

Introduction

Following the approval of the Governance Paper by the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (January, 2008 - Almeria, Spain) which provides for the setting up of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), the first meeting of the ECP was held on 26-27 February 2008 on the premises of the Coordinating Unit for MAP in Athens, Greece. The meeting was chaired by the MAP Coordinator and attended by all Regional Activity Centre (RAC) directors, the MED POL Coordinator and the Coordinator of the 100 Historic Sites programme. A full list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

Opening of the Meeting

Opening the meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel, the MAP Coordinator outlined his views about the role and objectives of the ECP in fulfilling its mandate and meeting the expectations of the Contracting Parties, taking into account the Governance Paper. He also briefed the meeting on the main outcomes of the UNEP Governing Council meeting held in Monaco the previous week before drawing attention in particular to the approval by the Governing Council of UNEP's medium-term strategic directions as a basis for the UNEP programme of work.

Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting adopted the provisional agenda and its timetable as presented in Annex II to this report.

Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the ECP

Following a discussion and an exchange of views on the mandate of the ECP, the meeting approved the ECP's ToRs as set out in Annex III to this report and agreed to submit them to the Bureau of the Contracting Parties for endorsement.

Cross-cutting thematic priorities for consideration in the five-year Indicative programme and biennial programme of work

Following a discussion on the importance of identifying cross-cutting thematic priorities for consideration in the five-year indicative programme and biennial programme of work, the ECP meeting concluded that:

- the best way to prepare documents of this kind is to adopt a bottom-up approach;
- a clear distinction should be made between cross-cutting or transversal issues and thematic priorities of MAP;
- the proposed cross-cutting issues should be related to the field of competence of MAP and its mandate and be of a strategic nature;

- the Convention and its Protocols, the MSSD, the regional sectoral policies adopted by the Contracting Parties and, in particular, the decisions adopted in Almeria should be the basis for the definition of thematic priorities for each MAP component. All MAP components should identify such thematic priorities for discussion at the second ECP meeting.

The ECP meeting decided that the following topics would be considered for possible inclusion in the list of cross-cutting priority issues for MAP”:

- Climate change (BP/RAC)
- Mediterranean information system on environment and sustainable development (INFO/RAC and BP/RAC)
- Sustainable consumption and production (CP/RAC)
- Sustainable management of natural resources (SPA/RAC)
- Sustainable tourism (BP/RAC)
- Waste management (REMPEC)
- Energy (BP/RAC)
- Water (BP/RAC)
- Mitigation of coastal risks (PAP/RAC)

With respect to the first two cross-cutting issues (climate change and Mediterranean information system on environment and sustainable development), BP/RAC and INFO/RAC will prepare outline project proposals for circulation among ECP members and consideration by the second meeting of the ECP.

For all the other proposed cross-cutting issues, the respective RACs should prepare and circulate to the ECP background notes for discussion at the second meeting of the ECP.

Implementation of the decisions of the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties

The meeting was briefed by all ECP members on the steps being taken to implement actions referred to in the Almeria Declaration. Attention was drawn to possible difficulties related to the preparation of cooperative studies to estimate the economic value of the products from and the services rendered by marine and coastal ecosystems. PAP/RAC, BP/RAC and SPA/RAC will carry out this assignment.

The Coordinating Unit will propose a draft paper listing the necessary steps and actions for the compilation of effectiveness indicators and submit it for discussion at the next meeting of the ECP.

It was agreed to discuss at the next meeting of the ECP activities related to the application of the ecosystem approach in the Mediterranean. The Consultant who prepared the road map approved in Almeria will be invited to participate.

The ECP meeting agreed to launch the process for the preparation of a report on the state of the Mediterranean environment and development, with the involvement of all MAP components. BP/RAC will coordinate this task, considering inter alia the promising negotiations it is engaged in to secure funding. In this regard, BP/RAC will prepare a synopsis for consideration and approval at the second meeting of the ECP.

Financial management audit

Pursuant to the Governance Paper, which calls for a financial management review and audit of MAP, the relevant terms of reference were approved by the ECP, as set out in Annex IV to this report. The ECP meeting decided to add to the objectives an assessment of the costs and advantages and/or disadvantages of according international status to the RACs. The Secretariat will submit the attached ToRs to the Bureau for consideration.

Criteria for the selection of new MCSD members

The criteria for the selection of new MCSD members from the academic sector, intergovernmental organizations and eminent experts prepared by the Secretariat were agreed upon as they appear in Annex V to this report.

15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties – lessons learned

Following a discussion on the lessons learned from the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (January 2008, Almeria, Spain), it was agreed that there was room for improvement in order to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the meeting and to secure the participation of a greater number of ministers. In particular, it is the view of the ECP that:

- the ministerial segment should be complemented by the organization of round tables to encourage and allow for more discussion among ministers;
- it is possible and desirable to shorten the duration of the meeting by one day;
- those decisions which have already been agreed upon by the Meeting of MAP Focal Points should be adopted en bloc;
- the organization of an exhibition for the first time was a positive experience that should be further enriched with new elements in the future;
- necessary efforts should be made in order to ensure broader coverage and participation by the Mediterranean media.

At the conclusion of the discussion the meeting agreed that the Coordinating Unit should prepare a short paper summarizing the above suggestions and submit proposals for consideration by the forthcoming Bureau meeting.

Other matters

The meeting addressed the following other matters:

1. The inputs for the progress report on activities carried out by MAP should be prepared in a different form from that used in the past, and should take into account the activity fiches of the programme of work adopted in Almeria, with suggestions of a policy nature for consideration by the Bureau where appropriate.
2. The need for smooth implementation of CAMP Morocco and CAMP Spain was emphasized. In this regard the full participation of all concerned partners is essential.
3. In the implementation of the SMAP project, PAP/RAC and BP/RAC should work jointly in order to ensure its successful completion by the end of 2008. As soon as possible, the

need for a possible extension of the project by a maximum of three months should be established and an appropriate request forwarded to the European Union (EU).

4. At the end of May a high-level regional ICZM policy workshop will be held in Sardinia with the participation of "Ambassadors of the Coast".
5. The Coordinating Unit and INFO/RAC will seek information from the Contracting Parties on the nomination of INFO/RAC Focal Points.
6. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) project is expected to be launched soon, following endorsement by the GEF CEO.
7. The second meeting of the ECP will be held in Malta on 29-30 May 2008 and will be hosted by REMPEC.

**ANNEX I
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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ANNEX II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting - Introduction by the MAP Coordinator
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Terms of reference of the Executive Coordination Panel
4. Proposed five-year programme of work
5. Implementation of the Almeria decisions
6. Financial management audit
7. Criteria for the selection of the new MCSD members
8. 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Almeria – lessons learned
9. Other matters
10. Adoption of the report
11. Closure of the meeting

ANNEX III

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE EXECUTIVE COORDINATION PANEL

Background

The 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Almeria, Spain 15-18 January 2008) approved the Governance Paper which provides inter alia for the setting up of an Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) to enhance accountability, collaboration and coordination across the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) system.

