each COP to increase visibility of the event. Key decisions taken at the COP are shared with relevant audiences. E4	INFO/RAC and CU, with MAP COM TF	COP22	Primary, second and third	Media, Social media, websites

	3.3.4 Increase MAP visibility at high level events	MAP visibility increased at high level events	MAP is communicating about its presence at key meetings and participate in conversation on social media. General MAP presentation materials are available and disseminated during meetings accordingly.	Focal point for each meeting (all RAC)	During the meetings (real time)	Primary, second and third	Social media
	3.3.5 Increase MAP visibility through a periodic publication: MED News	MED NEWS - the MAP Newsletter	Quarterly produced and delivered. Main sections: MAP Progress, Droplets, upcoming Events, Sustainable events. Active participation of INFO/RAC NFPs will be developed and an enlargement of contributors to other regional institutions and NGOs will be strengthened. New reorganization of thematic NFPs will be taken into account.	INFO/RAC and CU with all MAP COMM TF	Quarterly	Primary, second and third	Website
	3.3.6 Increase MAP visibility through multimedia products: Videos, spots, slide shows, scientific documentaries	Videos, spots, slide shows, scientific documentaries	Specific video will be developed in the framework of regional events and campaigns: spots, clips and documentaries according to the target.	INFO/RAC and CU with all MAP COMM TF	Yearly	Primary, second and third	Website, social media
<b>OBJECTIVE 4: Communicate as one to strengthen MAP's brand and messages</b>							
4.1. MAP 'brand' is strengthened and unified	4.1.1 Each MAP component and project follow the 'Communicating as One' guidelines for joint MAP products and communications	'Communicating as One' guidelines for joint MAP products and communications to be followed by each MAP component and project	Guidelines to 'communicate as one' are created and available for joint MAP products and communications. It includes a set of key common advocacy messages, a common established visual identity, an editorial style guide and a media outreach guide. Joint communication presents MAP as a coherent entity without replacing the communications efforts of individual component rather, it can harness and amplify them in a strategic and streamlined way.	INFO/RAC and CU with MAP COMM TF	January - December 2020	Primary, second and third	All platforms
	4.1.2 Create a set of templates to be used by all MAP components and projects	Set of templates to be used by all MAP components and projects	A set of templates is created and available to all components. It includes templates such as PowerPoint, report, factsheet, roll-up, etc.	INFO/RAC and CU with MAP COMM TF	Second quarter 2020	Primary and second	Meetings, websites

	4.1.3 Create a set of presentation material	Set of presentation material	A set of material presenting MAP is created and available to all components to facilitate a unified MAP presentation to targeted audiences. It includes PowerPoint, video, factsheet, brochure, map, roll-up and posters.	INFO/RAC and CU with MAP COMM TF	Second quarter 2021	Primary and second	Meetings websites
	4.1.4 Create MAP's branded regional visibility items 4.1.5 Corporate graphical layout for MAP publications: series of publication layouts	MAP's branded regional visibility items	A set of visibility items is created and available to distribute during key meetings. In particular, MAP invests in branded USB keys in order to disseminate publications in a paper free manner, in line with its sustainable meeting strategy ----- A different layout studied and developed for each kind of publication of MAP. Printing is duty of MAP CU and other partners	INFO/RAC and CU with MAP COMM TF	January - august 2020	Primary, second and third	Meetings websites
4.2 MAP's reach is increased by joint communication	4.2.1 All MAP components participate in annual COM campaigns	All MAP components participation in annual COM campaigns	Regional communication activities are shared and disseminated through all MAP components channels.	All RACs	Continuous	Third	All platforms
4.3 Internal Communication is enhanced	4.3.1 Conduct regular Information Task Force meetings	Conduct regular MAP Communication Task Force meetings	Thematic and periodical meetings between the Information Task Force members are organized. Meetings are held through online platforms and in-person meetings. It includes team building, brainstorming and focus groups, synergy and internal communication.	INFO/RAC and CU with all MAP COMM TF	In person meeting: every 6 months Online meetings: every month	Internal	In-person and by skype
4.4. MAP Staff communication capacity is enhanced	4.4.1 Conduct communication training for MAP staff	Communication trainings for MAP staff	Trainings for non-communication staff are conducted on communication subjects, such as writing for external audiences, using social media, etc.	INFO/RAC	1 webinar every 6 months	Internal	Online platforms

	<p>4.4.2. Internal MAP networking and share of information enhanced with different tools</p>	<p>a. Directory of all the MAP network maintenance and update (repository of NFPs designations);                  b. On-line Event Calendar of all the MAP network initiatives maintenance and update;                  c. Groupware of all the MAP network available: communication tool for document repository and interest groups management;                  d. Surveys and questionnaires platform available;                  e. Help desk and assistance for all the components of InfoMAP network.</p>	<p>Maintenance and updating of all the tools continuously assured by INFO/RAC.</p>	<p>INFO/RAC</p>	<p>Continuous</p>	<p>Internal</p>	<p>Online platforms</p>
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UNEP/MAP Operational Communication Strategy – Annex 2: Monitoring Plan

	Indicators	Target 2020	Target 2021	Total	Baseline	Results 2021	Results 2022	Total 2022
<b>OBJECTIVE 1: Knowledge and understanding of the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast enhanced through mandated assessments for informed policy-making</b>								
1.1.1 Develop a communication pack for MAP flagship publications	A communication pack is created for each flagship publication.	1	1	2				
1.2.1 Produce communication material to enhance accessibility of key information related to MAP mandate	Communication material is produced for each MTS thematic (at least two by topics = 14).	14	0	14				
1.2.2 Produce a biennial publication on emerging topics/threats highlighting existing knowledge gaps	A communication pack is created for each flagship publication.	0	1	1				
<b>OBJECTIVE 2: MAP knowledge and MAP information system enhanced and accessible for policy-making, increased awareness and understanding</b>								
2.1.1 Create map and data products with a single data visualization public interface highlighting key data from MAP multiple databases	A public interface is created to visualize key data from MAP databases	1	0	1				
<b>OBJECTIVE 3: Raised awareness and outreach</b>								
3.1.1 Develop MAP presence on the Twitter social media platform	A Twitter account is open by June 2020 The account is updated on a weekly basis at least Each year the number of followers increase	1 100% -	0 100% +50%	1 100% +50%				
3.1.2 Increase engagement with the media, both in a proactive and reactive way	Press coverage increased	+10%	+10%	+20%				
3.2.1 Conduct one communication campaign for each 'State of the Mediterranean Environment' publication	A campaign plan is developed and implemented for each State of the Environment	1	0	1				
3.2.2 Conduct one communication campaign on the key topic identified for the biennium	A campaign plan is developed and implemented	0	1	1				

3.2.3 Conduct communication campaigns at the occasion of key dates such as UN observances related to the Environment	A campaign plan is developed and implemented	2	2	4				
3.3.1 Improve accessibility of general information on MAP website, ensuring content is tailored to each targeted audience	Measured by online survey	-	-	-				
3.3.2. Produce an annual report highlighting MAP key achievements	One report is produced every year	1	1	2				
3.3.3 Conduct a communication campaign for each COP	A communication pack is created for the COP COP is covered by major Mediterranean media and on social media	0	1	1				
3.3.4 Increase MAP visibility at high level events	Content is posted on MAP social media at the occasion of high-level events	content posted for 12 events	content posted for 12 events	content posted for 24 events				
3.3.5 Increase MAP visibility through a periodic publication: MED News	Measured by online survey and number of subscriptions	+10%	+10%	+20%				
3.3.6 Increase MAP visibility through multimedia products: Videos, spots, slide shows, scientific documentaries	Measured by online survey and number of web sites visits	+10%	+10%	+20%				
<b>OBJECTIVE 4: Communicate as one to strengthen MAP's brand and messages</b>								
4.1.1 Each MAP component and project follow the 'Communicating as One' guidelines for joint MAP products and communications	Measured by online survey	-	-	-				
4.1.2 Create a set of templates to be used by all MAP components and projects	a set of templates is created (including report, PowerPoint, factsheet, roll-up)	1	0	1				
4.1.3 Create a set of presentation material	a set of press material is created (including report, PowerPoint, factsheet, roll-up)	0	1	1				
4.1.4 Create MAP's branded regional visibility items	Visibility items are created and produced	Visibility items available	Visibility items available	Visibility items available				

4.1.5 Corporate graphical layout for MAP publications: series of publication layouts	Publication layout series available	6	0	6					
4.2.1 All MAP components participate in annual COM campaigns	Number of components participating in annual COM campaigns	7	7	7					
4.3.1 Conduct regular Information Task Force meetings	Two in-person meetings are conducted and monthly network activities	100%	100%	100%					
4.4.1 Conduct communication training for MAP staff	Number of teleconferences conducted	2	3	5					
<p>4.4.2 Internal MAP networking and share of information enhanced:</p> <p>a. Directory of all the MAP network maintenance and update (repository of NFPs designations);</p> <p>b. On-line Event Calendar of all the MAP network initiatives maintenance and update;</p> <p>c. Groupware of all the MAP network available: communication tool for document repository and interest groups management;</p> <p>d. Surveys and questionnaires platform available;</p> <p>e. Help desk and assistance for all the components of InfoMAP network.</p>	Number of accesses to informative tools and registered users' number	+10%	+10%	+20%					



## **Annex II**

### **Main Elements and Roadmap for the Preparation of a UNEP/MAP Data Management Policy**

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## Scope

The data policy aims to ensure that data are managed transparently, ensuring the certainty that they are properly disseminated and recognized, following similar principles and rules across countries and stakeholders.

As a general assumption data and information should be managed as close as possible to its source, collected once and shared with others for many purposes and readily available to easily fulfil the UNEP/MAP mandates. In a more concrete way data and environmental information should be accessible to enable comparisons of the environment at the appropriate geographic scale, fully available to the general public, to enable citizen participation; supported through common, free and open software standards and proprietary action based on a interoperable Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the Mediterranean area.

The policy will cover environmental data and information collected, acquired, processed and disseminated by MAP/Barcelona Convention system through the INFO/RAC System called InfoMAP.

The data management policy document is a general description framework, to start identifying data policy within the Mediterranean countries in order to support the data flows under MAP/Barcelona Convention system, and is mainly based on two axis: one is the management of the Accountability and security due to the roles in the InfoMAP system, the second is the data's granularity due to the different type of data handled by the System. The final aim will be, based on the structure presented in Annex 2, to define a Data Policy for each data flow collected in the system.

## Background

The mission of INFO/RAC is to provide adequate information and communication services and infrastructure technologies to the Contracting Parties to implement the Barcelona Convention's Article 12 on public participation and Article 26 on reporting. In this framework, the Data Policy Management document represents a mandatory reference to ensure data sharing and use.

According to the international Open Data Charter, there are six principles for the release of data:

- Open by Default;
- Timely and Comprehensive;
- Accessible and Useable;
- Comparable and Interoperable;
- For Improved Governance and Citizen Engagement; and
- For Inclusive Development and Innovation.

In a broader international contest, it is also recognised the importance of data sharing in achieving the GEOSS vision and interconnected societal benefits; indeed, the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles and the works of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) is building block for growing the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).

At MAP/ Barcelona Convention level, in line with Article 14 of the Barcelona Convention and several articles addressing access to information by the public in the Protocols of the Barcelona convention and Decisions of the Contracting Parties Meeting, the establishment of InfoMAP represents the policy covering environmental data and information collected, acquired, processed and disseminated by UN Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan and its components through the INFO/RAC System.

At European level, the INSPIRE Directive (INfrastructure for SPatial Information in the European) establishes harmonised conditions of access to spatial data sets and services and facilitates the sharing of spatial data sets and services between public authorities in Member States and between Member States, the institutions and bodies of the Community.

Following the best practices at regional, global and European levels, and the needs of the MAP Barcelona Convention system, there is a need to define a policy to regulate the data sharing and publication, as well as documented with metadata, the right to access and use these datasets and services.

## **Sharing environmental information principles**

Since 2008 the European Commission has started the Communication on SEIS principles, and many efforts have been made to create a SEIS and implement its pillars. The benefits of a regular SEIS-based reporting process for environmental assessment to improve and optimise existing information systems and processes have been recognised at a global level. The ENI initiative adopted by European Environmental Agency (EEA), which extends the principles of SEIS, also to the neighbouring countries, in order to understand and solve environmental issues that are transboundary for nature and could play global reach.

The SEIS in the European Union represents the natural extension of INSPIRE Directive's regulations about the Spatial Data Infrastructure to share environmental data and information in a common way.

SEIS is also about a shift in approach, from individual countries or regions reporting data to specific international organisations, creating online systems with services that make information available for multiple users — both people and machines. Such a shift happens in a stepwise way, ensuring that SEIS remains a driver for access to environmental information and its integration in the knowledge-based economy.

A key cross-cutting goal of SEIS is to provide access to environmental information, optimising and expanding its use. Applying the SEIS principles makes that easier.

Information is often created with a specific purpose, but there are many potential uses, in which this data can be re-use to have a wider application and understanding of phenomena. For example, information about the landslide, although necessary to mitigate potential land impacts, is also extremely valuable for insurance companies and homebuyers to assess the real estate risks.

The seven SEIS principles are:

1. Managed as close as possible to its source.
2. Collected once and shared with others for many purposes.
3. Readily available to easily fulfil reporting obligations.
4. Easily accessible to all users.
5. Accessible to enable comparisons at the appropriate geographical scale and the participation of citizens.
6. Fully available to the general public and at national level in the relevant national language(s).
7. Supported through common, free, open software standards.

A functional SEIS should be structured around three pillars:

- Content (data);
- Infrastructure (SDI);
- Cooperation (Policy).

After the system has identified the types of content (data) required and their potential sources, as a second step, we need an effective, web-enabled technical infrastructure that takes full advantage of ICTs, including web services. The third step is the cooperation and governance structure to manage human resources, inputs and networking and to ensure data sharing agreement.

## **Environmental data and product definition**

Environmental data are defined as individual items or records (both digital and analogue) usually obtained by measurement, observation or modelling of the natural world and the impact of humans upon it, including all necessary calibration and quality control. This includes data generated through complex systems, such as information retrieval algorithms, data assimilation techniques and the application of numerical models. However, it does not include the models themselves.

Environmental products are created by adding a level of intellectual input that refines or adds value to data through interpretation and/or combination with other data. They result from analysis or repackaging of data in such a way that has provided significant added value (intellectual or commercial).

## Data collection

The data flow process must take into consideration the Global framework in which the Barcelona Convention operates, as well as the European Union procedure defined within the EIONET network. All dataset acquired in the Barcelona Convention regional framework and in European union regulation may take into account a part of data collection process.

Data collection is the gathering and measuring information on targeted variables in the InfoMAP system, which allow, therefore, to answer relevant questions and evaluate the outcomes of a Good Environmental Status.

The chapter on data collection describes the capabilities of the InfoMAP system to manage data, associated information and data licenses. The system can be represented according to 3 axes (figure 1) that describe: the formats managed or manageable by the system, the types of licenses that can be associated with the data and the associated meta information that describes the data, its formats and the methods of access and use.

The Data collection action is managed by the reporting system which has different procedures and approaches relating to the two main chains available: BCRS Protocols and IMAP Monitoring actions.

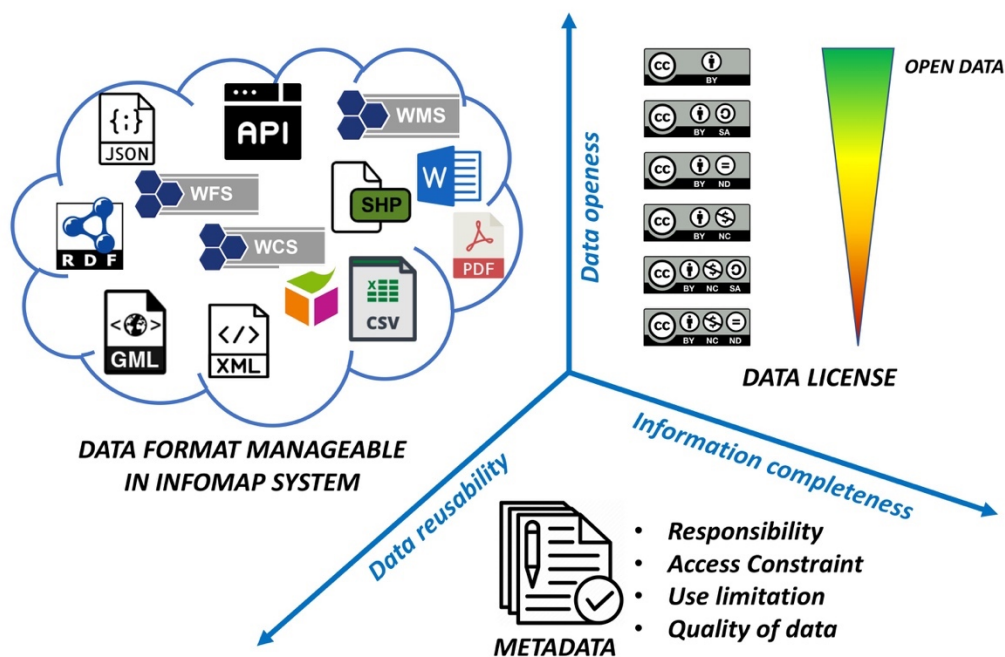


Figure 1 – InfoMAP data capabilities and management.

