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21st Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019

Agenda Item 3: Thematic Decisions

Agenda Item 5: Ministerial Session

Cooperation with Partners: Implementation of the MoUs with UfMS and FAO/GFCM

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2019

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN UNEP/MAP AND UFMS – Draft milestones (updated July 2019)

<p>Fields of cooperation as per MoU (Art. 1)</p>	<p>Indicative activities as per MoU (Appendix 1)</p>	<p>UfMS specific implementation activities (milestones in chronological order as of signature of the MoU in December 2013)</p>	<p>UNEP/MAP specific implementation activities (milestones as from the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, February 2016)</p>
<p>Pollution prevention and control of Mediterranean coastal and marine waters</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperate in updating the de-pollution National Action Plans and indicators; • Collaborate in supporting capacity building initiatives and activities to countries with regard to de-polluting projects and promoting best results/practices dissemination and replication; • Cooperate in supporting countries of the Mediterranean to assess the status of implementation and or update the list of priority de-polluting projects; • Exchange on a regular basis data and information on the list of the above mentioned projects funded or likely to be funded according to technical reporting modalities agreed between both parties; • Cooperate in the field of prevention of pollution from ships, specifically in the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of 	<p><u>On UfM processes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsement of the 2014 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change by the 43 UfM countries, agreeing to the following “green economy” package of actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - depollution, through the launch of Phase II of the “H2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean” (previously called <i>H2020 Initiative for the Depollution of the Med Sea</i>); - pollution prevention, through Sustainable Consumption and Production; - climate action according to the endorsed UfM Climate Change governance and operational structure (<i>Athens June 2014</i>); • The Declaration includes a specific call for cooperation between the Secretariats of the UfM and the Barcelona Convention through the implementation of the 2013 Memorandum of Understanding; and request for exploring ways to streamline MAP and H2020 Initiative focal points and related meetings. • Preparation and regular update of the progress report on the implementation of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on ENV and CC in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land and sea-based pollution is Core theme 1 of the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021, which was adopted in February 2016 by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 19). It is therefore included as such in the biennial programmes of work of MAP. • National Action Plans (NAPs) updated based on the NAP Update Guidelines during 2015-2016 and endorsed by COP 19 in 2016. • Contribution Agreement signed with EEA in September 2016 on the implementation of ENI SEIS II South Support Mechanism. • Co-chairing with UfM the Horizon 2020 (H2020) Capacity Building Group; and with the European Environment Agency (EEA) the H2020 review and monitoring steering group (ongoing). • Participation in and contribution to the 7th Meeting of the H2020 Review and Monitoring (RM) Group (Athens, December 2016); 8th meeting of the H2020 RM Group (Barcelona, 16-18 October

	<p>and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, through identification and implementation of projects.</p>	<p>January/February 2017 (as requested by the Ministers themselves), through the voluntary contributions of the countries, implementing organisations and stakeholders involved;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation of the UfM WG on ENV and CC in March 2017 and 2018 to report on progress in implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on ENV and CC; UNEP MAP is a permanent observer of said WG. • Based on the Agreed Conclusions adopted by the UfM CoPresidencies (EU and Jordan) and the 43 UfM MS, the UfM Task Force on ENV was held back to back with the 2018 H2020/SWIM Support Mechanism, scheduled on the 30 January 2018, in Jordan and in April 2019 to prepare the UfM Post-2020 environment agenda, work plan, operational modalities. • Launch and completion of an external evaluation of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on ENV and CC, including the H2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean (<i>following also the EC external evaluation of the Mediterranean Environment Portfolio</i>) • On-line consultation (UfM ENV TF plus WG on ENV and CC) to produce, in a participative and progressive manner, a background document to the UfM ENV Task Force namely the post-2020 agenda document. It is now in final draft and re-named the <i>Agenda 2030: Towards a Greener Med</i>, covering the period 2020-2030. A monitoring framework is under preparation. • The core objective of the “post 2020” Initiative is to set the framework to coordinate, streamline and 	<p>2017); 9th meeting of the H2020 RM Group (Vienna, 6-7 November 2018; and 1st Meeting of the Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (Barcelona, March 2017).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation and participation in 1st SEIS Steering Committee meeting and the SEIS Working Group on H2020 indicators (Copenhagen, Denmark, May 2017); 2nd SEIS Steering Committee meeting (Barcelona, 16-18 October 2017); 3rd SEIS Steering Committee meeting (Vienna, 6-7 November 2018) . • Participation in and contribution to the 6th Meeting of the UfM Climate Change Expert Group (Barcelona, 25 April 2018), Ad Hoc sectoral meetings – Tourism & Agriculture (Barcelona, 24 April 2018), and Scientific Meeting – MedECC (Barcelona, 23 April 2018). • A list of core NAP follow-up indicators was established and presented to the MED POL Focal Points meeting in May 2017. The meeting concluded that this list is to be further refined, with a view of establishing to the extent possible a common list for both NAP and H2020 progress evaluation to serve as the basis for further developing as appropriate the list of H2020 indicators. • Under the Contribution Agreement with EEA on the implementation of ENI SEIS II South Support Mechanism, organization of 2nd ENI SEIS II South Support Mechanism Regional Workshop on Indicators (17-18
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		<p>promote the efforts in the Mediterranean region – involving UfM member countries and other relevant stakeholders, including regional partners and local authorities, through a participatory approach, to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - support the transition towards a Green, Circular and Socially Inclusive Economy, - prevent and reduce pollution on land, air and sea as well as - protect, preserve, manage and restore natural resources in the Mediterranean region within an integrated ecosystem approach, including terrestrial, marine and coastal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The three thematic areas are closely interlinked and need to be addressed simultaneously. A fourth cross-cutting thematic area of high regional priority is the link with climate action for mitigation and adaptation. • UfM Participation to the BlueMed Pilot for a Plastic Free Mediterranean, 3rd of July 2019 • In July 2019, the UfM Senior Officials gave the green light to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a UfM Ministerial on Blue Economy, to be held during the 1st semester of 2020; – a UfM Ministerial on Environment and Climate Change in 2020, to be held during the 2nd semester 2020. <p><u>H2020 Initiative</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to the consolidation of the results of the H2020 Initiative through the EU funded H2020 coordination mechanism; 	<p>April 2018, Athens, Greece), focusing on finalization of NAP/H2020 Indicators’ factsheets, data collection and data gaps and major tracks for filling the data gaps in the countries. The meeting reviewed the proposed indicators’ methodological specifications developed and reporting processes and agreed on the final list of H2020 indicators and their specifications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the Contribution Agreement with EEA, 1st ENI SEIS II Regional Workshop on Infrastructure and Data Management which was held on 4-5 October 2018 in Rome, Italy. The Regional Workshop agreed on the way forward regarding data and data dictionaries developed and how to organize capacity building activities to support the establishment of the network for the exchange of data protocols in order to populate the indicators. • Work by UNEP/MAP (MEDPOL) continues to further develop the National Baseline Budget (NBB) Info system, strengthening the data infrastructure for reporting, and NAP/H2020 indicator populating by initiating data calls under already established NBB/PRTR information system. Four cycles of NBB Update have been initiated. • Under the Contribution Agreement with EEA, the work is ongoing at the regional and national levels to establish sound infrastructure for sustainable data collections. Two data calls are ongoing in 2019 for collecting the data for populating
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UfM Sec support to UfM EU and Jordan CoPresidencies in the organisation of the H2020 Core Group (latest H2020 Core Group held in March 2017) and Steering Committees; • <i>On H2020 Capacity Building:</i> Participation/Co-Chairing of the H2020/SWIM Support Mechanism meetings (September 2016; next one planned for February 2018); synchronisation and co-organisation of UfM meetings and events with key Capacity Building regional activities, where possible; Integration of the UfM labelled BlueGreen project operational modalities into the EU funded H2020/SWIM Support Mechanism as networking mechanism to ensure Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)/Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) involvement and participation to the H2020/SWIM capacity building activities up to 2019; UfM ongoing Technical Assistance to reinforce collaboration and support to southern and eastern NGOs/CSOs networking in the region. • <i>On H2020 investment component:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. In close collaboration with UNEP/MAP, UfMS Assessment of the investment component of the NAPs and of future needs up to 2025, as a contribution to the mid-term review of the H2020 Initiative (2013); presentation of the UfM assessment to UNEP/MAP and to MED POL Focal Points; input to the guidelines for the revision of the NAPs (2013/4); B. UfMS co-chairing with EIB the H2020 Investment Group (PRPI - Organisation of 4 annual <i>PRPI-Pollution Reduction and Prevention Investment</i> meetings as of 2014; latest held in April 2017); ensuring regular exchange and involvement of International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and donors in bringing “priority investment projects” to FIs appraisal (kicked off in 	<p>the indicators: namely, a data call for 4th Cycle of NBB Update which will support the industrial emission indicator population and assessment led by UNEP/MAP, and a H2020 Data Call for H2020/NAP Indicators led by EEA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A working meeting with EEA on H2020 Assessment Outline was held in Athens, on 13-14 February 2019 with participation of all relevant experts from both organizations. <i>Horizon 2020 Assessment Outline: Main element</i> was prepared, defining the context, conceptual approach, and current development of the Horizon H2020/NAP indicator-based assessment report that will be jointly produced by EEA and UNEP/MAP to inform on the progress of the Horizon 2020 Initiative for a cleaner Mediterranean established under the Union for the Mediterranean. • Under the Contribution Agreement, Regional Meeting on Reporting of Releases to Marine and Coastal Environment from Land Based Sources Activities and related Indicators was held in Tirana, Albania, on 19-20 March 2019. The meeting discussed the on-going data call on industrial emission related indicators, and agreed on the Horizon 2020 Assessment Outline: Links to the Evaluation on National Actions Plans and Regional Plans Implementation. The H2020 Assessment is a main deliverable under the Contribution Agreement.
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		<p><i>bullet point reflected also below, under Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and Marine and Coastal Ecosystems) launched in April 2018 ; donors meeting of Plastic Busters held in 2016; UfM financial support to the annual technical and coordination meeting on Marine Litter held in June 2017, together with GIZ (the German development agency);</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UfM support to the publication of the Protocol on ML Bio-indicators, published with University of Siena, GIZ, UNEP/MAP; UfMS technical assistance for fund-raising; funding from InterregMed as “Plastic Busters MPAs” and by CBC “COMMON”; preparation of the hands-on meeting of the 14th November at UfM to ensure coordination between Plastic Busters MPAs and COMMON, as well coordination on ML activities between the North and the South of the Mediterranean; the workshop will also look into synergies with a core set of initiatives such as WES (Water and Environment Support), ECAP III, Marine Litter MED, Be-Med. 	<p>with the EU-funded Regional Project “SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism”, focusing on NAP common targets, measures, and indicators, updated hotspots list and investment portfolios.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation of a training capacity building session with the support of SWIM and H2020 Support Mechanism aiming at bridging the investment needs and projects with NAP measures. • SCP/RAC participated in the closing conference of the SWIM H2020 SM project (8th of April 2019, Brussels) and is a member of the consortium of the WES (Water and Environment Support Facility). • MED POL participation in the PRPI Meeting in April 2017. • Invitation to and participation of UfMS in the MED POL FP Meeting (Rome, 29 - 31 May 2017). • Implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean in the framework of the Article 15 of the LBS; adoption of Decision IG.22/10 on implementing the Marine Litter Regional Plan adopted by COP 19 in February 2016. • Invitation and Participation of UfM to the 3rd Meeting of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the
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Mediterranean (Izmir, Turkey, 11-12 October 2018).