Mandate

Taking into account the goals and principles outlined in the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Sustainable Development of the Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean adopted in 1995, and in the Governance Paper approved by the Contracting Parties at their 15th Meeting in Almeria, Spain, and considering also the terms of reference of the Regional Activity Centres as outlined in the respective Protocols or Host Country Agreements, the Executive Coordination Panel is mandated to:

1. Identify and propose to the Contracting Parties a five-year working programme highlighting the priorities and goals based on the Convention, its Protocols, the MSSD, regional thematic policies and the decisions of the meetings of the Contracting Parties;
2. Prepare and propose to the Contracting Parties a two-year programme of work for MAP. This programme of work shall reflect thematic priorities of MAP and identify cross-cutting issues, bearing in mind the need to ensure synergy and complementarity among MAP components. The programme of work shall also reflect the activities carried out by the various MAP components, together with the proposed budget allocations;
3. Review the status of implementation of the programme of work and budget and decisions of the meetings of the Contracting Parties and propose necessary measures and actions for their successful and timely implementation;
4. Ensure the effective functioning of the MAP information system;
5. Act as a forum for exchanges of views on policy issues of MAP relevance and on methods and means to tackle operational issues;
6. Propose to the Bureau and to the meetings of the Contracting Parties a coherent platform for joint action and cooperation with other concerned actors and initiatives at the regional and international level.

Membership

The members of the ECP shall be the Coordinator, the Deputy Coordinator, the MED POL Coordinator and the Directors of REMPEC, BP/RAC, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, CP/RAC, INFO/RAC and the 100 Historic Sites programme. In the event that they are unable to attend the meetings,

their deputies shall represent the members of the ECP. Other officials from the Coordinating Unit and the RACs may be invited to attend the ECP meetings.

The meetings of the ECP shall be chaired by the Coordinator and, in his absence, by the Deputy Coordinator. The Coordinating Unit shall provide the secretariat for the meetings of the ECP.

Modus operandi

The members of the ECP shall meet in principle four times a year, on dates to be agreed upon in advance. Each meeting shall last for one or two days depending on the agenda and shall be conducted in a results-driven, flexible and cost-effective manner. In the interim periods, the ECP members shall maintain constant communication among themselves, using modern telecommunication technologies.

The ECP shall meet on the premises of the Coordinating Unit in Athens and of the different Centres on a rotation basis or back to back with other MAP meetings. The secretariat of the Centre hosting the meeting of the ECP shall provide the conference facilities, including interpretation into English and French and other secretarial support. Travel and accommodation costs shall be borne by the ECP members themselves.

The ECP may establish *ad hoc* working groups on specific issues with precise terms of reference. If need be, external experts may be involved.

Reporting

The ECP shall draw up a report of its deliberations and decisions, to be written in telegraphic style, point by point. It shall be approved at the end of each meeting. The report shall then be submitted to the Bureau for information. The reports of the meetings of the ECP shall be published on the MAP website and circulated among MAP Focal Points.

ANNEX IV

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF MAP AND ITS COMPONENTS

Background

The biennial programme of work and budget of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), including the administrative and operating costs of the Coordinating Unit and MED POL, the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) and the Regional Activity Centres (RACs), with the exception of CP/RAC and INFO/RAC, is financed mainly from the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF).

Ordinary contributions by the Contracting Parties to the MTF constitute the main sources of funding and are the most important factor in the process of ensuring adequate, stable and predictable financial resources for the implementation of the biennial programme of work. Ordinary contributions to the MTF have been stable for the last 30 years and today constitute 75.5% of the total financial resources of MAP. The balance is made up of voluntary contributions from the European Commission (EC), the Government of Greece, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and bank interest.

Additional external funding in the form of earmarked contributions made by governments, the EC, UNEP, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other cooperating agencies or supporting organizations is received by both the Coordinating Unit and the RACs to support specific activities, services and facilities, as set out in individual project documents. These additional resources enable MAP and its components to carry out additional activities which otherwise would not have been possible.

MAP and its components also receive contributions in kind from various sources, consisting principally of the support received by the RACs from the governments hosting them. This support is essential for the operation of the RACs. The hosting of MAP meetings at no cost to the Secretariat also constitutes considerable additional in-kind support. In the absence of in-kind contributions, the required funding would constitute an additional burden on MAP finances.

At their 13th Ordinary Meeting in Catania, in 2003, the Contracting Parties agreed not to increase the rate of their ordinary contributions for the two bienniums 2004-2005 and 2006-2007 following their decision to adopt the euro as the operating currency for MAP instead of the dollar. At the time, a favourable euro-dollar exchange rate resulted in an increase in the amount of financial contributions to the MTF.

No increase was requested for the biennium 2008-2009 either, and the Coordinating Unit and the MAP components had to prepare their budgets for the next biennium on a zero increase basis. The result has been the shifting of funds from activities to personnel emoluments, primarily in order to effect salary increases to compensate for the rise in the cost of living.

In real terms, the contributions of the Contracting Parties to the MTF are falling while the demands placed on its funds are increasing. As the programme of work becomes more ambitious the core costs of implementing its activities are increasing accordingly, in particular the expenditure on staffing, meetings, operational facilities, support for MAP activities in the developing countries, expert assistance and consultancies.

The functions carried out by the Coordinating Unit and MAP components are mainly coordination, technical assistance and capacity-building. It is not the role of MAP to fund major physical projects but to catalyse support in order to enhance the capacities of the Contracting Parties to help them improve their institutional capabilities and the management of their marine environment and their coastal zones, and to safeguard biodiversity.

Furthermore, the Secretariat does not generate any revenue from its activities. As explained earlier, the only sources of funding are the ordinary contributions to the MTF and other voluntary and earmarked contributions. It is therefore important to secure stable and sustainable funding for MAP activities.

In order to meet the ever-increasing cost of implementing the programme of work and activities, the Secretariat intends to submit a request to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2009 for an increase in the ordinary contributions for the biennium 2010-2011, provided this is justified. To this end the intention is to carry out an assessment of the budgetary performance of MAP and its components to determine what adjustments should be introduced in terms of both how funding is derived and how the funds are being utilized before a final decision is taken on whether to request an increase in contributions from the Contracting Parties.

Mandate and Description of the Assignment

In their decision on the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2008-2009 the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention requested the Secretariat to have a financial management audit of MAP and its components carried out during 2008 by UNEP specialized bodies with a view to proposing efficient and cost-effective use of available human and financial resources and strengthening the effectiveness of the overall programme.

Overall Objective

The overall objective of this exercise is to propose efficient and cost-effective use of the human and financial resources and strengthen the effectiveness of the overall programme as well as to determine whether it would be justified for the Secretariat to request an increase in the ordinary contributions to the MTF.

Specific Objectives:

The specific objectives of the financial management audit are to determine and/or propose:

- whether the allocation of funds to the different MAP components is commensurate with their programme of work;
- whether the level of contributions made from the MTF to other United Nations organizations to carry out activities on behalf of MAP is justified;

- whether the financial contributions from national authorities and United Nations organizations in support of the Regional Activity Centres are realistic in relation to their commitments and possibilities;
- how the synergy between MAP components could be strengthened through the allocation of financial resources;
- whether there is a need for the reallocation of existing financial resources to finance priority activities within the overall MAP programme of work;
- the problems and obstacles that may be hindering the effective implementation of programmes and activities;
- whether the available resources are employed economically and efficiently;
- how MAP and its components could mobilize additional non-conventional funding;
- whether a request for an increase in the ordinary contributions to the MTF would be justified taking into account also important new activities being undertaken by MAP on the basis of decisions taken by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties;
- advantages and disadvantages of according international status to the RACs as requested in the Governance Paper.

Output and Responsibility

During this exercise interviews will be held with the Coordinator, MED POL Coordinator, Programme Officers, the Fund/Administrative Officer and the Directors of the Regional Activity Centres. Visits to the Coordinating Unit in Athens and to the different RACs may also be necessary. In all instances, full cooperation will be extended to the concerned UNEP officials to facilitate their assignment. A timetable of such meetings and visits will be prepared in advance and agreed to by all MAP officials involved in the financial management audit.