## Type Data flow protocols

Since the Data Centre is set-up to collect the submit report from the Contracting Parties, it was designed to take in consideration not only the data transfer protocol available at the moment as more robust, but also future evolution of these.

At this stage, both reporting system (BCRS and IMAP) are designed to collect data from standard data structures and protocols, based on the procedure for generating or directly fill-in the service on the XML/GML files. At the same time, the Reporter can also upload the spreadsheets prepared by the country.

All data submitted to the InfoMAP system is subjected to validation and quality assessment checks in order to guarantee the quality of data acquired.

Basic geographic data layer could also be collected with specific data call campaign in the InfoMapNode to ensure that the reported data is geographically located.

## Data format

There are many standard formats for exchanging and sharing data and information, an example is presented here below, but this itself does not guarantee correct interoperability if we haven't correctly implemented some general assumptions on data harmonisation.

CSV	Values separated by comma	Type of documents in simple open format to represent data in table format, in columns separated by commas (or semicolons, where the comma is the decimal point) and the rows are line breaks. Fields that have a comma, line break, or double quote must be enclosed in double quotes. It does not indicate a specific set of characters, nor how the bytes are located, nor the format for the line break. The extensions that are used are .csv and .txt.
DOC	Microsoft Office Word	Closed format to transfer formatted or unformatted texts. It can contain texts, images, graphics and links. The 2007 version works with a new format, docx, which is more advanced and compresses the document more.
GML-XML	Geography Markup Language	GML is the XML grammar defined by the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) to express geographical features. GML serves as a modelling language for geographic systems as well as an open interchange format for geographic transactions on the Internet.  Key to GML's utility is its ability to integrate all forms of geographic information, including not only conventional "vector" or discrete objects, but coverages and sensor data.
JSON	Notation of JavaScript Objects	Lightweight data exchange format, easy to understand, and offers simplicity to machines in generation and interpretation. Based on a subset of the JavaScript programming language, suitable for programming by the client.
PDF	Portable Document Format	Universal portable format document that maintains the appearance of the document regardless of the operating system used (multiplatform). It includes any combination of text, multimedia and hypertext and you can also encrypt the content and sign it digitally. It is the ISO standard, from 2008, for electronic document container files for long-term preservation. It is a specification that can be created, visualized or modified with free

		software tools. This format was originally proprietary (up to 2008).
RDF- XML	Infrastructure for Description of Resources	Model for the representation of web resources in expressions with the form subject-predicate-object. The subject is the resource that is described, the predicate is the property on which the resource is to be established and the object is the value of the property with which the relation is established. The combination of RDF with other tools allows to add meaning to the pages and is one of the essential technologies for the semantic web. To be interpretable, it is represented in XML format.
SHP	ESRI	Shapefile is a proprietary format of spatial data that is the standard for the exchange of geographic information between Geographic Information Systems (GIS). It is a vector format of digital storage where the location of geographic elements and the attributes associated with them are stored, but without the capacity to store topological information. It is generated by several files, minimum 03 and has 03 types of extensions: .shp, .shx and .dbf
SPARQL	Simple Protocol and RDF Query Language	Standardized language for the query of RDF data, normalized by the W3C. It is an official recommendation of the W3C since January of 2008 for the development of the semantic web.
Web services - API	Application programming interface	They are application programming interfaces or web APIs that are accessed through HTTP and run on a remote hosting system for the services requested. Web services are software systems designed to support the interoperable machine-to-machine interaction over a network. It has an interface described in a format processable by a machine and other systems interact with the web service in a manner prescribed by its description using SOAP messages, transmitted through HTTP with an XML serialization in conjunction with other standards related to the web.
WxS OGC services	Open Geospatial Consortium Web Service for share data and information	The OGC (OpenGeospatialConsortium) standards depend on a generalized architecture captured in a set of documents collectively called the Abstract Specification, which describes a basic data model for representing geographic features. is developed to support in-line content as well. The goal is to support use cases such as the distribution of search results, the exchange of a set of resources such as OGC Web Feature Service (WFS), Web Map Service (WMS), Web Map Tile Service (WMTS), Web Coverage Service (WCS) and others in a ‘common operating picture’.
XML	Extensible Labeling Language	It is a simple but strict metalanguage, developed by W3C. It develops a fundamental role in the exchange of a great variety of data. XML is a format that allows the interpretation of data through several applications. It is a simplification and adaptation of the



		<p>SGML and allows to define the grammar of specific languages. Actually, XML is a way to define languages for different needs.</p>
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## Data licenses

There are many types of licenses that can be applied to the data flow of the Barcelona Convention, below are the main licenses selected to manage all types of data in the InfoMAP system.

Starting from the concept of open sharing we evaluated the state of the art in licensing trends for public sector information and material, following the EU PSI Directive<sup>1</sup> for European countries or what is used by geospatial communities to ensure use and re-use of data and products.

The licenses, taken into consideration, were those provided by the Creative Commons Licenses (CCL – <http://creativecommons.org>) which are the most common and used licenses available for digital material. The CC selection is driven by the flexibility offered by a series of ‘baseline rights’, with attribution (CC-BY) as a core requirement, together with three other ‘license elements’ that can be mixed and combined to obtain six main customized types licenses (figure 2) through a point – and – click web interface, which passes from more open to restrictive.

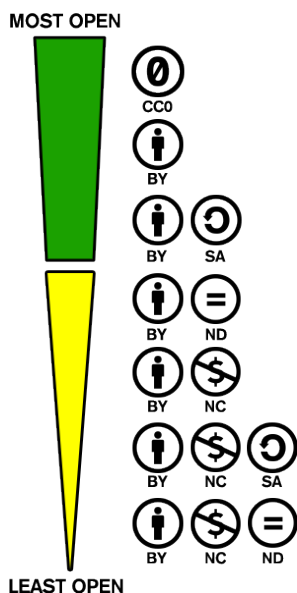


Figure 2 - Common Creative licenses open-restrictive spectrum (image takes from Common Creative web site)

Below are described the six main type of licenses in order to have a complete overview, the criteria adopted for InfoMAP will be defined in article 10 “Data license” of the data policy following the schema proposed in the chapter Data Policy model.

<sup>1</sup> PSI Directive (Directive 2003/98/EC - 31 December 2003) The Directive on the re-use of public sector information provides a common legal framework for a European market for government-held data (public sector information). It is built around two key pillars of the internal market: transparency and fair competition. <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/european-legislation-reuse-public-sector-information>

Type of license	Name	Main description
	CC BY Attribution International	<i>This license lets others distribute, remix, tweak, and build upon your work, even commercially, as long as they credit you for the original creation.</i>  <i>Recommended for maximum dissemination and use of licensed data and products.</i>
	CC BY-SA Attribution-ShareAlike International	<i>This license lets others remix, tweak, and build upon your work even for commercial purposes, as long as they credit you and license their new creations under the identical terms.</i>  <i>All new works based on yours will carry the same license, so any derivatives will also allow commercial use.</i>
	CC BY-ND Attribution- NoDerivatives International	<i>This license allows for redistribution, commercial and non-commercial, as long as it is passed along unchanged and in whole, with credit to you.</i>
	CC BY-NC Attribution- NonCommercial International	<i>This license lets others remix, tweak, and build upon your work but not for commercial purposes, as long as they credit you for the original creation.</i>
	CC BY-NC-SA Attribution	<i>This license lets others remix, tweak, and build upon your work but not for commercial purposes, as long as they credit you and license their new creations under the identical terms.</i>  <i>All new works based on yours will carry the same license, so any derivatives but not for commercial purpose.</i>
	CC BY-NC-ND Attribution	<i>This license allows for redistribution, non-commercial, as long as it is passed along unchanged and in whole, with credit to you.</i>  <i>It is the maximum restriction for data and products.</i>

## Metadata and data generation

All the data collected, in order to facilitate the search and discovery to manage access to resources, shall have a metadata document to describe in detail the dataset and the service; the metadata is managed and archived directly or as harvest service in the InfoMAP System metadata catalogue and they are available in the InfoMapNode geoportal.

The basic information available in the metadata is presented as template in this section, in accordance with international standard and to ensure enough interoperability between InfoMAP System and other platforms in the Mediterranean area, but also to store the access constraint and limitation of use.

In the same way, when a new dataset is generated in the InfoMAP system, metadata and network service must be created to share this data and make it available for public use with minimum possible restriction. For each dataset, a Unique Persistent Identifier should be assigned in order to orchestrate data in the best way and easily recognise the source of the dataset.

### [Metadata Template]

1. General requirement
  - 1.1. File identifier
  - 1.2. Metadata language
  - 1.3. Metadata point of contact
  - 1.4. Metadata date
2. Identification info section
  - 2.1. Resource title
  - 2.2. Resource abstract
  - 2.3. Responsible party
  - 2.4. Responsible party role
  - 2.5. Temporal reference
    - 2.5.1. temporal extent of the described resource
    - 2.5.2. date of publication, date of last revision or, 2.5.3. date of creation
  - 2.6. keywords
    - 2.6.1. Originating controlled vocabulary
  - 2.7. Limitations on public access
  - 2.8. Conditions applying to access and use
  - 2.9. Geographic bounding box
3. Data quality information
4. Metadata for data sets properties
  - 4.1. Resource type
5. Identification info section
  - 5.1. Unique resource identifier
  - 5.2. Keywords for Spatial Data Theme(s)
  - 5.3. Spatial resolution
  - 5.4. Resource language
  - 5.5. Topic category
6. Distribution info section
  - 6.1. Resource locator
7. Data quality info section
  - 7.1. Scope
  - 7.2. Conformity
  - 7.3. Lineage

## Data Embargo periods

Embargoes are enforced at the dataset level. For embargoed datasets, the basic metadata is publicly viewable, but the datasets themselves are not. Basic metadata include geospatial coordinates, site name, dataset type, current end date of embargo, and researchers' names.

Every embargo dataset will have one or more access managers, usually the original data generator or data uploader. Access managers or designated persons can access their embargoed data in infoMAP system, using single-sign-on system and standard tools such as InfoMapNode geoportal, the Data Centre repository, and the APIs. Access will be enabled via a unique persistent identifier (PIDs).

The embargo process is not automatic; embargoes must be requested by the contributor(s) of the relevant data.

Embargoes are temporary and last for a defined period of time. Normally, an embargo lasts two years after a dataset has been uploaded to the system, or until publication is approved, whichever happens first.

- Embargoes will be automatically lifted after two years unless the data generators require a further extension. Up to two-year extensions can be requested.
- InfoMAP data policy, in which data is normally made available to the public at the time of publication.

## Authentication, Authorization and Accounting

Authentication, authorization, and accounting (also called AAA) is the architecture behind the InfoMAP System to manage intelligently controlling access to UN Environment Programme /MAP resources, enforcing policies, and providing the information needed to use for services. These three elements are considered important for effective network management and security.

The three pillars to control security and right of actors are:

- The Authentication is the process of ascertaining that somebody really is whom they say they are.
- Authorization refers to rules/permissions that determine who is allowed to do what.
- Accounting is about keeping track of the resources used for financial or auditing purposes.

## Authentication system

Authentication is the process of determining who someone is, or who or what they claim to be. Authentication technology provides access control for systems by checking if a user's credentials match the credentials in an authorized user database or in data authentication server.

Users are usually identified with a user ID, and authentication is performed when the user provides a correct credential, such as a password, which matches with the user ID in the database. Most users are most familiar with using a password, which, as a piece of information that should only be known to the user, is called a knowledge authentication factor.

In the InfoMAP System in order to support the user in not having a specific credential in each component, based on the open standard OpenLDAP, a single-sign-on authentication system was integrated. The security offered by this system is described in the security section below.

## Users profile and role

The user, in general, is any entity (physical person or organization) that interacts with the InfoMAP System. The InfoMAP system is composed of different components for the data flows in order to allow

the collection from different data sources and expose data sets, services and maps.

Should the user need to be authenticated in the system, this will be done through a login procedure, using a username and password previously provided. In order to facilitate this procedure, the InfoMAP System has unified the access procedure and a single-sign-on system has been set-up. In the user guide of the System components, there is a section dedicated to explaining how to obtain the right credentials for access. There is a different composition of roles in each data flow procedure in order to guarantee the correct right assigned to all the users involved. Each user, according to its role, has a set of corresponding permissions within the system.

The structure of the profiles and their associated rights in the InfoMAP System are:

- **Contracting Party users:** all the data collection may have a different composition of a national role, in order to guarantee a correct transfer of the environmental information, three different levels have been designed to manage data flows:
  - *National Focal Point user*
  - *National Expert user*
  - *Reporter user*
- **MAP Component users:** Users which are staff of MAP Secretariat and Component; for each of them, there is a different role in the system due to the competence and role of the activities carried out in the different data flow and data assessment. A possible subdivision is the following:
  - *MAP Secretariat* is the supervisor of the overall of the InfoMAP System, its members hold all rights to access to all the environmental data and products, and for them, a specific right to manage official dataset shall be defined.
  - *INFO/RAC* is the administrator of the overall of the InfoMAP System. INFO/RAC holds all rights in order to protect data and system security, however INFO/RAC will not manage the dataset, unless it is so required by the owner.
  - *MED POL, REMPEC, PAP/RAC, PB/RAC, SCP/RAC* and *SPA/RAC* are the MAP components involved in the BCRS, IMAP, and NBB and other data collection as well as in data aggregation in order to prepare specific evaluation layer or environmental products and quality assurance. They can view a great part of data but doesn't have the role to manage if it isn't required.
- **MAP Partners and third-party users:** these are users who have a minimum level of access to supply data or web data services that can be used to support environmental analyzes.
- **Anonymous users:** They represent users who are not authenticated and only have the possibility to search and view metadata and data publicly available. If the data is available for public download, this can be applied.

Each authenticated user can access and manage data domains, based on the user's configured role within the system. Each role has a set of corresponding permissions inside the system, in order to manage, edit and view specific data.

## Security procedure

IT security services expertise helps to reduce the risk in operating and managing IT infrastructure network, Data Centre, servers and other IT assets, and the InfoMAP System Manager and Administrator shall guarantee enough rights.

Although a variety of models and techniques are available to manage, access and share geospatial data, we need to pay attention how to address security concerns, such as access control, security and privacy policies, and in particular the development of GIS applications secure and interoperable.

In order to guarantee the correct right to each authenticated user, a formal procedure to receive the

credential in the single-sign-on system has been defined in the InfoMAP System; using a central Directory Access Protocol. The security system is mainly organized on a simple "tree" hierarchy composed of the following levels:

- Countries;
- Organizations;
- Organizational units (divisions, departments, and so forth);
- Individuals (includes people, files, and shared resources)

A profile and a role have been assigned to each individual element.

Furthermore, the Security procedure gives the warranty that the data stored in the InfoMAP system will be treated correctly and protected from any case of fraud or data loss, using an adequate daily backup system and multi-level network firewall.

## **Data granularity**

This part of the document describes the type of data managed and collected within the Mediterranean Action Plan in the Barcelona Convention framework. The granularity is represented by the different details of data and by the different source that provides the data itself. For each of them, a license recommendation will be suggested, but it may change case by case with the different data flow collection procedures.

## **Data Production**

The Data production is all the raw data produced and inserted by the Contracting Parties within specific protocols or data flow of Barcelona Convention, as well as all the data produced directly by the MAP Components or with some projects, to support Good Environmental Status (GES) in accordance with Mid-Term Strategy. A particular cluster of production data can be considered that of the data produced by third-parties, such as various UN entities and other Inter-Governmental organizations active in the field of environmental protection in the Mediterranean which are not officially part of Barcelona Convention, but involved as a MAP Partners.

The main and authoritative data to produce all the environmental assessment on the Mediterranean area are those represented by the data officially submitted by the Contracting Parties in the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS) or in the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) Infosystem. The data are subdivided in two types of data:

- Base layer data
- Environmental data

The data of base layer data represent all the spatial data needed to support the environmental data and assessment, the details of these data depend on the sensibility of the country and some of this information could be for security reason not available for public use. A specific list of reserved data or data subjected to embargo will be edited. All the base layer data available for public use will be made available in the InfoMAP System by the way of network services. The suggested license for this data is CC-BY.

Environmental data are all the environmental parameters, observations and measurements collected within a specific Marine monitoring programme and provided by the Contracting parties through the InfoMAP System data flow on BCRS or IMAP data calls.

The data produced by the MAP components are data collected in their own thematic domain in order to support environmental programmes and protocols, as well as the GES and SoED, reports . This data is property of MAP Barcelona Convention system and is available for public use and work with a CC-BY license.

The data produced by third part are processed in the InfoMAP system, using the interoperability Network services registered and interlinked on the InfoMapNode SDI or archived as sample dataset in the InfoMAP Infrastructure. These data are available in accordance with the release of the owner's license, normally declared in the metadata associated with the dataset(s) or service(s). These data are not official data to produce report and an assessment but can be used to enrich the environmental analysis.

### **Data aggregation**

The data aggregation represents the minimum common layer of official data production provided by the Contracting Parties and managed at the level of the Thematic Focal Point experts or within the mandate of the relevant MAP Components.

For each thematic domain, the protocols or collection of the data flows can be identified with a different level of aggregation, this common agreement must be defined separately on a case by case basis within the group of thematic expert or National Map Focal Point.

