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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

5 August 2019
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Meeting of the MAP Focal Points

Athens, Greece, 10-13 September 2019

**Agenda Items 3 and 4: Progress Report on Activities Carried Out during the 2018-2019 Biennium
and Financial Report for 2016-2017 and 2018-2019**

Reports of the 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th Meetings of the Executive Coordination Panel

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Athens, 2019



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UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

UNEP

5 March 2018
Original: English

34th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Sophia-Antipolis, France, 5-7 February 2018

Report of the Meeting

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2018

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I. Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

1. The 34th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 5-7 February 2018, hosted by Plan Bleu/RAC, in Sophia-Antipolis, France. The meeting was chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Coordinator and attended by the Deputy Coordinator, the Heads of MAP Components and the Programme Officer responsible for governance issues. The Consultant for the implementation of the bilateral agreement with the Government of Italy attended the relevant sessions of the meeting. The list of participants is presented in Annex I to this report.

2. Mr. Gaetano Leone, UNEP/MAP Coordinator opened the meeting at 16.00 on 5 February 2018 and introduced the provisional agenda.

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

3. The Coordinator welcomed the ECP members and made a brief overview of COP 20, highlighting its key outcomes and expressing his overall satisfaction for the meeting. He noted that the 34th ECP meeting will focus on the main tasks for the biennium 2018-2019 and in particular for its first year.

4. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat, as in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECP.34/1.

III. Agenda item 3: PoW 2018-2019: Major Assignments and Strategic Priorities for 2018

5. The Coordinator introduced the major assignments and strategic priorities for 2018 as they stem from the Programme of Work and Budget (PoW) for 2018-2019 (Decision IG.23/14) as well as from the other decisions adopted at COP 20. He stressed that the work for the implementation of the PoW has already started and that the first milestone is the 85th Bureau meeting, set to take place on 18-19 April 2018, in Athens, Greece. He noted that this is a very important biennium, since the system has stabilized and has the capacity to deliver; at the end of the current biennium the process of preparation of the next Mid-Term Strategy will start. He highlighted the following key aspects:

- Emphasis on impact, efficient planning and implementation (noting also the role of the Compliance Committee)
- Working together in coordinated manner, both within the MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat (stressing the fundamental role of the MAP Components) as well as with Contracting Parties and partners
- Information and communication, where substantial progress is needed
- Focus on substantive issues, such as biodiversity (CBD post 2020 strategy, fisheries, effects of marine litter), integrated coastal zone management-marine spatial planning, sustainable consumption and production, assessments

6. The members of the ECP discussed the priorities of the biennium, highlighting aspects of importance, such as data and information management, outreach and visibility, partnerships, the use of assessments for communication purposes, compliance under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, fundraising, the use of indicators, and the link between different assessment reports. Each MAP Component presented the main priorities for the biennium, which were sent to the Coordinating Unit before the meeting and compiled to a consolidated meeting document.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Preparation of list with reporting requirements for MAP Components	Coordinating Unit	Mid-February 2018

IV. Agenda item 4: Preparation of 2018-2019 Planning and Priority Tables

7. The Coordinator introduced the agenda item, noting that the discussion will focus on the most important activities and especially those that require the involvement of all MAP Components. He also stressed that the Planning and Priorities Tables for 2018-2019 need to be timely prepared by all MAP Components and sent to the Coordinating Unit.

8. The meeting discussed the main priorities for the biennium, based on the mandate provided by the COP 20 decisions, as presented in the document on “processes and actions mandated by COP 20 decisions” prepared by the Coordinating Unit.

9. Items highlighted during the discussion, also in view of the 85th Bureau meeting, included the preparation of the updated communication strategy, the Joint Cooperation Strategy, the preparation of the Thematic Focal Points meeting for SPA/BD, the Host Country Agreements for RACs, the 2nd phase of the Simplified Peer Review process under the MSSD 2016-2025, the follow-up to the IMAP decisions, the preparation of Pollution Reduction Regional Plans, the preparation of the Regional Framework on ICZM / Conceptual Framework on MSP, and the need to strengthen efforts to expand the list of SPAMIs.

10. In relation to the mandates originating from decisions of COP 19, the meeting discussed the need to prepare an analysis of synergies between all existing databases and platforms within the MAP system. It was also noted that there is a lack of clarity on the timing of the mid-term evaluation of the Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production and of the mid-term review of the status of implementation of the MSSD 2016-2025. Although the text of the decision refers to COP 21, other references in the decisions and their annexes indicate that such evaluations should be presented to COP 22, which is also in-line with the cycle of the Mid-Term Strategy. The meeting agreed to bring this issue the attention of the Bureau for further guidance.

11. The meeting decided that the Planning and Priority Tables will be submitted every six months (i.e. 15 January, 15 July), while *ad hoc* reporting on three-month basis will take place in cases of delayed implementation.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
2.	Preparation of Planning and Priorities Tables of 2018-2019	MAP Components and Coordinating Unit	20 February 2018
3.	Updated document on processes and actions mandated by COP 20 decisions (including comments/actions, where appropriate)	Coordinating Unit (to send to all MAP Components)	Mid-February 2018
4.	Preparation of a vision/concept note on Information Systems for all MAP Components (incl. type of databases, what data are available, etc)	INFO/RAC	June 2018
5.	Inform the Bureau on the dates of the mid-term evaluation of the Action Plan on SCP and of the Mid-term review of the status of implementation of the MSSD 2016-2025	MAP Secretariat	85 th Bureau meeting/April 2018

V. Agenda item 5: Calendar of Meetings and Main Events for 2018-2019

12. The MAP Programme Officer introduced the calendar of meetings and main events for 2018-2019, as described in information document UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.23/Inf.13 submitted to COP 20.

13. The MAP Components updated briefly the ECP on their upcoming events. Furthermore, the meeting also discussed the timing of the MCSD meeting and of the MAP Components' Focal Points meetings. It was decided that the Secretariat will update the Bureau on the timing of meetings and on the possible challenges, and will ask for its guidance.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
6.	Updates on the tentative calendar of UNEP/MAP meetings and major international events	MAP Components	20 February 2018
7.	Inform Bureau on timing of meetings in second semester of 2019, and ask for its guidance	Secretariat	85 th Bureau meeting/April 2018

VI. Agenda item 6: Process and Timetable for the 2019 SoED and MED 2050

14. The Coordinator briefly introduced the issue, with reference to Decision IG.23/4, adopted at COP 20, and its Annex II, emphasizing the shared responsibility of all MAP Components for the preparation of these assessment products. The Director of the Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre made a very detailed presentation of the preparations for the 2019 Report on the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (SoED), including on the process and timeline, and presented the draft table of contents of the report. She noted that the report will include two deliverables: the full report and a shorter version/executive summary for decision-makers.

15. The meeting welcomed the process and timeline, noting that it is a very challenging and important task which indeed requires the involvement of all MAP Components. Participants provided comments and inputs to the process, timeline and content, while they also discussed the links with other reports, such as the MED QSR and the MED 2050. The INFO/RAC representatives have asked for further clarifications on the process and procedure for the development of indicators and for the data sets to be used. They have also asked for further information to consider this as a "Use Case" to drive the InfoMap data integration.

16. The Director of the Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre also presented the timeline and process for the MED 2050 report, noting the importance of developing trends and scenarios for the Mediterranean region, since the last such report was prepared in 2005. She explained that 35 relevant studies in the Mediterranean have been benchmarked and that the MED 2050 report will compare and discuss various futures for the Mediterranean region.

17. The meeting welcomed the process, noting that its timeline should be fine-tuned to feed the new Mid-Term Strategy. The members of the ECP agreed that a Steering committee, where all MAP Components are represented, will be very useful in preparing the report.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
8.	Contribution to the preparation of the 2019 SoED report (and inclusion in MAP Components' Project Documents)	All MAP Components	Continuous 2018/2019
9.	Preparation of synthesis of discussion on 2019 SoED report and updated Table of Contents	Plan Bleu/RAC	End of February 2018
10.	Establishment of Steering Committee for the preparation of MED 2050 report	All MAP Components	Linked to timeline of MED 2050 report

VII. Agenda item 7: Bilateral Cooperation Agreement with Italy: Project Fiches

18. The Deputy Coordinator introduced the agenda item and facilitated the discussion of each Project Fiche. The discussion was based on the consolidated document prepared by the Secretariat, in view of the bilateral meeting with the representatives of the Government of Italy that would take place back-to-back with the ECP meeting, on the afternoon of Wednesday, 7 February.

19. The members of the ECP discussed the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement with Italy and provided their comments and inputs on the Project Fiches. It was noted that the goal of the meeting with the representatives of the Government of Italy was to finalize the Project Fiches; then, the process of receiving the voluntary contribution from Italy could be initiated.

VIII. Agenda item 8: Date and Venue of the 35th ECP meeting

20. The ECP discussed the date and the venue of its 35th meeting, and agreed to hold the meeting in Split, Croatia, on 27-28 September 2018, back-to-back with the Coast Day celebration and the meeting of the Working Group on the Regional Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management. Thus, the ECP meeting will be also linked with the celebration for the 40 years Anniversary of PAP/RAC.

IX. Agenda item 9: Any Other Matters

21. The meeting considered other issues raised by its members. In this respect, the following issues were discussed:

22. The Coordinator updated the ECP on the preparation and on the needed inputs in view of the 85th Meeting of the Bureau, set to take place on 18-19 April 2018, in Athens, Greece.

23. The Director of REMPEC suggested that the agenda of each ECP meeting should leave adequate time to be dedicated to bilateral discussions, since it presents an excellent opportunity for face-to-face interaction. The meeting agreed with this suggestion.