Consultations with United Nations agencies that have a close working relationship with MAP and its components and with some of the MAP partners, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are also recommended. Such consultations will help to identify the priorities on which MAP should focus its attention and to which it should allocate its financial resources.

The expected output of this assignment is an assessment of the budget management performance of the Coordinating Unit, including MED POL and the RACs, and of the efficient and cost-effective use being made of the resources in the MTF. The report will also determine whether the current level of activities can be sustained with the present level of funding or whether additional financial resources are needed.

This assignment will be carried out under the overall direction and supervision of the Executive Coordination Panel of MAP.

Duration and timetable

The assignment should commence in early 2008 and should be completed by the end of 2008. A draft of the final report will be submitted for the consideration and review of the Executive Coordination Panel of MAP at least three months before it is finalized. The final report, including comments by the Executive Coordination Panel, will be submitted to the Bureau for consideration during its first meeting in early 2009 before it is circulated to the Contracting Parties so that they may take into consideration the recommendations made which may have implications for the preparation of their national budgets for the financial years 2010-2011.

ANNEX V**DRAFT****SELECTION CRITERIA AND METHOD OF NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES
REPRESENTING NEW CATEGORIES OF MCSD MEMBERS****Background**

This document is guided by the decisions made by the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Almeria, Spain, 15-18 January 2008), particularly those contained in the Governance Paper that concern the MCSD composition (Decision IG 17/4).

The MCSD is a forum for debate and exchange of experience on sustainable development issues that concern all interested parties in the Mediterranean region. It would therefore be appropriate to involve the greatest possible variety of national actors in the work of the Commission, so as to ensure the widest possible dissemination of the concepts promoted by the MCSD.

In addition to representatives of the Contracting Parties, local authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and socio-economic stakeholders, three new categories have been agreed upon, representing:

- the scientific community;
- intergovernmental organizations working in the field of sustainable development;
- eminent experts specializing in the topics on the MCSD meeting agenda.

In order to implement the decision, the Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat to propose to the Bureau of the Contracting Parties for approval, following prior consultation with the MAP Focal Points and MCSD members, the criteria and procedures for the selection of the MCSD members from the academic and scientific community, the intergovernmental organizations and eminent experts as provided for in the Governance Paper.

As indicated in the Almeria report, in determining the proposed criteria and procedures for the selection of representatives of the new categories, efforts should be made to ensure participation of representatives from both the environmental and the development sectors related to the topics on the agenda of each meeting of the MCSD, and also to ensure appropriate geographical representation, and media participation, as requested by the Contracting Parties.

1. Criteria

General criteria

- *Have a broad vision and a Mediterranean focus;*
- *Represent or be an active member of a national or Mediterranean network or knowledge community;*
- *Have relevant expertise in issues of importance to the MCSD, including priority areas and cross-cutting issues;*
- *Be active in the field of sustainable development;*
- *Be willing to share and exchange with other members their expertise and experience, on the occasion of MCSD meetings and during intersessional periods (e.g. through contribution to specific working groups);*
- *Be willing to engage in MSSD implementation in their domain of influence;*
- *Have an explicit interest and effective involvement in Mediterranean activities.*

Specific criteria for the scientific community

- *Be the author of a significant list of publications in domains that are relevant to the MCSD work programme and MSSD priority areas of action: energy and climate change; information and communication; integrated coastal management; management of water demand, marine pollution; sustainable development indicators; sustainable tourism; sustainable agriculture; urban development;*
- *Be familiar with the MAP programme of work and activities;*
- *Be familiar with the Barcelona system;*
- *Have contributed or contribute consistently to increased understanding of environmental, social or economic issues at stake in the region through collaborative action-oriented research or teaching.*

Specific criteria for intergovernmental organizations working in the field of sustainable development

- *Be engaged in significant regional or country-level programmes of relevance to the MCSD work programme and MSSD priority areas of action;*
- *Be involved in regional or subregional cooperation frameworks, facilities, policies or financial mechanisms.*

Specific criteria for eminent experts

- *be distinguished Mediterranean personalities recognized in the environmental, social or economic domains;*
- *have recognized policy influence at the regional or country level;*
- *entertain connections with decision makers and policy leaders.*

2. Methods of nomination

In the selection process for the categories "scientific community" and "eminent expert", the principle of balanced geographical representation between the North, South, East and West will be carefully respected.

Scientific community

The representatives of the scientific community will be selected on the basis of proposals made by the MAP components and partners that transmit the candidatures to the Secretariat of MAP. Spontaneous candidatures may also be solicited and considered by the Secretariat.

Intergovernmental organizations

The representatives of the intergovernmental organizations will be selected through proposals made by the Secretariat of MAP that will solicit candidatures directly.

Eminent experts

Cooptation will be encouraged among the Contracting Parties. Expressions of interest will be solicited directly by the MAP Secretariat.

I. Introduction

Following the decision taken by the First meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel, its second meeting was held on 29-30 May at REMPEC's premises in Malta. The meeting was chaired by the MAP Coordinator and attended by all Regional Activity Centre (RAC) directors or their representatives as well as MED POL Coordinator. A full list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

II. Agenda items 1 and 2

The MAP coordinator opened the meeting.

The meeting reviewed and adopted the provisional agenda together with the proposed timetable. The agenda of the meeting is attached as Annex II to this report.

Following the discussion of all agenda items, the meeting concluded on some key considerations for each topic and decided on necessary actions and timetables for their implementation.

III. Agenda items 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,10 and 11

Key considerations, Actions and Timetables

<p>Agenda Item 3: Matters arising from the first ECP meeting</p> <p><u>Cross thematic issues/5-year strategic programme of work</u></p> <p>1) Following a broad discussion on the proposals made by different RACs, the meeting agreed to include in the 5-year strategic plan two main cross cutting thematic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change • Management of natural resources. <p>2) An approach should be developed by the Coordinating Unit, in close cooperation with Blue Plan and SPA/RAC in view of</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>a) Each MAP component should propose its own activities or make amendments to the tables on Climate Change by the end of July 2008. Budget allocation and timetable should also be added to the tables;</p> <p>b) A complete proposal on Climate Change should be finalised by Blue Plan by 15 September 2008 for submission to the third ECP meeting.</p> <p>c) The proposal on management of natural resources should be elaborated by the Coordinating Unit together with Blue Plan and SPA/RAC and circulated to all ECP members by the end of July. A full proposal based on RAC inputs should be ready for submission to the third ECP meeting.</p> <p>a) End of June for circulation among ECP members by the Coordinating Unit;</p>
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<p>elaborating, if appropriate, other horizontal /cross cutting thematic priorities for discussion at the third ECP meeting bearing in mind the need, where appropriate, for accommodating the presentation of the programme of work by all components under a limited number of themes</p>	<p>b) Mid-September 2008 for submission to the third ECP meeting after being completed or amended accordingly by the Coordinating Unit and the RACs.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 3 (continuation): Matters arising from the first ECP meeting</p> <p><u>Mediterranean Information System on Sustainable Development (MISSD)</u></p> <p>Key considerations</p> <p>3) Development of an Information system for the Mediterranean is a priority in order to facilitate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - regular submission of data by the Contracting Parties through the Info/MAP system; - use of data from other sources on the basis of information sharing principle; - preparation of necessary assessments on the state of the Mediterranean environment; - monitoring of the progress of the implementation of MAP policies and legal instruments and where appropriate propose remedy measures and actions; - communication of the results achieved to different target groups of the public; - public participation in the decision making process; - preparation of proposals by the Secretariat or Parties on policy measures. <p>4) MISSD is a step further to Info/MAP sharing system and shall extend to all MAP, data bases related to sustainable development in the region.</p> <p>5) The design of the system should be fully compatible with other information systems operating in the region by different international or regional organizations that are of MAP relevance.</p> <p>6) Each RAC and programme will be responsible for the sectorial management and analysis of its respective data.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>a) Clear time frame and budget allocation should be incorporated in the proposal by both Blue Plan and INFO/RAC by September 2008</p> <p>b) MAP reporting system on line is expected to be operational by INFO/RAC by the end of 2008.</p>