- Support and participation in the Project “Plastic Busters MPAs”, labelled by UfM and coordinated by Siena University. SCP/RAC is an implementing partner.
- Collaborate with UfMS for establishing criteria to prioritize projects, aiming at aligning investment needs as outlined in the updated NAPs with the identified targets and programme of measures.
- Presentation by UfM Sec of the UfM flagship project criteria for the prioritization of NAP investment projects and the 2013 Project database during the MED POL FP meeting (Rome, May 2017).
- Work on revising the reporting format of pollution related protocols in order to better assess the status of implementation of the “Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities” (LBS Protocol) that can be used for assessing the implementation of H2020, in addition to the work on H2020/MAP indicators.
- The “Mediterranean Sea Programme (Med Programme): Enhancing Environmental Security” has been approved by the GEF Council in October 2016. The preparation of three child projects to the Programme, dealing with reduction of land-based sources of pollution took place in 2017 and 2018. Child Project 1.1. on “Reducing

			<p>Pollution from Harmful Chemicals and Wastes in Mediterranean Hot Spots and Measuring Progress to Impacts” is currently under revision by the GEF secretariat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) adopted by COP19. • Implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan in the framework of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil ("the Offshore Protocol") adopted by COP 19 in February 2016. • Participation of MAP (INFO/RAC) at the 8th Meeting of the Water Expert Group (WEG) of the Union for the Mediterranean (Amman, Jordan, 1-2 February 2018).
<p>Marine and Coastal Ecosystems and Biodiversity Protection in the Mediterranean region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperate in supporting implementation of regional and national measures which the Mediterranean countries have identified as a priority to advance implementation of the 11 Ecological Objectives of the Ecosystem Approach to human activities in the Mediterranean under the Barcelona Convention • Cooperate in supporting capacity building initiatives and activities for 	<p><u>On UfM processes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2014 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change reaffirms the commitments of the countries to achieve the Aichi Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the commitments under the Barcelona Convention, in particular relating to marine protected areas, the ecosystem approach, and the action plan on ICZM (<i>Athens June 2014</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity and ecosystems is Core theme 2 of the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021, which was adopted at COP 19, in February 2016. It is therefore included as such in the biennial programmes of work of MAP. • The European Commission- funded project “Mediterranean implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, in coherence with the EU MSFD” was successfully

	<p>the creation and management of priority Marine Protected Areas and National Action Plans for the Endangered Species and Vulnerable Habitats</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UfMS Participation to the Marine Protected Areas Forum in Tangier, November 2016; • UfMS close collaboration with the EU funded BLUEMED Initiative, referred to in the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Blue Economy and further endorsed also by the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Declaration on Research and Innovation in April 2017; UfMS technical assistance to support the extension of BLUEMED to southern and eastern Med countries willing to join. • Strong collaboration with the Interreg Community PANACEA and joint organisation of a side event at 2018 COP in Sharm-El-Sheikh at CBD COP14 in 2018; UfMS representation at the High-Level Segment of CBD COP14 • UfMS facilitating coordination and operational links between the Interreg Med Community/PANACEA and H2020 Support Mechanism; • See infos on upcoming UfM Ministerial/s on Blue Economy and ENV and CC, as reported above <p><u>On UfMS project-related activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H2020 related investment project contributing directly to safeguard Marine and Coastal Ecosystems and Biodiversity Protection (for ex. In the case of the UfM labelled Investment Project of Lake Bizerte, Tunisia). • the UfM labelled project on Marine Litter 'Plastic Busters' has been financed by the Interreg Med with a focus on Marine Protected Areas in 2018; • FAO promoted and UfM labelled project on restoration contributing to the Aichi targets UfM labelled and IKI/Germany-<i>"Scaling up forest and</i> 	<p>implemented according to the schedule and was finalized on 30th June 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security" includes the project "Management Support and Expansion of Marine Protected Areas in Libya." The project development in full coordination with Libya was finalized in 2018. • The European Commission funded project "Towards an ecologically representative and efficiently managed network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas "is being implemented according to the scheduled and is planned to be finalized in September 2019. • In the framework of the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement between UNEP/MAP and the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS), the SPAMI (Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance) Twinning Programme is being implemented. It aims at developing and implementing twinning programmes among Italian SPAMIs/MPAs and SPAMIs/MPAs of the Mediterranean sub-regions of which Italy is part, to promote networking and standardize management. • The UfM Secretariat was informally consulted by SPA/RAC, among other regional/international organizations and potential donors, about a set of project
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landscape restoration in order to restore biodiversity and promote joint mitigation and adaptation approaches in the Mediterranean: the launch of the project took place on 1 April 2019 in Broummana, Lebanon, on the occasion of the [6th Mediterranean Forest Week](#) (1st and 4th April 2019); first regional training taking place 4-7th November in Barcelona

- UfM labelling of the “MPAs Trust Fund”, promoted by the Monaco Foundation

concepts aiming at the implementation of SAP BIO national and regional priority actions. Projects preparation on species and habitat conservation in relation to fisheries with the donor MAVA foundation are ongoing. Once ready, the labelling of UfM may reinforce attractiveness for further donors and reinforced countries' support for current and future extended implementation.

- All projects on species and habitats conservation implemented by SPA/RAC and financed by MAVA Foundation have already entered into their second year of implementation.
- COP 20, in December 2017, adopted the following three decisions in relation to biodiversity and specially protected areas: (a) Decision IG.23/8 on the Updated Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine and Coastal Bird Species listed in annex II to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, (b) Decision IG.23/9 on the Identification and Conservation of Sites of Particular Ecological Interest in the Mediterranean, including Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance - Updated Reference List of Marine and Coastal Habitat Types in the Mediterranean, and (c) Decision IG.23/10 on the Amendments to Annex II to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean.

Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)

- Cooperate to promote ICZM as a tool for reaching sustainable development in the Mediterranean coastal zones, and in particular to implement the Action Plan related to the ICZM Protocol adopted by the Mediterranean States under the Barcelona Convention

On UfM processes:

- Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone management are at the core of the 2015 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Blue Economy (promoting the application of cross-cutting policy tools, such as maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal zone management, taking into account land-sea interactions through an ecosystem based approach and the importance to accelerate efforts in taking necessary measures to develop a coherent and well-managed network of marine protected areas to meet the objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan) and are referred to in the 2014 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change (the application of the cross-cutting policy tools available under Integrated Maritime Policy, such as marine spatial planning, to integrate environment *and climate change concerns into relevant horizontal policies*); MSP and ICZM are also dealt within the UfM Blue Economy Forum, through:
 - UfM Working Group on Blue Economy (5 Working Groups held between May 2015 and July 2017);
 - Regional Technical Seminars (run through the EU funded IMP-Med Facility; 2 Seminars held so far; 2nd Regional seminar held in May 2017 in Barcelona was on Aquaculture and Maritime Spatial Planning)
 - Stakeholders' Conferences (Western Med Stakeholders Conference held on 2 February 2017 in Barcelona; UfM Regional Stakeholders Conference on Blue Economy, Naples, 29-30 November 2017)