24. The directors of the Regional Activity Centres raised the issue of finding appropriate ways to address the need for strengthening the structures of the RACs. Reference was made to the increased mandates of the MAP system as well as to the possibility of an increase to the salaries of the staff of the RACs. During the discussion it was also noted that RACs have different situations. It was agreed that inputs for the development of a shared position and of a paper containing arguments in support of higher contributions to the operational costs of the RACs will be prepared by the RACs and shared among all MAP Components, and that approximately two weeks later a teleconference will be organized to discuss consolidation and to propose next steps. Inputs provided by the RACs would include current size, functioning, staff, salaries, increases in mandate, challenges faced and budget needs to face difficulties.

25. The Deputy Coordinator informed the meeting on the workshop that will take place in the EEA Headquarters in Copenhagen, on 26-27 February 2018, which will present a very good opportunity for an exchange of views and best practices in relation to the assessment mandates.

26. Finally, the Director of SPA/RAC informed the meeting that there is a need to sign a short amendment on the Centre's Host Country Agreement, to address a change in the way that the contribution from Tunisia is received.

27. The meeting was closed by the Coordinator at 13:00 on 7 February 2018.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
11.	Inputs for 85 th Bureau meeting on: (a) Tentative calendar of UNEP/MAP meetings and major international events, (b) updates of Project Fiches, (c) update on the status of Host Country Agreements and challenges faced	All MAP Components	20 February 2018
12.	Inputs for 85 th Bureau meeting to: (a) Progress Report, (b) Progress Report COP 20 Implementation (colour coded table), and (c) Report on Specific issues	All MAP Components	28 February 2018
13.	Concept note with timeline for the preparation of the updated communication strategy	INFO/RAC	End-February/Early-March 2018
14.	Inputs on needs for strengthening RAC structures	All RACs	15 April 2018
15.	Teleconference to discuss needs for strengthening RAC structures	All MAP Components	Beginning of May 2018

Annex I

List of participants

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

Ms. Jelena Knezevic
Programme Officer
Tel: +30 210 727 3116
Email: jelena.knezevic@un.org

**INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATION REGIONAL
ACTIVITY CENTRE
(INFO/RAC)**

Mr. Valter Sambucini
Deputy Director
Tel: +39 06 5007 2074
Email: valter.sambucini@info-rac.org

Mr. Carlo Cipolloni
InfoMap Senior officer
Tel: +39 06 5007 4262
Email: carlo.cipolloni@isprambiente.it

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

Ms. Elen Lemaitre-Curri
Director
Tel: +33 6 4769 2407
Email: elemaitre-curri@planbleu.org

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

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

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

Mr. Gabino Gonzalez
Head of Office
Tel: +356 2133 7296
Email: ggonzalez@rempec.org

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Gaetano Leone

Coordinator

Tel: +30 210 727 3101

Email: gaetano.leone@un.org

Ms. Tatjana Hema

Deputy Coordinator

Tel: +30 210 727 3115

Email: tatjana.hema@un.org

Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis

Programme Management Officer

Tel: +30 210 727 3132

Email: ilias.mavroeidis@un.org

Mr. Stavros Antoniadis

Consultant

Tel: +30 210 727 3140

Email: stavros.antoniadis@un.org

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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

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3 July 2018
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35th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Paris, France, 6 June 2018

Report of the Meeting

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2018

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I. Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

1. The 35th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 6 June 2018, hosted by Plan Bleu at the premises of the French Ministry of Ecological Transition, in Paris, France. The meeting was chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Coordinator and attended by the Deputy Coordinator, the Heads of MAP Components and the Programme Officer responsible for governance issues. The Senior Administrative Officer from UNEP Headquarters also attended the meeting.
2. After a welcoming statement by the senior representative of the host Ministry, Mr. Gaetano Leone, UNEP/MAP Coordinator opened the meeting at 09:30 on 6 June 2018. A brief tour-de-table followed for the introduction of participants.

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

3. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat, as in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECP.34/1. It was decided that, under Any Other Matters, the meeting would address the issues of (a) nomination of MAP Component Focal Points, (b) the need to enhance coordination between projects related to specific issues and the relevant activities funded by MTF and voluntary contributions, and (c) the need to streamline meeting documents.

III. Agenda item 3: Follow up to the 34th ECP meeting

a) Overview of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Work

4. The Coordinator presented the priorities for the current period, stressing the importance of partnerships, especially with the private sector, and of increased communication with Contracting Parties, and noting that COP 21 is a milestone for the definition of strategies and priorities for the future of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system.
5. The members of the ECP discussed the priority activities of the current period, such as the 2019 State of the Environment and Development report, the SAP/BIO evaluation and the periodic review of SPAMIs, data and information management, the IMAP information system and the SEIS related indicators, the possible continuation of the SWITCHMED project, marine litter, national and sub-regional contingency plans, offshore exploration and exploitation, the preparation of the Common Regional Framework on ICZM, as well as the development of e-learning tools for outreach and awareness-raising.
6. In relation to the websites of the MAP Components it was noted that, although there are different needs for each Component, there should be an effort to create a MAP-Barcelona Convention system “family feeling” through the websites. To this end, the need was highlighted for INFO/RAC to do an analysis of MAP Components existing websites and to propose a way forward.

b) Progress on shared position for strengthening RAC structures

7. On the issue of finding appropriate ways to address the need for strengthening the structures of the RACs, the Coordinator thanked the MAP Components which had sent their submissions, while it was noted that inputs should be sent by all MAP Components. In the discussion that followed, it was agreed to prepare a consolidated document for the 87th Bureau meeting, when the necessary financial information will be available. To this end, all MAP Components were requested to provide their inputs in July 2018, so that they can be consolidated by the Secretariat for discussion at the 36th ECP meeting, planned to take place in Split, Croatia, in September 2018.

c) Other pending issues

8. Following an introduction by the Coordinator, a brief discussion took place on the list of action items included in the report of the 34th ECP meeting, most of which were accomplished. Following this discussion, appropriate action items are included in the present document.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Inputs for the Planning and Priorities Tables of 2018-2019	MAP Components and Coordinating Unit	6 July 2018
2.	Analysis on MAP Components existing websites and way forward	INFO/RAC	September 2018
3.	Inputs on needs for strengthening RAC structures	All RACs	July 2018
4.	Consolidated text on strengthening RAC structures, for discussion at ECP36	CU	September 2018
5.	MAP Components to be reminded of the list of actions from ECP35 report	CU	Timely before ECP36
6.	Concept note on the preparation of the updated UNEP/MAP communication strategy	INFO/RAC	July 2018

IV. Agenda item 4: Follow up to the 85th Bureau meeting

a) Updates from MAP Components on activities and projects

9. The Coordinator introduced this agenda item, noting that the Progress Report submitted at the 85th Bureau meeting was welcomed by the members of the Bureau, who requested, however, that Thematic Focal Points are regularly informed on MAP activities and projects. To this end, MAP Components should establish a regular information mechanism towards respective Focal Points (i.e. through sharing relevant parts of the Planning and Priorities Tables, relevant narrative texts in view of the Bureau meetings, newsletters, etc.).

b) Development of MoUs

10. The Coordinator noted that this agenda item addressed the request of the Bureau that the Coordinating Unit should (a) provide legal advice on the process of development and subscription of MoUs relevant for the implementation of POWs, for discussion at the 86th Meeting of the Bureau, and (b) instruct the MAP Components to involve the relevant Thematic Focal Points in the process of development of MoUs to allow proper contribution and with the view to strengthen cooperation and coordination.

11. The meeting discussed the need of the Coordinating Unit to provide advice on the binding nature of MoUs for the MAP-Barcelona Convention system, if such MoUs are signed between MAP Components and other entities. A discussion followed on the need to consult the content of such MoUs with Thematic Focal Points. It was discussed that this should be done for MoUs that are of a political nature and not of a purely operational nature.

c) Host Country Agreements

12. The Coordinator informed the meeting on the relevant conclusion of the 85th Bureau meeting, while MAP Components presented recent updates in relation to their Host Country Agreement processes.

d) Meeting of the thematic focal points for Specially Protected Areas/Biological Diversity

13. The meeting discussed the relevant conclusion of the 85th Bureau meeting. The Director of SPA/RAC, Mr. Khalil Attia, noted that a consultation among SPA/RAC and the Coordinating Unit will need to take place when the SPA/BD Thematic Focal Point meeting preparations will start, with the aim to clarify what changes and implications this shift will necessitate.

e) Preparation of COP 21

14. The Coordinator introduced this agenda item and asked the MAP Components to provide by the end of July information on (a) titles of possible COP 21 draft decisions, and (b) inputs for the main theme of COP 21, so that these could be discussed at the next ECP meeting.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
7.	MAP Components to share relevant parts of Planning and Priorities Tables with respective Thematic Focal Points	MAP Components	Mid-July 2018 (and every 6-months thereafter)
8.	MAP Components to provide information to the CU on MoUs signed during the last 3-4 years	MAP Components	September 2018
9.	Preparation of policy note on which MoUs MAP Components should report on	CU	September 2018
10.	Inputs on (a) titles of possible COP 21 draft decisions, and (b) the main theme of COP 21	MAP Components	End of July 2018

V. Agenda item 5: Financial issues

a) Project Cooperation Agreements

15. Following a short introduction by the Coordinator, the Senior Administrative Officer from UNEP Headquarters, Ms. Hien Le, explained the situation in relation to the need of Project Cooperation Agreements. More specifically she noted that the new rules require that every payment is supported by a contract which provides legal provisions and adequate details, and that these are not provided by the current Project Documents. Therefore, Project Cooperation Agreements are required even for MAP Components that have Host Country Agreements. She explained that while the detailed Project Cooperation Agreements provide less flexibility, they facilitate the follow-up of the processes.

16. Following discussion, it was agreed to consider and propose to UNEP Headquarters different options to facilitate work, including the possibility to have one Project Document for the whole MAP system – simple and based on the adopted Programme of Work and Budget - and to have Project Cooperation Agreements for each MAP Component to provide the necessary legal provisions / details. It was noted that the process can be expedited if the preparation of the Project Document is initiated before the formal adoption of the Programme of Work and Budget at the COP.

b) Measures to reduce negative impact of exchange rates

17. The Senior Administrative Officer from UNEP Headquarters explained that one currency is used in the UN (USD), while the MAP Coordinator noted that all contributions by Contracting Parties are received in Euros (as per the Financial Regulations and Rules and Procedures, Decision IG.21/15) and that reporting to Contracting Parties takes place also in Euros. The Senior Administrative Officer explained that this may need to change. She also noted that the accounting standards of UNEP are

moving to IPSAS, and explained the relevant implications. ECP members asked if more information on this issue can be provided in due time.