<p>Agenda Item 3 (Continuation): Matters arising from the first ECP meeting</p> <p><u>State of the Environment (SoE) and Development Report</u></p> <p>Key considerations</p> <p>7) The preparation of a SoE and Development report for submission to the 2009 Contracting Parties' meeting is a priority task that requires special efforts and commitments by all MAP components.</p> <p>8) The table of contents proposed by Blue Plan provides a good frame for its elaboration. The work shall be shared among all MAP components that will be in charge of the elaboration of different chapters.</p> <p>9) In view of drafting a consistent and harmonised Report, there is a need to prepare a template containing necessary elements on the basis of which each chapter should be developed. DPSIR approach could be one of the possible options.</p> <p>10) For each chapter to be prepared by individual RACs or Programmes, the respective RACs or Programmes will have the responsibility of coordinating with other RACs or Programmes, in order to ensure an integrated and harmonized approach where appropriate.</p>	<p><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p><u>By 15 July 2008</u></p> <p>Blue Plan will prepare:</p> <p>a) A working plan with shared tasks for all MAP components for the preparation of each chapter of the report.</p> <p>b) A coherent template to be followed by all RACs while elaborating the respective chapters.</p> <p><u>By July- Mid September 2008</u></p> <p>c) Further elaboration of each chapter by the concerned RACs and their submission to Blue Plan for the preparation of the final version of the Table of Contents.</p> <p><u>End of September 2008</u></p> <p>d) On the basis of the work carried out by the concerned RACs, a final and a more elaborated Table of Contents and a Working Plan is to be prepared by Blue Plan for submission to the 3rd meeting of the ECP for approval.</p>
<p>Agenda item 4: Implementation of the Governance Paper- Institutional Aspects</p> <p>Key considerations</p> <p>11) There is a need to enhance the effectiveness of the work of RACs by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improving their <i>modus operandi</i>; • giving them the opportunity to recruit international staff, thus ensuring a better geographical representation of Mediterranean expertise; 	<p><u>Actions and timetables</u></p> <p>a) The meeting agreed to explore the option of giving to RACs an international status within the national legislative framework of the Host Country.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilitating fundraising activities by the RACs. <p>12) In order to come up with a concrete proposal on this issue, there is a need to know the legal provisions in each Host Country on the basis of which the RACs are operating and could improve their <i>modus operandi</i>, and in particular if they are accorded a better (international) status by the Host Country.</p> <p>13) In view of implementing the decision on the Governance Paper, the RACs and MEDPOL should elaborate their draft mandates for discussion at the third ECP Meeting.</p>	<p>b) End of July 2008 by Blue Plan, SPA/RAC and CP/RAC</p> <p>c) Mid-September 2008 by all RACs and MEDPOL</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5: Application of the ecosystem approach</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>14) A successful meeting in July is an important step forward to ensure the implementation of decision IG 17/6 of the 15th meeting of the Contracting Parties on Ecosystem Approach in MAP.</p> <p>15) As a follow-up of the July meeting, RACs are expected to familiarize themselves with relevant experience gained within CBD and HELCOM and engage in a process of identification of necessary activities.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and timetables</u></p> <p>All RACs are expected to attend the meeting on the ecosystem approach to be held in Athens on 9 – 10 July 2008.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 6: Ministerial Topics for the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Key Considerations</p> <p>16) The selection of Ministerial topics should be dealt with carefully because it is the only forum that brings together all the Mediterranean environmental ministers. In this respect, the ministerial topics can be broader than the scope of the application of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols or MAP.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and timetables</u></p> <p>The Coordinator will inform the forthcoming Bureau meeting on the main ideas shared by the ECP and request their input.</p>

<p>17) The ministerial topics should definitely address the priorities of the Southern Mediterranean countries keeping in mind the fact that the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties will be held in Morocco.</p> <p>18) There is a need to wait for the results of the forthcoming international or regional meetings that might affect the selection of the ministerial topics in order to make a more definitive proposal.</p>	
<p>Agenda item 7: Participation of MAP in international meetings and events</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Key Consideration</p> <p>19) There is a need for a better exchange of information among MAP components with the Coordinating Unit in view of participation at important international and regional meetings.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and timetables</u></p> <p>a) Advance notification will be sent to the Coordinating Unit and the RACs on planned missions (at least 2 months in advance where possible).</p> <p>b) Reports of those important missions shall be communicated to the Secretariat immediately after the Meeting.</p>
<p>Agenda item 8: Implementation of Joint Work Programme with EC and EEA</p>	<p>a) The Coordinating Unit and the RACs should submit a report on the implementation of the joint working programmes.</p> <p>b) Deadline for submission of such reports will be decided once the date of the forthcoming Bureau meeting is confirmed.</p> <p>c) The Coordinator should contact the EC for a date for a joint meeting to review the implementation of the joint programme of work MAP/EC as well as its agenda.</p>
<p>Agenda item 9: Organization of the Joint Focal Points Meeting: Blue Plan, PAP/RAC and INFO/ RAC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>20) Due to the horizontal nature of the issues dealt with by Blue Plan and INFO/RAC, it might be more effective to address the respective programmes of work only at the level of MAP Focal Point Meetings. In this respect, the role of the</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and timetables</u></p> <p>The Coordinator will bring this proposal to the attention of the forthcoming Bureau meeting.</p>

<p>Focal Point for INFO/ RAC and Blue Plan could be trusted to the MAP Focal Points. PAP/RAC will organise its separate Focal Point Meeting.</p>	
<p>Agenda item 10: Financial Management Audit</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Key Consideration</p> <p>21) The meeting was addressed by the evaluation team that is in charge of carrying out the financial management audit and established a schedule of individual meetings for the RAC Directors to meet with them.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and timetables</u></p> <p>The evaluation report is expected to be delivered by the end of 2008.</p>
<p>Agenda item 11: Any other matters:</p> <p>a) Ways and means for the implementation of decision IG.17/3 on reporting</p> <p>b) Vital Graphics of the Mediterranean Environment to be launched in 2009 – first draft proposal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and timetables</u></p> <p>The conclusions and the working plan agreed by all MAP components in their consultative meeting held in Rome on 5 – 6 May 2008 that is attached as Annex III to this report, were endorsed by the ECP.</p> <p>In order to avoid any duplication of efforts with regards to the preparation of the state of environment and development report during this biennium, the meeting suggested that cooperation with UNEP Grid Arendal could focus on other publications of common interest.</p>

Agenda Item 12 Adoption of the Report

The meeting adopted the draft report prepared by the Secretariat as orally amended.

Agenda Item 13: Closure of the meeting

The meeting decided to hold the third meeting of the ECP on 25-26 September 2008 in Split, at PAP/RAC premises. The meeting was closed by the Coordinator on 30 May 2008 at 13:00.