- ICZM is Cross-cutting theme 1 of the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021, which was adopted at COP 19, in February 2016. It is therefore included as such in the biennial programmes of work of MAP.
- COP 20, in December 2017, adopted Decision IG.23/7 on the Implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Protocol: Annotated Structure of the Common Regional Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Conceptual Framework for Marine Spatial Planning.
- The "Implementing of ecosystem approach in the Adriatic Sea through Marine Spatial Planning" GEF funded Project (GEF Adriatic Project) has celebrated the Inception and first steering Committee meetings in May 2018 in Tirana, Albania and the second Steering Committee meeting in May 2019 in Podgorica, Montenegro. The project is being executed in Albania and Montenegro over the 2018-2020 period.
- In the framework of the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement between UNEP/MAP and IMELS, the MSP pilot project is being implemented. It aims to complement SUPREME and GEF Adriatic projects and to strengthen the EUSAIR Strategy, to be developed into the Adriatic relevant marine areas, subject to major pressures and particularly in Albania.
- The "Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing

		<p>– Mediterranean Blue Economy Platform as targeted tool for the Med Blue Economy community (Transfer of the Virtual Knowledge Centre on Blue Economy from the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) to UfMS; into English, French and Arabic)</p> <p><u>On UfMS projects related activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UfM labelled Project MedCoastxBluegrowth, lead promoter: The Inter-Mediterranean Commission of CPRM (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions); participation to two coordination meetings; pre-launch organised in Barcelona, back to back with the BlueMedTour Conference; kick-off event in Tunisia on 19th of September 2019 of the CBC financed project component CoEvolve4BG; 	<p>Environmental Security” includes the projects “Mediterranean Coastal Zones Climate Resilience Water Security and Habitat Protection” and “Mediterranean Coastal Zones: Managing the Water-Food-Energy and Ecosystem NEXUS”. The project preparation in full coordination with 9 GEF eligible Contracting Parties was finalised in early 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of the Common Regional Framework for ICZM, for consideration by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at COP 21. • Organisation of the Med Coast Day in Barcelona on 27 September 2016 focused on Blue Economy. The UfM representative made a speech during the opening ceremony. • Organisation of the Med Coast Day, Montenegro, 25 September 2017, with theme “Protect our sea”. Opening by the President of Montenegro, Mr. Filip Vujanović. • Participation of PAP/RAC in the meeting of the UfM working group on blue economy (Brussels, 8 November 2016) – PAP/RAC made a presentation on ICZM, MSP and Blue Economy links. • Participation in two EU-funded projects on MSP (SIMWESTMED and SUPREME) and in the MAVA project on coastal wetlands management.
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participation in the Interreg Med projects on: sustainable tourism (CO-EVOLVE); impact of maritime activities on MPAs (PHAROS4MPAs); and data base for MSP (PORTODIMARE).• Running of the virtual training course on ICZM MedOpen and its inclusion in the academic curriculum of three faculties in the Maghreb countries (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia).• Participation of PAP/RAC in the Joint IOC_UNESCO and DG MARE International Forum for Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning held in Brussels, on 24-25 May 2018 and facilitation of the discussion of the round-table on intersectoral coordination for MSP.• Organisation of the Med Coast Day, Split, 25 September 2018.• Preparatory activities for one national CAMP project (in Bosnia and Herzegovina) and two transboundary CAMP projects (between Albania and Italy, and between Cyprus and Israel).• Launching of the ICZM Platform and the design of the CAMP Network online tool to be included in the Platform.• On 5 February 2019, PAP/RAC hosted a meeting with the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR) Facility Point and Thematic Steering Group (TSG) 3 Pillar Coordinator with the
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			<p>objective to assist the preparation of the project concept on ICZM and MSP for the Adriatic-Ionian (AI) sub-region. “To promote a sustainable growth of the AI region by implementing ICZM and MSP also to contribute to the Common Regional Framework (CRF) of the Barcelona Convention” is one of the project proposals currently under development for the implementation of this Mediterranean sub-regional strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation of PAP/RAC in the celebration of the European Maritime Day organized in Lisbon, Portugal, on 16-17 May 2019. Particular focus of PAP/RAC interest was the session on “Adaptation to 1.5C of global warming in ocean and coasts: Urgent action”. PAP/RAC will contribute by presenting the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean as a tool for the regional adaptation, and by presenting the Coastal Plan for the Šibenik-Knin County, Croatia, as a local approach to adaptation and local application of the ICZM Protocol. • Organisation of a training workshop “MSP as a tool for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean” in Zagreb (Croatia), on 9-10 April 2019.
<p>Urban Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperate to conclude and make operational, the UFM Guidance framework for sustainable Euro-Mediterranean cities and territories 	<p><u>On UfM processes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsement of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Urban Development in April 2017, Cairo, Egypt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025 is under implementation after its adoption at COP 19, including “Planning and managing sustainable Mediterranean

	<p>for decision-makers and practitioners;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a set of recommendations on how to shape urban development by enabling a shared perspective in urban and territorial strategies, taking into consideration the Barcelona Convention and its protocols, particularly for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol and Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launching of the UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Urban Development convened in Brussels in November 2017. The Regional Platform established: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A Permanent Working Group on Evaluation, Monitoring and Reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the Agenda 2030, which will involve national statistical offices. - The Urban Development Project Committee with the participation of the International Financial Institutions. - Two Thematic Working Groups for the period of 2018-2019: One for Affordable and Sustainable Housing, and the other for Urban Regeneration. The UfM Working Group on Sustainable and Affordable Housing, covers also energy-efficiency in residential buildings The main objectives of the Thematic Working Groups on Affordable and Sustainable Housing and on Urban Regeneration are to identify regional convergence criteria, and to elaborate an action plan on affordable and sustainable housing by the end of 2019; the next meeting of group is scheduled in December 2019 The action plan will highlight, inter alia, “policy guidelines for implementation”, “funding opportunities”, and “implementing projects”. The UfM Ministerial Declaration on ENV and CC recognizes <i>“that the Mediterranean region is becoming increasingly urbanised. While the region's cities concentrate environment and climate challenges, they also provide the opportunity for</i> 	<p>cities” as its 3rd Objective. Under this objective, several national and regional actions are included, as well as two Flagship Initiatives under implementation, namely the “sustainable urban toolbox” and the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award. The first edition of the Istanbul Award was given to the winner, Izmir Metropolitan Municipality, represented by its Mayor during the High-Level Session of COP 20 in December 2017 in Tirana. The second edition is now in progress. As MCSD Member, MedCities endorsed the responsibility to launch and develop, in partnership with key stakeholders, the Mediterranean Urban Toolbox, which is now under test and available online. 2 flyers on these MSSD Flagship Initiatives were published.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean (adopted at COP 19, in February 2016), includes “Housing and Construction” as one of its four priority areas. This followed “Housing and Construction” being one of the priority sectors under SWITCH Med (and complementary programme Med Re SCP). Collaborate to facilitate development of Green and Circular Economy business solutions to priority environmental aspects and challenges faced by cities and local governments including access to clean water, access to renewable energy, waste
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		<p><i>focused and effective solutions, which will improve the quality of life of their citizens. Initiatives such as the Eco-Cities of the Mediterranean launched by Jordan, or the UfM, EU, Barcelona Convention and Covenant of Mayors initiatives on sustainable cities are recognised as important vehicles for advancing action and sharing engagement”</i></p> <p><u>On UfMS projects related activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Housing and Construction” is one of sectors covered by the UfM labelled Project Post Rio +20 Med Re SCP (on Resource Efficiency/Sustainable Consumption and production promoted by EBRD together with SCPRAC and UNIDO), complementing the EU funded SWITCH MED Programme. • The Urban Projects Finance Initiative (UPFI), launched in 2014. UPFI is a financial initiative funded by the European Commission, and co-managed by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and the European Investment Bank (EIB), under the auspices of the UfM. The UPFI aims at identifying and selecting sustainable urban development projects that could be implemented in the short term. • The UPFI initiative will reach the end of its current phase in December 2019. The European Investment Bank allocated funds within its Economic Resilience Initiative (ERI) in December 2017 to fund new Technical Assistances for urban development project preparation in Balkan as well as Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries, within the framework of a new edition of UPFI, for the period 2018-2020. 	<p>management, affordable housing and construction.</p>
<p>Other fields related to Sustainable Development, including</p>	<p>Indicative activities are presented per specific field in the rows below:</p>		

<p>Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency</p>			
<p>Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the updating the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD) and reviewing its indicators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable development is at the basis of all the UfM Ministerial Declarations (2014 Environment and Climate Change, 2015 Blue economy, 2017 Water, 2017 Sustainable Urban Development, etc.) and a joint transversal axis of work for all the six UfM Divisions; it is at the core of the UfM Road Map approved by the 43 countries UfMS assists with the Mediterranean Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development, unanimously adopted in 13/05/2014 as part of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on ENV and CC; its action plan was approved in Nicosia, 8-9 December 2016; UfMS contributes with technical assistance and cororganisation of events, such as the one in Crete in June 2019 UfMS will participate to the AFED event on Education for Sustainable Development in Beirut in November 2019; UfMS contributed to the 6 discussion groups set up to revise the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development; Participation of UfMS as member to the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, as per Decision IG. 22/17 adopted at COP 19, in July 2017 UfMS is now part of the UN Environment/MAP Med Commission for Sustainable Development; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UfMS became a member of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, as per Decision IG. 22/17 adopted at COP 19, in February 2016. UfMS participated in the 17th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (Athens, Greece, 4-6 July 2017). The Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025 under implementation after its adoption at COP 19, in February 2016. COP 20 adopted Decision IG.23/4 “Implementation and Monitoring of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 and of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean” The 19th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee was held via teleconference on 20 June 2017. The meeting reviewed and discussed the progress and perspectives in the MCSD and MSSD related developments after the 17th Meeting of the MCSD (Athens, Greece, 5-7 July 2017), as well as the work plan of the MCSD Steering Committee for the biennium

		<p>UfMS participated to the related meetings, including the one held in Budva in June 2019;</p>	<p>2018-2019, with a specific focus on issues related to the implementation of Decision IG.23/4. The work plan of the MCSD Steering Committee for 2018-2019 supports the MCSD Steering Committee in overseeing the work of the MCSD, to which UfM Secretariat is a member, and for preparing the 18th Meeting of the MCSD (to be held in Montenegro in 2019) and its contribution to the COP 21.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Programme of Work and Budget for 2018-2019, includes two new assessments: the preparation of a 2019 State of the environment and development report (insisting on interactions between environment and development issues, in a context of climate change); and the first phase of a new foresight exercise in the Mediterranean (MED 2050). These assessments will build on UN and national data as well as important interactions with scientists and stakeholders representatives across the Mediterranean.• UfM participated in the conference organized by Plan Bleu on "Environment and development in the Mediterranean yesterday, today and tomorrow" on 5 June 2018.• UfM was closely involved in the preparation of the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard, including the list of indicators for the follow-up and monitoring of the MSSD 2016-2025; UfMS participated in the
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Technical Workshop “How to monitor the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 and the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean?” co-organized by Plan Bleu and SCP/RAC (Barcelona, Spain, 17 October 2016).