18. Several concerns were expressed by the MAP Components on the negative impact of the Euro-USD exchange rates. It was mentioned that project documents note that “as approved by the U.N. Controller, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted Euro as a reference currency for the MTF starting 1 January 2004.” As a consequence, the Programme of Work of UNEP/MAP is approved in Euros. During the discussion, it was noted that the UNEP/MAP Financial Regulations and Rules and Procedures provide for such a loss to be compensated by the working capital reserve. However, it was noted that there is a need to develop the relevant process/procedures, including the approval of the Executive Director of UNEP. Finally, it was also noted that such a compensation would better take place at the end of the year, when the negative impact of exchange rates can be quantified.

c) Currency used for DSA in MAP meetings

19. On the issue of the currency used for the DSA in MAP meetings, as well as for contracts of consultants, the Senior Administrative Officer from UNEP Headquarters noted that this is at the discretion of MAP Components; however, contracts in UNEP are usually made in USD and the amounts can be received by the contractors in any currency. The same is the case for DSA in meetings, which can be provided to participants in Euros based on the current exchange rate. She also suggested to avoid as much as possible currency conversions, to minimize related risks and losses.

20. Finally, following a relevant question by a MAP Component, it was agreed that substantive travel of staff related to specific activities can be charged to the travel budget of these activities. Following the approval of the new/updated Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) currently in progress, a training will be arranged by the new FMO of the CU for the financial officers of MAP Components.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
11.	Further options developed to facilitate preparation of Project Documents and legal agreements	CU (FMO)	End of 2018
12.	Procedure elaborated to address compensation of exchange rate losses	CU (FMO)	September 2018
13.	Training for the financial officers of MAP Components on the new/updated SOP	CU (FMO)	End of 2018

VI. Agenda item 6: Partnerships and preparations for bilateral meetings, including with UfMS

21. The Coordinator noted that a bilateral meeting with the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfMS) is planned to take place on 19 July 2018 in Barcelona, Spain. To this end, he asked MAP Components to provide information on joint activities that they have with UfMS, as well as on activities that they plan to do or want to do with UfMS, noting also the added value of such activities for the MAP-Barcelona Convention system. Such inputs should focus on concrete issues related to the implementation of the MoU with UfMS. He highlighted that the meeting in July is a very good opportunity to make the collaboration with UfMS more concrete and focused.

22. The Coordination also noted that a meeting with the FAO/GFCM Secretariat is planned to take place in the first week of October 2018 in Athens, Greece, and that he will come back on this issue once the meeting date is fixed. He also stressed the importance of the involvement of all MAP Components in a possible GEF 7 joint project proposal with GFCM.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
14.	Inputs for (a) the bilateral meeting with UfMS and (b) the Implementation Table of the MoU with UfMS	All MAP Components	6 July 2018

VII. Agenda item 7: Date and Venue of the 36th ECP meeting

23. The next ECP meeting is planned to be held in Split, Croatia, on the last week of September 2018, back-to-back with the Coast Day celebration and the meeting of the Working Group on the Regional Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management. Thus, the ECP meeting will be also linked with the celebration for the 40 years Anniversary of PAP/RAC.

VIII. Agenda item 8: Any Other Matters

24. The meeting considered other issues raised by its members. In this respect, the following issues were discussed:

25. The Coordinator updated the ECP on the discussion during the 85th Bureau meeting on the need to enhance coordination between projects related to specific issues and the relevant activities funded by MTF and voluntary contributions. Since the Bureau used the example of Integrated Coastal Zone Management/Marine Spatial Planning, PAP/RAC will prepare a short concept note on how effective coordination of all relevant funding sources is ensured.

26. The issue of nomination of RAC Focal Points was briefly discussed, since RACs often are not able to access their Thematic Focal Points. Furthermore, it was decided to send a reminder to Contracting Parties on the nomination of INFO/RAC Focal Points.

27. Finally, the need to streamline meeting documents was highlighted, which requires efforts from all MAP Components.

28. The meeting was closed by the Coordinator at 18:00 on 6 June 2018.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
15.	Concept note of how coordination of all funding sources in relation to Integrated Coastal Zone Management/Marine Spatial Planning is ensured	PAP/RAC	Mid-September 2018
16.	Reminder to Contracting Parties on the nomination of INFO/RAC Focal Points	CU	June 2018
17.	MAP Components to inform the CU on which Focal Points are not accessible	All MAP Components	July 2018

Annex I

List of participants

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COORDINATION PANEL

**INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATION REGIONAL
ACTIVITY CENTRE
(INFO/RAC)**

Ms. Giuseppina Monacelli
Director
Tel: +39 06 5007 4471
Email: giuseppina.monacelli@isprambiente.it

Mr. Carlo Cipolloni
InfoMap Senior Officer
Tel: +39 06 5007 4262
Email: carlo.cipolloni@isprambiente.it

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

Ms. Elen Lemaitre-Curri
Director
Tel: +33 6 4769 2407
Email: elemaitre-curri@planbleu.org

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

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

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

Mr. Gabino Gonzalez
Head of Office
Tel: +356 2133 7296
Email: ggonzalez@rempec.org

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

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

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

Ms. Yara Saab
Project Manager
Tel: + 349 3554 1667
Email: ysaab@scprac.org

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Ms. Hien Le
Senior Administrative Officer
Tel: + 254 2076 23842
Email: le1@un.org

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

Mr. Gaetano Leone
Coordinator
Tel: +30 210 727 3101
Email: gaetano.leone@un.org

Ms. Tatjana Hema
Deputy Coordinator
Tel: +30 210 727 3115
Email: tatjana.hema@un.org

Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis
Programme Management Officer
Tel: +30 210 727 3132
Email: ilias.mavroeidis@un.org

Annex II
Agenda

Agenda

- Agenda item 1** Opening of the Meeting
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- Agenda item 3** Follow up to the 34th ECP meeting:
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- a) Updates from MAP Components on activities and projects
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UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

16 October 2018
Original: English

36th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Split, Croatia, 27-28 September 2018

Report of the Meeting

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2018

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I. Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

1. The 36th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 27-28 September 2018, in the premises of PAP/RAC, in Split, Croatia. The meeting was chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Coordinator and attended by the Deputy Coordinator, the Heads of MAP Components and the Programme Officer responsible for governance issues.
2. Mr. Gaetano Leone, UNEP/MAP Coordinator opened the meeting at 14:00 on 27 September 2018.

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

3. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat, as in document UNEP/MED ECP.36/1. Further to the issues already included in the Provisional Agenda, it was decided that the meeting would also address (a) the preparations of the State of the Environment and Development Report (2019 SoED), and (b) the issue of data policy.

III. Agenda item 3: Follow up to the 35th ECP meeting

a) Overview of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Work

4. The Coordinator presented the main activities and accomplishments of the current period, including the collaboration with partners, such as the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfMS) and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), and the submission of new project proposals, such as the second phase of the SwitchMed Project, the third phase of the MPA action supported under the GreenMedIII Strategy, and the MedProgramme Child Projects. Furthermore, he informed the meeting on current and planned meetings and events and he provided an update on human resource issues of the Coordinating Unit. He also noted that 92% of assessed contributions have already been received by the Secretariat, which is a very positive development enabling the execution of the activities of the Programme of Work and Budget (PoW) in a timely manner. Finally, he informed the meeting on the creation by Spain of a new 46,385 km² Marine Protected Area (the Cetaceans Migration Corridor), a news item which had a very high visibility in social media and in the press.

5. The members of the ECP discussed the progress in the implementation of the PoW activities for the current period, referring also to planned events and to human resource issues. The Director of INFO/RAC, Ms. Giuseppina Monacelli, highlighted the positive impact of the visit of the Coordinator and of other representatives of the Secretariat and MAP Components to the premises of ISPRA and INFO/RAC and especially of the meeting between the MAP Coordinator and the ISPRA Director. The Director of SCP/RAC, Mr. Enrique de Villamore Martin, referred to the finalization of the first phase of the SwitchMed project and to two studies carried out on the legal status of the Centre, that may be also useful in relation to the discussions on the Host Country Agreements (HCAs) of RACs.

b) Progress on shared position for strengthening RAC structures

6. On the issue of finding appropriate ways to address the need for strengthening the structures of the RACs, the Coordinator thanked the MAP Components which had sent their submissions, while he noted that inputs should be sent by all MAP Components to enable the Coordinating Unit to prepare a consolidated, well documented, text, for discussion at the next ECP meeting, before submission to the Contracting Parties through the Bureau. The meeting agreed with the proposed way forward.

c) Other follow-up

7. The Deputy Coordinator, Ms. Tatjana Hema, referred to the financial issues and the follow-up to the relevant discussions held during the 35th ECP meeting (Paris, France, 6 June 2018). She noted that following the arrival of the new FMO at the Coordinating Unit, internal discussions were held including a teleconference with UNEP Headquarters. It is therefore expected that all issues raised at

the 35th ECP meeting will be clarified, including the issue of measures to reduce the negative impact of exchange rates, and the possibility to develop one project document for the whole MAP system.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	New/updated inputs on needs for strengthening RAC structures	All RACs (especially Plan Bleu/RAC and INFO/RAC)	19 October 2018
2.	Consolidated text on strengthening RAC structures, for discussion at ECP37	CU	Early December 2018
3.	Clarifications on financial issues raised at ECP35	CU (in coordination with UNEP Headquarters)	December 2018

IV. Agenda item 4: Preparations for the 87th Bureau meeting

a) Updates from MAP Components on activities and projects

8. Under this agenda item, the Director of Plan Bleu/RAC, Ms. Elen Lemaitre-Curri, referred to the preparations of the 2019 SoED report. She noted that the first meeting of the Steering Committee will take place through teleconference on 17 October 2018, and will discuss, *inter alia*, the preparation of the summary for decision-makers. The first inputs by authors are expected by 15 November, and then refinement and consolidation will follow. The scientific review is expected to take place in March, followed by the preparation of the summary for policy-makers and the submission to the Plan Bleu/RAC Focal Points.