**ANNEX I
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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ANNEX II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda and organization of work
3. Matters arising from the First ECP meeting
4. Implementation of the Governance paper – Institutional Aspects
5. Application of the ecosystem approach – follow up actions
6. MoP16 – Ministerial Segment Topics
7. Participation of MAP in international meetings and events
8. Implementation of Joint Work Programmes with EC and EEA
9. Organization of the Focal Points meeting
10. Financial Management Audit
11. Other matters
12. Adoption of the Report
13. Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX III

Conclusions of the Consultative meeting of MAP Components on Reporting under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, held in Rome, on 5-6 May 2008

1) On-line Barcelona Convention/MAP Reporting System

- a. INFO/RAC will design the on-line BC/MAP Reporting System, integrated in *InfoMAP*, based on the new reporting format adopted by the 15th Meeting of the CPs. The on-line Reporting System will be published on the MAP web site, which will be accessible by all MAP Components and Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties concerned as regulated by an appropriate information policy.
- b. The on-line BC/MAP Reporting System should be based on information sharing principles so as to communicate and be compatible to the extent possible, with the other reporting systems operating on line in the region, in particular EIONET.
- c. Actions and Timetable
 - Finalization of user requirements document by 15 May 2008
 - Development of the prototype system:
May – end of July 2008 according to the MoU between the Italian Ministry of Environment and the Sicilian Region (INFO/RAC) (18-04-08), the MoU between the Coordinating Unit and INFO/RAC (in process), user requirements as well as the system design document developed during the meeting held in Rome on 5-6 May 2008 on INFO/RAC premises, which will also contain a precise working plan
INFO/RAC, with inputs from all MAP Components
 - Testing period for the prototype: August – October 2008
MAP Components/Parties, with INFO/RAC assistance
 - Implementation of proposed modifications and final release of BC/MAP Reporting System on line: October – November 2008
INFO/RAC
 - Data entry: December 2008 – February 2009
Parties/MAP Components, with INFO/RAC assistance

2) Promotion of Assessment Reports on Implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

- a. Promotion of assessment reports on implementation of the Barcelona Convention and Protocols could be done through the publication of reports 2002-2003 and 2004-2005 in the MAP web site under a section named "Implementation Reporting" that should be established as soon as possible.
- b. However, it was emphasised that there is a need to update the MAP information policy which was adopted by the 11th Meeting of the CPs, held in Malta in 1999, in order to fully reflect and take into consideration the new challenges in front of MAP. The preparation and publication of the SoE Report will be another important effort in this direction.

3) Participation of MAP Components in Compliance Mechanisms and Procedures

Participation of MAP Components in the work of Compliance Committee consists, inter alia, of the following actions:

- a. Review of national reports with a view to identify possible general issues of non-compliance.
- b. Review of national reports with a view to identify possible individual non-compliance situations.
- c. Communication of the above cases to the Coordinating Unit for further reflection, joint discussion and decision-making.
- d. Participation in the meetings of the Compliance Committee when requested in order to provide information and expertise.
- e. Participation in the on-spot appraisal of non-compliance cases or situations, if so decided by the Compliance Committee.
- f. Assistance to the countries to improve implementation and achieve compliance.
- g. In view of the first meeting of the Compliance Committee to be held in July 2008, MEDPOL, RAC/SPA, Rempec are expected to review in depth 2004-2005 reports on Implementation submitted by the CPs and inform by July 2008 the Coordinating Unit on any issue related to compliance or non-compliance.

4) Effectiveness Indicators

- a. Effectiveness indicators will be developed using an integrated approach and some elements of the method IMAGINE. A first meeting of all MAP Components will be held at the end of September to consider the first proposals. Such proposals should contain the definition for each indicator including the respective rationale and should be submitted to the Secretariat by 15 September 2008. Blue Plan will facilitate the process.
- b. The meeting will make a first selection and the proposed set will be published on the MAP web site for consultation with Focal Points of MAP and each RAC as well as MEDPOL. On the basis of such a broad consultation, a second meeting will be held most probably in January 2009 in order to conclude and come up with a definitive proposal for the consideration of the ECP Meeting and the Bureau of the CPs.

5) Establishment of the Working Group

Due to the relevance of issues related to the Barcelona Convention Reporting System, Assessment Reports on Implementation and Effectiveness Indicators, a working group is proposed to be established by the ECP in order to meet regularly, consult and develop respective proposals for the consideration of the ECP Meeting.

I. Introduction

Following the decision taken by the second meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel, its third meeting was held on 25-26 September at PAP/RACs premises in Split, Croatia. The meeting was chaired by the MAP Coordinator and attended by all Regional Activity Centres' (RAC) directors, except INFO/RAC director, as well as MED POL Coordinator. A full list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

II. Agenda items 1 and 2

The MAP coordinator opened the meeting.

The meeting reviewed and adopted the provisional agenda together with the proposed timetable. The agenda of the meeting is attached as Annex II to this report.

Following the discussion of all agenda items, the meeting concluded on some key considerations for each topic and decided on necessary actions and timetables for their implementation.

III. Agenda items 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,10,11,12,13,14

Key considerations, Actions and Timetables

<p>Agenda Item 3: Matters arising from the second ECP meeting</p> <p><u>1) Mediterranean Information System on Sustainable Development (MISSD)</u></p> <p>Key considerations</p> <p>a) MISSD will cover all the Mediterranean region on a number of important thematic issues and different economic sectors;</p> <p>b) BP and INFO/RAC had agreed on a joint programme of work for the establishment of MISSD;</p> <p>c) the section on Water is expected to be ready by the Euro- MED Water Ministerial Conference in October 2008;</p> <p>d) The total cost for the development of MISSD is 700 000 euro. In case INFO/RAC would not be in a position to support the project until it is finalised, the need to mobilise 2/3 of these funds through external sources would definitely arise.</p> <p>e) MISSD maintenance cost, including its regularly update is not yet been calculated.</p>	<p><u>1) Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>a) MISSD system shall be on line by the end of 2009</p> <p>b) Substantial additional funds should be mobilised in case BP and INFO/RAC partnership would not continue until MISSD is finalised.</p> <p>c) MISSD system design shall interface with INFO/MAP and MAP reporting system.</p>
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<p><u>2) MAP reporting system</u></p> <p>a) The work for the preparation of the on-line MAP reporting has progressed according to the Plan agreed at the Rome meeting in May 2008.</p> <p>b) According to INFO/RAC, the non-disbursement of the funds from Italy may delay the process beyond 2008.</p> <p><u>3) Participation of MAP components to MAP meetings organised in the framework of the implementation of programme of work of each MAP component</u></p> <p>a) It was pointed that although there is an increased effort by all MAP components to ensure an active participation at MAP meetings organised by MAP components, there is room for improvement.</p> <p>b) It was agreed that it was not always necessary for all the RACs to attend all other components' meetings systematically.</p> <p>c) In order to create possibilities for contribution of the RACs to MAP events/meetings without necessarily physically attending them, videoconferences and other tools could be used.</p> <p>d) There is a need for the MAP components to consult among themselves from the outset in the preparation of their meetings/events. This would enable them to contribute more to the organization of the meeting apart from also participating in the meeting.</p>	<p><u>2) Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>INFO/RAC shall make a special effort to meet the agreed deadline of having the MAP reporting system on line by the end of December 2008.</p> <p><u>3) Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>MAP components should attend MAP meetings and events in particular when their contributions are considered useful for the success of the meeting.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 4 : Outcome of the meeting of the Bureau (Bur 67)</p> <p><u>1) Topics for the Ministerial segment of the 16th meeting of the Contracting Parties</u></p> <p>After a careful consideration of the proposals by the Bureau, the ECP agreed to propose one main theme for ministerial discussion and a back-up theme.</p>	<p><u>1) Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>a) The proposed Ministerial topic is: a_“MAP's added value in the Barcelona Process – Union for the Mediterranean”.</p>