- UfM Secretariat has been elected as Vice-President of MCSDD Steering Committee (Intergovernmental Organizations Group) at the 18th Meeting of the MCSDD (Budva, Montenegro, 11-13 June 2019). A specific, interactive session of the meeting focusing on the sustainable tourism component of the Blue Economy in the Mediterranean, gathered MAP Components and Partners, including the UfM Secretariat, which presented regional institutional set-up and political commitment on Blue Economy, as well as ongoing processes and activities supported by EU such as the Initiative for the sustainable development of the Blue Economy in the western Mediterranean (WESTMED blue economy initiative) and the BLUEMED research and innovation initiative for promoting the blue economy in the Mediterranean basin through cooperation.
- The MSSD flagship initiative on the celebration of a business award for environmental innovation will be put in motion by SCP/RAC during the next biennium, with support from SwitchMed II.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Session organized on “The Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD)” at the Annual Conference of the Arab Forum on the Environment and Development (AFED) (Beirut, Lebanon, 14-15 November 2019), as below: Introduction/Moderation (UNEP/MAP), three speakers (RAED, MIO-ECSDE, UfM).
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperate on methodologies, studies, analysis and economic evaluations to increase the share of marine and coastal renewable energy used in the Mediterranean and take this progress into account in updating and implementing the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development; Take full advantage of available carbon finance tools to support renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in the Mediterranean area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorsement of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Energy in December 2016, Rome, Italy; Setting up of three UfM platforms on Renewable Energy, Electricity and Gas. UfMS has steered and published several studies dedicated to International Public Climate Finance (Overview 2016, Overview 2017), International private, and National – Subnational Climate Finance, as well as a report on Accessibility to Climate Finance. They cover all sectors related to Climate Finance, not only REN and EE. 	
Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperate in the implementation of the commitments that the Mediterranean countries undertake under the Barcelona Convention to implement common regional priorities to shift to Sustainable Consumption and Production; Cooperate in the support to Mediterranean countries in 	<p><u>On UfM processes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2014 UfM Ministerial Declaration on ENV and CC identifies SCP as priority for green growth and sustainable development, as well as complementary approach to de-pollution (Athens June 2014) and climate action; the EU funded SwitchMed and UfM labelled Post Rio+20 Med ReSCP are recognised by the declaration itself as key programmes/interventions; SCP is referred to also in the UfM Ministerial Declaration on BE; SCP is also included in the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean, was adopted at COP 19, in February 2016. Mid-term evaluation of the Regional SCP Action Plan is planned for the 2020-2021 biennium (in synergy with MSSD mid-term evaluation). SCP is Cross-cutting theme 2 of the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021,

	<p>mainstreaming SCP in their national development policies.</p>	<p>Western Med Road Map among the top five priorities. The priority areas of activity of the UfM Road Map (approved ministerial segment of the UfM Regional Forum (MoFAs) in January 2017) include: Youth employability and Inclusive Growth, Women Empowerment, Sustainable Development;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2017 Water Ministerial declaration builds, among others, on the concept of water efficiency; the UfM water multiannual and biannual work plans are under implementation by the WEG together with a specific financial strategy; • UfMS participation as observer to the annual SCP/RAC FPs meetings and to the EU funded SwitchMed Programme Steering Committee/s; • UfMS technical assistance in collaboration with SCP/RAC to prepare a study mapping already available financing instruments in support of Green and Circular Economy entrepreneurs in Palestine and Jordan, complementing the work already carried out in other 4 southern med countries; related Publication in collaboration with European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks (FEBEA) and SCP/RAC on <i>Innovative Financing Instruments in Support of Green Entrepreneurs in MENA region</i>; • publication released and disseminated (<i>finalised, available here</i>) and presented at the SwitchMed Connect (13-15 November 2018). • UfMS TA in collaboration with SCP/RAC to support crowdfunding activities for a set of green entrepreneurs/start up operating in the blue economy sectors and involved in the EU funded 	<p>which was adopted at COP 19, in February 2016. SCP is therefore included as such in the UNEP/MAP biennial programmes of work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the SwitchMed programme (Policy, Demonstration and Networking component). The second phase of the programme was adopted in December 2018 and started at the beginning of 2019 (4 years duration). • As noted under the actions related to the MSSD, UfMS participated in the Technical Workshop “How to monitor the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 and the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean?” co-organized by Plan Bleu and SCP/RAC (Barcelona, Spain, 17 October 2016). • Implementation by SCP/RAC of a direct assignment with EBRD, in the framework of the UfM labelled Post Rio+20 Med ReSCP initiative. The activities are related to Improving of the policy framework and engaging with the food & beverage industry in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro for tackling plastics value chains in a circular economy. • Adoption of the phase II of the SwitchMed Programme (Direct support to the private sector, creation of an enabling environment and networking components) in December 2018.
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		<p>Switchmed Program (finalised, and covered in the above study).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint study UfMS, GFCM, UNIDO, UNEPMAP-SCP/RAC, PAP/RAC, Plan Blue, CPRM, and PB/RAC, on “Greening Blue Economy” • UfMS as regular partner of the SwitchMedConnect event/s, gathering Mediterranean actors supporting SCP (held in Barcelona in 2016 and 2018); specific financial support to ensure the participation of West Balkans and Turkey given that they are not covered by the SwitchMed programme stakeholder. • UfM TA to support the development of the Switchers Fund providing access to finance support for Green and Circular Economy entrepreneurs and acquisition of investments for the Switchers Fund. <p><u>On UfM projects related activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UfMS facilitation of funding of the EBRD DRIVE fund through the Austrian financial support to support the implementation of the UfM labelled Post Rio+20 Med ReSCP, promoted by EBRD, SCP/RAC and UNIDO; UfMS and the project are quoted as partners for implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean; under the project Med ReSCP, UfMS facilitation of EBRD assignment to SCP/RAC of a sub project for country study and training activities on green entrepreneurship for national banks in Montenegro; as well as three follow up projects on plastic value chain in BH, Montenegro, Albania; several TA supported work on access to financing for green entrepreneurs in southern med; the project was closed in early 2019. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UfMS Publication in collaboration with European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks (FEBEA) and SCP/RAC on Innovative Financing Instruments in Support of Green Entrepreneurs in MENA region; • Travel assistance for West Balkans and Turkey stakeholder participation at the SwitchMed Connect (13-15 November 2018). • Support for the development of the Switchers Fund providing access to finance support for Green and Circular Economy entrepreneurs and acquisition of investments for the Switchers Fund (e.g. OSCE). • Collaborate to build capacity in business support organisations and financing institutions targeting Green and Circular Economy businesses (that are putting SCP practices in place); • Collaborate to facilitate knowledge exchange and to build synergies between stakeholders and initiatives supporting the private and public sector towards Green and Circular Economy (i.e. outreach and dissemination, regional stakeholder gatherings, matchmaking events. online tools). • At COP 20, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention took note of the list of indicators for the monitoring of the implementation of the Regional Action
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<p>Blue Economy</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorsement of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Blue Economy in November 2015, setting as core principle “that clean and healthy seas are drivers and enablers for national and regional economies”; and reconfirming the existing long-term objectives for sustainable management of the sea and for a cleaner Mediterranean by the year 2020 ‘protecting and sustainably using marine environment by working towards good environmental status of the marine and coastal waters, including by the UfM Horizon 2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean Sea’; also this declaration calls for 'promoting the implementation of the 2013 Memorandum of Understanding between the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Secretariat and the UN (UNEP/MAP); UfM Regional Stakeholder Conference on Blue Economy (Naples, Italy, November 2017); 12 panels and more that 350 participants attending; Endorsement of the Western Med Ministerial Declaration in Naples in 2017; UfM direct involvement and participation to all the Steering Committee meeting of the “Initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution to and participation of UfM in the conference (Marseilles, France, May 2017) organised jointly by Plan Bleu, PAP/RAC and SCP/RAC in the framework of the project “A blue economy for a healthy Mediterranean - Measuring, Monitoring and Promoting an environmentally sustainable economy in the Mediterranean region” founded by the MAVA Foundation. Contribution to and participation in the UfM Regional Stakeholder Conference on Blue Economy (Naples, Italy, November 2017): organizer of the MAP Workshop “A blue economy for a healthy Mediterranean - Measuring, Monitoring and Promoting an environmentally sustainable economy in the Mediterranean region”; and, speaker in the workshop on Marine Litter; MAP participated in the Second Steering Committee meeting of the Initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the western Mediterranean (WestMed Initiative, Brussels, Belgium, 25 April 2018), in which MAP/Barcelona Convention Secretariat is given the Observer Status, and provided inputs to