9. On the issue the Planning and Priorities Tables, the Deputy Coordinator thanked the ECP members for their contributions and informed them that the next round of inputs for the preparation of the revised tables will take place at the end of December-beginning of January. This version is expected to have the finalized table of 2018 and the planning for 2019. Furthermore, the need for MAP Components to share relevant parts of Planning and Priorities Tables with the respective Thematic Focal Points was re-iterated.

10. The Coordinator also referred to the progress in the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement with Italy, and the inputs required by RACs for the preparation of the progress report. Furthermore, he noted the low level of commitment/expenditure by the RACs involved in the implementation of the EC-funded Marine Litter MED Project, stressing the importance of increasing expenditure as per the project's workplan and budget, since the project is finishing in June 2019.

11. The Director of INFO/RAC referred to the INFO/RAC Focal Points Meeting and the 1st ENI SEIS II South Support Mechanism Regional Workshop on Infrastructure and Data Management, organized back-to-back in Rome, Italy (3-5 October 2018) and on the issues to be addressed, including the spatial data infrastructure, the new reporting system on National Baseline Budget, the data dictionaries and the data sharing policy.

12. The Director of SCP/RAC referred to the completion of the SwitchMed Project, to the recent increases in delivering the Marine Litter MED project, to a new project that will be funded by the EBRD, to the second phase of SwitchMed project expected to start in Spring 2019, to the SwitchMed connect event to take place in Barcelona, Spain on 13-15 November 2018, and to the request of extension for the ACT4LITTER project.

13. The Director of SPA/RAC, Mr. Khalil Attia, noted that the date of the kick-off meeting on twinning agreements among SPAMIs, which is pending confirmation by Italy, needs to be set before COP 14 of the CBD. He also noted that the SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points meeting is already under organization, and he informed the ECP of upcoming meetings and events organized by SPA/RAC.

14. The Director of PAP/RAC, Ms. Zeljka Skaricic, informed the ECP that the CAMP Bosnia and Herzegovina is ready for signature, and that there are discussions to start on a trial basis the development of a multilateral CAMP, with the view also to create a network of CAMPs. She also referred to the recent meeting on the preparation of the Common Regional Framework on ICZM and on the need to develop a matrix of overlappings with inputs provided by MAP Components on the Ecological Objectives for which they are responsible. Finally, she referred to the need to develop guidelines on Strategic Environmental Assessment as per the PoW.

15. The Director of REMPEC, Mr. Gabino Gonzalez, informed the ECP that REMPEC is collaborating with INFO/RAC to update the REMPEC website, and that REMPEC is collaborating with Bosnia and Herzegovina for the ratification of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol by this Contracting Party. He also informed the meeting of the progress in relation to the sub-regional contingency plan between Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, and on requests submitted to REMPEC in relation to new sub-regional contingency plans. He also pointed out that although there is still a low level of commitment in the implementation of the EC-funded Marine Litter MED Project, progress is currently being made. Finally, he referred to the examination of the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea or parts thereof as SOx emission control area under MARPOL Annex VI.

16. Finally, in relation to the preparation of the PoW for 2020-2021, it was noted that the same methodology and process as the one used for the previous biennium will be followed.

b) Preparations for COP 21

(i) Organizational matters

17. The Coordinator referred to his meeting with the Chief of Cabinet of the Italian Minister of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS), and noted that the date and venue of COP 21 are now set as 2-5 December 2019 in Naples, Italy.

(ii) Themes of COP 21

18. The Coordinator thanked the RACs for their inputs and noted that Italy would like the Ministerial declaration to be prepared through a longer and inclusive process, to start much earlier than the COP. He noted that the Ministers should provide political guidance on the new Mid-Term Strategy and that the main theme of the COP could be related to biodiversity, considering also the CBD COP 14 which would launch the process of the post -2020 biodiversity strategy. Furthermore, this theme could be linked to marine litter and plastics, as suggested by SCP/RAC, noting also the evaluation of the relevant Regional Plan. Following this discussion, the possible COP 21 theme suggested to the Bureau in view of its 87th meeting (Athens, Greece, 6-7 November 2018) is the “Regional dimension of global biodiversity targets, and especially the Post-2020 Biodiversity Strategy”, while it was noted that this theme could focus on the links with toxic substances and marine litter, as well as with Marine Spatial Planning. The suggested theme will be further discussed in the 87th Bureau meeting, especially with Italy, as Host Country of COP 21. The participation of speakers from IMO to further pursue the integration of themes was suggested by REMPEC.

(iii) Side Events

19. The issue of possible side events during COP 21 was raised, noting that the involvement of partners in possible side events would be very welcomed. INFO/RAC noted its interest to organize a side event on Copernicus, while SPA/RAC referred to the possibility on organizing a side event on Marine Protected Areas. It was also stressed that due to the relatively small number of COP participants, it is advisable not to have parallel sessions/side events.

(iv) COP 21 Decisions

20. The members of the ECP highlighted the fact that all COP decisions are prepared by the Coordinating Unit and MAP Components, noting that it would be very welcomed if Contracting

Parties could “sponsor” decisions and become further involved in the drafting of their text. In relation to the possible subjects of COP 21 decisions, the issues of (a) data policy and (b) transboundary Strategic Environmental Assessment, were raised in addition to other proposals submitted by MAP Components and presented by the Coordinating Unit. The option to group subjects and to present consolidated, omnibus, decisions was also discussed as feasible.

21. In closing the discussion on the preparations for COP 21, the Coordinator informed the meeting of the offer by Italy to second a member of their staff to the Coordinating Unit in Athens, to act as a link between MAP and IMELS and to support substantially the process of the preparation of the COP, at no cost to MAP. He also asked the ECP members to send, if possible innovative, ideas to the Coordinating Unit on the preparation of the COP, preferably before the 87th Bureau meeting.

c) Development of MoUs

22. The Coordinator noted that this agenda item addressed the request of the Bureau that the Coordinating Unit should (a) provide legal advice on the process of development and subscription of MoUs relevant for the implementation of POWs, for discussion at the 87th Meeting of the Bureau, and (b) instruct the MAP Components to involve the relevant Thematic Focal Points in the process of development of MoUs to allow proper contribution and with the view to strengthen cooperation and coordination.

23. The Plan Bleu/RAC Director noted that there should be a distinction between MoUs which have a broader scope and MoUs that address the implementation of specific activities of the PoW. The Coordinator stressed that to implement PoW activities, other types of agreements can be used, such as Letter of Intent, etc., while MoUs are more general and long-term agreements. They also highlighted the importance of providing information to focal points on agreements signed by MAP Components and on the stratus of collaboration. The importance of keeping the Coordinating Unit informed on agreements with partners for the implementation of the PoW was also highlighted.

d) Host Country Agreements of RACs

24. The meeting discussed the draft document to be submitted to the 87th Bureau meeting, while MAP Components highlighted challenges faced. The Director of SPA/RAC noted the challenges of obtaining visas for travelling, and asked whether this issue can be addressed within the draft text of the minimum common provisions; he also asked if the issue of tax exemption of Host Country contributions could be addressed.

25. The Coordinator asked the MAP Components if they have any comments and suggestions to send them to the Coordinating Unit by 3 October, before the deadline for distribution of 87th Bureau meeting documents.

e) SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points meeting

26. The Director of SPA/RAC, noted the efforts to identify agenda items of the upcoming SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points meeting that are relevant to/would require the presence of other focal points/experts, while he also referred to the organizational and budgetary challenges. The ECP decided to present to the 87th Bureau meeting only these items/issues that are new and integrative and would possibly require the presence of other focal points/experts, as well as of relevant partners.

f) Preparation of an operational Communication Strategy

27. The Programme Officer responsible for governance issues, Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis, introduced this issue and noted that a concept note has been prepared by INFO/RAC and a draft template by the Coordinating Unit, in view of the preparation of the operational Communication Strategy. Since the preparation it is at an early stage, a brief update will be presented to the 87th Bureau meeting.

28. INFO/RAC highlighted the importance of a clear vision of the Strategy, while noting that one of the pending issues is to examine the need for a SWOT analysis. The meeting also highlighted the importance of the strategy for the whole MAP system and its role in relation to the right information to decision makers.

29. The Coordinator noted that the issue will be discussed also in the Task Force on Information and Communication and that all MAP Components will be involved as the strategy develops.

30. Under this agenda item, the issue of the data policy was also discussed. INFO/RAC referred to the InfoMAP data structure and to the need to clarify the role of each RAC vis-à-vis data management and planning. To this end, INFO/RAC will work with all MAP Components under the guidance of the Coordinating Unit and will prepare a general document with a roadmap to be presented to INFO/RAC focal points. It was stressed that the issue of data policy/access to data is very important and highly sensitive, and that a draft decision on this subject is certainly needed.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
4.	MAP Components to share relevant parts of Planning and Priorities Tables with respective Thematic Focal Points	MAP Components	On 6-month basis
5.	MAP Components to increase level of commitment/expenditure for Marine Litter MED Project	Relevant MAP Components	Continuous until June 2019
6.	Preparation of matrix of activities on each Ecological Objective for CRF on ICZM	Relevant MAP Components	End of November 2018
7.	Send to the CU ideas on the preparation and substance of COP 21	MAP Components	End of October 2018 (preferably)
8.	Comments on the text of minimum common provisions for HCAs of RACs	MAP Components	3 October 2018
9.	Preparation of a draft COP decision on data policy	INFO/RAC and all MAP Components	Continuous until COP 21

V. Agenda item 5: Partnerships and preparation for bilateral meetings, including with GFCM

31. The Coordinator noted that a bilateral meeting with GFCM is planned to take place on 1 October 2018 in Athens, Greece. He thanked MAP Components for the inputs provided to the Implementation Table of the MoU with GFCM and asked participants if there are any other issues to be raised in the bilateral meeting.