<p><u>2) Organisation of the Euro MED Environmental Ministerial meeting back to back with the 16th meeting of the Contracting Parties</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>a) This proposal was considered at the Bureau meeting held in Madrid in September 2008, but no decision was taken.</p> <p>b) The ECP highlighted a number of possible positive impacts of this proposal (possible synergy, demonstration of a Partnership spirit, advantages related to logistical issues, etc).</p> <p>c) However , the meeting also considered that it would be difficult to create synergy between both meetings because the topics would be different. Some difficulties may also arise because it might be difficult for Ministers to stay for both meetings.</p> <p><u>3) The ECP took note of the Bureau recommendation on the participation of the President of the Bureau at the ECP meeting</u></p> <p><u>4) Organization of the Joint Focal Points Meeting: Blue Plan, PAP/RAC and INFO/RAC</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>The Bureau welcomed in principle the ECP proposal regarding the merging of BP/RAC</p>	<p>b) The proposed back-up theme: “Sustainable use of natural resources with the main focus on the findings of the Ecosystem Services Analysis and Cost of Environmental Degradation”</p> <p>c) By the fourth ECP meeting, the Coordinating Unit shall prepare, in consultation with all MAP components, a detailed Concept paper on the organisation of the Ministerial segment for the consideration of the next Bureau meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>2) Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>MAP Coordinator should contact the EC and transmit the considerations of the Bureau and ECP meeting on the matter.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>3) Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>The Secretariat is to inform the President on the dates and the venue of the ECP meeting/s.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>4) Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>a) Blue Plan should raise the necessary funds and contribute its part to the organisation of the Joint Focal Points Meeting: Blue Plan, PAP/RAC and INFO/ RAC.</p>
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<p>and INFO/RAC focal points with those of MAP focal points. However it pointed out that a definitive decision on this matter should be taken after the mandates for these components are defined.</p> <p>The Bureau reconfirmed that the next Joint Focal Points Meeting: Blue Plan, PAP/RAC and INFO/ RAC shall be held as per usual practice.</p> <p><u>5) Preparation of Progress reports for the Bureau by the Components</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>a) Following the remarks of the Bureau meeting (Bur 67) it was agreed that all Components should make an effort and include information in all the sections required by the new format of the Progress report .</p> <p>b) Additional information related to the budget for all activities under different objectives should be also presented in the Progress Report by each component.</p>	<p>b) Organisational details of the Joint Focal Points Meeting: Blue Plan, PAP/RAC and INFO/ RAC will be addressed at the next ECP meeting.</p> <p>c) The Joint Focal Points Meeting will be held in Croatia. The date and place will be decided at the next ECP meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>5) Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>For the next Bureau meeting (Bur 68):</p> <p>a) The Coordinating Unit should update, on the basis of Bureau's remarks, the format of the Progress Report for the next meeting.</p> <p>b) MAP components should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete all sections of the format including the part related to lessons learnt and constraints as well as the part on recommendations, where appropriate. - Meet the agreed deadlines for the submission of their inputs for the Progress report in order to allow the Secretariat to make all necessary interventions in the text. All interventions made by the Secretariat should be subject to agreement by the respective MAP components.
<p>Agenda item 5 Implementation of Programme of work</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>a) Challenges/difficulties were reported on the implementation of a number of activities such as Effectiveness indicators, CAMP Spain, Data collection, Reporting system,cooperation MEDPOL/UNIDO on PRTR, activities related to the implementation of Article 15 of the LBS protocol as amended, etc.</p> <p>b) Examples of joint cooperation between different Centres, such as the REMPEC-RAC/SPA work on ballast water and Blue Plan-INFO/RAC on MISSD are encouraging.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>Following consultation with the Coordinating Unit, MAP components may apply for bids and participate in activities funded under different donor agencies, provided that such activities fall under their field of competence and can contribute to the implemmentation of the</p>

<p>c) MAP components sought guidance regarding their association with bids for carrying out of requests, studies, etc.</p>	<p>Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as well as different MAP strategies, including the MSSD.</p>
<p>Agenda item 6: Five-year rolling work programme of MAP</p> <p>The meeting agreed on two cross cutting thematic issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change • Environmental governance <p>It was also agreed to develop a 5 year rolling programme of work for three other cross cutting issues such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Integrated coastal zone management / ecosystem management, b) Harmful substances and hazardous waste and c) Resource efficiency sustainable consumption and production. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>6) Actions and Timetables</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Coordinating Unit should prepare, in close consultation with all MAP Components, the five-year rolling programme of work on Environmental Governance. 2) Blue Plan should finalise the proposal on Climate Change for discussion by the fourth ECP meeting. Amendments on the document by the concerned MAP components should be submitted to BP on time. 3) PAP/RAC should prepare the proposal on Integrated Coastal Zone Management /Ecosystem Management. 4) MEDPOL& REMPEC& CP/RAC should prepare the proposal on Harmful substances and hazardous waste. 5) CP/RAC, SPA/RAC, Blue Plan should prepare the proposal on Resource efficiency - sustainable consumption and production 6) MAP components should circulate the final versions of their proposals to ECP members well in advance of the fourth ECP meeting and definitely by the end of November 2008.
<p>Agenda item 7: Status of Implementation of the joint Programmes of work EC/MAP and EEA/MAP</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The meeting was informed of a call for application by the EC for a project on synergies EC/MAP. b) The ECP expressed its opinion that issues related to EC/MAP synergy and cooperation should be addressed in the framework of the institutional cooperation MAP/EC and decided to take the opportunity of the forthcoming EC/MAP meeting to obtain more information about the objectives of this 15 month consultancy work. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Coordinator should send a template, including the timeframe, to all components regarding the preparation of the progress report on the implementation of the joint programme of work EC/MAP. b) The joint meeting EC/MAP will be held on 3 December 2008. c) MAP components should submit their inputs on the future programme of work MAP/EEA before 7 October 2008.

<p>EEA. c) The meeting also addressed the implementation of MAP/EEA joint programme of work and exchanged views on future cooperation priorities.</p>	<p>d) The Secretariat will discuss MAP proposals at the meeting with EEA on 8-9 October 2008 in Athens.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 8: State of the Environment (SoE) and Development Report</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>On the basis of the remarks made by the Bureau and introduced by the Secretariat, the meetings agreed on the following points:</p> <p>a) Since the publication of SoED will be the first one after almost 20 years, the fulfilment of this task is very challenging to MAP.</p> <p>b) The SoED report should be comparative</p> <p>c) Different models/templates can be used for SoED report preparation, such as those elaborated by the EEA, UNEP as well as SoED reports prepared by the Mediterranean countries;</p> <p>d) SoED report should address terrestrial and marine ecosystems in an integrated manner.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>a) The final draft of the SoED shall be ready by the end of summer of 2009</p> <p>b) Amendments to the Table of Contents by MEDPOL, SPA/RAC and PAP/RAC shall be sent to BP by 10 October at the latest.</p> <p>c) The chapters that will be drafted by the other components of MAP shall be submitted to Blue Plan by the end of March 2009, at the latest.</p> <p>d) Harmonization of the text and the analysis of the gaps by Blue Plan as well as the completion of data by all components will be done in June- July 2009</p> <p>e) SoED Report will be printed in September-October 2008</p> <p>f) A brief/executive summary to highlight the main findings of the report for the attention of decision makers will also be included.</p>
<p>Agenda item 9: Draft mandates of RACs and MEDPOL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>a) Substantial work is still required from all RACs and MEDPOL regarding the finalization of the draft mandates for all MAP Components.</p> <p>b) The draft mandates should be elaborated in line with the requirements of the Governance paper.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>a) MAP components shall prepare their draft mandates in line with the requirements of the Governance paper.</p> <p>b) MAP components shall submit the draft mandates to the Secretariat by the end of October 2008 for discussion at the fourth ECP meeting.</p>