		<p>in the Western Mediterranean; close collaboration with the WestMed assistance mechanism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UfM support and Technical Assistance on the extension of the Bluemed Initiative to southern and eastern non-EU countries; UfMS participation and support to the set up WG on Bluemed; organisation of the BlueMed week in Barcelona on the 23-25th of November; 2nd BlueMed week from 15 to the 17 November 2019. • Yearly organisation of the UfM Working Group on Blue Economy since 2015; Preparation of the 6th UFM WG on Blue Economy and related regional seminar on Blue Skills/Careers/Jobs, 19-20th November 2019. • Strong collaboration with the InterregMed communities work on blue growth (InnoBlueGrowth), sustainable tourism (BleuTourMed) and marine protected areas sustainable management (PANACeA); • Participation to the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference (Nairobi, Kenya, 26-28 November 2018), within the side event organised by UNEP/MAP, WWF and UfMS entitled “The Regional Dimension of a Sustainable and Inclusive Blue Economy: the Model of the Mediterranean”. • Support to the Sommet de Deux Rives, as well as to the preparatory events; 	<p>the discussions on issues of MAP relevance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAP participated in the Forth Meeting of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Working Group on the Blue Economy (Brussels, Belgium, 26 April 2018) and contribute to the meeting discussions and deliberations; • Involvement in the board of UfM publication “Greening the Blue Economy” (November 2017) • MAP acted as reviewer of the UfM published Report “Blue Economy in the Mediterranean” (November 2017). • MAP-Plan Bleu/RAC as Member/Observer within the Group of Senior Officers (GSO) in the BLUEMED Working Group (BLUEMED initiative) and Member of the Advisory Board of the BLUEMED Project / forthcoming interactions with the MCSD about the EU Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) • Implementing SDG 14 in the Mediterranean: Case studies to foster a Blue Economy on-going. Recommendations for a transition towards a Blue Economy in the Mediterranean to be prepared based on case studies & workshop or webinar to be organized in the fall. Contact with UfM established on the identification and preparation of the case studies.
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(Nairobi, Kenya, 26-28 November 2018), UNEP/MAP (Plan Bleu/RAC and Coordinating Unit) joined hands with UfMS and WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative to organize a side-event entitled "The Regional Dimension of a Sustainable and Inclusive Blue Economy: the Model of the Mediterranean".

- Plan Bleu participation to the Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices (Izmir, Turkey, October 2018. Plan Bleu participation to the Second regional meeting on marine litter best practices (jointly organized with the Marlice 2019 international forum on marine litter and circular economy) – (Seville, Spain, April 2019).
- In the framework of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work for 2018-2019 (and with IMELS additional financial support), Plan Bleu has identified and assessed case studies on the blue economy with the ultimate aim to provide a Mediterranean perspective of the main blue economy issues and challenges and building recommendations for a transition towards a Mediterranean blue economy in line with SDG 14.
- The Plan Bleu Report "Blue Economy in the Mediterranean: Case Studies, Lessons and Perspectives" was presented at a specific side-event of the 18th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable

			Development. Budva (Montenegro) June 2019, and is under finalisation.
Cimate Change		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the Climate Change section of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change, including the establishment of a Climate Change Expert Group (UfM CCEG) and the adoption of specific Work Programs. UNEP/MAP is a permanent observer of the UfM CCEG and therefore participate in all UfM CCEG meetings. UNEP/MAP presented the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas during the 2nd, 3rd and 4th UfM CCEG meetings, respectively in May 2015, October 2015 and May 2016. In March 2017, following the working on Environment and Climate Change assessing the progress made in the implementation of the UfM Ministerial Declaration, a new work program of the UfM CCEG was adopted. 4 activities are prioritised : Sharing of experience on national measures, , cooperation among financial institutions, science-based consensus on climate impacts (scientific assessment of vulnerabilities) and addressing regional concerns in international fora. One of the activity of the 2017-2022 Work program of the UfM CCEG adopted in March 2017 aims to provide a sound and comprehensive scientific basis for the development of nationally determined contribution of at least one macro-ecosystem of the UfM region. In this respect, the UfM Secretariat is supporting the “Mediterranean Experts Network on Environmental and Climate Change (MedECC), in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas, was adopted at COP 19, in February 2016. Climate change adaptation is Cross-cutting theme 3 of the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021, which was also adopted at COP 19, in February 2016. It is therefore included as such in the biennial programmes of work of MAP. The “Enhancing Regional Climate Change Adaptation in the Mediterranean marine and Coastal Areas” GEF funded project has been submitted to the GEF Secretariat at the end of 2017 and it is now being finalized for final approval of the GEF CEO. The project will be executed under the umbrella of the MedProgramme. As such, this project will provide opportunities of cooperation between UNEP/MAP and UfMS in enlarging the scope of the activities and reaching out to DG CLIMA, DG NEAR and DG Environment. Following the signature in 2017 of a MoU between the Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre of MAP and the UfMS, Plan Bleu hosts since 2018 the MedECC (Mediterranean experts on climate and environmental changes network) secretariat. As part of a convention with Plan Bleu/RAC of UNEP/MAP, the Union for the Mediterranean supports the

		<p>close collaboration and coordination with PB/RAC (a MoU has been signed on December 22, 2017) and in close coordination with the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD). See details in UNEP-MAP column.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UfMS participated in the MedCOP Climate 2016 in Tanger, as well as in the COP22 in Marrakech, in COP 23 in Bonn, and. During the COP22, the UfMS obtained the observer status to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In COP 24 in Katowice, a side-event focusing on MedECC activities, if confirmed by third parties on their pavilion (TBC) should associate UNEP-MAP and Plan Bleu. • UfMS support the emergence of projects, upstream (the Cluster Med Climate Transparency Initiative, aiming at strengthening the cooperation among governmental institutions ensuring the follow-up of the implementation of the Paris Agreement in the UfM region, or downstream (CLIMA MED – EU for Climate Action in the Southern Neighbourhood countries). • UfMS has conducted several UfM Climate Finance study, and is preparing the next stage. • UfMS has conducted sectoral studies (on Tourism, on Agriculture) on climate change impacts. • UfMS is conducting a study on Regional Analysis of NDCs of SEMEd countries. • In the framework of the consultations on MAR, UfMs´ organised an important Event on Climate Change and Environment, held on the occasion of the IV UfM Regional Forum (10 October, 	<p>MedECC Secretariat, in particular through funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA); other sources - including MAP’s MTF - also support this activity. MedECC corresponds to the MSSD Flagship Initiative under Objective 4 (Climate Change), which aims at building a relevant Science Policy Interface on Climate Change in the Mediterranean. The network brings together more than 600 scientists from all Mediterranean countries. MedECC will publish in 2019 its first regional assessment report. This report is to be associated with a summary for policymakers to be jointly discussed and endorsed by representatives of Mediterranean countries in the institutional framework of UNEP/MAP and UfM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNEP/MAP and UfM organize a broad consultation on the draft summary for policy-makers of the first assessment report on the current state and risks of climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean (MAR 1) carried out by MedECC, involving the Mediterranean Action Plan Focal Points, the Mediterranean Action Plan Components’ Focal Points, the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, and the UfM Expert Group on Climate Change. • Participation of PAP/RAC in the ADRION project ADRIADAPT to raise the resilience of the Croatian and Italian coastal cities to
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		<p>Barcelona);the preliminary results and key messages emerging from the MedEEC Draft 1st Mediterranean Assessment Report were presented. UNEP MAP and Plan Bleu participated. The event had aa huge impact in the media, and will help in the consultation to be organised for the finalisation of the report and its SPM, before it is presented to the Ministers during the 2nd UfM Ministerial meeting on Environment and Climate Change (October 2020, TBC).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• UfMS has developed a Concept Project with OSCE on Climate and Environment security.	<p>climate change effects by providing selected, user-friendly information in form of best practice examples, guidance documents, legal frameworks as well as specific climate and vulnerability studies for the area, supporting diagnosis and policy solutions for local resilience. Within the framework of the science-based consensus on climate impacts (scientific assessment of vulnerabilities), a Workshop on Climate Change and the Mediterranean, to be held in Marseilles, France, on 25-26 September 2019, jointly organised by Plan Bleu, SPA/RAC, Aix-Marseille University, MedPAN and MedECC. The workshop will discuss future needs in the Mediterranean on climate change issues. UfMS is invited to contribute to a session organized by SPA/RAC on Climate Change Monitoring Indicators.</p>
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TABLE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MOU BETWEEN UNEP/MAP AND GFCM (1 November 2019)