32. Plan Bleu/RAC noted that GFCM would be a significant contributor to the 2019 SoED report and to this end a contact point is needed within GFCM to facilitate communication and provision of inputs.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
10.	GFCM to be asked to provide a contact point for the 2019 SoED preparation	CU	1 October 2018

Agenda item 6: Date and Venue of the 37th ECP meeting

The next ECP meeting is planned to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 9-10 January 2019.

Agenda item 7: Any Other Matters

33. No other matters were raised during the meeting.

34. The meeting was closed by the Coordinator at 13:30 on 28 September 2018.

Annex I
List of participants

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COORDINATION PANEL

**INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATION REGIONAL
ACTIVITY CENTRE
(INFO/RAC)**

Ms. Giuseppina Monacelli
Director
Tel: +39 06 5007 4471
Email: giuseppina.monacelli@isprambiente.it

Mr. Carlo Cipolloni
InfoMap Senior Officer
Tel: +39 06 5007 4262
Email: carlo.cipolloni@isprambiente.it

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

Ms. Elen Lemaitre-Curri
Director
Tel: +33 6 4769 2407
Email: elemaitre-curri@planbleu.org

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

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

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

Mr. Gabino Gonzalez
Head of Office
Tel: +356 2133 7296
Email: ggonzalez@rempec.org

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Gaetano Leone

Coordinator

Tel: +30 210 727 3101

Email: gaetano.leone@un.org

Ms. Tatjana Hema

Deputy Coordinator

Tel: +30 210 727 3115

Email: tatjana.hema@un.org

Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis

Programme Management Officer

Tel: +30 210 727 3132

Email: ilias.mavroeidis@un.org

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**UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

29 January 2019
Original: English

37th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Geneva, Switzerland, 9-10 January 2019

Report of the Meeting

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2019

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I. Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

1. The 37th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 9-10 January 2019, in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting was chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Coordinator and attended by the Deputy Coordinator, the Heads of MAP Components and the Programme Officer responsible for governance issues. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.
2. Mr. Gaetano Leone, UNEP/MAP Coordinator opened the meeting at 09:30 on 9 January 2019.

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

3. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat, as in document UNEP/MED ECP.37/1. The Agenda is presented in Annex II of the present document.

III. Agenda item 3: Follow-up to the 36th ECP meeting and to the 87th meeting of the Bureau

4. The Coordinator presented the main activities of the current period, including the involvement of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system in international and regional events, such as the CBD COP14 (Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt 17-29 November 2018), the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference (Nairobi, Kenya, 26-28 November 2018), the Ministerial Conference on Innovative Solutions to Pollution in South East and Southern Europe (Belgrade, Serbia, 4-5 December 2018) and the Fish Forum 2018, organized by GFCM (Rome, Italy, 10-14 December 2018). He also referred to the progress in relation to project proposals and especially the third phase of the MPA action with a complementary action on IMAP implementation (supported under the GreenMedIII Strategy), the recently approved 2nd phase of the SwitchMed Project and the possibility of a joint submission with FAO/GFCM to GEF 7. The members of the ECP provided further information on activities and events.
5. The meeting also discussed the follow-up to the 36th ECP meeting and to the action items included in the 36th ECP meeting report. On the issue of finding appropriate ways to address the need for strengthening the structures of the RACs, INFO/RAC will share information on its structure and on updated contact details of the personnel when this is available, since there are currently changes in the Component. In parallel, the Coordinating Unit will prepare a consolidated text with information on strengthening RAC structures to share with the ECP.
6. On the financial situation, the Coordinator referred to the very high percentage of contributions received in 2018 (96%) which show the commitment of Contracting Parties. This will be nurtured through possible country visits in the near future.
7. The Deputy Coordinator, Ms. Tatjana Hema, referred to the financial issues noting that a technical solution is being explored to resolve the issue of exchange rate fluctuations by using the working capital reserve. She also noted that there is feasibility in having one Project Document for the whole MAP system – simple and based on the adopted Programme of Work and Budget - and separate Project Cooperation Agreements for each MAP Component to provide the necessary legal provisions / details. On the issue of the Planning and Priorities Tables (finalized for 2018 and updated planning for 2019) she noted that inputs of MAP Components are expected by the end of January, so that the tables are finalized and shared with the RAC/Thematic Focal Points in February.
8. On the issue of the UNEP/MAP Data Policy – including the possibility of a relevant COP 21 Decision - it was agreed that INFO/RAC will prepare a short concept note, which will be sent to the Coordinating Unit and then shared with the ECP, before submission to the INFO/RAC Focal Points meeting in the Spring of 2019. Participants also noted that the Data Policy is an important document for the whole MAP-Barcelona Convention system and should be also submitted to the other RAC/Thematic Focal Points meetings in 2019, as an information document, even if it is still in draft mode. Furthermore, the Coordinator highlighted the need to inform the MAP Focal Points on this issue through a letter which will refer to the relevant process, mandate and timeline.

9. In relation to the follow-up of the 87th meeting of the Bureau, the ECP members discussed the progress in relation to the implementation of the Bureau conclusions and recommendations. In relation to complementarities and synergies among databases within the MAP system with the support of INFO/RAC, the Director of INFO/RAC, Ms. Giuseppina Monacelli, informed the meeting that bilateral meetings already took place between INFO/RAC and SCP/RAC, PAP/RAC, REMPEC as well as SPA/RAC, while a meeting with Plan Bleu/RAC is being arranged. It was agreed that INFO/RAC should provide a consolidated response by the end of February, in view of reporting to the next Bureau meeting and, then, of preparing a relevant document for the MAP Focal Points meeting and COP 21.

10. On the issue of longstanding arrears, the possibility of a visit of the Coordinator to the Syrian Arab Republic was discussed. In relation to the Host Country Agreements for RACs and the draft note incorporating the comments of the Bureau, the Director of Plan Bleu/RAC, Ms. Elen Lemaitre-Curri, noted that Plan Bleu/RAC is not a public institution and that this should be taken into account in the relevant provisions. Further considerations were also provided by other participants and it was agreed to send any comments/inputs by the beginning of February to the Coordinating Unit, so that the note is revised and sent to the Bureau for consideration and guidance.

11. The meeting was also reminded that a revised version of the draft Joint Cooperation Strategy should be prepared to reflect the comments received through the consultations with the Thematic Focal Points for SPA/BD and during the 87th Bureau Meeting. Finally, in relation to the process of development and subscription of MOUs and other legal instruments, it was agreed that the Coordinating Unit will send a short Memo to the MAP Components in February 2019.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Inputs from INFO/RAC on needs for strengthening RAC structures and personnel contact details	INFO/RAC	Early 2019-when available
2.	Consolidated information on strengthening RAC structures	CU	February 2019
3.	MAP Components to share draft Planning and Priorities Tables with the Coordinating Unit	MAP Components	End of January 2019
4.	MAP Components to share relevant parts of finalized Planning and Priorities Tables with respective Thematic Focal Points	MAP Components	February 2019
5.	Short concept note on Data Policy to be prepared and shared with the CU (and then with the ECP)	INFO/RAC	18 January 2019
6.	Letter on Data Policy to be sent to the MAP Focal Points	CU	Early February 2019
7.	Draft document on complementarities and synergies among databases within the MAP system	INFO/RAC	End of February 2019
8.	Comments to the CU on the text of minimum common provisions for HCAs of RACs	MAP Components	8 February 2019
9.	Revised version of the draft Joint Cooperation Strategy, to reflect the comments received through the consultations with the Thematic Focal Points for SPA/BD and during the 87 th Bureau Meeting	SPA/RAC	End of January 2019
10.	Memo from Coordinator on the process of development and subscription of MOUs and other legal instruments	CU	February 2019

IV. Agenda item 4: Preparation of the 2020-2021 UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and budget

12. The Deputy Coordinator introduced this agenda item and the document on the “Guiding elements for the preparation of 2020-2021 UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget”. She noted that the discussions in the meeting aim to enable the preparation of the narrative part and of the table with the PoW Indicators and Targets per biennium, as well as the finalization of the tables of the programme of work. She also referred to the budget, noting that there will be very limited time for discussion in this meeting and that, if the Contracting Parties decide on a budget increase this would greatly facilitate the work and execution of activities.

13. In the discussion that followed, each MAP Component, including the Coordinating Unit, presented its priorities, planned activities and main deliverables for each of the seven themes of the Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 (MTS), as sent to the Coordinating Unit before the meeting. The general feeling of the meeting was that the MTS will be delivered in its entirety through the planned activities, while in some cases resources are lacking for the full implementation. Following the presentations and the ensued discussion and detailed comments made on each proposed PoW the following points were agreed:

- All MAP Components to start as soon as possible upgrading the tabular template (with outputs and their numbers put horizontally) and the proposed PoW (activities, deliverables, partners, lead component, other MAP component) based on discussions held during the ECP meeting. In doing so, MAP Components should try (a) to align proposed activities to the extent possible with the PoW activities of the current biennium and, in case of new activities, they should be added after the existing activities, (b) to aggregate activities to the extent possible and provide detailed deliverables, and (c) to link all inputs with the existing work, building on what is achieved during the first two biennia of the MTS;
- The Coordinating Unit (Deputy Coordinator) to send additional substantive comments to each MAP Component, by 16 January COB at the latest, on the proposed deliverables and suggestions for aggregations, etc.;
- All MAP components to send to the Coordinating Unit by 26 January their final versions of the PoW after incorporating all necessary changes;
- The Coordinating Unit (Deputy Coordinator) to send to all MAP Components some common elements for the narrative part of the PoW by 28 January at the latest, and to send to all MAP Components comments on the final versions of the PoW by 30 January;
- All MAP Components to send out the English version of the PoW and the narrative part during the first week of February (and the French version the week after, if not possible to send both at the same time) with a 10 days deadline, and to send to the Coordinating Unit their final versions of the PoW by 28 February at the latest.
- In parallel the Coordinating Unit to send a letter, signed by the Coordinator, to the MAP Focal Points, sharing the Guidance Paper and launching the consultation process, at the end of January.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
11.	Preparation of PoW as per (a) the document on the guiding elements for the preparation of 2020-2021 UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget, and (b) the agreed points of paragraph 13 above	Coordinating Unit / all MAP Components	As per agreed timeline

V. Agenda item 5: Roadmap for the preparation of the main MAP meetings of 2019:

a) 18th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (main agenda items, main theme and format)

14. The meeting discussed briefly the preparations of the 18th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD - Budva, Montenegro, 11-13 June 2019). It was noted that the 20th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee (Athens, Greece, 23-24 January 2019)

will provide the opportunity for a discussion on the provisional agenda and main deliverables of the MCSD meeting.