The aggregation layers are produced by the MAP Components and the property right should be of UN Environment Programme/MAP and the MAP Component that produces it. Datasets will be available for any purpose and in the public domain, mainly with CC-BY or CC-BY-SA licenses. In any case, there would be a need to define and sign a specific agreement on this aggregation level.

At this stage it is not possible to produce an exhaustive list of all available data aggregations, but an updated list can be published every semester at the InfoMAP system.

### **Map and document products**

Maps and documents produced within the UN Environment Programme/MAP framework are data and information made for public purposes and should be available to all users and purposes. These data represent what is developed and produced directly as an environmental evaluation or assessment in the Mediterranean area. These products will be available through the InfoMapNode portal and/or the relevant Regional Activity Centre website as open data, available with CC-BY license.

For all the data provided by the InfoMAP System and the Barcelona Convention, there would be a need to refer to the source of the UN Environment Programme /Mediterranean Action Plan, citing as well as:

*“Data source UN Environment Programme/MAP provided by InfoMAP System, all right reserved @year”.*

### **Data Access and Distribution**

All data held by InfoMAP System shall be available at no cost, except where:

- Restrictions arising from binding rules apply, including Contracting Parties' national legislation, including the protection of personal data, statistical confidentiality, protection of intellectual property rights and protection of national sensible dataset, defence, or public security;
- The data made available by InfoMAP System components are accompanied by a data license. The data originally made available to the UN Environment Programme/MAP by a third-party may have its own data access agreements and license conditions agreed with the UN Environment Programme/MAP, which restricts the way the InfoMAP System can make the data available to others;
- The request for access to data exceeds INFO/RAC handling capacities.

InfoMAP would ensure the availability of all the tools to provide access to the source data that underpins the products and services of MAP Components for: (a) data held by InfoMAP owned by others, (b) data held by InfoMAP that have been adapted, combined or harmonised, (c) data located,



managed and accessible to the public in other bodies or distributed, for instance in national administrations according to the INSPIRE and SEIS principles, (d) data in which InfoMAP was requested to arrange access, for instance, to act as a data provider for third parties.

The data will be provided through discovery, view and, as far as possible, through download services which are compliant with standards established by ISO, OGC, INSPIRE and other relevant standardization bodies. INFO/RAC as a system administrator will hold the data, where it sees fit, and INFO/RAC will aim to provide meta-information for all data.

### **Data policy model**

The Data policy model is defined for each collection of data flows, based on two main axes: an axis is composed of the granularity of the data as defined in the previous section and the second axis is the one in which the Authentication profile is presented diversified by user. For each cell of the matrix the right can be defined and from this also which is the applicable main license.

Each Contracting Party can set specific restrictions on environmental data provided.







### **User profile and data granularity matrix**

Below in figure 3 the standard matrix used for survey of each data flows (*BCRS, IMAP and Basic layer*) is represented, the right to access the data, in order to have a complete picture (country by country) to correctly manage the data collected in the InfoMAP System. An example is presented in Annex 2 on how each country must fill the matrix within the INFO/RAC.

		Data Production				Data Aggregation		Map and document products
		Contracting Parties Data		MAP Components data	Third Party data	Minimum Common layer	Aggregation layer	
		Base Layer data	Environmental data					
Contracting Party users	National Focal Point user							
	National Expert user							
	Reporter user							
MAP Component users	CU							
	INFO/RAC							
	MEDPOL							
	REMPEC							
	PB/RAC							
	PAP/RAC							
	SCP/RAC							
	SPA/RAC							
MAP Partners								
Anonymous users								

Figure 3 data management policy matrix template needed to acquire right and rule from the data actors.

The possible data right is presented schematically in the legend below (figure 4)

Legend	
	All right to view, download and edit/manage data
	All right to view, download and edit/manage National data
	Right to view and download data
	Right to view and download national data
	Right to view only data
	No right

*Figure 4 data rights possible combination.*

## **Gaps to fill**

At the moment, a clear picture Contracting Party by Contracting Party on what is available for public use or restricted constrains has not been yet defined. There is as a need to compile a list of possible sensitive or restricted data for security reasons.

The document introduces the importance of identifying for each type of data produced, what is the access and use constraint, in order to exploit the potential use in environmental analysis and assessment.

A specific data interview with each country will be set-up to have a list of basic layer data, as well as restricted or public environmental data. For each dataset we need to have metadata available at national level via country or organisational catalogue, or alternatively at the Mediterranean level by directly using the InfoMap Metadata catalogue. The collection of metadata information, using the standard template information provided in the previous section, is needed to evaluate the license associated with a dataset, if this information is not available the metadata document must be updated accordingly.

In parallel, we need to identify which is the common minimum layer to aggregate data information in each data flow, mainly about IMAP and monitoring data.

## **Contracting Parties role and impact for a data policy**

The definition of the data policy is a long process that requires cooperation between the Policy maker, Data manager and Data producer; in this contest the Policy maker is represented by the CU, the Data Manager is INFO/RAC as Administrator of InfoMAP System and the main Data Producer are the Public Authorities involved by the Contracting Parties.

All actors should be aware of the process leading to a common agreement on the data license procedure and data sharing in the InfoMAP System.

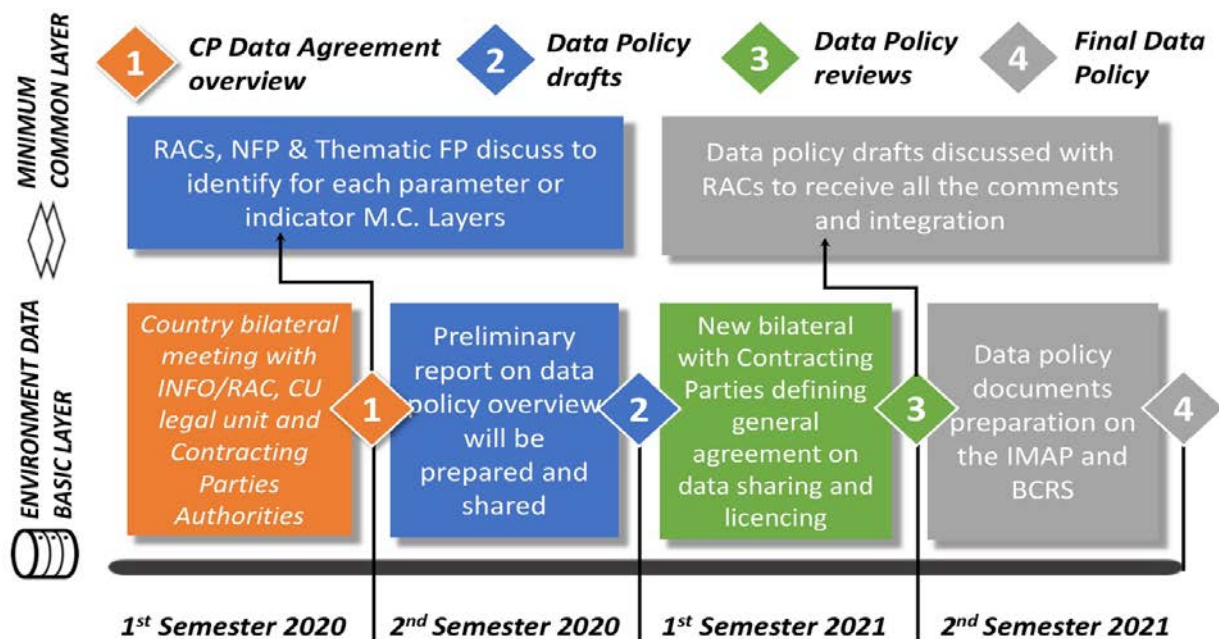
Each Contracting Party should identify which dataset is sensitive, restricted or limited in the use and which are the official basic layer data (i.e. Administrative units, Coastline, hydrography, etc.) that are available for all uses and purposes.

## **Operational roadmap for Data policy**

To ensure that the Data Policy is defined for each data treated in the InfoMAP System, it's necessary to bridge the gap or lack of information from the countryside. In the next biennium a preliminary evaluation will be carried out, mainly to enrich two targets:

- Define data limitation and constraint of the basic layer and environmental data in each of the Contracting Parties;
- Define the Minimum Common aggregation layer for each thematic topic.

To guarantee these targets the following operational roadmap has been designed, represented graphically by figure 5:



*Figure 5 data policies roadmap – through this road map, after the two years of consultation, a common data policy will be defined for each data stream of the Barcelona Convention.*

### Capacity building to support data policy

The main scope of this technical document, which describes the basic concept of the future MAP Data Management Policy is to prepare three different agreements on Data Policy:

- The IMAP Data policy, which defines the rules for accessing, using and re-using data managed and collected by the InfoMAP IMAP Platform;
- The BCRS Data policy which takes into account the whole data flow involved in the BCRS System; and
- The Data Flow Policy which also will include definition of a specific agreement on all the data produced by UN Environment Programme /MAP as well as the identification of access and use regulation in the MAP Network.

To meet the goals and produce the three documents relating to the Data Policy, the INFO/RAC in collaboration with the Secretariat will provide several supporting tools to Contracting Parties for enhancing the management of data

Such tools will be aimed at supporting capacity building activities in the following areas:

- Coordination: To work with Contracting Parties to improve co-operation with data providers, and coordination with all the data stakeholders, and also to reduce the gap in data sharing, sensitivity and accessibility.
- Data management: To support Contracting Parties, the InfoMAP System platform. should be set-up to ensure a secure interconnection, dataset and layer interoperability. Contracting Parties, from their side, should establish and tune their infrastructure and platform to be aligned with international standards to ensure, as far as possible, interoperability and a correct and dynamic sharing of data and information. Specific guidelines have already developed by INFO/RAC in that regard and could be refined in the next biennium.
- Technical skills: In the training platform developed by INFO / RAC, various training packages will be available, each package with free and open online-modules or courses. These training modules can be exploited at different administrative levels by the countries, moreover, if necessary, MAP components may organize training events if so requested by Contracting Parties.

## **Annex I: data policy Structure examples**

In general way, the Data policy document is designed after identifying the different level of knowledge of the data and the possible role that a different user or producer may have in the system. The basic document needs to include the following articles and as attached annex, all the licenses identified as applicable to the Data policy.

The general structure is the following:

**Article 1: Subject Matter**

*It describes what data is the subject of the policy*

**Article 2: Objectives**

*It describes the purpose of Data policy.*

**Article 3: Data Provision**

*It describes all data included in the policy.*

**Article 4: Access To and Redistribution**

*It defines the rules to access, use and re-use the data and how to refer the data source citation.*

**Article 5: Embargo data case (optional)**

*It describes the data may be subject to the embargo, the timeframe of embargo rules and the frequency.*

**Article 6: Recognition of Data Sources**

*It defines how to cite data sources and where to find references.*

**Article 7: Warranty**

*It indicates the warranty on the data source and the right for the third party data.*

**Article 8: Quality**

*It indicates the quality of the data and the scale of the correct use of data.*

**Article 9: Update frequency (optional)**

*It defines the update rate of document.*

**Article 10: License applied**

*It indicated which type data licenses are applied in the data policy framework described in article 1 and 2.*

## Annex II: Best practices

		Data Production				Data Aggregation		Map and document products
		Contracting Parties Data		MAP Components data	Third Party data	Minimum Common layer	Aggregation layer	
		Base Layer data	Environmental data					
Contracting Party users	National Focal Point user	Green	Green	Brown	Yellow	Green	Brown	Yellow
	National Expert user	Green	Blue	Brown	Yellow	Blue	Brown	Yellow
	Reporter user	Yellow	Blue	Orange	Yellow	Blue	Orange	Yellow
MAP Component users	CU	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green
	INFO/RAC	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
	MEDPOL	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green
	REMPEC	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green
	PB/RAC	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green
	PAP/RAC	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green
	SCP/RAC	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green
	SPA/RAC	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green
MAP Partners		Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Red	Yellow
Anonymous users		Red	Red	Red	Brown	Red	Brown	Yellow

**Annex III**

**List of New and Renewed MAP Partners**

### **LIST OF RENEWED MAP PARTNERS**

The following Institutions accredited at COP 18 as MAP Partners are renewed for another six years:

- EcoPeace Middle East
- Environmental Center for Administration and Technology (ECAT Tirana)
- Fondazione IMC-Centro Marino Internazionale ONLUS
- Global Footprint Network (GFN)
- Greenpeace International
- Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMPEPA)
- International Association for Mediterranean Forests (AIFM)
- International Centre of Comparative Environmental Law (CIDCE)
- Mediterranean Coastal Foundation (MEDCOAST)
- Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)
- Mediterranean Programme for International Environmental Law and Negotiation (MEPIELAN)
- Mediterranean Protected Areas Network (MEDPAN)
- Oceana
- Syrian Environment Protection Agency (SEPS)
- The ARAVA Institute for Environmental Studies (AIES)
- Tour du Valat Foundation
- Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV)
- WWF Mediterranean (WWF Med)

### **LIST OF NEW MAP PARTNERS**

The following institutions are accredited as new MAP Partners:

- Asociación ONDINE
- BirdLife Malta (BLM)
- Center for Energy, Environment and Resources (CENER21)
- Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on accidental water pollution (CEDRE)
- Eco-Union
- Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities (FAIC)
- Surfrider España
- French Water Academy
- Human Environmental Association for Development (HEAD)
- The Mediterranean network of cities (Med Cities)
- Secretariat MedWet (MedWet)
- The Agency for Sustainable Mediterranean Cities and Territories (AVITEM)
- Palestine Wildlife Society
- International Association of Geophysical Contractors (IAGC)
- Innovation&DevelopmentAssociation (INNODEV)
- MEDITERRANEAN SOS Network (MedSOS)
- OceanCare
- The International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (IOGP)
- UniVerde Foundation



**Annex IV**

**Composition of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development for 2020-2021 –  
Non-Contracting Party Members**

## Composition of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development for 2020-2021

### Non-Contracting Party Members

Non-Contracting Party membership of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, as welcome by the eighteen meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (Budva, Montenegro, 11-13 June 2019). New members are indicated in bold:

- The Local Authorities Group: the *Agence des Villes et Territoires méditerranéens durables (AVITEM)*, the **Forum of Adriatic and Ionian cities (FAIC)**, and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG);
- The Socio-economic Stakeholders Group: ANIMA Investment Network, the Economic, the **Association of the Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME)**, and the **Economic and Social Council of Greece (ESCG)**;
- The Non-Governmental Organizations Group: **ECO UNION**, the **Egyptian Sustainable Development Forum (ESDF)**, and the **Network of Marine Protected Areas managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN)**;
- The Scientific Community Group: the Forum Euroméditerranéen des Instituts de Sciences Economiques (FEMISE), the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Solutions Network (Med-SDSN), and the Mediterranean Programme for International Environmental Law and Negotiation (MEPIELAN);
- The Intergovernmental Organizations Group: the **Arab Forum for the Environment and Development (AFED)**, the **Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med)**, and the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat (UfMS); and,
- Parliamentarians: the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians on Sustainable Development (COMPSUD), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM).

**Annex V**

**Roadmap for the Evaluation of the Current Mid-Term Strategy and the Preparation of the Next  
Mid-Term Strategy**

## **Roadmap for the evaluation of the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) 2016-2021 and the preparation of the next MTS**

### **1. Introduction and principles**

This document puts forward a methodology for the evaluation/review of the current UNEP/MAP Medium Term Strategy (MTS) and the preparation of the next MTS. It is based on the following principles and requirements:

- The current MTS was adopted in COP 19 and it covers a period of six years until COP 22 (i.e. 2016-2021); the new MTS needs to be adopted at COP 22 in 2021, taking also into consideration the evaluation of the current MTS;
- The evaluation of the current MTS follows the request of Contracting Parties as in Decision IG.22/1: “*Requests* the Secretariat to launch an independent evaluation of the MTS implementation in 2020 for the consideration of COP 22 in 2021, with special emphasis on the interlinkages with the objectives of the MSSD 2016-2025 and the UNEP/MAP EcAp-based Ecological Objectives.”;
- The new MTS needs to be aligned with the global context of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the CBD post-2020 Biodiversity Framework, the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the relevant UNEA resolutions and the implementation of global Multilateral Environmental Agreements in the Mediterranean region;
- The new MTS will build on the following elements, among others:
  - the uniqueness of the MAP system’s mandate in the region;
  - the comparative advantages that the MAP-Barcelona Convention system has in its three dimensions (institutional, regulatory, implementation);
  - the experience, achievements, major processes and lessons learned of the past four decades and in particular of the most recent biennia;
  - the needs, policies and commitments of the Contracting Parties, at national, sub-regional and regional level;
  - the vision, key considerations, evaluation of the current MTS as well as lessons learned from its implementation;
  - the increasingly more accurate assessment work being undertaken on the Mediterranean;
  - the analysis of significant environmental challenges that the Mediterranean region will face in the coming years;
  - the analysis of emerging issues that are of particular relevance to the region;
  - the new paradigm required to achieve Agenda 2030, in which work on environment and sustainable development issues is not conducted in silos, but is intrinsically linked;
  - the implementation and enforcement of the comprehensive body of instruments of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system;
  - the increasing interest demonstrated by actors in the Mediterranean and beyond in partnering with the MAP-Barcelona Convention system;
  - the opportunities presented in the region in terms of access to financial resources, to knowledge, and to stakeholders’ involvement; and
  - the advantages provided by being part of a global inter-governmental mechanism such as UNEP and the UN.