AREA/SUB-AREA OF COOPERATION	ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES
<p>1. Promoting ecosystem-based approaches for the conservation of the marine and coastal environment and ecosystems and the sustainable use of its living and natural resources</p>	
<p>Contribute to the formulation/implementation of a regional framework strategy based on the ecosystem approach and on agreed indicators and reference points (ecological, biological, etc.) to monitor the status of the marine environment and coastal ecosystems and that of marine living natural resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 indicators related to the EO3 were endorsed by GFCM. Further collaboration in process to develop the monitoring and assessment programme for EO4 and EO6. - Following COP 19 Decision on IMAP, work is ongoing to support countries to develop national monitoring programmes in line with IMAP. MAP/GFCM collaboration continues in providing coordinated support to countries as well as using where appropriate regional assessment approaches for EO3. - GFCM participated to the development of the assessment report on the status of the Mediterranean: the 2017 MED QSR for CI7-CI12. - GFCM contributed to the Biodiversity and Fisheries CORMON meeting, and prepared and presented the fisheries related common indicator guidance fact sheets. - Cooperation is ongoing on a sub-regional pilot for the monitoring of the non-indigenous species related to fisheries in the Eastern Mediterranean. Further work will be done for the replication of the activity to the different sub-regions and regions.
<p>Cooperate in undertaking assessments of the state of marine environment and ecosystems and that of marine living resources, including socio economic aspects relating to the impact of the exploitation of fisheries on marine environment and ecosystems, the impact of the establishment of marine protected areas on marine living resources, and the impact of coastal and marine aquaculture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GFCM Working Group on MPAs. - Creation of an intra-governmental network on MPAs related issues. Synergies between MAP-SPA/RAC and the relevant GFCM Working Group to be explored. - Collection of socio-economic data on fisheries ongoing. - Ongoing process of exchange of data, information and collaborative approaches between both organizations. - Terms of reference and Roadmap has been outlined between GFCM and INFO/RAC in order to develop a Joint Strategy aimed at: a) sharing of common data sets relevant for the implementation of IMAP Common Indicators of Ecological Objective 3; b) defining common metadata assuring interoperability between GFCM and INFO/RAC IT platforms; c) developing a common data policy about fishery data sharing into the Mediterranean basin. - Assessment factsheets on the agreed common indicators related to the EO3 submitted and included in the Mediterranean 2017 MED QSR.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A successful NIS/Fisheries Sub-Regional Meeting held in Chania, Greece, on 5 March 2018, with all countries of the sub-region present. This followed up to the previous meeting (Athens, Greece, 20-21 September 2017). - The socioeconomic assessment of key regional measures undertaken by UNEP/MAP with support from ActionMed Project addressed among others the extension of the MPAs network surface. - In the framework of the EU-funded “MedMPA network” project, SPA/RAC has set up on a pilot basis, the Ad hoc Group of Experts on MPAs in the Mediterranean (AGEM). The GFCM Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) is member of AGEM. The Chair of the SAC attended the first meeting of AGEM (Tunis, Tunisia, 22-23 February 2018). GFCM SAC was invited to the second face-to-face meeting of AGEM (Tunis, Tunisia, 15 March 2019), but was unable to attend. During the intersession, the AGEM members worked through exchange of e-mails on the elaboration of the following technical concept notes with the help of SPA/RAC: (i) Guidelines for strengthening the sustainable socio-economic role of Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas (MPAs), (ii) Draft Concept note on how to reach the qualitative aspects of Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean; (iii) Draft Terms of references for the establishment under the Barcelona Convention of a Directory of Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Specially Protected Areas (SPAs); and (iv) Draft Concept note on the role of Marine Protected Areas as reference sites under the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP). The works of the second meeting focused on their review and finalisation with the view of submitting them for consideration by the SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points during their 14th meeting (Portorož, Slovenia, 18-21 June 2019). On the basis of the concept notes, the Focal Points meeting recommended (i) the establishment of a directory of Mediterranean SPAs and the promotion of the role of MPAs as reference sites under the IMAP. The meeting also decided to continue the AGEM as a multidisciplinary group of experts to support SPA/RAC and the Contracting Parties to progress with the 2020 and post-2020 MPA agenda in the Mediterranean. These decisions are being forwarded to COP 21 (Naples, Italy, December 2019) for adoption.
<p>Collaborate in formulation/development and implementation of key regional strategies to integrate the environment in social and economic development especially in relation to fisheries and aquaculture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress on the Joint Cooperation Strategy on Spatial-based Protection and Management Measures for Marine Biodiversity further advanced since October 2018. Following Decision IG.23/3, the Bureau at its 85th Meeting (Athens Greece, 17-18 April 2018) asked the Secretariat to launch a formal written consultation of the SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points on the draft text of the Joint Cooperation Strategy to collect the comments and proposals for amendments and to prepare an advanced draft text accompanied by an explanatory note for submission to the next Bureau meeting. Following this consultation, the

	<p>Secretariat prepared an explanatory note (which also included references to area-based management measures within signed MOUs between MAP and the other partners of the draft Joint Strategy), which was submitted to the 87th Meeting of the Bureau (Athens Greece, 6-7 November 2018). The Bureau at its 87th meeting requested that a revised version of the draft Strategy be prepared to reflect the comments received through the consultations with the Thematic Focal Points for SPA/BD and during the 87th Bureau Meeting. This revised version was prepared and submitted, together with requested explanatory notes, at the 88th Bureau meeting (Rome, Italy 22-23 May 2019). The Bureau at its 88th meeting took note of the revised version prepared by the Secretariat and requested the Secretariat to finalize it following the comments received during the meeting and to transmit it to the MAP Focal Points meeting, so that consultations with the Partners may be finalized for signing the Strategy, if possible at COP 21. The draft Strategy final text proposal was presented and discussed at the 14th Meeting of the SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points (Portorož, and then to the MAP Focal Points (Athens, Greece, 10-13 September 2019). Finally, the Strategy was proposed to the COP 21 for adoption within the Governance decisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action 1.2.5 of the Mediterranean Strategy of Sustainable Development 2016-2025 on “Safeguard the Mediterranean fisheries by ensuring that all fish stocks are being fished sustainably and effectively” provides an important entry point for collaboration. - Development of GFCM recommendations to ensure compatibility with the Barcelona Convention and the SPA/BD Protocol are ongoing. - Adoption of regional complementary strategies to accelerate progress towards the implementation of SDG 14 and Aichi Biodiversity Targets. - UNEP/MAP will actively participate in the 42nd Session of GFCM (Rome, Italy, 22-26 October 2018). - UNEP/MAP (Coordinating Unit and SPA/RAC) contributed to the Fish Forum 2018, organized by GFCM (Rome, Italy, 10-14 December 2018). - SPA/RAC organised the marine key habitats and NIS symposia (6th Mediterranean Symposium on Marine Vegetation, 3rd Mediterranean Symposium on the Conservation of Coralligenous and other Calcareous Bio-Concretions, 2nd Mediterranean Symposium on the Conservation of the Dark Habitats, 1st Mediterranean Symposium on the Non-Indigenous Species) back to back from 14 to 18 January 2019, in Antalya, Turkey. - The SPA/RAC Director sent an invitation letter to the Executive Secretary of GFCM (21.02.2018) to designate a representative and to assess the opportunity to organise a round table to discuss the evaluation of vulnerability of habitats to fishing activities or the meeting of the group on VMEs.
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<p>2. Mitigating the impact of fisheries and aquaculture activities on the marine habitats and species</p>	
<p>Collaborate in the elaboration, including extra-budgetary fundraising, of a joint regional project on the evaluation and mitigation of by-catch of endangered and non-target species and of the impact of fishing gears on marine habitats</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under Action Med Project, socio economic analysis included for pollution prevention/reduction measures related to aquaculture. Aquaculture is one of the sectors in the Med with potential for pollution reduction and control measures. Bilateral discussion between UNEP/MAP and GFCM may be required. - Ongoing Joint BirdLife-GFCM-SPA/RAC-ACCOBAMS-IUCN-MEDASSET Project on monitoring incidental catches of vulnerable species (marine mammals, marine turtles, marine birds, cartilaginous fishes and coral and sponges) and testing of mitigation measures, embracing Alboran Sea, Sicily Channel and Levantine Mediterranean geographical sub areas (GSAs), funded by the MAVA Foundation. - Implementation of the joint ACCOBAMS-GFCM project on mitigating the interaction between endangered species (cetaceans, marine turtles, marine birds and cartilaginous fishes) and fishing activities, in collaboration with SPA/RAC (project funded by the MAVA Foundation). Two pilot studies carried out in Tunisia as well as the second project component, related to the promotion of the pescatourism-dolphin watching in Tunisia have been coordinated by SPA/RAC until December 2018. - The second phase of this joint ACCOBAMS-GFCM is focusing “Towards solutions to interactions between fishing communities and cetaceans in Moroccan and Tunisian waters. - GFCM has adopted a mid-term strategy towards sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries. Target 4 therein addresses interactions between fisheries and environment and ecosystems and collaboration with UNEP is expected to be instrumental in implementation of activities on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) UNEP/MAP led project relating to marine litter in the Mediterranean Sea ii) coordinated actions towards an adaptation strategy for climate change iii) bycatch monitoring programme iv) awareness campaigns on bycatch v) work on invasive species
<p>Consider initiatives to develop the concept of marine spatial planning in a manner that takes into account fisheries and aquaculture activities, activities for the preservation of marine habitats and associated species, and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNEP/MAP is participating in two projects funded by the EC related to aiming at supporting the implementation of MSP: SIMWESTMED led by SHOM and SUPREME led by CORILA. - UNEP/MAP is leading the GEF funded project “Implementation of Ecosystem Approach in the Adriatic Sea through Marine Spatial Planning” on MSP in the Adriatic. The project is being executed in Albania and Montenegro and aims to restore the ecological balance of the