15. During the discussion, the Director of Plan Bleu/RAC referred to the possibility of working groups to be created under the MCSD to address 2-3 specific issues, with leading roles taken by MCSD members. The Coordinator noted the importance of identifying and contacting key resource persons/speakers in a timely manner. On the possible main themes of the MCSD meeting, proposals included to link it to the theme of the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference (Nairobi, Kenya, 26-28 November 2018), to the theme “Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production” of UNEA-4 (Nairobi, Kenya, 11-15 March 2019), and/or to give a specific role to local authorities, e.g. through a panel of mayors.

b) Meetings of the Focal Points of the MAP Components and of MAP (main agenda items and expected outcome)

16. The meeting discussed briefly the preparations for the RAC/Thematic Focal Points meetings and the MAP Focal Points meeting. Special emphasis was given to the upcoming SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points meeting, following the 87th Bureau meeting conclusions. The Director of SPA/RAC, Mr. Khalil Attia, introduced the draft provisional agenda of the meeting and the relevant concept note. It was noted that all MAP Components should send the necessary inputs to SPA/RAC, that all documents submitted to the SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points meeting by other MAP Components should be formatted as per the format used by SPA/RAC and that documents should be limited to the absolutely necessary. The Coordinator stressed that the UNEP specification of maximum 16 pages (plus annexes) per document should be met, and that documents should be distributed one month before the meeting at the latest.

17. During the discussions it was suggested that the agenda items of the SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points meeting should better be distributed in a way that would allow other MAP Components to attend only a part of the meeting and not its whole duration. On the meeting attendance, the possibility was discussed to fund the attendance of a second participant per Contracting Party from savings coming from other activities, in accordance with the relevant Bureau conclusions.

c) COP 21 (list of potential decisions, theme and format of the ministerial session)

18. The Coordinator referred to the preparations for COP 21 noting the relevant conclusions of the 87th Bureau meeting and highlighting the need to timely decide on the structure and process of the COP, to identify and contact resource persons/speakers, to decide on side events, and to involve more actively the civil society. He also stressed that it is essential at COP 21 to develop the main lines of the new MTS. He added that the proposals submitted by MAP Components will be taken into account in the preparation of the relevant documents for the 88th Bureau meeting (Rome, Italy, 21-22 May 2019).

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
12.	2-3 proposals on possible main session/s of the MCSD meeting	Plan Bleu/RAC	January 2019
13.	All MAP Components to share the draft provisional agenda of their Focal Points meeting with the Coordinating Unit	All MAP Components	15 February 2019
14.	All MAP Components to provide to SPA/RAC 2-3 paragraphs on activities undertaken in the framework of the PoW that contribute to the MTS theme on Biodiversity and Ecosystems	All MAP Components	End of March 2019
15.	SPA/RAC to send document template to all MAP Components	SPA/RAC	15 February 2019

16.	All MAP Components to provide to SPA/RAC documents for the SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points meeting	All MAP Components	15 April 2019
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VI. Agenda item 6: Update on the preparation of key documents for 2019:

a) 2019 State of the Environment and Development Report

19. The Director of Plan Bleu/RAC referred to the preparations of the 2019 SoED report. She noted that the first meeting of the Steering Committee took place through teleconference on 17 October 2018, the second meeting is to take place on 11 January 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland, back to back with the 37th ECP meeting, and the third meeting is planned for the end of March 2019. She also noted that half of the contributions have been received from respective authors. The first draft of the 2019 SoED report is expected in April 2019, while the Summary for Decision-Makers and Chapter 9 of the report are proposed to be annexed to the relevant COP 21 decision.

b) Pollution Reduction/Prevention Regional Plans

20. The preparation of six Pollution Reduction/Prevention Regional Plans was briefly discussed, especially in relation to possible contributions from MAP Components, such as a contribution from SPA/RAC on aquaculture. It was also noted that a relevant COP decision should focus on the vision, main elements and mandate for the preparation of the regional plans.

c) Operational Communication Strategy

21. The Programme Officer responsible for governance issues, Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis, introduced this issue and noted that a first draft of the strategy has been prepared through a very close collaboration between the Coordinating Unit and INFO/RAC. The director of INFO/RAC noted that the draft strategy was submitted to the Communication Task Force. She added that MAP Components can provide further comments on this first draft by the set deadline of 8 February 2019, to be incorporated in the draft strategy which will be submitted to the INFO/RAC Focal Points meeting (Rome, Italy, 16-17 April 2019).

22. The Coordinator noted that the implementation of the strategy will be included in the Programme of Work and Budget under the relevant output 1.6.1 of the Governance MTS theme. It was also noted that the communication activities will be coordinated in the MAP system through the Communication Task Force.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
17.	Provide comments on the draft Operational Communication Strategy	All MAP Components	8 February 2019

VII. Agenda item 7: Date and Venue of the 38th ECP meeting

The next ECP meeting is planned to be held in Marseilles, France, possibly in the last week of March 2019.

VIII. Agenda item 8: Any Other Matters

a) Cooperation with MAVA Foundation

23. A meeting between the ECP members and Ms. Paule Gros, Programme Director for the Mediterranean Basin of the MAVA Foundation took place at the end of the ECP meeting. Initially a presentation of the work of the MAVA Foundation was made by Ms. Gros, who noted that the MAVA Foundation is active in the Mediterranean for approximately 20 years, focusing on conservation and biodiversity, that it is the biggest supporter of the civil society and that it will be changing focus at the end of 2022. Therefore, ongoing and planned activities are to end by that year, while further work is to take place only through partnerships/partners. Then, a tour-de-table was conducted during which each

participant had the opportunity to describe the main aspects of work of the MAP Component he/she represented, as per the PoW, and the existing or possible concrete areas and ways of cooperation with the MAVA Foundation.

24. Possible areas of collaboration, further to those that already exist, that were identified during the meeting included the support of MAVA Foundation to articulate and increase the visibility of the work of MAP, the issue of cultural landscape, the possible collaboration in the framework of GEF funded projects, and the scaling up of specific activities from pilot to regional scale. The possibility of the MAVA Foundation to apply for MCSD Member and MAP Partner was also discussed.

b) Cooperation with Black Sea Commission

25. The Deputy Coordinator referred to the very positive discussions between UNEP/MAP and the Black Sea Commission, to be followed-up through further bilateral contacts in February/March 2019. The main MAP Components involved in this process beyond the Coordinating Unit and MED POL are SPA/RAC and PAP/RAC. It was noted that the joint workplan also included activities under other MAP components mandate.

c) Policy for publications and use of logo

26. During this agenda item it was noted that the logo of MAP should be used together with the logo of the RACs, and that the UNEP publishing policy and guidelines should be considered for the MAP-Barcelona Convention system publications. The Coordinator noted that this issue will be further looked into, including through consultations with the Headquarters, and further advice will follow from the Coordinating Unit. He also took this opportunity to alert the participants on the stricter policy of UNEP Headquarters on travel and the relevant guidelines that were recently distributed, which *inter alia* set a strict deadline of 21 days for notification of travel.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
18.	Further explore policy for publications and use of logo, including through consultations with the Headquarters	Coordinating Unit (information / communication and governance)	February/March 2019

27. The meeting was closed by the Coordinator at 18:45 on 10 January 2019.

Annex I
List of participants

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COORDINATION PANEL

MED POL

Mr. Mohamad Kayyal
MED POL Programme Officer
Tel: +30 210 727 3122
Email: mohamad.kayyal@un.org

**INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATION REGIONAL
ACTIVITY CENTRE (INFO/RAC)**

Ms. Giuseppina Monacelli
Director
Tel: +39 06 5007 4471
Email: giuseppina.monacelli@isprambiente.it

Ms. Lorenza Babbini
INFO/RAC Officer
Tel: +39 06 5007 4471
Email: lorenza.babbini@isprambiente.it

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

Ms. Elen Lemaitre-Curri
Director
Tel: +33 6 4769 2407
Email: elemaitre-curri@planbleu.org

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

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

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

Mr. Gabino Gonzalez
Head of Office
Tel: +356 2133 7296
Email: ggonzalez@rempec.org

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

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

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

Mr. Roger Garcia i Noguera
Deputy Director
Tel: +34 93 553 87 90
Email: rgarcia@scprac.org

Ms. Magali Outters
Team Leader Policy Area
Tel: +34 93 554 16 66
Email: moutters@scprac.org

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

Mr. Gaetano Leone
Coordinator
Tel: +30 210 727 3101
Email: gaetano.leone@un.org

Ms. Tatjana Hema
Deputy Coordinator
Tel: +30 210 727 3115
Email: tatjana.hema@un.org

Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis
Programme Management Officer
Tel: +30 210 727 3132
Email: ilias.mavroeidis@un.org

Annex II
Agenda

Agenda

- Agenda item 1** Opening of the Meeting
- Agenda item 2** Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work
- Agenda item 3** Follow-up to the 36th ECP meeting and to the 87th meeting of the Bureau
- Agenda item 4** Preparation of the 2020-2021 UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and budget
- Agenda item 5** Roadmap for the preparation of the main MAP meetings of 2019:
a) 18th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (main agenda items, main theme and format)
b) Meetings of the Focal Points of the MAP Components and of MAP (main agenda items and expected outcome)
c) COP 21 (list of potential decisions, theme and format of the ministerial session)
- Agenda item 6** Update on the preparation of key documents for 2019:
a) 2019 State of the Environment and Development Report
b) Pollution Reduction/Prevention Regional Plans
c) Operational Communication Strategy
- Agenda item 7** Date and Venue of the 38th ECP meeting
- Agenda item 8** Any Other Matters
a) Cooperation with MAVA Foundation
b) Cooperation with Black Sea Commission
c) Policy for publications and use of logo



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**UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

27 March 2019
Original: English

38th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Marseille, France, 7-8 March 2019

Report of the Meeting

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

UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2019

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I. Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

1. The 38th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 7-8 March 2019, in the premises of Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre (RAC), in Marseille, France. The meeting was chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Coordinator and attended by the Deputy Coordinator, the Heads of MAP Components and the Programme Officer responsible for governance issues. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.
2. Mr. Gaetano Leone, UNEP/MAP Coordinator opened the meeting at 09:30 on 7 March 2019.