- Focus, integration and diversification of responses and approaches will drive the development of the MTS in order to reflect the diversity of the region (possibly by integrating the DPSIR approach in the development of the new MTS);
- The evaluation of the current MTS and the preparation of the next MTS need to take into account the relevant evaluation and assessment processes within the MAP-Barcelona Convention system (including the MSSD 2016-2025 mid-term evaluation, the SCP Action Plan mid-term evaluation, the 2017 MED QSR, the 2019 SoED and the MED 2050 foresight study preparation);
- The process needs to be conducted under the leadership of the Bureau; preparation of the new MTS needs to be Contracting Party-driven, to involve the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP), and to ensure stakeholder participation to the widest extent possible.

## 2. Methodology and roadmap

### A. Evaluation of MTS 2016-2021

The evaluation of the current MTS should be conducted during the first year of the 2020-2021 biennium. It should be based on the performance indicators and respective targets, which were set within each biennial Programme of Work and Budget, to enable MAP to measure progress against these expected accomplishments. As noted in the text of the MTS, central to the performance framework are the strategic outcomes and outputs to be achieved. Therefore, it is proposed that performance is reported on outcome and output level. To this end, the steps to be followed are:

- Elaboration of baseline values
- Complete population of indicators (based on each biennial PoW)
- Assessment of the extent of achievement of targets (at the level of strategic output)
- Assessment of the financial implementation of the MTS

Following the request of Decision IG. 22/1, the evaluation process should also provide special emphasis on the interlinkages with the objectives of the MSSD 2016-2025 and the UNEP/MAP EcAp-based Ecological Objectives.

The assessment of the extent of achievement of targets and of the financial implementation will be complete/final for the first two biennia and anticipated for the third one, since this exercise will take place at the first year of the third biennium of the implementation of the current MTS.

The assessment will also include a comparison between adopted and achieved deliverables, and will examine whether the structure and outputs of the MTS are still adequate, taking also into account the ongoing processes at the global level.

The financial implementation of the MTS will examine both MTF and external funds which supported each strategic outcome and will be linked to the implementation of the Resource Mobilization Strategy.

A call for consultants could be launched in the beginning of 2020 for the independent evaluation. The strategic part of the assessment is proposed to be conducted by a pool of experts with different skills and expertise, due to the complexity of the process and the multi-dimensional nature of the MTS.

The main steps of the process can be set as follows:

- January/February 2020: launch of the MTS evaluation process and finalization of consultant ToRs
- March 2020: Hiring of consultant
- March/April 2020: Elaboration of baseline values
- April/June 2020: Population of indicators

- June/July 2020: Assessment of target achievement, including through consultations with individual Contracting Parties and stakeholders;
- August/September 2020: Assessment of financial implementation
- October 2020: First draft of evaluation report prepared
- October/November 2020: Consultation with Bureau (and Contracting Parties/MAP Focal Points)
- December 2020: Finalization of evaluation report

#### B. Preparation of MTS 2022-2027

Following the principles and requirements referred to in the introductory part of this concept note, the preparation of the new MTS should be based on a number of key documents and processes. The main ones are listed below:

- Evaluation of MTS 2016-2021;
- MSSD 2016-2025 mid-term evaluation (performed in parallel, during the 2020-2021 biennium)
- Results of the main MAP assessment studies: 2017 MED QSR (which will also provide interlinkages with UNEP/MAP EcAp-based Ecological Objectives) and 2019 SoED; as well as results of global assessment studies, such as the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6) and the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC) of IPCC;
- Global processes or relevance, such as the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the CBD post-2020 Biodiversity Framework, the implementation of the Paris Agreement including the outcome of the 2019 UNFCCC COP25 “The Blue COP”, the relevant UNEA resolutions, and the global Multilateral Environmental Agreements;
- Other relevant evaluation and assessment processes performed during the 2020-2021 biennium, such as the SCP Action Plan mid-term evaluation and the preparation of the MED 2050 foresight study.

It is proposed that the new MTS follows the same timeline with the current MTS, covering the period of three biennial PoWs.

The preparation of the new MTS should start during the process of the evaluation of the current MTS, to benefit from it but also to allow a timely development of the first draft of the new MTS.

The process will be transparent, participatory and Contracting Party driven, and will be conducted under the guidance of the Bureau. It will include early involvement of all the MAP Components, through the Executive Coordination Panel, both at the phase of evaluation of the current situation/state of play, and at the phase of the preparation of the themes and strategic outcomes/key outputs. Furthermore, it will involve consultations with stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations/MAP Partners, youth and gender related organizations, private sector organizations and possible donors, as well as intergovernmental organizations, other UN bodies and MEAs. Consultations with the civil society will take place through electronic means (for example through an online consultation of 2-3 weeks) while a physical open-ended meeting could be arranged, depending on the availability of resources.

The main steps of the process can be set as follows:

- March/April 2020: Finalization of ToRs
- May/June 2020: Launch of the new MTS preparation process, following the 89<sup>th</sup> Bureau meeting
- June/August 2020: Evaluation of the current situation/state of play (global and regional processes)

- September/October 2020: First input from current MTS evaluation process
- November/December 2020: Elaboration of main directions of new MTS
- January/February 2021: First draft text of new MTS (main directions and strategic outcomes) finalized
- April/May 2021: Dedicated MAP Focal Points meeting to discuss and endorse main directions and strategic outcomes of new MTS, and consultations with stakeholders
- May/June/July 2021: Preparation of draft MTS for submission to MAP Focal Points
- September 2021: Examination of draft MTS at the MAP Focal Points meeting
- December 2021: Endorsement of new MTS by COP 22

This process will require adequate financial resources under the MTF, which are reflected in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the 2020-2021 biennium, under Key Output 1.1.2.

**Annex VI**

**Assessment of the Meeting of Thematic Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas/Biological  
Diversity conducted on a Trial Basis in the Biennium 2018–2019**



## **Assessment of the Meeting of Thematic Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity conducted on a Trial Basis in the Biennium 2018–2019**

### **Introduction and background**

The Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean adopted in 1995 by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, stipulates in its Article 24 that “Each Party shall designate a National Focal Point to serve as liaison with the Centre on the technical and scientific aspects of the implementation of this Protocol”. It stipulates also that the National Focal Points shall meet periodically to carry out the functions deriving from the Protocol.

The ordinary meetings of the SPA/BD Focal Points are convened on biennial basis by SPA/RAC to examine the progress made in the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol with special focus on the activities carried out in accordance with the programme of work adopted for the biennium by the Contracting Parties. During their meetings the focal points also (i) evaluate, in accordance with Article 14 of the Protocol, the proposal submitted by Parties for the amendments of the Annexes to the Protocol and, (ii) examine, for each area proposed for inscription on the SPAMI List, its conformity with the common guidelines and criteria adopted (Article 9 of the Protocol).

In addition to the SPA/BD Focal Points, partner organisations as well as Secretariats of relevant Agreements are invited to designate representatives to attend the meetings of the SPA/BD Focal Points as observers. The MAP Coordinating Unit and the other MAP components are usually informed of the dates, agenda and venue of the SPA/BD Focal Point meetings.

Before 2019, thirteen ordinary and one extraordinary meeting of the SPA/BD Focal Points were organised. Their recommendations were forwarded, through the Coordinating Unit for consideration by the Contracting Parties.

Within the framework of the implementation of the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 (MTS) and the efforts of Contracting Parties to strengthen inter-linkages between its Core and Cross-cutting themes as well as facilitating coordination at national level across the relevant sectors, the Contracting Parties envisaged to examine the impacts of a transition to Thematic Focal Points within UNEP/MAP system. To this end, they requested SPA/RAC “to prepare on a trial basis, a meeting of the thematic focal points for Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity for the biennium 2018-2019, under the guidance of the Coordinating Unit, to achieve the greatest possible integration with the other themes of the Mid-Term Strategy” (Decision IG.23/3). They also requested the the Coordinating Unit to present the results of the assessment of that trial, together with any other relevant analysis, to the Contracting Parties prior to their twenty-first meeting.

In this context, SPA/RAC convened the Fourteenth Meeting of SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points. It took place in Portorož (Slovenia) from 18 to 21 June 2019. The present note was prepared by the Secretariat to report to the Contracting Parties on this trial exercise.

### **Participation**

SPA/RAC invited all MAP Focal Points and all SPA/BD Focal Points to attend the meeting or to designate their representative. The invitation was also extended to partner organizations. The meeting was attended by:

#### Representatives of Parties:

- The MAP Focal Points of Albania, Algeria, Cyprus, European Union, France and Slovenia

- The SPA/BD Focal Points of Albania, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, European Union, France, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Turkey Tunisia, Slovenia and Spain

Representatives of Partner organisations:

The following organizations were represented at the meeting: Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), Accord RAMOGE, the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers, the Centre of Mediterranean Cooperation of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN-Med), the Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (MEDASSET), the Environmental Fund for Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (The MedFund), the Network of Marine Protected Areas Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), Shark Advocates International the Shark Trust and the Mediterranean Programme Office of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

Representatives of MAP Components

In addition to the MAP Coordinator and the staff of SPA/RAC, the following other MAP Components were represented at the meeting: PAP/RAC, INFO/RAC and REMPEC

In comparison with previous meetings of SPA/BD Focal Points, the noticeable change in the attendance relates to the participation of some MAP Focal Points or their representatives and the participation of representatives from MAP components. As for the participation of representatives from partner organisations, most of the represented organisations have long-standing collaboration with SPA/RAC and they are therefore used to attend the SPA/BD Focal Points meetings, with the exception of the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers. The participation of this organisation is mainly in relation to the Agenda Items 5.4 (Mediterranean Offshore Guidelines and Standards: Draft Guidelines for the Conduct of Environmental Impact Assessment) and 6.5 (Mediterranean Offshore Guidelines and Standards: Draft Common Standards and Guidelines for Special Restrictions or Conditions for Specially Protected Areas (SPAs) within the framework of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan. Both Agenda Items were included in the meeting agenda following a proposal by REMPEC.

**Topics covered by the Agenda Items of the meeting**

The topics addressed by the Agenda Items were in line with those relating to biodiversity in the MTS. Most of them were similar to items included in the agendas of previous meetings of the SPA/BD Focal Points. There were however new topics whose inclusion in the agenda of the SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points meeting was proposed by other MAP components that provided the relevant working documents and introduced them during the meeting, as follows:

- Topics proposed and introduced during the meeting by the representative of REMPEC:
  - 5.4. Mediterranean Offshore Guidelines and Standards: Draft Guidelines for the Conduct of Environmental Impact Assessment
  - 6.5. Mediterranean Offshore Guidelines and Standards: Draft Common Standards and Guidelines for Special Restrictions or Conditions for Specially Protected Areas (SPAs) within the framework of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan
- Topics proposed by MEDPOL and introduced during the meeting by SPA/RAC:
  - 5.5. Updated Guidelines for Regulating the Placement of Artificial Reefs at Sea
- Topics proposed and introduced during the meeting by the representatives of PAP/RAC:
  - 7.3. Methodological Guidance of the Common Regional Framework for ICZM in the Mediterranean
  - 8.2. Analysis of coherence between regional documents adopted under the SPA/BD Protocol and the ICZM policy framework
- Topics proposed and introduced during the meeting by the representatives of INFO/RAC:

## 7.2. IMAP information system platform related to biodiversity and non-indigenous species cluster

### Financial aspects

The option of organising the SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points meeting instead of an ordinary SPA/BD Focal Points meeting involved additional expenses relating mainly to the increase in the number of participants due to this new option. In total, SPA/RAC covered the travel and accommodation costs for 28 Party representatives; 9 of them would not have participated if the meeting was a SPA/BD Focal Point meeting and not a SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points meeting.

#### Costs of the Fourteenth Meeting of SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points covered by SPA/RAC

	Expenses related to the SPA/BD Focal Point Meeting	Additional cost*	Total cost of the Meeting
Travel and Terminal expenses	18 846 €	2 316 €	21 162 €
Accommodation	16 761 €	2 159 €	18 920 €
<i>Per diem</i>	10 300 €	1 766 €	12 066 €
Lunches	4 500 €	375 €	4 875 €
Coffee-breaks	3 570 €	298 €	3 868 €
Meeting room	7 750 €	500 €	8 250 €
Interpretation equipment	5 983 €	544 €	6 527 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>67 710 €</b>	<b>7 958 €</b>	<b>75 668 €</b>

\*Additional cost linked to the option of the SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points meeting with the participation of the MAP Focal Points of 6 Parties

In addition to the meeting expenses covered by SPA/RAC, the SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points meeting option resulted to expenses covered by the other MAP components in relation to the participation of their representatives to the meeting.

### Views and opinions of the participants

The Secretariat contacted all the delegations during the meeting to collect the views and opinions of the participants regarding the added value they see in the option of organising SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points meetings instead of SPA/BD Focal Points meetings. In this context, a questionnaire was elaborated and made available to participants (Annex 1 to this note).

A summary of the replies to the questionnaire (19 replies received) appears in Annex 2 to this note. It shows that the opinion of the Contracting Party representatives regarding the added value of the option of organising for SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points meetings is mixed: 64% of them indicated that they see an evident added value, while 36% indicated that they see no evident added value. It should be noted that those who indicated they see no evident added value are only SPA/BD Focal Points or representatives of SPA/BD Focal Points.

The analysis of the replies to the questionnaires showed also that, before coming to the meeting, most of the SPA/BD Focal Points did not consult with other Focal Points of their countries about the issues addressed in the meeting agenda.

The replies to the questionnaire received from representatives of partner organisations (4 replies received) indicated that they see an evident added value.

## **Conclusions and recommendations**

It is obvious that the meetings of thematic focal points held for Core and Cross-cutting themes of the MTS are likely to promote the integration of efforts to implement the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. The Fourteenth Meeting of SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points, held on trial basis, has shown that such meetings can promote exchanges between Focal Points of the MAP components, which would be beneficial for the functioning of the MAP system and its structures. However, the exchange was relatively limited during this meeting since a low number of MAP Focal Points attended the meeting or sent their representatives. Furthermore, many delegates indicated that before coming to the meeting, they did not consult with other MAP component Focal Points of their countries about the issues addressed in the meeting agenda.

The views of the meeting participants on the usefulness of this approach are rather mixed. This is apparent from the discussions made with the participants at the meeting and from the analysis of the replies to the questionnaires which was distributed for this purpose. An important remark is that only SPA/BD Focal points or their representatives indicated they see no evident added value of the approach.

The analysis of the additional costs showed that compared to a “classical” Meeting of SPA/BD Focal points, the organisation of the Fourteenth SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points Meeting involved an increase of 11,75% in the expenditures needed to cover the travel and accommodation fees of the Contracting Party delegations and the other expenditures required for logistics. The increase was due to the participation of six MAP Focal Points or their representatives. The Meeting also involved additional costs related to the participation of the representatives of MAP components.

At this stage, definitive conclusions cannot be drawn as for the actual relevance, usefulness and cost-effectiveness of the approach tested with the organization, on trial basis, of the Fourteenth Meeting of SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points. It appears from this trial that the preparation of such a meeting should start from the elaboration of the programme of work for the biennium in order to orient the activities of the concerned MAP components towards more integration, collaboration and joint actions. Furthermore, effort needs to be made at Contracting Party level so that there is more exchange between the focal points of the different MAP components of the same Contracting Party as well as with the MAP Focal Point. To promote integration and ensure more positive impact to thematic focal points meetings, it is proposed that Contracting Party delegations have preparatory meetings in their countries involving the Focal Points of all MAP components and MAP Focal Points. During these preparatory meetings, they should jointly review the working and information documents of the meeting of thematic focal points documents they will attend.

The organisation during the next biennium of another Meeting of Thematic Focal Points addressing one of the cross-cutting themes of the MTS would provide more elements as for the possibilities and limits of the transition to Thematic Focal Points within UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system.

## **Annex 1: Questionnaire for the evaluation of the Thematic Focal Points meeting option within the framework of the Barcelona Convention**

### **Background**

Decision IG.23/3 of the Contracting Parties “requested SPA/RAC to prepare on a trial basis, a meeting of the thematic focal points for Specially Protected Areas/Biological Diversity for the biennium 2018-2019, under the guidance of the Coordinating Unit, to achieve the greatest possible integration with the other themes of the Mid-Term Strategy”.

It also requested the Coordinating Unit to assess the trial and present the results of the assessment to the Contracting Parties prior to their twenty-first meeting.

This questionnaire aims at collecting views and opinions of the representatives of the Contracting Parties and of partner organisations attending the Thematic Focal Points meeting, held from 18 to 21 June 2019, in Portoroz (Slovenia).