<p>possible conflicts between these activities and other uses of the sea (e.g. shipping, marine renewable energies, etc.)</p>	<p>Adriatic Sea through implementation of the Ecosystem Approach and improve sub-regional management capacity through Marine Spatial Planning. The execution on ground of the activities of the GEF Adriatic Project began on May 2018.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MSP-related activities included in the MAP PoW 2018-2019 are also supported through the Cooperation Agreement between UNEP/MAP and the Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS), taking also into account the importance of sub-regional considerations. - GFCM was invited to designate a representative to follow process of the finalization of the classification of benthic marine habitat types for the Mediterranean region and the Reference List of Marine and Coastal Habitat Types in the Mediterranean (implementation of the CoP decision IG.23/08) and to attend the expert meeting that took place in January 2019 in Rome.
<p>Exchange data and information on deep sea habitats in order to further the knowledge of these habitats, their biodiversity and their living resources for the purpose of better management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GFCM collected additional information on deep sea fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea, included in the FAO publication on deep-sea fisheries (published). - A joint side-event on the work done to protect vulnerable marine habitats was organized on occasion of the third session of the BBNJ as well as the SOI dialogue meeting. - GFCM was involved as supportive Partner in the Joint OCEANA, IUCN and UNEP/MAP-SPA/RAC project on deep-sea conservation in Lebanon. This project «Deep Sea Lebanon» started in 2016. One-month expedition was concluded in deep-sea in previously unstudied areas of Lebanon and more than 200 species, including new records for the Mediterranean Sea, were found.
<p>Collaborate in initiatives that raise awareness and mitigate major impacts such as those related to reduce amount of fishing gear as litter, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNEP/MAP through its MEDPOL programme is coordinating the EU-funded “Marine Litter MED” project to assist the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean. - Fisheries management measures aimed to minimize the production of litter from fishing activities (e.g. ALDFG, gear marking etc.) in line with Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean (Article 9 – Prevention of Marine Litter). Pilot projects are ongoing in several countries and cooperation with GFCM is needed. Fishing for Litter pilot projects are supported in three Adriatic countries (Albania, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina) through the Cooperation Agreement between UNEP/MAP and IMELS, following a harmonized and coherent approach. - GFCM is liaising with the FAO Fishing Department on work against Abandoned fishing gears, including through appropriate marking on fishing gears.
<p>3. Identification, protection and management of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas</p>	

<p>(EBSAs), marine areas of particular importance (hot spots of biodiversity, areas with sensitive habitats, essential fish habitats, areas of importance for fisheries and/or for the conservation of endangered species, coastal wetlands)</p>	
<p>Enhance collaboration with other relevant organizations as appropriate, including those whereby other MoUs have been signed, to create a common regional database of sites of particular importance for biodiversity conservation and for fisheries management, complementary and coherent to the MAP database on pollution and biodiversity monitoring</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Both UNEP/MAP and GFCM have concluded additional MOUs, such as with ACCOBAMS, IUCN, Black Sea Commission, which provide the ground to foster cooperation towards the establishment of a regional database or the compilation of existing databases.
<p>With regard respectively to the Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) and the Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs) in particular those located partially or wholly on the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), the Parties will collaborate to harmonize existing respective criteria to identify those areas, for the cases where their location may be coincident and in the selection of mechanisms needed for their establishment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resolution GFCM/37/2013/1 on area-based management of fisheries, including through the establishment of Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs) in the GFCM convention area and coordination with the UNEP/MAP initiatives on the establishment of SPAMIs. - In the framework of the EU-funded “MedMPA network” project, SPA/RAC has set up on a pilot basis, the Ad hoc Group of Experts on MPAs in the Mediterranean (AGEM). The GFCM Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) is member of AGEM. The Chair of the SAC attended the first meeting of AGEM (Tunis, Tunisia, 22-23 February 2018). GFCM SAC was invited to the second face-to-face meeting of AGEM (Tunis, Tunisia, 15 March 2019), but was unable to attend. During the intersession, the AGEM members worked through exchange of e-mails on the elaboration of the following technical concept notes with the help of SPA/RAC: (i) Guidelines for strengthening the sustainable socio-economic role of Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas (MPAs), (ii) Draft Concept note on how to reach the qualitative aspects of Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean; (iii) Draft Terms of references for the establishment under the Barcelona Convention of a Directory of Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Specially Protected Areas (SPAs); and (iv) Draft Concept note on the role of Marine Protected Areas as reference sites under the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP). The works of the second meeting focused on their review and finalisation with the view of submitting them for consideration by the SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points during their 14th meeting (Portorož, Slovenia, 18-21 June 2019). On the basis of the concept notes, the Focal Points meeting recommended (i) the establishment of a directory of Mediterranean SPAs and the promotion of

	<p>the role of MPAs as reference sites under the IMAP. The meeting also decided to continue the AGEM as a multidisciplinary group of experts to support SPA/RAC and the Contracting Parties to progress with the 2020 and post-2020 MPA agenda in the Mediterranean. These decisions are being forwarded to COP 21 (Naples, Italy, December 2019) for adoption (see also Area of Cooperation 1 above).</p>
<p>The Parties will cooperate to promote respective Parties adoption of eventual Management Schemes developed within SPAMIs and FRAs to ensure that measures are consistent with the objectives pursued and respectful with the Mandates of both organisations. Measures with potential impact on fisheries in SPAMIs will be discussed by the Parties with the spirit of optimizing common goals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COP 19 adopted the Roadmap for a Comprehensive Coherent Network of Well-Managed MPAs to Achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean, which recommends to the Parties to identify and propose area-based conservation/management measures for listing in the regionally recognized area-based management classifications, including SPAMIs and FRAs. The roadmap also encourages regional organizations, such as MAP and GFCM, to facilitate for joint scientific surveys in Mediterranean high sea zones with the view of providing data for the establishment of SPAMIs, FRAs or the implementation of other relevant area-based conservation measures.
<p>Monitor the status of the species listed in Annexes 2 and 3 to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean; pursue to ensure that exploitation of all species included in Annex 3 is regulated, following Article 12, paragraph 4 of the SPA/BD Protocol</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint ACCOBAMS-GFCM project, with SPA/RAC as partner, on mitigating the interactions between endangered species (cetaceans, marine turtles, marine birds and cartilaginous fishes) and fishing activities is ongoing. - Promote existing research proposals developed under the Regional Action Plan on cartilaginous fishes to funding agencies (PoW 2016-2017). SPA/RAC is supporting the elaboration of the National Action Plan for the conservation of cartilaginous fishes in Turkey. - Ongoing Joint BirdLife-GFCM-SPA/RAC-ACCOBAMS-IUCN-MEDASSET Project on monitoring incidental catches of vulnerable species (Marine mammals, marine turtles, marine birds, cartilaginous fishes and coral and sponges) and testing of mitigation measures, funded by MAVA foundation. The project includes recording protocols agreed with the GFCM, which have been already produced.
<p>Cooperate in undertaking assessments of the state of coastal lagoons and other relevant coastal wetlands to be used for the formulation and dissemination of sustainable management measures and sustainable use of its living resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GFCM publication on coastal lagoons and SPA/RAC best practice guidelines for aquaculture and sustainable management in Mediterranean coastal wetlands may support sustainable management measures and sustainable use of wetlands living resources in the Region.
<p>4. Integrated Maritime Policy</p>	
<p>Study the impacts of climate change on the marine environment and ecosystems and their marine living resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNEP/MAP already published the 2017 MED QSR, including the climate change as a cross-cutting issue between the three clusters: biodiversity, pollution and hydrography. - GFCM developed the assessment factsheets for CI7-CI12 to be considered during the

<p>Contribute to the formulation and adoption of appropriate fisheries and aquaculture adaptation and mitigation measures to climate change in relation to the environment, and including enhancing knowledge and communication</p>	<p>elaboration of the 2017 MED QSR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COP 19 adopted the Regional Strategic Framework on Climate Change Adaptation in the Mediterranean (RCCAF). The RCCAF aims to: i) promoting the correct environment for mainstreaming adaptation in national and local planning; ii) promoting and exchange of best practices and low-regret measures; iii) Promoting the leveraging of necessary funding; and iv) exchanging and accessing best available data, knowledge, assessments and tools on adaptation. - UNEP/MAP is leading the preparation of the GEF Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) project “Enhancing regional climate change adaptation in the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas”. The goal of the project is to assist countries to increase the resilience of the Mediterranean marine and coastal areas to the impacts of climate change with the view to influencing wider development processes in the region. The Project was submitted to the GEF Secretariat for the CEO endorsement in October 2018. - Under Target 4, Output 4.2 of mid-term strategy, GFCM is in liaison with the Finance Initiative (FI) climate change group, also participating into an informal reflection group: FI, GFCM, WWF MedPO.
<p>Strengthening scientific advice on issues of common interest, including the negative effects of pollution of the marine environment and ecosystems on marine living resources and ways to better address cumulative impacts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The GFCM SAC has devoted significant attention at its last sessions, including on issues such as alien species. - The GFCM entered into a MOU with OceanCare with a view, among others, to address the issue of ocean noise pollution thus contributing to the EcAp process further. - COP 19 adopted IMAP and candidate indicators related to noise that were developed together with ACCOBAMS. - GFCM and UNEP/MAP organized two sub-regional joint pilot meetings on NIS in relation to fisheries in the Eastern Mediterranean. Further cooperation is foreseen during the implementation of this pilot. - SPA/RAC will assist Israel and Turkey to elaborate their National Action Plan concerning species introductions and invasive species. It is recommended to take into consideration this development in the Eastern Mediterranean sub-regional pilot on non-indigenous species, in relation to fisheries.
<p>Explore new fields of investigation applied to the conservation of marine environment and marine ecosystems and the sustainable use of marine living resources to promote an integrated approach to environmental and fisheries related issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The GFCM and UNEP/MAP have been both attending the BBNJ sessions as well as other international and regional fora. Further work would be needed given the ongoing momentum and the uniqueness of the cooperation existing at the Mediterranean level.