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

3. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat, as in document UNEP/MED ECP.38/1. Further to the issues already included in the Provisional Agenda, it was decided that the meeting would also address, under Any other Matters, the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020, and the Cooperation with the Black Sea Commission. It was also noted that under the Agenda Item on the preparations of COP 21, specific reference will be made to the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea or parts thereof as SOx emission control area. The Agenda is presented in Annex II of the present document.
4. Following the adoption of the Agenda, the Coordinator presented the main activities of the current period, highlighting the increased interest in the work of UNEP/MAP within UNEP and beyond and noting the prominent role of MAP-Barcelona Convention amongst the Regional Seas, especially the ones administered by UNEP. He noted the recent visit by the Coordinating Unit and PAP/RAC to the Secretariat of the Benguela Current Convention aiming at sharing the experience of MAP with this new Convention. Furthermore, he referred to the invitation to MAP to participate in the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (N. York, USA, 25 March - 5 April 2019) and to the very successful event “Kick-off Meeting of the Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Interest (SPAMI) Twinning Programme: Develop and Strengthen an Effective SPAMI Management” (Torre del Cerrano, Italy, 26 February 2019). He also noted the participation of MAP in side events of the forthcoming UNEA-4 (Nairobi, Kenya, 11-15 March 2019).
5. The Coordinator presented the progress in relation to projects and resource mobilization, and especially the preparation of the MedProgramme Child Projects, the third phase of the MPA action with a complementary action on IMAP implementation (supported under the GreenMedIII Strategy), the 2nd phase of the SwitchMed Project and the preparation of a joint submission with FAO/GFCM to GEF 7. He informed the meeting that Italy expressed the interest to continue its discretionary contribution in the framework of the Cooperation Agreement between UNEP and the Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS), possibly at a slightly different form than through biennial agreements. Finally, he referred to the preparations of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 21, Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019), stressing the importance of the involvement and contribution of all MAP Components. He also noted that the MAP Components should contribute to the preparation of the new UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) through providing visible and “marketable” ideas going beyond business as usual.
6. The members of the ECP provided further information on activities and events. SCP/RAC referred to the approval of a new EU-funded ENI CBCMED project (GIMED – Green Impact MED Project – Positive Investments for Positive Impacts) of 2.6 million Euros with a duration of 36 months with SCP/RAC as lead partner and involving Spain, Lebanon, Palestine, Tunisia, Egypt and Italy. SPA/RAC and PAP/RAC referred to the importance of updating the list of MAP and MAP Component Focal Points and of sharing the updated lists between MAP Components. Finally, the meeting also referred to the Ocean Dialogues 2019, an event prepared with the involvement of the European Parliament, which will take place in Brussels, Belgium (18-20 March 2019).

III. Agenda item 3: Follow-up to the 37th ECP meeting and to the 87th meeting of the Bureau

7. The meeting discussed the follow-up to the 37th ECP meeting and to the action items included in the 37th ECP meeting report. On the issue of finding appropriate ways to address the need for strengthening the structures of the RACs, the Deputy Coordinator, Ms. Tatjana Hema, and the MAP Programme Officer, Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis, presented a brief overview of the received inputs. They noted that INFO/RAC has not yet shared information on its structure and needs since there are currently changes in this MAP Component, and they stressed that the inputs received by the other MAP Components did not have adequate information on their current situation/structure and their exact needs to substantiate future requests. This discussion was continued under Agenda Item 5, due to its relevance to the PoW and Budget for the next biennium.

8. In relation to the complementarities and synergies among databases within the MAP system, the Director of INFO/RAC, Ms. Ms. Giuseppina Monacelli, informed the meeting that bilateral consultations are held with all other MAP Components and that INFO/RAC is supporting their relevant work.

9. The ECP members also discussed the progress in relation to the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the 87th meeting of the Bureau, as well as the inputs needed in preparation of the documents to be submitted to the forthcoming, 88th meeting of the Bureau (Rome, Italy, 21-22 May 2019). The meeting was reminded that an email was sent by the Coordinating Unit to all MAP Components, providing concrete information on the inputs needed by 25 March 2019.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Inputs for documents of 88 th Bureau meeting to be sent to the CU	All MAP Components	25 March 2019

IV. Agenda item 4: Review of the Planning and Priorities Table, with a focus on 2019

10. The Deputy Coordinator presented the current situation of the Table, based on the inputs received by all MAP Components. She noted that the 2018 Table will be finished in mid-March to be shared with the MAP Component Focal Points. The compilation of the 2019 Table is currently under finalisation, while it was noted that INFO/RAC provided information only for 2018 and not for 2019. The importance of the Table as a management and monitoring tool was highlighted, as well as for reporting on the different strands of work including under the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS.

11. The meeting discussed the possibility to change the format of the Table, to make it more user friendly and to allow each MAP Component to have its own “space” within the table. The possibility to create a common space/collaboration platform that will allow MAP Components to work online on the same version of the document was also proposed. This could be used not only for the Planning and Priority Table but also for any other collaborative work on MAP documents. For the time being, INFO/RAC can put the current Planning and Priorities Table online, using INFO/RAC’s platform. The meeting decided to keep the format as it is for the current biennium and to look at creating a more consolidated and user-friendly version at the next biennium. This would include the development – possibly with the support of a consultant - of an overall tool that may be used effectively for all reporting obligations. The possibility of changing the table from a word format to an excel format was also discussed for the future.

12. The discussion on planning and priorities provided also the opportunity to address specific challenges faced in implementation. These included the lack of progress in the finalization of the agreement with Bosnia and Herzegovina on the Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP), the contacts with Greece and Cyprus in preparing a feasibility study on the transboundary collaboration for CAMPs, the implementation of the Sub-regional Maritime Oil Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel, and the possible participation of Egypt in the SIMPEER process. Furthermore, the Deputy Coordinator brought to the attention of the ECP Members the need to achieve the planned level of budget expenditure for the biennium, including on the funding under the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS, as well as for the projects that will close within 2019, such as EcAp-MED II, Marine Litter MED, and SEIS II.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
2.	Revision of the format of the Planning and Priorities Tables/development of an overall reporting tool	CU, in collaboration with MAP Components	Beginning of 2020
3.	Development of a common space/collaboration platform that will allow MAP Components to work online	INFO/RAC	April 2019
4.	Draft letter to Bosnia and Herzegovina on the CAMP	PAP/RAC	March 2019

V. Agenda item 5: Preparation of the 2020-2021 UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget

13. The Deputy Coordinator introduced this agenda item, highlighting that the first phase of the consultation on the Programme of Work (PoW) has been successful and that now all themes are integrated in the same consolidated table. On the way forward, she noted that the consolidated PoW will be further reviewed by the Coordinating Unit by 18 March and that MAP Components will need to check and clear the revised PoW by 25 March. This will allow the integrated draft PoW, including the narrative part, to be distributed in the first week of April to the MAP Focal Points. The MAP Component Focal Points will have approximately one week to provide comments and then a revised draft will be prepared by the Secretariat within approximately two weeks. In parallel, starting at the end of March, work will proceed for the preparation of the Budget, with the aim to have a fully developed draft PoW (including Budget estimates) by mid-May. The Budget has then to be sent to the UNEP Headquarters for clearance, while the Bureau will also be informed on the progress at its next, 88th, meeting (Rome, Italy, 21-22 May 2019).

14. The Coordinating Unit was invited to provide clarification on the budget distribution after the working capital reserve was refilled and after the recovery from the deficit, since the MAP Components did not recover the shares which were reduced from their respective budget to support the recovery process. Following this request, the Deputy Coordinator responded that funding from the MTF respected both a traditional historic share, as well as PoW priorities. On this basis, several MAP Components were funded for activities more than in the previous biennia.

15. It was also noted that the PoW for the next biennium will be important for the preparation of the next MTS, also since some activities in this biennium will be leading to specific components of the next MTS. Global discussions and commitments, such as those taken at UNEA-4 (Nairobi, Kenya, 11-14 March 2019) will also be relevant for the preparation of the MTS. The possibility of having a dedicated meeting on the preparation of the next MTS was also discussed, including with the possible participation of all professional staff of the CU and MAP Components.

16. On the budget, it was noted that COP 20 requested the preparation of two alternatives, one with an increase of up to 4% and one with no increase from the 2018-2019 biennium. The meeting discussed how this would affect the budget allocated to individual MAP Components, linking it with the relevant discussion initiated under Agenda Item 3. The need to increase the operational costs of RACs was raised by a number of MAP Components. The Coordinator stressed that concrete information is needed in order to have a clear picture of the situation (including the organigramme of RACs) and of the exact needs for new resources (including on how these resources will be used). Based on such information, a first discussion can take place with the Bureau at its next meeting. It was decided that Plan Bleu/RAC will coordinate the collection of the relevant information from RACs, including an analysis of their current structure and staffing and of their concrete needs.