#### **1. Are you:**

- The SPA/RAC Focal Point
- A Representative of the SPA/RAC Focal Point
- The MAP Focal Point
- A Representative of the MAP Focal Point
- Representative of a partner organisation
- Other (Please specify)

#### **2. Did you know before the meeting that this is a SPA/BD thematic focal points meeting?**

Yes  No

#### **3. If yes, how you were informed?**

- From the MAP Focal Point of your country (if applicable)
- From the meeting invitation and documents

Other (please specify)

#### **4. Did you have preparatory meeting(s)/consultation at national level with your MAP Focal Point and the Focal points of the other MAP Components?**

Yes  No  Only with some of them (partially)

**5. How do you assess the usefulness of organizing a Thematic Focal Points meeting instead of the RAC's Focal points meetings, with regards to increased integration at the national level and within the MAP system?**

Useful with evident added value

No evident added value

Added value could be obtained through the following improvements: (please specify)

**6. Please indicate here any further remarks or suggestions**

## Annex 2: Compilation of the answers received from participants in response to the questionnaire

Type of Participant	How you were informed that it was a Thematic Focal point Meeting <sup>1</sup>	Preparatory meeting with Focal points at national level <sup>2</sup>	Usefulness of Thematic Focal Points meeting <sup>3</sup>	Added value could be obtained through the following improvements <sup>3</sup>	Further remarks/suggestions <sup>4</sup>
I-MAP FOCAL POINT	From the meeting invitation and documents	YES	Useful with evident added value	Strengthen national coordination with the relevant RAC's Focal Points in order to have an integrated and holistic approach on the themes concerned. Substantially contributing to EcAp achievement, since its implementation requires an integration approach in interconnected fields.	I found the thematic focal points meeting for Specially Protected Areas/Biological Diversity extremely useful, since it gave the opportunity to have an integrated view on interconnected fields from different activities/ developments going on through the different RACs components. Marine biodiversity and MPAs cannot be protected if the other components are not taken into account. In this respect, the development of the different guidelines and relevant documents for the various components i.e. Offshore activities, artificial reefs, ICZM etc should be in coherence with the marine biodiversity conservation.
I-MAP FOCAL POINT	From the meeting invitation and documents	YES	No evident added value		Dans mon pays, nous parvenons à nous organiser en interne entre les points focaux du PAM et les points focaux des CAR afin d'obtenir une vision transversale et intégrée des sujets traités au sein du PAM. Le fait que le point focal du PAM soit également point focal de deux CAR facilite cette intégration. Cette organisation pourrait être recommandée aux Parties considérant que le système doit évoluer. - Bien que cette réunion ait été fort intéressante, l'absence de la grande majorité des points focaux du PAM illustre que ceux-ci ont jugé que leur présence n'était pas indispensable.

<sup>1</sup> Questions 2 and 3 of the questionnaire

<sup>2</sup> Question 4 of the questionnaire

<sup>3</sup> Question 5 of the questionnaire

<sup>4</sup> Question 6 of the questionnaire

Type of Participant	How you were informed that it was a Thematic Focal point Meeting <sup>1</sup>	Preparatory meeting with Focal points at national level <sup>2</sup>	Usefulness of Thematic Focal Points meeting <sup>3</sup>	Added value could be obtained through the following improvements <sup>3</sup>	Further remarks/suggestions <sup>4</sup>
2-REPRESENTATIVE OF MAP FOCAL POINT	From the meeting invitation and documents	PARTIALLY (ONLY WITH SOME NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS)	Useful with evident added value		Even some representative countries did not draft or implement an action plan regarding species, they took some initiatives in the frame of different agreements with other foundations or donors (such case M2PA), that helped on improvement of situation regarding these species' conservation. I think this kind of contributions should be mentioned also in future meetings (just like in this one by Side events), as an added value for successful implementation of regional action plan and strategies.
2-REPRESENTATIVE OF MAP FOCAL POINT	From the meeting invitation and documents	YES	Useful with evident added value	Réunion thématique très intéressante et fructueuse de bonnes présentations beaucoup d'information ont été données Qualité et niveau de participation élevés Présentation des opportunités nouvelles Très convivial, bons échanges ; différents partenaires s'informent mutuellement sur leurs activités	On souhaiterait dans l'avenir de nous faire parvenir les documents de travail dans les deux versions pour être plus efficient Poursuite de l'appui du CAR/ASP Le développement des capacités financières, techniques et institutionnelles est très important pour la mise en œuvre de toutes les activités. La coordination intersectorielle doit parvenir au point focal du PAM
3-SPA FOCAL POINT	From the meeting invitation and documents	YES	Useful with evident added value	We welcome this integrated approach as biodiversity is horizontal theme and should be harmonized and coordinated with other RACs programme of work within the MAP system.	
3-SPA FOCAL POINT	From the meeting invitation and documents	PARTIALLY (ONLY WITH SOME NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS)	Useful with evident added value		
3-SPA FOCAL POINT	From the meeting invitation and documents	PARTIALLY (ONLY WITH SOME NATIONAL	No evident added value		<b>I don't see purpose of this approach. It was like regular Meeting of National Focal points.</b>



Type of Participant	How you were informed that it was a Thematic Focal point Meeting <sup>1</sup>	Preparatory meeting with Focal points at national level <sup>2</sup>	Usefulness of Thematic Focal Points meeting <sup>3</sup>	Added value could be obtained through the following improvements <sup>3</sup>	Further remarks/suggestions <sup>4</sup>
		FOCAL POINTS)			
3-SPA FOCAL POINT	From the meeting invitation and documents + SPA/RAC	NO	No evident added value	Regular coordination at national level addressing the issues that are dealt with within the other protocols and/or MAP components; possibility to influence the activities/decisions/actions of other RACs;	
3-SPA FOCAL POINT	From the meeting invitation and documents	YES	No evident added value	In small countries, the same people who represent the Thematic and the regular meeting.	
3-SPA FOCAL POINT	From the meeting invitation and documents	PARTIALLY (ONLY WITH SOME NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS)	Useful with evident added value		
3-SPA FOCAL POINT	MAP FOCAL POINT	PARTIALLY (ONLY WITH SOME NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS)	Useful with evident added value		

Type of Participant	How you were informed that it was a Thematic Focal point Meeting <sup>1</sup>	Preparatory meeting with Focal points at national level <sup>2</sup>	Usefulness of Thematic Focal Points meeting <sup>3</sup>	Added value could be obtained through the following improvements <sup>3</sup>	Further remarks/suggestions <sup>4</sup>
4-REPRESENTATIVE OF SPA FOCAL POINT	From the meeting invitation and documents	YES	Useful with evident added value	Added value could be obtained through the following improvements: (please specify) Although the meeting included several components beyond the SPA/BD Focal Point Meeting, those components are interlinked with marine biodiversity and it was extremely useful to get involved with such documents and actions (i.e. offshore protocol, eia, artificial reefs etc).	
4-REPRESENTATIVE OF SPA FOCAL POINT	From the meeting invitation and documents	PARTIALLY (ONLY WITH SOME NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS)	No evident added value		
4-REPRESENTATIVE OF SPA FOCAL POINT	From the meeting invitation and documents+ National network system	PARTIALLY (ONLY WITH SOME NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS)	No evident added value		<p>I am of the opinion that the MAP Secretariat should emphasise that coordination and communication between FPs of the RACs and MAP should primarily happen nationally, as a matter of fact that is one of their primary roles, thus ensuring coordinated implementation of the Convention and requirements of the RACs.</p> <p>If there is the need to have a meeting to discuss matters, ad-hoc, which are cross-sectoral and over-arching, this could be seen as an opportunity to hold such a thematic meeting, where added value would surely be an output. However, I fail to see the added value of a thematic meeting like the one held in Slovenia, whilst noting that the organization and logistics were impeccable as always.</p>

Type of Participant	How you were informed that it was a Thematic Focal point Meeting <sup>1</sup>	Preparatory meeting with Focal points at national level <sup>2</sup>	Usefulness of Thematic Focal Points meeting <sup>3</sup>	Added value could be obtained through the following improvements <sup>3</sup>	Further remarks/suggestions <sup>4</sup>
5-REPRESENTATIVE OF PARTNER ORGANISATION	From the meeting invitation and documents	NO	Useful with evident added value		
5-REPRESENTATIVE OF PARTNER ORGANISATION	From the meeting invitation and documents	NO	Useful with evident added value		
5-REPRESENTATIVE OF PARTNER ORGANISATION	From the meeting invitation and documents	NO	Useful with evident added value	To link may be with other RAC focal points depending on the main subjects discussed (for example PAP/RAC focal points if discussion is about ICZM/biodiversity)	Maybe it would be useful to plan short power-point presentations to introduce subjects and present the main elements of the documents; so that Parties that may not have fully prepared all documents of the meeting can also bring some direct contribution, based on main elements of the documents presented through presentation.
5-REPRESENTATIVE OF PARTNER ORGANISATION	From the meeting invitation and documents	NO		As it was our first participation in a SPA RAC meeting, we cannot comment on the interest of having Thematic Focal Points Meetings.	We would like to thank the SPA/RAC Secretariat for the invitation. We very much appreciated the opportunity to participate in the meeting. We hope that we can be a valuable partner and we are looking forward to working together.
6- OTHER (Consultant) SPA/RAC)	From the meeting invitation and documents	NO	Useful with evident added value		

**Annex VII**

**Joint Cooperation Strategy on Spatial-based Protection and Management Measures for Marine Biodiversity Among the Secretariats of ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN-Med and UNEP/MAP**

**Joint Cooperation Strategy on  
Spatial-based Protection and Management Measures for Marine Biodiversity  
Among the Secretariats of ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN-Med and UNEP/MAP  
(the draft Joint Strategy)**

*Considering* the need of facilitating effective conservation and sustainable use of the Mediterranean marine biodiversity, as required by their respective mandates and with special emphasis on areas beyond national jurisdiction;

*Recognising* that the challenges facing marine ecosystems in the Mediterranean including its areas beyond national jurisdiction, require effective monitoring and development of spatial-based protection and management measures;

*Recalling* the common vision, the Mediterranean Ecological Objectives and the Good Environmental Status descriptions and targets, as defined in the Decisions of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention on the Ecosystems Approach (Decisions IG.17/6, IG.20/4, IG.21/3 and IG.22/7);

*Reaffirming* that the UNCLOS sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out;

*Considering* the on-going negotiations in the Intergovernmental Conference on an International Legally Binding Instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, following United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/249;

*Considering* the importance of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which is being prepared pursuant to CBD Decision CBD/COP/DEC/14/34, and its subsequent implementation;

*Building on*, where available, the bilateral Memoranda of Understanding signed by the Partners, and in particular their topics addressing spatial-based management and conservation measures;

The Secretariats of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the International Union for Conservation of Nature Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med), and the United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), herein after referred to as “the Partners”, agree on the following Joint Cooperation Strategy:

## **1. Objectives**

The overall aim of the Joint Cooperation Strategy is to contribute to the achievement in the Mediterranean of SDG 14, in particular Targets 14.2, 14.5, 14.7 and the CBD Aichi Target 11; and that the application of the precautionary principle and of the Ecosystem Approach is strengthened in a coordinated manner and a coordinated application of spatial-based protection.

In particular, the objectives of the Joint Cooperation Strategy are that:

- (1) the conservation and the sustainable use of the marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean including its areas beyond national jurisdiction are ensured through the application of the Ecosystem Approach, the use of the best available knowledge and technologies and the application of the precautionary principle;

- (2) the activities undertaken by the concerned Partners, following the respective mandates by their Parties, in relation to the spatial-based management and conservation in the Mediterranean, including its areas beyond national jurisdiction, are harmonised and complement each other, while respecting the role and jurisdiction of relevant coastal States and allowing for consultation of other States concerned in line with UNCLOS.

## **2. Areas of Cooperation**

The Partners, in line with the individual mandates, strategies and Programmes of Work of their respective Organizations will cooperate to:

- (1) Collect and exchange information and identify and fulfil existing gaps in information, to identify potential priority areas that could be protected or managed, in close collaboration with the relevant coastal States;
- (2) Initiate the process of consultation of the relevant coastal States on the identified potential priority areas;
- (3) Assist interested countries in a coordinated manner in declaring intent/interest of protecting a specific area and on the process to do so, in consultation with relevant coastal States;
- (4) Assist interested countries, to:
  - (i) elaborate the designation files;
  - (ii) undertake national consultation processes in case need be;
  - (iii) finalize the designation files including the agreed area-based conservation and management measures;
  - (iv) undertake the official designation of SPAMI and/or FRA or other area-based conservation and/or management measures;
- (5) Address follow up actions, in consultation with relevant coastal States, in a coordinated manner.

## **3. Modalities of Cooperation**

Regular meetings will be convened for the implementation of this Joint Cooperation Strategy, with the cost shared between all Partners, and with the participation of a representative of each Partner, and observers from the interested coastal States. These meetings will:

- (i) Steer the process and identify options for the Areas of Cooperation, as described in point 2 above;
- (ii) Propose to the Contracting Parties of the relevant Conventions a roadmap for implementing actions described under point 2 above, and propose role-sharing among the Partners, in line with their mandates and comparative advantages;
- (iii) Foster and promote coordinated outreach, public awareness and scientific research and observation, and liaise with other appropriate organisations (such as IMO);
- (iv) Facilitate the information among Partners on new areas registered, as well as on any change regarding the border or status of an area previously registered;
- (v) Advise the established regular evaluation processes of the status of the areas;
- (vi) Undertake, upon consultation with Contracting Parties, other tasks as may be deemed appropriate in line with the individual mandates, strategies and Programmes of Work of their respective Organizations;
- (vii) Publish the outcomes of the meetings and the information on the activities in the respective web sites of the Partners.

## **4. Implementation Aspects**

The practical arrangements for the implementation of this Cooperation Strategy and the related activities, including defining financing of the modalities of the cooperation and the Areas of Cooperation will be identified and discussed in the first meeting, in line with the Partners' mandates and financial rules and Programmes of Work. If necessary, upon the request of the respective governing bodies of the respective organizations, joint efforts will be undertaken to mobilize resources

for activities foreseen under point 2 in a transparent manner, without additional financial burden to the respective Organizations of the Partners, nor to the Contracting Parties.

## **5. Reporting**

Each Partner will inform its respective governing body on the implementation of this Joint Cooperation Strategy.

## **6. Participation**

This Joint Cooperation Strategy is open for the participation of any other relevant and interested International or Regional Organization, provided its participation is approved by all the Partners and their Contracting Parties, in line with the rules of their respective governing bodies.

### **Annex VIII**

#### **Refined Appendix to the Updated Resource Mobilization Strategy**

*(Refined Appendix of the Updated Resource Mobilization Strategy, in accordance to Decision IG.23/5, to take account of the resources requirement for each strategic outcome and the relevance of potential donors to each of these outcomes)*



**TABLE 1. Strategic Outcomes and Indicative Key Outputs for Governance**

Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs	Main Possible Donors and Partners	Resources Required (€)	Indicative list of possible donors' strategies and funding instruments of potential relevance to the individual outcomes.
<p>1.1 Contracting Parties supported in the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, Regional Strategies and Action Plans.</p>	<p>1.1.1 Ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols by all Contracting Parties supported.</p>	<p>Bilateral donors<sup>1</sup></p>		<p>French Development Agency (AFD – Political and Civic Transition; Territorial and Ecological Transition)</p>
	<p>1.1.2 Effective legal, policy, and logistic support provided to MAP decision-making process including advisory bodies meetings.</p>	<p>Bilateral donors, EU</p>		<p>Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) (Environment and climate change)</p>
	<p>1.1.3 Strengthen interlinkages between Core and Cross-cutting themes and facilitate Coordination at national level across the relevant sectors. In this context, examine the impacts of a transition to Thematic Focal Points within UNEP/MAP system for consideration at the COP 20.</p>	<p>Bilateral donors and national governments and regional development institutions</p>	<p>18.000</p>	<p>World Bank (Regional Integration; Environmental policies and institutions)</p> <p>GEF 7 Strategy: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Chemicals and Waste, and International Waters Focal Areas.</p>
	<p>1.1.4 Funding opportunities for regional and national priorities identified, donors/partners informed and engaged, through the implementation of the updated Resource Mobilization Strategy and Contracting Parties assisted in mobilizing resources.</p>	<p>EU, GEF and national governments.</p>		<p>UNFCCC: “Adaptation and Resilience”, “Mitigation”, “Action on Climate and SDGs”</p> <p>UfM: “Sustainable Development” Theme – “Water Environment and Blue Economy” and “Energy and Climate Action”.</p> <p>Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA): Environment and Climate</p>

<sup>1</sup> Bilateral donors also include ad hoc voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties

<p>1.2 Contracting Parties supported in compliance with the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, Regional Strategies and Action Plans.</p>	<p>1.2.1 Compliance mechanisms effectively functioning and technical and legal advice provided to Contracting Parties, including technical assistance to enhance implementation of the Convention and its Protocols including reporting.</p>	<p>International Development Law Organization (IDLO) could be a potential partner for technical/legal assistance to countries. Global Foundations could be funders</p>		<p>French Development Agency (AFD – Political and Civic Transition; Territorial and Ecological Transition)</p> <p>Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) (Environment and climate change)</p> <p>World Bank (Regional Integration; Environmental policies and institutions)</p>
<p>1.3 Strengthened participation, engagement, synergies and complementarities among global and regional institutions.</p>	<p>1.3.1 Regional cooperation activities promoting dialogue and active engagement of global and regional organizations and partners, including on SAP BIO, Marine Litter, SCP, ICZM, Related entities could support funding for regional co-operation MSP and Climate Change (e.g. regional conference, donor meetings).</p>	<p>Bilateral Donors, EU, Regional Development Banks, UNDP, UNFCCC, IGOs, and GEF</p>	<p>50.000</p>	<p>Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS)</p> <p>French Development Agency (AFD – Political and Civic Transition; Territorial and Ecological Transition)</p> <p>World Bank (Regional Integration; Environmental policies and institutions)</p>
	<p>1.3.2 Participation in relevant existing or new international initiatives and dialogue (e.g. ABNJ, MPAs, Offshore, Sustainable Development) to highlight the Mediterranean regional specificities and increase synergies.</p>	<p>Bilateral, IGOs, private sector/foundations</p>	<p>30.000</p>	<p>GEF 7 Strategy: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Chemicals and Waste, and International Waters Focal Areas.</p>
	<p>1.3.3 MSSD implementation set in motion through actions on visibility, capacity building and the preparation of guidelines to assist countries adapt the Strategy to their national contexts.</p>	<p>UN Sustainable Development Fund, Adaptation Fund, other similar funds</p>	<p>75.000</p>	<p>UNFCCC: “Adaptation and Resilience”, “Mitigation”, “Action on Climate and SDGs</p> <p>UfM: “Sustainable Development” Theme – “Water Environment and Blue Economy” and “Energy and Climate Action”.</p>

1.4 Knowledge and understanding of the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast enhanced through mandated assessments for informed policy-making.	1.4.1 Periodic assessments based on DPSIR approach and published addressing inter alia status quality of marine and coastal environment, interaction between environment and development as well as scenarios and prospective development analysis in the long run. These assessments include climate change related vulnerabilities and risks on the marine & coastal zone in their analysis, as well as knowledge gaps on marine pollution, ecosystem services, coastal degradation, cumulative impacts and impacts of consumption and production.	Bilateral donors, Private sector entities and Foundations, European Investment Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction, and Development, EU	280.000	Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS)  European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)  EU Global Public Goods and Challenges' (GPGC)  SIDA: Regional Development Cooperation  MAVA Foundation (Mediterranean, Sustainable economy, Global projects)
	1.4.2 MSSD implementation monitored, as appropriate and evaluated, as appropriate on periodic basis through the agreed set of indicators in line with SDG and the sustainability dashboard.	GEF, EU, Private sector Foundations, IGOs	115.000	Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation (e.g. Blue initiative) (e.g. Blue initiative)  Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME), France (European Energy Network)
	1.4.3 Implementation of IMAP (the EcAp-based integrated monitoring and assessment programme) coordinated, including GES common indicators fact sheets, and supported by a data information centre to be integrated into Info/MAP platform.	EU (relevant EU Directorates), GEF	400.000	Rhône Méditerranée Corse Water Agency, France
	1.4.4 Interface between science and policy-making strengthened through enhanced cooperation with global and regional scientific institutions, knowledge sharing platforms, dialogues, exchange of good practices and publications.	EU, Foundations, Bilateral donors, Scientific institutions	120000	GEF 7 Strategy: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Chemicals and Waste, and International Waters Focal Areas.  UfM: "Sustainable Development" Theme – "Water Environment and Blue Economy" and "Energy and Climate Action".
	1.4.5 Educational programmes, including e-learning platforms and college level degrees, on governance and thematic topics of MAP relevance organized in cooperation with competent institutions.	Foundations, Universities and Educational institutions	30.000	Global Partnership for Education (GPE)

				The World Bank (IBRD IDA): Education for All
1.5 MAP knowledge and MAP information system enhanced and accessible for policy- making, increased awareness and understanding.	1.5.1 Info/MAP platform and platform for the implementation of IMAP fully operative and further developed, connected to MAP components' information systems and other relevant regional knowledge platforms, to facilitate access to knowledge for managers and decision-makers, as well as stakeholders and the general public.	EU, Bilateral Donors, Private sector entities engaged in Informatics, IT companies (potentially)	490.000	Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS)
	1.5.2 Barcelona Convention online Reporting System (BCRS) updated and operational, improved and maintained, and complemented and streamlined with other reporting requirements.	Bilateral donors, EU		
1.6 Raised awareness and outreach.	1.6.1 The UNEP/MAP communication strategy updated and implemented.	Foundations, Communication and public relation networks (pro-bono services)	680.000	<p>Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS)</p> <p>European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)</p> <p>EU Global Public Goods and Challenges' (GPGC)</p> <p>MAVA Foundation (Mediterranean, Sustainable economy, Global projects)</p> <p>Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation (e.g. Blue initiative)</p> <p>Ellen Macarthur Foundation (Systemic Initiatives, Europe)</p>

**TABLE 2. Strategic Outcomes and Indicative Key Outputs for *Land and Sea-Based Pollution***

Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs	Main Possible Donors and Partners	Resources Required (€)	Indicative list of possible donors' strategies and funding instruments of potential relevance to the individual outcomes.
<p>2.1 Strengthening regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and 4 pollution-related Protocols, and of programmes of measures in existing relevant Regional Strategies and Action Plans.</p>	<p>2.1.1 Targeted measures of the regional plans/strategies facilitated and implemented.</p>	<p>Bilateral donors, EU, IGOs, Regional organizations, GEF</p>	<p>140.000</p>	<p>Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS)</p> <p>EU Global Public Goods and Challenges' (GPGC)</p> <p>Ellen Macarthur Foundation (Systemic Initiatives, Europe)</p> <p>MAVA Foundation (Mediterranean, Sustainable economy, Global projects)</p> <p>GEF 7 Strategy: Chemicals and Waste Focal Area <u>Objective</u>: eliminating chemicals covered by the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions.</p> <p>UNFCCC: “Adaptation and Resilience”, “Mitigation”, “Action on Climate and SDGs”</p> <p>UfM: “Sustainable Development” Theme – “Water Environment and Blue Economy” and “Energy and Climate Action”.</p>
<p>2.2 Development or update of</p>	<p>2.2.1 Guidelines, decision-support tools, common standards and criteria provided for</p>	<p>Private sector Foundations,</p>	<p>140.000</p>	<p>Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS)</p>

Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs	Main Possible Donors and Partners	Resources Required (€)	Indicative list of possible donors' strategies and funding instruments of potential relevance to the individual outcomes.
<p>new/existing action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines.</p>	<p>in the Protocols and the Regional Plans, developed and/or updated for key priority substances or sectors.</p>	<p>Regional organizations, GEF</p>		<p>Ellen Macarthur Foundation (Systemic Initiatives, Europe)</p>
	<p>2.2.2 Regional programmes of measures identified and negotiated for pollutants/ categories (sectors) showing increasing trends, including the revision of existing regional plans and areas of consumption and production.</p>	<p>Green Climate Fund, GEF, EU, Regional Organizations, Bilateral donors, Private sector partners</p>	<p>100.000</p>	<p>European Structural and Investment Funds, e.g., EMFF, ERDF</p> <p>GEF 7 Strategy: International Waters Focal Area. <u>Objective i</u>: strengthening Blue Economy Opportunities</p> <p>GEF 7 Strategy: Chemicals and Waste Focal Area <u>Objective</u>: eliminating chemicals covered by the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions.</p> <p>UfM: “Sustainable Development” Theme – “Water Environment and Blue Economy” and “Energy and Climate Action”.</p>
<p>2.3 Strengthening and implementation of marine pollution prevention and control legislation</p>	<p>2.3.1 Adopted NAPs (Art. 15, LBS Protocol) implemented and targeted outputs timely delivered</p>	<p>National entities, Bilateral donors, EU, European Investment Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction, and Development,</p>	<p>180.000</p>	<p>EU (e.g. Switch Med)</p> <p>Horizon 2020 Initiative</p> <p>SwitchMed Programme</p>

Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs	Main Possible Donors and Partners	Resources Required (€)	Indicative list of possible donors' strategies and funding instruments of potential relevance to the individual outcomes.
and policies at national level, including through enforcement and integration into sectorial processes.		World Bank, IFA, GEF		<p>Ellen Macarthur Foundation (Systemic Initiatives, Europe)</p> <p>MAVA Foundation (Mediterranean, Sustainable economy, Global projects)</p> <p>GEF 7 Strategy: Chemicals and Waste Focal Area <u>Objective</u>: eliminating chemicals covered by the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions.</p> <p>UNFCCC: “Adaptation and Resilience”, “Mitigation”, “Action on Climate and SDGs”</p> <p>UfM: “Sustainable Development” Theme – “Water Environment and Blue Economy” and “Energy and Climate Action”.</p> <p>SIDA: Environment and Climate</p>
	2.3.2 NAPs developed to implement the Regional Strategy for Prevention and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships.	National Entities, IGOs, EU, IMO		
	2.3.3 SCP Regional Action Plan (pollution-related activities) mainstreamed into and implemented through NAPs and national processes, such as SCP National Action Plans and NSSDs.	Private sector, Foundations, Bilateral Donors, IGOs, EU, GEF		
2.4 Marine Pollution Monitoring and assessment.	2.4.1 National pollution and litter monitoring programs updated to include the relevant pollution and litter Imap indicators, implemented and supported by data quality assurance and control.	Bilateral Donors, EU, GPA	500.000	<p>UNFCCC: “Adaptation and Resilience”, “Mitigation”, “Action on Climate and SDGs”</p> <p>UfM: “Sustainable Development” Theme – “Water Environment and Blue Economy” and “Energy and Climate Action”.</p>
	2.4.2 Inventories of pollutant loads (NBB, PRTR from land-based sources, and from	EU, European Investment Bank,		

Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs	Main Possible Donors and Partners	Resources Required (€)	Indicative list of possible donors' strategies and funding instruments of potential relevance to the individual outcomes.
	offshore and shipping) regularly updated, reported and assessed.	European Bank for Reconstruction, and Development, Technical cooperation with Shipping Companies, GPA		
	2.4.3 Marine pollution assessment tools (in depth thematic assessment, maps and indicator factsheets) developed and updated for key pollutants and sectors within EcAp.	Bilateral donors, EU, GEF		
2.5 Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building.	2.5.1 Training programmes and workshops in areas such as pollution monitoring, pollutant inventories, policy implementation, common technical guidelines, authorization and inspections bodies, compliance with national legislation.	National Entities, relevant IGOs	350.000	Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS)  European Structural and Investment Funds, e.g., EMFF, ERDF  Horizon 2020 Initiative
	2.5.2 Pilot projects implemented on marine litter, POPs, mercury, and illicit discharges reduced, including through SCP solutions for alternatives to POPs and toxic chemicals and the reduction of upstream sources of marine litter for businesses, entrepreneurs, financial institutions and civil society.	WB, UNDP, GEF, EU, Private sector entities	2.600.000	Ellen Macarthur Foundation (Systemic Initiatives, Europe)  MAVA Foundation (Mediterranean, Sustainable economy, Global projects)  GEF 7 Strategy: Chemicals and Waste Focal Area <u>Objective:</u>



Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs	Main Possible Donors and Partners	Resources Required (€)	Indicative list of possible donors' strategies and funding instruments of potential relevance to the individual outcomes.
	2.5.3 Marine pollution prevention and control measures and assessments integrated in ICZM Protocol implementation projects, CAMPs and related Strategic Environment Impact Assessments.	Bilateral Donors, GEF		<p>eliminating chemicals covered by the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions.</p> <p>UNFCCC: “Adaptation and Resilience”, “Mitigation”, “Action on Climate and SDGs”</p> <p>UfM: “Sustainable Development” Theme – “Water Environment and Blue Economy” and “Energy and Climate Action”.</p> <p>SIDA: Environment and Climate</p> <p>GEF 7 Strategy: International Waters Focal Area.</p> <p><u>Objective i</u>: strengthening Blue Economy Opportunities</p> <p><u>Objective iii</u>: Enhance Water Security in Freshwater Ecosystems</p>
2.6 Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels to prevent and control marine pollution.	2.6.1 Agreements, synergies and exchange of best practices with key relevant global and regional partners and stakeholders with a particular focus on marine litter.	Regional Organizations, UfM, International Environmental Organizations, EU		<p>EU Global Public Goods and Challenges' (GPGC)</p> <p>Ellen Macarthur Foundation (Systemic Initiatives, Europe)</p>
	2.6.2 Networks and initiatives of businesses, entrepreneurs and civil society	EU,	30.000	MAVA Foundation (Mediterranean, Sustainable economy, Global projects)

Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs	Main Possible Donors and Partners	Resources Required (€)	Indicative list of possible donors' strategies and funding instruments of potential relevance to the individual outcomes.
	providing SCP solutions contributing to alternatives to POPs and toxic chemicals and to reduce upstream sources of marine litter supported and coordinated.	Environmental Organizations, GEF, Private sector partners		<p>GEF 7 Strategy: Chemicals and Waste Focal Area <u>Objective</u>: eliminating chemicals covered by the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions.</p> <p>UNFCCC: “Adaptation and Resilience”, “Mitigation”, “Action on Climate and SDGs”</p> <p>UfM: “Sustainable Development” Theme – “Water Environment and Blue Economy” and “Energy and Climate Action”.</p>
2.7 Identifying and tackling new and emerging issues, as appropriate.	2.7.1 Reviews/policy briefs developed and submitted to Contracting Parties on emerging pollutants, ocean acidification, climate change and linkages with relevant global processes.	Foundations, UNFCCC, UN/DESA, EU, Bilateral donors	210.000	<p>UNFCCC: “Adaptation and Resilience”, “Mitigation”, “Action on Climate and SDGs”</p> <p>EU ESF (European Science Foundation)</p>

**TABLE 3. Strategic Outcomes and Indicative Key Outputs for *Biodiversity and Ecosystems***

Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs	Main Possible Donors and Partners	Resources required (€)	Indicative list of possible donors' strategies and funding instruments of potential relevance to the individual outcomes.
3.1 Strengthening regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention, and its relevant Protocols and other instruments.	3.1.1 A comprehensive coherent network of well managed MPAs, including SPAMIs, to achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean set up and implemented.	Bilateral Donors, EU, GEF, FAO	560.000	Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS)  Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation
	3.1.2 Most relevant area-based management measures are identified and implemented in cooperation with relevant global and regional organizations, through global and regional tools (SPAMIs, FRAs, PSSAs, etc.), including for the conservation of ABNJ, taking into consideration the information on Mediterranean EBSAs.	WB, GEF, UNDP, other relevant IGOs		EU INTEREG MED  GEF 7 Biodiversity Focal Area: <u>Objective iii</u> : Strengthen Biodiversity Policy and Institutional Frameworks.  GEF 7 Strategy: International Waters Focal Area. <u>Objective ii</u> : Improving Governance in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)  UNFCCC: "Adaptation and Resilience", "Mitigation", "Action on Climate and SDGs"
3.2 Development of new action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines for the conservation	3.2.1 Regional Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean endangered and threatened species and key habitats, on species introductions as well as the Mediterranean Strategy and Action Plan on Ships' Ballast Water Management are updated to achieve GES.	CBD, FAO, CMS, CITES	520.000	Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS)  French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM)  GEF 7 Biodiversity Focal Area:

Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs	Main Possible Donors and Partners	Resources required (€)	Indicative list of possible donors' strategies and funding instruments of potential relevance to the individual outcomes.
of Coastal and Marine biodiversity and ecosystems.	3.2.2 Guidelines and other tools for the conservation of endangered and threatened Mediterranean coastal and marine species, key habitats, for non-indigenous species control and prevention as well as the management of marine and coastal protected areas developed/updated and disseminated.	GFCM, EU, GEF	25.000	<p><u>Objectives i:</u> Mainstream Biodiversity Across sectors as well as within Production Landscapes and Seascapes</p> <p><u>Objective ii:</u> Reduce Direct Drivers of Biodiversity Loss</p> <p>Objective iii: Strengthen Biodiversity Policy and Institutional Frameworks.</p> <p>UNFCCC: “Adaptation and Resilience”, “Mitigation”, “Action on Climate and SDGs”</p> <p>UfM: “Sustainable Development” Theme – “Water Environment and Blue Economy” and “Energy and Climate Action”.</p> <p>SIDA: Environment and Climate, and Sustainable Societal Development</p>
	3.2.3 Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) applied in selected areas at a pilot level linking coastal and open sea areas subject to major pressures. To this end the information on EBSA areas could be used.	EBRD, WB, GEF, EU, Bilateral donors		
3.3 Strengthening national implementation of biodiversity conservation policies, strategies and legislation measures.	3.3.1 NAPs for the conservation of Mediterranean endangered and threatened species and key habitats and on species introductions and invasive species developed/updated.	IPBES, TEEB, Foundations, IGOs, CBD, GEF	59,500	<p>French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM)</p> <p>Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation</p> <p>Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation (e.g. Blue initiative)</p>
	3.3.2 National measures developed and implemented to strengthen the protection and the management of relevant marine and coastal sites, especially those containing threatened habitats and species (including deep-sea habitats).	EU, National Entities, UNESCO, GFCM	500,000	

Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs	Main Possible Donors and Partners	Resources required (€)	Indicative list of possible donors' strategies and funding instruments of potential relevance to the individual outcomes.
	3.3.3 Biodiversity and ecosystem protection actions integrated in CAMPs, other ICZM Protocol implementation projects and Strategic Environment Impact Assessments.	Partnering with Environmental Organizations/NGOs, IUCN, WWF	15,000	
3.4 Monitoring, inventory and assessment of biodiversity with focus on endangered and threatened species, non-indigenous species and key habitats.	3.4.1 Monitoring programmes for key species and habitats as well as invasive species, as provided for in the IMAP are developed and implemented, including on the effectiveness of marine and coastal protected areas, and on climate change impacts.	EU, GEF, Foundations, Research institutes	621,000	French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM)  EU Global Public Goods and Challenges' (GPGC)
	3.4.2 Biodiversity conservation assessment tools (in-depth thematic assessment, maps and indicator fact sheets) developed and updated to show trends at national, sub-regional and regional levels, and measure the effectiveness of the SAP BIO NAPs and Regional Action Plans implementation.	CBD, GEF, UNDP, EU, National Entities		Horizon 2020 Initiative  Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation  Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation (e.g. Blue initiative)
	3.4.3 EcAp common indicators on biodiversity and non-indigenous species monitored through IMAP in MPAs and SPAMIs, and relevant data sets established.	CBD, EU, Foundations	35,000	GEF 7 Biodiversity Focal Area: <u>Objectives i:</u> Mainstream Biodiversity Across sectors as Well as Within Production Landscapes and Seascapes <u>Objective ii:</u> Reduce Direct Drivers of Biodiversity Loss
	3.4.4 Inventory of vulnerable and fragile coastal and marine ecosystems and assessment of sensitivity and adaptive capacities of coastal and marine ecosystems to changes in sea conditions as well as of the role of services they provide developed.	IMO, UNESCO, EU	100,000	<u>Objective iii:</u> Strengthen Biodiversity Policy and Institutional Frameworks.  GEF 7 Strategy: International Waters Focal Area.

Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs	Main Possible Donors and Partners	Resources required (€)	Indicative list of possible donors' strategies and funding instruments of potential relevance to the individual outcomes.
				<p><u>Objective i</u>: strengthening Blue Economy Opportunities</p> <p><u>Objective iii</u>: Enhance Water Security in Freshwater Ecosystems</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>3.5.1 Capacity-building programmes related to the development and management of marine and coastal protected areas, to the conservation and monitoring of endangered and threatened coastal and marine species and key habitats, and to monitoring issues dealing with climate change and biodiversity developed and implemented, including pilots to support efforts aimed at MPA/SPAMI establishment and implementation.</p>	<p>Foundations, Private sector, EU, Bilateral donors</p>	<p>660.000</p>	<p>French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM)</p> <p>French Development Agency (AFD – Territorial and Ecological Transition)</p> <p>Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation</p> <p>Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation (e.g. Blue initiative)</p>
	<p>3.5.2 Training and awareness-raising programmes on SCP solutions contributing to the conservation of the ecosystems and biodiversity delivered to businesses, entrepreneurs, financial institutions and civil society.</p>	<p>ACCOBAMS, Private Foundations, Businesses, Private sector Foundations, EU</p>	<p>200.000</p>	<p>UfM: “Sustainable Development” Theme – “Water Environment and Blue Economy” and “Energy and Climate Action”.</p>
<p>3.6 Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels to protect and conserve biodiversity and ecosystems.</p>	<p>3.6.1 Joint strategies and programmes on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation developed, by considering NAPs in cooperation with relevant partner organizations at global and regional levels.</p>	<p>Bilateral donors, GEF, EU</p>		<p>EU (Switch Med)</p> <p>Ellen Macarthur Foundation (Systemic Initiatives, Europe)</p>
	<p>3.6.2 Businesses, entrepreneurs and civil society encouraged to use networks to disseminate SCP solutions contributing to biodiversity and ecosystems</p>	<p>Private-public partnerships and Foundations, World Business Development Council</p>		<p>GEF 7 Biodiversity Focal Area:</p> <p><u>Objective ii</u>: Reduce Direct Drivers of Biodiversity Loss</p>

Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs	Main Possible Donors and Partners	Resources required (€)	Indicative list of possible donors' strategies and funding instruments of potential relevance to the individual outcomes.
	conservation coordinated through adequate mechanisms.			
3.7 Identifying and tackling with new and emerging issues, as appropriate.	3.7.1. Coordination with the ongoing process towards the adoption of an Implementing Agreement on BBNJ (namely concerning marine genetic resources, marine protected areas BBNJ, and SIA).	EU, Bilateral donors, GEF		

**TABLE 4. Strategic Outcomes and Indicative Key Outputs for *Land and Sea Interaction and Processes***

Strategic Outcome	Indicative Key Outputs	Main Possible Donors and Partners	Resources required (€)	Indicative list of possible donors' strategies and funding instruments of potential relevance to the individual outcomes.
4.1 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.	4.1.1 Contracting Parties assisted in identifying, implementing and evaluating specific measures and tools to reduce pressures on coastal and marine areas (e.g. coastal setback, land policy measures, zoning).	Bilateral donors, EU, GEF, UNESCO		GEF 7 Strategy: International Waters Focal Area.
4.2 Development of new action plans, programmes of measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines.	4.2.1 Tools and guidelines for environmental assessments developed and applied (e.g. EIA, cumulative assessments, SEA).	Bilateral donors, IUCN, UNEP/GEF, EBRD		Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS)
	4.2.2 Marine Spatial Planning defined in the context of the Barcelona Convention and applied, as appropriate.	National Authorities and Institutions, GEF EU	200.000	French Development Agency (AFD – Territorial and Ecological Transition)  GEF 7 Strategy: International Waters Focal Area.



Strategic Outcome	Indicative Key Outputs	Main Possible Donors and Partners	Resources required (€)	Indicative list of possible donors' strategies and funding instruments of potential relevance to the individual outcomes.
4.3 Strengthening national implementation.	4.3.1 New generation of CAMPs prepared to promote land-sea interactions, also addressing trans-boundary aspects, as appropriate.	National institutions, EU, EBRD	600.000	Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS)  French Development Agency (AFD – Territorial and Ecological Transition)  Conservatoire du Littoral, France (Délégation Europe et International), France (Délégation Europe et International)  Rhône Méditerranée Corse Water Agency, France
4.4 Monitoring and assessment.	4.4.1 Mapping of interaction mechanisms on coastal and marine environment at regional and local levels developed, including assessment of the risks of sea level rise and coastal erosion, and their impacts on coastal environment and communities.	UNFCCC, FAO, UNESCO, UNEP/GEF	200.000	Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS)  French Development Agency (AFD – Territorial and Ecological Transition)  Conservatoire du Littoral, France (Délégation Europe et International), France
	4.4.2 National coast and hydrography monitoring programme developed and updated to include the relevant IMAP common indicators, interactions and processes.	National Entities, EU, GEF	200.000	Rhône Méditerranée Corse Water Agency, France  GEF 7 Strategy: International Waters Focal Area.
4.5 Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels including	4.5.1 Capacity building for the application of tools for assessing interactions and integrating them in planning/management of coastal and marine environment implemented.	FAO, UNESCO, EBRD, AfDB	100.000	

Strategic Outcome	Indicative Key Outputs	Main Possible Donors and Partners	Resources required (€)	Indicative list of possible donors' strategies and funding instruments of potential relevance to the individual outcomes.
technical assistance and capacity building.				
4.6 Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels.	4.6.1 Networks of CAMPs and other ICZM Protocol implementation activities established, and cooperation undertaken with other partners to promote the exchange of data, experience and good practices established.	Bilateral donors	50.000	Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS)  Conservatoire du Littoral, France (Délégation Europe et International), France
4.7 Identifying and tackling with new and emerging issues, as appropriate.	4.7.1 Additional stresses relevant to the Convention on water resources due to climate change assessed in cooperation with other regional interested stakeholders	UNFCCC, World Water Council, UNESCO, FAO, EBRD, UNDP	200.000	Méditerranée Corse Water Agency, France
	4.7.2 Reviews/policy briefs developed and submitted to Contracting Parties, inter alia impacts from possible tsunami cases explored.			

**TABLE 5. Strategic Outcomes and Indicative Key Outputs for *Integrated Coastal Zone Management***

Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs	Main Possible Donors and Partners	Resources required (€)	Indicative list of possible donors' strategies and funding instruments of potential relevance to the individual outcomes.
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.	5.1.1 The Mediterranean regional framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management is defined and put in effect.	Bilateral donors	200.000	Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS)
	5.1.2 SAP BIO, SAP MED, Offshore Action Plan and Strategy to combat pollution from ships implemented in an integrated manner, including through the Mediterranean regional framework, as set out in ICZM Protocol to enhance the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources.	Innovative Financing Mechanism, Private sector partners, EU		Conservatoire du Littoral, France (Déléгат Europe et International), France  Rhône Méditerranée Corse Water Agency, France  UNFCCC: "Adaptation and Resilience", "Mitigation", "Action on Climate and SDGs"
	5.1.3 Action Plan for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol further implemented; Status of Implementation reported.	Private sector partners, National Authorities		UfM: "Sustainable Development" Theme – "Water Environment and Blue Economy" and "Energy and Climate Action".  SIDA: Environment and Climate, and Sustainable Societal Development
5.2 Development of new action plans, programmes of measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines.	5.2.1 Action Plan for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol updated.	National Authorities		Conservatoire du Littoral, France (Déléгат Europe et International), France
	5.2.2 Methodological framework for land and sea interactions, considering in particular MSP and ICZM, developed and applied.	National Entities, EU, Bilateral donors		Rhône Méditerranée Corse Water Agency, France

Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs	Main Possible Donors and Partners	Resources required (€)	Indicative list of possible donors' strategies and funding instruments of potential relevance to the individual outcomes.
5.3 Strengthening national implementation.	5.3.1 National ICZM Strategies including streamlining pollution, biodiversity, adaptation to climate change and SCP, land and sea interaction as well as sustainable cities prepared and applied.	EBRD, UNFCCC, CBD, UNDP	350.000	Conservatoire du Littoral, France (Déléгат Europe et International), France  Rhône Méditerranée Corse Water Agency, France
	5.3.2 Countries assisted in carrying out gap analysis on national legal and institutional frameworks for ICZM in order to streamline as need be the ICZM Protocol provisions into national legislations.	National Authorities, EU		
	5.3.3 SCP Regional Action Plan activities and climate change adaptation issues mainstreamed into and implemented through ICZM national strategies, as well as CAMPs and other ICZM Protocol implementation projects.	EU, UNFCCC, Bilateral donors		
5.4 Monitoring and assessment.	5.4.1 Fact sheets for ICZM indicators developed to evaluate the effectiveness of coastal and marine resources management measures.	Bilateral donors, IUCN		Conservatoire du Littoral, France (Déléгат Europe et International), France  Rhône Méditerranée Corse Water Agency, France
5.5 Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building.	5.5.1 MedOpen Training Programme on ICZM regularly updated and implemented, in coordination with the relevant NFPs.	EU, EBRD, UNESCO, UNDP	70.000	Conservatoire du Littoral, France (Déléгат Europe et International), France  Rhône Méditerranée Corse Water Agency, France

Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs	Main Possible Donors and Partners	Resources required (€)	Indicative list of possible donors' strategies and funding instruments of potential relevance to the individual outcomes.
5.6 Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels.	5.6.1 ICZM coordination enhanced through: (i) Mediterranean ICZM Platform; (ii) National ICZM coordination bodies.	National Institutions, Regional Entities, EU, Bilateral donors	80.000	Conservatoire du Littoral, France (Déléгат Europe et International), France  Rhône Méditerranée Corse Water Agency, France

**TABLE 6. Strategic Outcomes and Indicative Key Outputs for *Sustainable Consumption and Production***

Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs	Main Possible Donors and Partners	Resources required (€)	Indicative list of possible donors' strategies and funding instruments of potential relevance to the individual outcomes.
6.1 Development of new action plans, programmes of measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines and implementation of current ones.	6.1.1 Selected actions of the SCP Action Plan directly contributing to prevent, reduce and eliminate marine pollution and protect/enhance biodiversity and ecosystems as well as address climate change in the marine and coastal areas of the Mediterranean identified and implemented.	EU, Private sector partners, CBD, UNFCCC, Foundations, Innovative Financing Mechanisms	800.000	EU (Switch Med)
	6.1.2 Methodological tools for SCP mainstreaming in CC adaptation and mitigation regional strategies and frameworks developed.	EU, Bilateral donors, UNFCCC, Green Climate Fund	500.000	
	6.1.3 Methodological tools for SCP mainstreaming in the priority areas of consumption and production of the Regional Action Plan on SCP - tourism, food, housing and goods manufacturing implemented and new ones developed for other sectors.	EU, National Entities, Private sector partners, Academia, Business, Schools	800.000	
6.2 Monitoring and assessment.	6.2.1 SCP Action Plan indicators aligned with MSSD relevant work, identified, selected and factsheets developed.	Bilateral donors, EU		EU (Switch Med)
6.3 Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels including	6.3.1 Training and support programme for green entrepreneurs and civil society as SCP drivers.	Private sector partners, Innovative Financing Mechanisms	500.000	EU (Switch Med)

Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs	Main Possible Donors and Partners	Resources required (€)	Indicative list of possible donors' strategies and funding instruments of potential relevance to the individual outcomes.
technical assistance and capacity building.				
6.4 Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels to prevent and control marine pollution	6.4.1 Establishment of networks and initiatives of businesses, entrepreneurs, civil society, providing SCP solutions promoted.	EU, Private sector partners, Foundations	400.000	EU (Switch Med)  GEF 7 Chemicals and Waste Focal Area. <u>Objective:</u> eliminating chemicals covered by the Stockholm Convention and Minamata Conventions that are used in or emitted from industrial and agricultural sectors.
	6.4.2 A Mediterranean SCP Hub for knowledge exchange and networking fully operative and performing as connector and lever for new partnerships and initiatives providing SCP solutions.	EU, UNESCO, UNEP, GEF	500.000	

**TABLE 7. Strategic Outcomes and Indicative Key Outputs for *Climate Change Adaptation***

Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs	Main Possible Donors and Partners	Resources required (€)	Indicative list of possible donors' strategies and funding instruments of potential relevance to the individual outcomes.	
7.1. Strengthening the regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and of programmes of measures in existing Regional Strategies and Action Plans.	7.1.1 Climate Change Adaptation main activities identified and mainstreamed into the implementation of existing regional strategies, regional action plans and measures.	EU, Bilateral donors, UNFCCC, Green Climate Fund, SCCF			
	7.1.2 Selected actions of the SCP Regional Action Plan directly contributing to address climate change in the marine and coastal areas of the Mediterranean implemented.	Business Council On Climate Change, EU, National Entities			
7.2 Development of new action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines.	7.2.1 Climate Change Adaptation, including related vulnerabilities and risks, key activities mainstreamed into the development of new updated regional strategies, regional action plans and measures addressing biodiversity, pollution and land and sea interaction.	Adaptation Fund, CBD, UNFCCC, EU, SCCF	150.000	GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and the SCCF and Operational Improvements  GEF 7 Climate Change Focal Area. <u>Objective i:</u> Promote Innovation and Technology Transfer for Sustainable Energy Breakthroughs <u>Objective ii:</u> Demonstrate Mitigation Options with Systemic Impacts <u>Objective iii:</u> Foster Enabling Conditions for Mainstreaming Mitigation Concerns into Sustainable Development Strategies.	
	7.2.2 Climate Change-related vulnerabilities and risks considered in the development and implementation of biodiversity, pollution and land and sea interaction related regional strategies, action plans and measures through the EcAp.	CBD, UNFCCC, EU, UNEP/GEF			
	7.2.3 Promote integration of ecosystem-based responses in National Climate Change	EU, UNFCCC, Adaptation			



Strategic Outcomes	Indicative Key Outputs	Main Possible Donors and Partners	Resources required (€)	Indicative list of possible donors' strategies and funding instruments of potential relevance to the individual outcomes.
	Adaptation Strategies.	Fund		
7.3 Strengthening national implementation.	7.3.1 Climate change adaptation priority fields identified and mainstreamed into the relevant MAP policies, as appropriate.	National Entities, EU, UNFCCC, SCCF	150.000	
7.4 Monitoring and assessment.	7.4.1 Climate Change vulnerability issues considered in existing monitoring programmes.	UNFCCC, Adaptation Fund, Green Climate Fund, SCCF		<p>GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and the SCCF and Operational Improvements</p> <p>GEF 7 Climate Change Focal Area.</p> <p>Objective i: Promote Innovation and Technology Transfer for Sustainable Energy Breakthroughs</p> <p>Objective ii: Demonstrate Mitigation Options with Systemic Impacts</p> <p>Objective iii: Foster Enabling Conditions for Mainstreaming Mitigation Concerns into Sustainable Development Strategies.</p>

**Annex IX**

**Areas of cooperation between UNEP/MAP and UNESCO/MAB**

### Areas of cooperation between UNEP/MAP and UNESCO/MAB

- a. Promotion of the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, thus contributing to the achievement of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biological Diversity and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Cooperative and coordinated efforts in this common area of interest should include but not limited *to*:
  - (i) identify synergies between Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) and biosphere reserves as models for sustainable development and advancing in the implementation of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and related targets;
  - (ii) identification and designation of biosphere reserves in the Mediterranean for inclusion in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR), to achieve both the objectives of the Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB) and the objectives of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, in particular the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol;
  - (iii) identify best practices in governance and management structures in SPAMIs and biosphere reserves of the Mediterranean to ensure the continued delivery of ecosystem services in the Mediterranean region and the involvement of local communities.
- b. Engagement in capacity building activities and training programmes under the MAB programme and the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. Collaboration in this common area of interest should include but not limited to:
  - (i) exchange of best practices on *inter alia* the interlinked issues of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, with specific emphasis on the use of both biosphere reserves and SPAMIs as tools for Integrated Coastal Zones Management (ICMZ), marine spatial planning, sustainable tourism, non-indigenous invasive species management, marine litter, sustainable fisheries and mitigation and adaptation to climate change;
  - (ii) the promotion of a common network of scientists and relevant NGOs working in SPAMIs and the Biosphere Reserves in the Mediterranean to build and share expertise;
  - (iii) development of a common programme for communication and promotion of traditional local fishing practices, and
  - (iv) increasing public awareness of the values and benefits of both biosphere reserves and SPAMIs, and integrating sustainability practices into Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and training environments, from schools to universities to research institutes and the wide public by promoting/applying *inter alia* the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD), where both UNESCO and UNEP/MAP participate in its governing body, the Mediterranean Committee on ESD.
- c. Support mitigation and adaptation to climate change by *inter alia* promoting the Biosphere Reserves in the Mediterranean and SPAMIs as priority sites in developing and implementing strategies on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

**Annex X**

**Minimum Common Provisions of Host Country Agreements for RACs**

## Consolidated Version of the Minimum Common Provisions of Host Country Agreements of Regional Activity Centres

1. The proposed minimum common provisions<sup>1</sup> are meant to be used, as appropriate,<sup>2</sup> as building blocks for the HCAs to be signed between UNEP and the representative of the Host Country Government for INFO/RAC, PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu/RAC, SCP/RAC and SPA/RAC. As such, they have been devised to offer a flexible framework for the privileges, immunities and further guarantees necessary for the smooth functioning of the RACs to be agreed with the Host Country Governments as appropriate, provided that it is in accordance with its internal regulation in the matter and<sup>3</sup> bearing in mind the legal status of the relevant RAC and its regional mandate in delivering the Programme of Work of UNEP/MAP.
2. Minimum common provisions<sup>4</sup> refer, as appropriate,<sup>5</sup> to the points below:
  - (a) Identification of the Parties entering into the HCA: HCA to be signed between UNEP and the representative of the Host Country Government.
  - (b) Purpose for entering into the HCA: To set forth the terms and conditions under which RACs will perform their regional role pursuant to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and related decisions of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

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<sup>1</sup> Comment from France: From the side of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, after legal analysis, it proves that if the French legislation does not allow, (...), to sign a host country agreement for an association, it does not allow it either at this stage to be granted privileges and immunities. Therefore, we cannot, accept this text except in the event of any mention of privileges and immunities being withdrawn.