<p>Agenda item 10: UNEP's future role in the Barcelona Process-Union for the Mediterranean</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>The ECP expressed its satisfaction for the interest of UNEP in this process.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>a) MAP coordinator shall circulate for comments by end of October at the latest, the presentation by the Coordinating Unit, for the internal UNEP meeting to be held in Paris in November 2008 on "UNEP's role in the Barcelona Process-Union for the Mediterranean"</p> <p>b) The Coordinator shall make inquiries if all RAC directors can be invited to the above mentioned meeting.</p>
<p>Agenda item 11: Financial Management Audit</p> <p>All MAP components exchanged views on the ongoing financial management audit following the visits to the Centres by the auditors.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>The Audit report will be circulated to MAP components for comments immediately after its submission by the auditors to the Coordinating Unit.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 12: Meeting of MAP components on the application of the ECAP</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>The main priority activities identified under this project were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Preparation of the Assessment Reports for the four areas as agreed by the second meeting of Government-designated experts on ECAP and b) The Socio Economic Analysis on the marine and coastal ecosystem services. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>The meeting endorsed the conclusions of the preparatory consultative expert meeting on ECAP held on 24 September 2008 in Split, as presented in Annex III to this report.</p>

Agenda item 13: Adoption of the report	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and timetables</u></p> <p>a) The meeting adopted the draft report prepared by the Secretariat as orally amended.</p> <p>b) The fourth ECP meeting will be held on 16 December, 2008 in Athens.</p>
Agenda Item 14: Closure of the meeting	The meeting was closed by the Coordinator on 26 September at 12:30.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work
3. Matters arising from the Second ECP Meeting
4. Outcome of the meeting of the Bureau
5. Implementation of the Programme of Work
6. Five Year Strategic Programme of Work of MAP
7. Status of Implementation of MAP-EC Joint Work Programme and MAP-EEA Joint Work Plan
8. State of the Environment and Development Report
9. Draft Mandates of RACs and MEDPOL
10. UNEP's future role in the Barcelona Process – Union for the Mediterranean
11. Financial Management Audit
12. Meeting of MAP Secretariat on the application of the ECAP
13. Adoption of the report
14. Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX III

CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING OF ALL MAP COMPONENTS ON ECAP IMPLEMENTATION

24 September 2008, Split, Croatia

1) Repatriation of tasks among MAP components

a) Preparation of the assessment reports for the four areas

I. Marine and coastal ecosystem status

Chapter 2, MEDPOL

Chapter 3 SPA/RAC

Chapter 4 SPA/RAC

II Pressure and Impacts

Chapter 1 Medpol

Chapter 2 Medpol

Chapter 3 Medpol

Chapter 4 RAC/SPA

Chapter 5 PAP/RAC

Chapter 6 MEDPOL

Chapter 7 PAP/RAC

Chapter 8 REMPEC

Chapter 9 SPA/RAC

b) Socio economic analysis - Leading Component Blue Plan

c) Communication and Public Awareness Plan: Leading Component INFO/RAC

d) Planning for the future (Planning Document): Leading Component: Coordinating Unit

e) Case Studies (a joint activity of MEDPOL/SPA-RAC to be moderated by the Project Manager while the funds are to be allocated under the MTF, programme of work for 2009.

f) PAP/RAC to compile assessment methodologies

2) Budget allocation

a) Socio economic analysis 77 100 euro (ECAP EC project 47 100 euro + SPAMI EC project 20 000 euro + 10 000 euro from ECAP budget lines of the Coordinating Unit)

b) Assessment component 116 250 euro (70 000 euro for consultants-drafting the report and data collection, 38 750 euro for the kick off meeting - 2 day duration and 7500 euro for conference services)

c) The budget for the third ECAP government designated expert meeting as it is planned in the project document 61700 euro

d) The coordinator of MAP to approach the EC and inquire on the time frame for approval of the project and availability of funds as well as unofficially inform them on the changes to be made in the project document if and when allowed by EC rules and regulations.

3) Management issues

- The Coordinator should send the letter to request MAP focal points to appoint their contact points or coordinators for the assessment component. ToRs for the country contact points or coordinators should be sent together with the letter. The ToRs should be drafted by MEDPOL and RAC/SPA and circulated for comments to all other components.
- A precise operational scheme for carrying out all the assigned tasks should be prepared by the leading components and circulated for comments to all other components.
- Implementation of all tasks will start once the funds are made available.

I. Introduction

Following the decision taken by the third meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel, its fourth meeting was held on 16 December at the Coordinating Unit, in Athens, Greece. The meeting was chaired by the MAP Coordinator and attended by all the Directors of Regional Activity Centres' (RAC), except Blue Plan/RAC and INFO/RAC directors, as well as MED POL Coordinator. A list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

II. Agenda items 1 and 2

The MAP coordinator opened the meeting.

The meeting reviewed and adopted the provisional agenda together with the proposed timetable. The agenda of the meeting is attached as Annex II to this report.

Following the discussion of all agenda items, the meeting concluded on some key considerations for each topic and decided on necessary actions and timetables for their implementation.

III. Agenda items 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,10,11

Key considerations, Actions and Timetables

Agenda Item 3: Organization of the MCSD meeting and the involvement of MAP components (including the institutional aspects of the new composition of the MCSD)	
<p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>The 13th MCSD meeting is scheduled for 22-24 June 2009 in Cairo at the kind invitation of the Minister and Egyptian Environmental Agency.</p> <p>a) New members of the MCSD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In view of implementing the governance paper with regard to the MCSD, the Coordinator informed the ECP meeting that:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Letters were sent by the Secretariat to all Contracting Parties to nominate eminent experts.b) Regional IGOs and Academic Institutions were also approached by the Secretariat for them to express their interest to become MCSD members.	

c) As a response to the above requests, the Secretariat received a number of nominations by the Contracting Parties as well as expressions of interest by regional IGOs and the academic sector.

- The meeting discussed a number of procedural issues with regard to the selection of the new MCSD members from the three categories that will be proposed by the Secretariat for endorsement by the Bureau.

- The meeting emphasised that there is a need to combine both experts with very good knowledge of the Mediterranean region and high level expertise on sustainable development issues with newcomers in the system that would refresh and give a new dimension to the MCSD membership and work.

- In order to allow for more nominations to be received, it was suggested to extend the deadline for submissions.

b) Draft agenda of the MCSD meeting was reviewed and some amendments were proposed

The meeting reviewed the draft agenda prepared by the Secretariat and exchanged a number of views as follows:

- the agenda should make clear the major outputs expected of this MCSD meeting and in particular how and to what extent they are going to affect the work of MAP as a whole as well as of the RACs and MEDPOL;

- There is a need to create a better balance with regard to the institutions that are going to make key presentations at the meeting;

- MAP should present its vision on adaptation to climate change in the Mediterranean;

- A major work for the MCSD during the next biennium will be the update of the MSSD.