17. The Coordinating Unit will provide to MAP Components, as soon as possible, the total budget as per both alternative scenarios, at each MAP Component level for both activities cost and operational cost.

18. The discussions under this agenda item then focused on the preparation of targets and indicators for the PoW for 2020-2021. Each MAP Component worked individually on the outputs relevant to its mandate and prepared draft indicators and targets. Then, the meeting discussed the

individual inputs and prepared a very first integration. MAP Components were asked to provide any further comments/inputs within one week, so that the table with targets and indicators can then be further revised and integrated by the Coordinating Unit, for inclusion in the draft PoW.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
5.	Preparation of PoW and Budget as per (a) the document on the guiding elements for the preparation of 2020-2021 UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget, and (b) the agreed points of paragraph 13 above	Coordinating Unit / all MAP Components	As per agreed timeline
6.	Note with analysis of current structure and staffing and of concrete needs for strengthening RAC structures	Plan Bleu/RAC, coordinating inputs by all MAP Components	25 March 2019
7.	Final inputs on the indicators and targets for the PoW	All MAP Components	15 March 2019

VI. Agenda item 6: Preparation of COP 21

a) List of Potential Decisions

19. The Coordinator referred to the preparations for COP 21 and the relevant conclusions of the 87th Bureau meeting, noting that the Bureau expressed its agreement with the general indications by the Secretariat on the draft COP 21 Decisions and asked the Secretariat to further work on this issue and prepare, taking into account the comments made by the Bureau members, the list of draft COP 21 Decisions for its 88th Meeting.

20. The ECP discussed the possibility to develop a draft Decision on Sustainable Tourism, as a standalone draft Decision or as part of a more general draft decision on Blue Economy. The aim of such a draft decision would be to provide the mandate to work on this issue at the next biennium with a concrete deliverable for COP 22. Furthermore, the meeting noted the importance of having a draft decision in relation to examining the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea or parts thereof as SO_x emission control area under MARPOL Annex VI, since scientific studies suggest that an emission control area will reduce health risks from air pollution.

21. SCP/RAC will provide the justification and the legal mandate for the proposed draft decision on the “Set of regional measures to acknowledge and to support the development of green and circular businesses and to strengthen the demand for more sustainable products”.

b) Progress in the Preparation of Key Documents

22. Reference was made to the draft Concept Note on the UNEP/MAP Data Policy recently prepared by INFO/RAC. The INFO/RAC Director informed the meeting that the document presents a framework, focusing mainly on three types of data: a) the Barcelona Convention Reporting System data, b) the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) data, and c) other data related to assessment reports and specific work mandated to MAP Components.

23. The meeting also briefly discussed the preparation of the Common Regional Framework on Integrated Coastal Zone Management. The Deputy Coordinator reminded the MAP Components of the need to receive their inputs for the French version of the annex compiling the official provisions and content of MAP policy and regulatory instruments. PAP/RAC will provide the relevant document to INFO/RAC, which will upload the document on the groupware, so that MAP Components can provide their inputs for the French version by the end of March 2019.

c) Theme and Format of the Ministerial Session

24. The Coordinator referred to the preparations for COP 21 noting the relevant conclusions of the 87th Bureau meeting and the bilateral meeting with the Minister of Environment of Italy, as Host Country of COP 21, Mr. Costa. In relation to the theme of the Ministerial Session and the preparation of the Ministerial Declaration, a Concept Note will be prepared for discussion at the 88th Bureau meeting. Following the comments of the Bureau, this concept note will then be revised and used for further consultations with the Contracting Parties and stakeholders. The Coordinator highlighted that the Ministerial Declaration will be also linked to the draft COP decisions, the new MTS and the biggest recent achievements of the MAP system. He noted the importance of stakeholder involvement and the need to timely decide on the structure and organization of the Ministerial Session. He asked MAP Components to provide inputs for the Concept Note on the Ministerial Session/Ministerial Declaration as well as to identify and contact resource persons/speakers and propose possible side events.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
8.	MAP Components to provide inputs to the CU for the Concept Note on the Ministerial Session of COP 21	All MAP Components	28 March 2019
9.	MAP Components to suggest and/or contact resource persons/speakers for COP 21	All MAP Components	15 April 2019
10.	MAP Components to provide inputs for the French version of the annex of the CRF on ICZM	All MAP Components (on the groupware prepared by INFO/RAC)	End of March 2019

VII. Agenda item 7: Date and Venue of the 39th ECP meeting

25. The next ECP meeting is planned to be held in Athens, Greece, on 8 September 2019, in view of the MAP Focal points Meeting (Athens, Greece, 10-13 September 2019). However, if it is deemed absolutely necessary in relation to the finalization of the 2020-2021 PoW and Budget, there is the possibility to convene a one-day ECP meeting in the first week of June.

VIII. Agenda item 8: Any Other Matters

a) Update on the “Sommet des Deux Rives”

26. Mr. Daniel Schlosser, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, presented to the ECP meeting information on the "Sommet des deux rives". The summit will be held in Marseille, France, on 24 June 2019, hosted by the President of the French Republic, Mr. Emmanuel Macron. The Summit will consist of both a meeting of Heads of State and Government, and a regional dialogue with prominent civil society representatives. This initiative seeks to foster a pragmatic regional socio-political exchange in order to showcase and launch specific projects in the area of the western Mediterranean. The ECP was informed that neither UNEP nor MAP will be invited to attend the Summit, as priority was given to funding agencies. Possibilities exist for MAP to attend the thematic forum on environment and sustainable development organized by Italy, that will take place on 15-17 May, and/or the thematic forum on culture-tourism-media to be held in Montpellier on 2-3 May.

b) Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

27. The director of SPA/RAC, Mr. Khalil Attia, referred to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) document “Submissions from Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities on the preparations for the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework”. The CBD Secretariat asked for inputs from stakeholders/actors, with a deadline of 15 April 2019, and it was stressed that this provides a very good opportunity for the contribution of MAP to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Mr. Attia informed the meeting that SPA/RAC participates in Regional Meetings for the preparation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, noting that COP 21 of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its

Protocols can contribute with an input to the CBD COP. Based on such input, the regional contribution to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework can be put in motion in the Mediterranean. It was agreed to create a task force led by SPA/RAC, where all Components will designate a representative (as soon as possible), to draft a document that will be shared with the MAP Secretariat before its submission to the CBD Secretariat.

c) IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020

28. The Director of Plan Bleu/RAC, Ms. Elen Lemaitre-Curri, informed the meeting that the next IUCN World Conservation Congress will take place in Marseille, France, from 11 to 19 June 2020. It was noted that this will be a good opportunity to highlight the work of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system, for example through side events on climate change and biodiversity as well as on Nature Based Solutions. There could be an opportunity to partner with other Mediterranean institution to organize a visible event, or a series of Mediterranean events clearly identified as a set of coherent events. Plan Bleu/RAC could contribute under the leadership of SPA/RAC. SPA/RAC will contact UIUCN in this respect.

d) Cooperation with Black Sea Commission

29. The Deputy Coordinator referred to the very good collaboration between UNEP/MAP and the Black Sea Commission, highlighting that the Black Sea Commission will be invited in relevant meetings of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system, such as the CORMON meetings.

30. The meeting was closed by the Coordinator at 17:00 on 8 March 2019.

Annex I

List of participants

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COORDINATION PANEL

MED POL	Mr. Mohamad Kayyal MED POL Programme Officer Tel: +30 210 727 3122 Email: mohamad.kayyal@un.org
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (INFO/RAC)	Ms. Giuseppina Monacelli Director Tel: +39 06 5007 4471 Email: giuseppina.monacelli@isprambiente.it
PLAN BLEU REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (PB/RAC)	Mr. Carlo Cipolloni InfoMap Senior Officer-Deputy Director Tel: +39 06 5007 4262 Email: carlo.cipolloni@isprambiente.it
PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (PAP/RAC)	Ms. Elen Lemaitre-Curri Director Tel: +33 6 4769 2407 Email: elemaitre-curri@planbleu.org
REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)	Ms. Zeljka Skaricic Director Tel: +385 2134 0471 Email: zeljka.skaricic@paprac.org
SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (SPA/RAC)	Mr. Gabino Gonzalez Head of Office Tel: +356 2133 7296 Email: ggonzalez@rempec.org
SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (SCP/RAC)	Mr. Khalil Attia Director Tel: +216 7120 6649 Email: director@rac-spa.org
	Mr. Roger Garcia i Noguera Deputy Director Tel: +34 93 553 87 90 Email: rgarcia@scprac.org
	Ms. Magali Outters Team Leader Policy Area Tel: +34 93 554 16 66 Email: moutters@scprac.org

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

Mr. Gaetano Leone
Coordinator
Tel: +30 210 727 3101
Email: gaetano.leone@un.org

Ms. Tatjana Hema
Deputy Coordinator
Tel: +30 210 727 3115
Email: tatjana.hema@un.org

Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis
Programme Management Officer
Tel: +30 210 727 3132
Email: ilias.mavroeidis@un.org

Annex II
Agenda

Agenda

- Agenda item 1** Opening of the Meeting
- Agenda item 2** Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work
- Agenda item 3** Follow-up to the 37th ECP meeting and to the 87th meeting of the Bureau
- Agenda item 4** Review of the Planning and Priorities Table, with a focus on 2019
- Agenda item 5** Preparation of the 2020-2021 UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget
- Agenda item 6** Preparation of COP 21
- a) List of Potential Decisions
 - b) Progress in the Preparation of Key Documents
 - c) Theme and Format of the Ministerial Session
- Agenda item 7** Date and Venue of the 39th ECP meeting
- Agenda item 8** Any Other Matters
- a) Update on the “Sommet des Deux Rives”
 - b) Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework
 - c) IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020
 - d) Cooperation with the Black Sea Commission