





**STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS NEEDED TO BRING THE MAP SYSTEM IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNANCE PAPER ADOPTED BY THE 15<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES.**

The last chapter of the Governance paper, adopted by the decision IG 17/5 of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties, held in Almeria (Spain), January 2008, provides for the Secretariat to undertake a number of priority actions with a view to bringing the MAP governance system in line with its requirements. In addition, the MAP Focal Points' meeting held in July 2009 in Athens (Greece), requested the Secretariat to prepare and submit a separate report on measures taken to implement the Governance paper. In this respect, the present report describes in a concise manner, all measures taken so far by the Secretariat and the progress achieved in this regard during the 2008-2009 biennium.

1. *Re-instatement of the post of Deputy MAP coordinator with horizontal responsibilities with more distinctive operational and networking responsibilities*

The Terms of reference for the Deputy Coordinator post were updated accordingly, highlighting in particular horizontal responsibilities related to the implementation of the governance paper and the work of the Executive Coordination Panel. The vacancy was filled 01 June 2009.

2. *Establishment of the ECP*

The establishment of the ECP was one of the first actions taken in early biennium 2008-2009. The Secretariat drafted the ECP ToRs on the basis of the requirements of the Governance paper and the respective decisions of the meetings of the Contracting Parties and submitted them to the Bureau meeting in April 2008 for endorsement. Since then, the ECP was fully operational and held 7 meetings, some of which were held back to back with other MAP meetings and kept open communication through electronic means on a number of issues. The reports of the ECP meetings were shared with the Bureau and the MAP Focal Points as requested in the Governance paper. While discussing the ECP ToRs, the MAP focal points made clear at their meeting in July 2009 that the ECP is an advisory body.

The establishment of the ECP has led to the strengthening of team-work of all MAP components with the Coordinating unit, enhancing the exchange of information and strategic planning, monitoring, and reporting on the programme of work implementation. It also followed up on horizontal issues. Finally, it delivered the 5-year and 2 year programmes of work using an integrated and strategic planning approach for the consideration of the additional session of the MAP Focal Points meeting at the end of September 2009.

3. *Establishment of a system to ensure integration based on programming section of the Governance Paper*

The ECP under the guidance of the MAP Officer in Charge/Deputy Coordinator prepared the draft 5-year and 2-year programmes of work. Both documents are based on the requirements of the programming section of the Governance paper such as being based on a SWOT analysis, and aim to enhance the internal MAP governance system and to increase MAP's visibility, and the suggestions of the MAP Focal Point meeting, held in July 2009. In addition, the ECP took also into account the updated environmental and sustainable development international agenda, the existing and new regional contexts related to governance in the Mediterranean as well as the entry into force of most of MAP legal instruments for the majority of the Contracting Parties. The ECP also aligned MAP biannual programme of work with the 5 year programme of work, thus preparing a fully integrated one

under three main themes: climate change, management of ecosystems and governance. Under the theme of governance, one of the priority actions identified is to further strengthen the planning system with a view to ensuring better integration among MAP components work in both the 5 and 2 year programme of work of MAP.

4. *Establishment of an effective and regular auditing system of all MAP components that will look at activities funded by MTF and any external resources*

In accordance with the requirements of the Governance paper, the work of the Coordinating Unit, MED POL and the RACs for the period 2006-2008 was subject to financial performance audit. The audit report, its recommendations as well as the action plan prepared by the Secretariat to implement them were fully shared with the Bureau and the MAP Focal Points. Implementation of the action plan with measures identified by the Secretariat and UNEP to bring the MAP system fully in line with the Audit recommendations is a priority task for the Secretariat. Regular reporting to the Bureau and Contracting Parties on the status of their implementation is also envisaged. As per UN practice, the next audit should be carried out in 2013, unless otherwise requested.

5. *Establishment of a specific section in the MAP web site dedicated to MAP Governance reform*

The work for the implementation of this requirement is ongoing. By the end of the year a full section dedicated to governance reform in MAP will be published in the MAP website, including a new section related to compliance procedures and mechanisms and Compliance committee.

6. *MAP components' mandates*

A draft mandate template was prepared by the Coordinating Unit and was used by all components to develop their own mandates. Draft mandates were consulted with the ECP and the Bureau and discussed and agreed upon at MAP components' Focal Points meetings. The MAP Focal Points meeting held in July 2009, in Athens (Greece), made a number of suggestions to improving the text, making the mandates more coherent and focused. With a view to reflecting all suggestions, the Secretariat has worked during summer and prepared a shorter and concise version of the draft Components' mandates, thus applying an integrated and corporate approach, for the consideration of the additional session of the MAP Focal Points meeting to be held from 30 September –to 1 October 2009 in Cairo, Egypt.

7. *Preparation of Country agreement template*

A proposed template of country agreements for the RACs, drafted by the Coordinating Unit, in consultation with the ECP was reviewed by the Bureau of the Contracting Parties in June 2009. The draft template is under discussion with UNEP and UN legal services and once confirmed by UNEP, will be officially sent to the concerned countries for negotiation. The current draft contains a number of elements that would harmonize the status of the RACs and enhance their operational effectiveness as well as their relationship with the whole MAP system, including the Coordinating Unit. The proposed approach to the country agreements:

- a) Regulates the functioning of the RACs as bodies of a national character with regional vocation. Rights and duties have been standardized and revised accordingly;
- b) Clarifies the relationships of the Centres with all other MAP system bodies and organs with a view to strengthening the overall coherence and effectiveness of MAP as requested by the Governance paper and repeatedly stated by Contracting Parties in all most recent meetings;
- c) Provides the Centres with functional autonomy with regard to their performance in the context of MAP.

8. *Review and updating of the MAP information and communication strategy*

As a first step to complete this task, the Secretariat has engaged into a forward-looking assessment of the current situation, future needs and challenges in the field of information and communication. The terms of reference for the evaluation process are finalized and assessment process will start early November 2009. Its main expected outcome will be a detailed report including strategic framework options to support the development of MAP information communication strategy during 2010-2011. The report is also expected to propose a series of “quick-win” actions to be undertaken in the short-term with the existing resources to communicate more effectively MAP issues including the GEF project, pending the finalization of the reviewed MAP communication strategy.