<sup>2</sup> Insertion proposed by France

<sup>3</sup> Insertion proposed by Spain together with the following comment: "In principle we can support the document with the amendment proposed and with the understanding that this is not changed with respect to the substance and in particular keeping the flexibility related to the immunities and privileges"

<sup>4</sup> Comment by Croatia: "The proposed titles of the individual sub-sections in point 2 of the Minimum Common Provisions are acceptable as future sub-items of the HCAs. Having in mind the specific features of each RAC, the content of individual HCAs should be agreed between the host country and UNEP/MAP."

<sup>5</sup> Insertion proposed by France

- (c) Legal status of RACs<sup>6, 7</sup>: To be clearly defined for each RAC<sup>8</sup>. Legal nature across RACs (e.g. international, national, public, non-profit oriented) may vary from RAC to RAC depending on its constitutive legal instrument<sup>9</sup>. The legal personality of RACs has to be established, keeping in mind that RACs should have the necessary functional autonomy in performing their regional role. In this context, and to the extent permissible under national laws, RACs should be accorded their own independent legal personality<sup>10</sup>
- (d) Regional Role of RACs<sup>11</sup>: To be defined as per COP 16 Decision IG.19/5 on Mandate of the Components of MAPs. Two separate elements are to be included: firstly, reference to the overall mandate to assist Mediterranean countries to fulfil their commitments under the

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<sup>6</sup> Comment by Tunisia: Since the 1993 Host Country Agreement, which remains in force, SPA/RAC is a local entity created by the Government of Tunisia to fulfill the MAP's RAC functions and legally independent from the United Nations. This may contradict the orientations/proposals of the functional review conducted in 2013 which recommends a better harmonization and coordination of activities between the Athens-based Coordination Unit and the other regional centers in order to improve the visibility and effectiveness of the MAP system. In this context and to facilitate the task of SPA/RAC, Tunisia provides the necessary means and facilities (premises, contribution to the operating budget, permanent staff, etc.) enabling it to carry out its mission in the better possible conditions and in a permanent and stable way. Since 1996, year of construction of the International Center for Environmental Technologies (CITET), SPA/RAC occupies a pavilion in CITET. In 2002, SPA/RAC was able to rent a new office (annex) to facilitate the implementation of the MedMPA project. Since 2014, the status and legal capacity of SPA/RAC remains an issue under discussion with the relevant departments in Tunisia in order to determine all the resulting arrangements including those concerning the provisions of privileges and immunities of staff and property. As a result, the main concern would be to give SPA/RAC the status which facilitates the fulfilment of its regional intergovernmental mission within the framework of the Barcelona Convention, and particularly the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological diversity in the Mediterranean. Therefore, any modification of its status should be made with the aim of making it easier and improving the conditions of accomplishment of its mission namely, bank account facility, management efficiency, accessibility and means of connection and communication with the outside world, fluidity of movement abroad given its regional obligations towards all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention

<sup>7</sup> Comment by Croatia: "The legislative framework governing the legal status of PAP/RAC as public institution in Croatia, namely the Institutions Act, defines the manner of financing the public institutions, national financial contributions and fees, and possibilities for the public institutions to receive donations from various sources. Croatia as a host country contributes financially and in-kind to PAP/RAC."

<sup>8</sup> Comment at the 88<sup>th</sup> Bureau Meeting: One Bureau member stressed the need for RACs to have a regional and global technical presence, and that to enable this they should have an intergovernmental character. Such a special status would enable RACs carry out their regional activities, and is related to the type of bank accounts, referring also to the reshaping of financial support.

<sup>9</sup> Comment at the 88<sup>th</sup> Bureau Meeting: One Bureau member noted that his country strongly prefers RACs to be hosted by public, not private, entities, and added that the Director of a RAC should be a UN staff member; this would ensure transparency, predictability and cost-effectiveness.

<sup>10</sup> Deletion proposed by Italy. In the view of Italy, the previous sentence is sufficient and leaves flexibility

<sup>11</sup> Comment by Tunisia: With a view to revising the status of the Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC), hosted by Tunisia by the provisions of the 1993 Host Country Agreement and its amendments, it is crucial that this revision account of the fact that SPA/RAC is one of the 6 other Regional Activity Centers (RACs) of the United Nations Environment Program/Barcelona Convention /Mediterranean Action Plan with the mandate of assisting Contracting Parties for the implementation of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD), with a view to implementing the provisions of the Protocol including the Regional Action Plans as well as assume other regional responsibilities devolved in accordance with the functions assigned to it in Article 9, Article 11 para. 7 and Article 25 of the Protocol and decision UNEP IG.23/11 of the 2nd Conference of the Parties held in Cannes in 1981. In addition to contacts with the Mediterranean governments, the Center maintains relations and partnerships with Global and/or Regional Conventions and Initiatives, which gives it a technical presence and an active force in the field of Marine Biodiversity not only at the Mediterranean regional level but also at the global level. Therefore, the center acts as an inter-governmental organization with governments and partner government organizations and also as a pan-Mediterranean organization.

Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and implement the decisions of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties; secondly, short description of the objective and mission statement for each RAC.

(e) Financial Resources<sup>12</sup>:

(i) Description of the source of funding to be provided, by referring to both principal and additional sources of funding. This includes but it is not limited to: (1) contributions provided by the Host Country Government (in kind, cash or services), (2) equal core share of financial support from the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) to ensure the implementation of their mandate (3)<sup>13</sup> funds transferred to RACs from the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) through Project Cooperation Agreements (PCAs) signed between UNEP and RACs in accordance with the relevant COP decisions, (~~3~~4) voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, (~~5~~4) funds from donors such as non-Parties, international and national organizations, programs, funds, institutes and other bodies, ~~and (5) other funds received by RACs~~<sup>14</sup>;

(ii) Separate management and accounting of the funds provided to the RACs through the MTF to be operationalized by the requirement to the RACs of having a separate account for those resources in a bank of the host country Government in the currency in which they are to be remitted;

(iii) Reporting (i.e. progress and financial reports) and audit requirements to be specified for all RACs in line with the PCAs signed between UNEP and RACs. This is key for the purposes of transparency and accountability;

(iv) Role of RACs and UNEP/MAP-Coordinating Unit in seeking resources for RACs from sources other than the MTF to be included and put in the framework of COP 20 Decision IG.23/5 on the Updated Resource Mobilization Strategy.

(f) Contribution of the Host Country Government: To spell out the responsibility of the Host Country Government in providing ~~free of charge~~<sup>15</sup> adequate premises for the RAC, adequate and timely maintenance of the premises, and financial and in-kind contributions to the operational costs of the RAC. ~~These~~ Operational costs to be defined include as, for instance,<sup>16</sup> personnel costs (i.e. posts of the RAC financed by the Host Country Government), premises and services (e.g. furnished office space, office equipment, phone, electricity and water services), ~~and in cash contribution for operation costs.~~<sup>17</sup>

(g) Property, Funds and Assets of the RACs: As appropriate, and taking into consideration the legal nature of the concerned RAC and its regional mandate,<sup>18</sup> (There is room for negotiation with Host Country Governments, for property, funds and assets transferred to RACs by UNEP/MAP in carrying out its regional role, to enjoy the privileges and immunities equivalent to those provided for in Article II of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, 13 February 1946 (General

<sup>12</sup> Comment by Croatia: “The legislative framework governing the legal status of PAP/RAC as public institution in Croatia, namely the Institutions Act, defines the manner of financing the public institutions, national financial contributions and fees, and possibilities for the public institutions to receive donations from various sources. Croatia as a host country contributes financially and in-kind to the PAP/RAC.”

<sup>13</sup> Insertion proposed by Italy. As indicated in the report of the 87<sup>th</sup> Bureau Meeting (Athens, Greece, 6-7 November 2018)

<sup>14</sup> Deletion proposed by France. As the sentence begins with “This includes but it is not limited to”, it is not necessary to add this item (5)

<sup>15</sup> Deletion proposed by France

<sup>16</sup> Editorial adjustment proposed by Italy

<sup>17</sup> Deletion proposed by Italy. In the view of Italy, it is unclear.

<sup>18</sup> Addition proposed by Italy

Convention).<sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup>Of particular importance in the negotiation would be to define the privileges and immunities regime, including the exemption regime from taxation, applicable to RACs premises and the funds transferred to the RACs from the MTF and other sources of funding allocated for the delivery of the PoW of UNEP/MAP.<sup>21</sup>

(h) Personnel of RACs:

(i) Categories of personnel of RACs to be specified making clear that the category of UN Officials does not apply to personnel of RACs. There is a need to clearly spell out the personnel falling under the term personnel of RACs to include the Director and staff as a single category different from experts, such as consultants;

(ii) As appropriate, and taking into consideration the legal nature of the concerned RAC and its regional mandate<sup>22</sup>, tThere is the possibility for consideration with Host Country Governments, for personnel of RACs (i.e. Director and staff) to enjoy the privileges and immunities equivalent to those provided for in Articles V and VI of the General Convention.<sup>23</sup>  
<sup>24</sup>

(ii)(iii) Identification of standard procedures and criteria for the recruitment of personnel of RACs, including consultants (to be included as an Annex to the HCA)<sup>25</sup>

(j) Meetings and Conferences:

(i) Meetings and Conferences convened by UNEP: To indicate that the privileges and immunities provided for in Article IV, Article V and Article VI of the General Convention apply.

(ii) Meetings and Conferences convened by RACs: As appropriate, and taking into consideration the legal nature of the concerned RAC and its regional mandate<sup>26</sup>,  
tThere is room for negotiation with Host Country Governments, for representatives of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention participating in those meetings to

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<sup>19</sup> Existing footnote by the Secretariat: This approach is taken in the Framework Agreements signed between the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the host country Governments for its Regional and Coordinating Centers holding the legal status of national institutions (<http://www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/TheCentres/tabid/5275/Default.aspx>). The provision reads as follows: "Article XV Property, Funds and Assets of the Centre 1. The property, funds and assets of the Centre held and administered on behalf of UNEP, and those held and administered on behalf of the Parties to the Basel Convention, wherever located and by whomsoever held, shall enjoy the privileges and immunities, exemptions and facilities equivalent to those provided for in Article II of the General Convention. 2. Property, funds and assets transferred to the Centre pursuant to the Project Document signed between the Centre and UNEP or between the Centre and the Secretariat, in the performance by the Centre of its regional role shall enjoy the privileges and immunities, exemptions and facilities equivalent to those provided for in Article II of the General Convention".

<sup>20</sup> Comment by Croatia: "We need to express our reservation regarding the following proposed text: "Room for negotiation on privileges and immunities equivalent to those provided in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations", which is mentioned at several points throughout the text, especially in point 2(g) Property, Funds and Assets of RACs. Namely, the privileges and immunities regime and the exemption from taxation regime apply only to international organizations. The rules for declaring a particular organization as international are very strict and do not depend only on the host country, but, as suggested by our Ministry of Foreign Affairs, require legal alignment between Contracting Parties that are host countries."

<sup>21</sup> Comment by Italy: The application of the mentioned articles of the General Convention seems to be difficult in most RACs, since they are not UN bodies

<sup>22</sup> Addition proposed by Italy

<sup>23</sup> Comment by Italy: The application of mentioned articles of the General Convention seems to be difficult in most RACs, since they are not UN bodies. Furthermore, it is not coherent with the previous para (h, i), where it is stated that the category of UN Officials does not apply to personnel of RACs

<sup>24</sup> Ibidem footnote 20: Comment by Croatia

<sup>25</sup> Addition proposed by Italy

<sup>26</sup> Addition proposed by Italy



enjoy the privileges and immunities equivalent to those provided for in Article IV of the General Convention<sup>27</sup>. <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup>

- (k) Director: To address the appointment, functions, duties and responsibilities of the Director. The following elements to be included: appointment of the Director falls on the Host Country Government, in consultation with UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit; the Director has the role of administering the RAC with the aim to ensuring that the RAC performs its regional role; the Director has to report on the implementation of the activities of the RAC in carrying on its regional role to the UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit and the Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. As appropriate, -and taking into consideration the legal nature of the concerned RAC and its regional mandate<sup>30</sup>, ~~t~~There is the possibility for consideration with Host Country Governments, for the Director to enjoy the privileges and immunities equivalent to those provided for in Article V of the General Convention.<sup>31</sup> <sup>32</sup>
- (l) Projects and partnerships: identification of standard procedures and criteria for the participation of RACs in projects and partnerships that are not included in the Programme of Work of UNEP/MAP and in relevant Decisions (to be included as an Annex to the HCA)<sup>33</sup>
- ~~(\*)~~(m) Memoranda of Understanding: identification of standard procedures and criteria for the signature of Memoranda of Understanding by RACs (to be included as an Annex to the HCA)<sup>34</sup>
- ~~(\*)~~(n) Steering Committee: To establish a Steering Committee with the specific objective of following-up on the implementation of the HCA. The Steering Committee to be composed by the Director of the RAC, one representative of the host Government and one representative of the UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit.<sup>35</sup>
- ~~(\*)~~(o) Final standard clauses on settlement of disputes and on entry into force, duration and amendment of the HCA.

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<sup>27</sup> Existing footnote by the Secretariat: This approach is taken in the Framework Agreements signed between the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the host country Governments for its Regional and Coordinating Centers holding the legal status of national institutions. The provision reads as follows: "Article XIV Privileges and Immunities. 1. The representatives of the Parties to the Basel Convention participating in meetings and other activities organized by the Centre in the territory of [host country Government] shall enjoy the privileges and immunities equivalent to those provided for in Article IV of the General Convention."

<sup>28</sup> Comment by Italy: Article IV refers to Representatives of Members to the principal and subsidiary organs of the United Nations and to conferences convened by UNEP. Therefore, considering that RACs are not organs of the UN and have an independent legal personality, the application of Article IV to meetings and conferences they convey seems very difficult

<sup>29</sup> Ibidem footnote 20: Comment by Croatia. "(...) Furthermore, with regard to the provisions related to the conveying of meetings and conferences in a host country and the accompanying application of privileges and immunities, we would like to point out that organization of these types of events is carried out in line with the existing legislation that governs foreign and EU affairs and cannot be regulated by the HCA."

<sup>30</sup> Addition proposed by Italy

<sup>31</sup> Italy refers to previous comments

<sup>32</sup> Ibidem footnote 20: Comment by Croatia

<sup>33</sup> Addition suggested by Italy

<sup>34</sup> Addition suggested by Italy

<sup>35</sup> Comment by Croatia: "The proposed common provision related to the HCA Steering Committee members is not acceptable for Croatia. In our experience and taking into consideration the national legislation, as well as specificities of PAP/RAC as a public institution, representatives of foreign/international institutions cannot be appointed to the governing bodies of institutions established by the Croatian Government."