Collaborate in initiatives related to the implementation and monitoring of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) approach and marine spatial planning as well as other zoning approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COP 20 (Tirana, Albania, December 2017) of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols adopted the Decision IG.23/7 including the Annotated Structure of the Common Regional Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management and the Conceptual Framework for Marine Spatial Planning. - Work is ongoing with support also by the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS to develop, through a highly participative process, the full text of the ICZM Common Regional Framework during the current biennium as mandated by COP 20. - Both GFCM and UNEP/MAP are very active in the context of DG MARE meetings on ICZM and have been observers to the MSP EU funded project on the Adriatic-Ionian initiative.
Develop and implement a joint pilot project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The new projects on MSP, EastMed and WestMed, offer opportunities to develop a pilot project. - Furthermore, a joint sub-regional pilot on monitoring fisheries NIS in the Eastern Mediterranean was successfully held to i) list and compile knowledge in terms of monitoring and priorities; and ii) discuss the monitoring plan in order to compile information for both data assessment and the provision of advice on fisheries management.
5. Legal, institutional and policy related cooperation	
Consult regularly on policy issues of common interest to identify synergies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is constant ongoing consultation between the two Secretariats. Furthermore, three bilateral meetings on policy issues, on collaboration and on the implementation of the MoU have taken place during 2017 -2018, 1 October 2018, as follows: 23 March 2017 (Athens, Greece); 21 November 2017 (Rome, Italy); (Athens, Greece). - In the framework of the Marine Litter Management Regional Plan, adopted by COP 18 of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter has been established gathering on voluntary and equal basis more over than 20 organizations. GFCM is member of the Platform. The platform envisages joint activities among several partners on monitoring, awareness and best practice sharing on marine litter reduction and prevention measures.
Promote exchanges of information and data as appropriate, and share the results of this cooperation through a website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is constant ongoing exchange of information and data. - SPA/RAC is upgrading its Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) for its georeferenced data which will be called the Mediterranean biodiversity Platform (MBP) and to connect it to the other SPA/RAC databases being developed (Standard Data entry Form (SDF) and the Directory on SPAs). The MBP is accessible at http://data.rac-spa.org. Further collaboration with SPA/RAC is needed to enhance data sharing, in particular within the Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - INFO/RAC has developed the IMAP Pilot Info System for the collection and sharing of data sets for the implementation of selected IMAP Common Indicators and has included in its PoW the full implementation of all IMAP Common Indicators. In this regard the Terms of Reference and Roadmap between GFCM and INFO/RAC and interoperability with SPA/RAC Spatial Data Infrastructure constitute the backbone of InfoMAP platform for Ecological Objective 3.
<p>Participate (as permanent member in the case of the GFCM) to the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development so to formulate sustainable development frameworks and guidelines for coastal areas management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The GFCM has been participating in the work of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development. - UNEP/MAP has been participating in the meetings of GFCM and its committees, increased presence is being considered (see also Area of Cooperation 1 above).
<p>Exchange views regarding the governance of the Mediterranean, with particular regard to those areas located beyond national jurisdiction and take part, where possible, to ongoing initiatives aimed at improving the said governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is constant exchange of views and participation in joint initiatives.
<p>Organize joint side events, where necessary and including together with other organizations, while being in attendance of meetings held in other international fora that could be relevant to further the promotion of the goals and objectives of this MoU</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNEP/MAP and GFCM participated and made a joint presentation in the Ocean Governance Workshop held in Brussels in November 2015 and co-organized by UNEP and the EC. - UNEP/MAP and GFCM co-organized a joint side-event at the 2nd Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for an international legally binding instrument (August 2016). - UNEP/MAP and GFCM delivered a joint presentation at the Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations (RSOs) and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) on Accelerating Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (26-29 September 2016, Seoul, S. Korea). - UNEP/MAP and GFCM contributed during the CBD COP 14 to a CBD side event (21 November 2018, Sharm el Sheik, Egypt) advocated to the Sustainable Ocean Initiative SOI on RS and RFMOs, where SPA/RAC presented their Cross-sectoral cooperation at the regional scale for the achievement of the Aichi Targets 6 & 11 and SDG 14.
<p>Promote cooperation and exchange of information at the level of their compliance committees, as set up under UNEP/MAP and the GFCM framework, to address issues of common concern (discharges into sea, illegal, unreported and unregulated [IUU] fishing, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The representative of the Compliance Committee of GFCM participated in the 14th Meeting of the Compliance Committee of the Barcelona Convention (Athens, Greece, 27-29 June 2018). Following this, the Barcelona Convention Secretariat is working in consultation with GFCM to elaborate a draft set of criteria to assess compliance under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. - The Legal Officer of the Barcelona Convention also participated in the 12th Session of the

	<p>GFCM Compliance Committee (Madrid, Spain, 5-6 July 2018) delivering a presentation on the functioning of the Barcelona Convention Compliance Committee and addressing with the GFCM Secretariat preliminary arrangements to work collaboratively, as agreed by the Compliance Committee of the Barcelona Convention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Follow-up is under way including further exchange of information and experiences between the two Compliance Committees.
<p>Be involved, as appropriate, in those projects implemented by the other Party</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GFCM participated on a non-cost basis in the implementation of the EcAp-MEDII project and leads jointly, as part of the project, a sub-regional pilot on implementing the NIS common indicator monitoring, with a focus on fisheries in the Eastern Mediterranean. - There is constant involvement in other respective projects (see also under other Areas of Cooperation). - GFCM and UNEP-MAP are currently working together to submit a project proposal to the GEF Secretariat under the 7th Programming Directions of GEF. Most recently, they both attend the 21st LME meeting in Colombia and discussions are quite advanced towards the submission of the project proposal. - As part of the EcAp MED II project, UNEP/MAP, through their Regional Activity Centre (INFO/RAC), and GFCM are in the process of finalizing a roadmap which will enable the sharing of Ecological Objective No 3 data, i.e., Fishery Data. This Roadmap is developed according to the Terms of References of the cooperation between the GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations) and the Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication (INFO/RAC) of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) in the Framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between UN Environment MAP and GFCM-FAO. Through its implementation, there will be a mechanism for the sharing of fisheries data into the IMAP Info System. It is expected that by 2021, GFCM will be providing access to the data collated by them for recording directly in the IMAP Info System, which will then be used for the development of the 2023 MED QSR. This activity will be carried out with reference to the IMAP Data Management Policy initiated under the EcAp MED II project. This process will also ensure that EO2 (CI6) Non-Indigenous Species data will also be fully incorporated into the process of reporting for the entire region.
<p>Be invited to regional/sub-regional meetings and subsidiary bodies meetings of interest as organized respectively by each Party, such as SPA/RAC meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are regular invitations sent, while participation in respective meetings has taken place as described under the respective Areas of Cooperation above.

<p>and meetings related to the implementation of the ecosystem approach</p>	
<p>Coordinate positions within international fora which involve both Parties</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A joint presentation was delivered at the CBD SOI on the ongoing implementation of the MoU between GFCM and UNEP/MAP (Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations (RSOs) and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) on Accelerating Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (26-29 September 2016, Seoul, S. Korea - see also above). The MoU was recognized as a best practice between for cooperation between an RSO and an RFB. - A presentation was delivered by GFCM in the UNEP/EC Workshop on Area-based management and Regional Cooperation for the Implementation of Ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals (9-10 February 2017, Brussels, Belgium). The subject of the presentation was the experience of cross-sectoral cooperation between fisheries and environment, following the submission of the case study “Mediterranean cooperation on protection of marine ecosystems between GFCM, MAP and others (IUCN, WWF, MedPAN, ACCOBAMS) (GFCM)”. UNEP/MAP was also present in the Workshop and both organizations highlighted the key points and benefits of their collaboration. - UNEP/MAP is actively following preparatory work for the CBD COP 14 (Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 17-29 November 2018), including involvement in Working Groups preparation and review of documents (EBSAs follow up, MPAs and OECMs, etc). CBD COP 14 will consider ways to mainstream biodiversity into other sectors and will lay out plans for the post-2020 biodiversity agenda. As such, the GFCM-UNEP/MAP cooperation experience could be presented at the CBD COP 14. - UNEP/MAP and GFCM are planning to participate in the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Regional Workshop for the Mediterranean, organized by the CBD Secretariat (Tangiers, Morocco, 15-19 October 2018). - The CBD Secretariat, GFCM and UNEP/MAP are following and contributing to the process for the development of the international legally binding instrument on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), which is expected to improve coherence to better support conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ, by establishing standards for environmental impact assessments, MPAs and marine technology transfer, while preserving the rights and obligation guaranteed by the UNCLOS. - A joint side-event was organized on 31 August 2016 in New York, entitled “Regional Ocean Governance in Practice: The Mediterranean experience”, at the 2nd session of the Preparatory Committee on the Development of an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national

	<p>jurisdiction (BBNJ).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Discussions are ongoing on coordinating positions further, including on new side events, in relation to global fora gathering in 2018-2019.
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