Actions and Timetables

- Secretariat to extend the deadline for submission of nominations by the Contracting Parties, regional IGOs and the Academic sector by 15 January 2009.

- Secretariat to establish a formal process of assessment by the ECP in order to assess the eligibility of those candidates that would be proposed to the Bureau for their endorsement as MCSD members.

Actions and Timetables

- MAP to present at the 13th MCSD meeting a policy paper on adaptation to climate change in the Mediterranean.

- MAP Policy paper to be prepared jointly by all components under the guidance of the Secretariat.

- Proposed adaptation measures/policy should incorporate and cover socio economic aspects and dimensions.

- MAP components to prepare reports on the implementation of the MCSD programme of work that will be incorporated in the progress report by the Secretariat.

- MAP components to prepare background information papers on climate change adaptation for dissemination at the meeting.

<p>c) MCSD Task force and MCSD Working Group on climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting discussed about the proposal on the establishment of a Task force for the organization of the 13th MCSD meeting as well as the need to formalize the establishment of the thematic MCSD working groups. • The Coordinator informed the meeting that some Contracting Parties have already expressed their interest to be involved in the Task force for the preparation of the MCSD meeting. • Climate change was reconfirmed as one of priority cross-cutting issue to be dealt in the framework of all Regional Seas programmes. • It was pointed out the need to prioritise the work because the components cannot afford working for both MAP legal system and MCSD if they act totally independently from each other. • As such there is a need for both systems to converge with each other to the extent possible. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ECP agreed with regard to proposals on the establishment of the Task force for the organization of the 13th MCSD meeting as well as a MCSD Working Group on climate change. • Establishment of formal Working Groups on vertical themes of the MCSD programme of work to be discussed by the MCSD meeting.
<p>Agenda Item 4: Organization of the ministerial segment of the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>With regard to the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, the meeting discussed both substantial and organizational issues.</p> <p>There is a need to further expand the chapter that identifies the added value of MAP by mentioning all the aspects of work of MAP that are relevant to the Mediterranean Union Initiative.</p> <p>The conclusions of the brainstorming meeting organized by DEPI on 18 November 2008 could be also used for the above purpose.</p> <p>The meeting reviewed the proposed options with regard to the organization of the ministerial session. Finally the meeting concluded to combine both</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ECP to propose one single topic to the Bureau with regard to the ministerial session of the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties: MAP added value to the UfM. • The background policy paper already prepared by the Secretariat to be revised in order to include all aspects of the work of MAP that can contribute to the Mediterranean Union initiative. • MAP components to submit their proposal and revisions to the Secretariat by 25 January 2009. • ECP to propose to the Bureau that the ministerial segment should be held during the entire second day of the meeting.

<p>proposed options in order to leave enough space to address any matter related to the preparatory work of the ministerial segment as well as address any outstanding issues from the MAP Focal Points meeting during the first day of the meeting. While the second day would be totally devoted to the ministerial segment.</p> <p>A number of ideas were exchanged with respect to organization of side events, information and publications.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The convening of side events during lunch breaks should be generally avoided. However a definitive decision on this issue to be taken after having considered the conference premises and any other organizational related issues together with the host country. • Partners organizations to be invited to organize side events together with the Secretariat and components on the basis of priorities to be jointly agreed at the next ECP meeting. • Contracting Parties to be encouraged to prepare different information materials or publication with regard to their work and achievements in MAP such as for example posters, etc. • MAP components to prepare communication and information publications on different aspects of their work or activities.
<p>Agenda item 5: Host Country Agreement Template and Mandates of MAP components</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>The meeting had a general discussion on the draft HCA prepared by the Secretariat as well as on the procedure to be followed with the RACs and the negotiations by UNEP and MEDU with the host countries.</p> <p>It was recalled that the HCA exercise was not involving MEDPOL programme already hosted with the Coordinating Unit and REMPEC which already has a HCA addressing all relevant issues.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inputs by the RACs on the HCA template to be submitted by end of January 2009 to the Secretariat. • An harmonized version of mandates to be distributed mid-January 2009 by the Secretariat to the RACs and MEDPOL.

<p>It was also agreed that mixing the mandate with the HCA was not appropriate and not in conformity with the international practice.</p>	
<p>Agenda item 6: Five Year Strategic Programme of Work of MAP</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>The meeting considered two proposals on cross cutting thematic issues prepared jointly by different RACs (CP/RAC and SPA/RAC), MEDPOL/CP/RAC and REMPEC.</p> <p>All cross cutting thematic issues should have a text to explain the rationale and a table of activities.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four cross-cutting issues were agreed to be circulated by 15 January 2009 and adopted by the ECP by end of January through electronic means: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Climate change (BP) 2) Harmful substances and hazardous waste (MEDPOL/CP/RAC/REMPEC) 3) Resource Efficiency- sustainable consumption and production (CP/RAC& SPA/RAC) 4) Integrated coastal zone management/ ecosystem management (PAP/RAC) • The cross-cutting themes should be furthered developed according to the model used by Blue Plan for the preparation of climate change theme.
<p>Agenda item 7: Timetables for the main MAP meetings for 2009</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>The host country has proposed to hold the Contracting Parties meeting on 4-6 November 2009.</p> <p>After considering a number of factors and criteria, the meeting agreed on the calendar of the main institutional MAP meetings in 2009.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p><u>Schedule</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting of MAP Focal Points: 7 – 10 July 2009 • Joint Focal Points meeting PAP, PB and INFO/RAC: 11-13 May 2009 • REMPEC Focal Points meeting: 21-24 April 2009 • CP/RAC Focal Points meeting: 4-5 May 2009 • MED POL Focal Points meeting: first week of June 2009 • SPA/RAC Focal Points meeting: 2-5 June 2009

	<p><u>Venues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All components to provide as soon as possible information on the venue and other organizational aspects of the above meetings. <p><u>Other issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documents of the Focal Points meeting to be circulated to the Secretariat well in advance of meetings. • A list of the expected draft decisions to be submitted by each component to the Secretariat by 15 January 2009.
<p>Agenda Item 8: Organization of the Focal Points meeting for each MAP component</p>	
<p>Key considerations</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>PAP RAC to coordinate a meeting in January 2009 to discuss the organization of the joint Focal Points meeting PAP, BP and INFO/RAC.</p>
<p>Agenda item 9: Other matters</p>	
<p>Key considerations</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>Budget reallocation in relation to the programme of work for the forthcoming biennium will be addressed at the next ECP meeting.</p> <p>The financial management and audit report will be sent to all RAC Directors for their comments as soon as it is available.</p>
<p>Agenda item 10 Date and venue of the next ECP meeting</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>At the kind invitation of RAC/SPA, the fifth ECP meeting will be held in Tunis on 26-27 February 2009.</p>

Agenda item 11 Adoption of the report	
Agenda item 12 Closure of the Meeting	
	The meeting was closed by the Coordinator on 16 December 2008 at 18:30.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work
3. Organization of the MCSD meeting and the involvement of MAP components (including the institutional aspects of the new composition of the MCSD)
4. Organization of the ministerial segment of the 16th meeting of the CPs
5. Host Country Agreement Template and Mandates of MAP components
6. Five Year Strategic Programme of Work of MAP
7. Timetables for the main MAP meetings for 2009
8. Organization of the focal points meeting for each MAP component
9. Any other business
10. Adoption of the report
11. Next meeting of the ECP
12. Closure of the Meeting

I. Introduction

Following the decision taken by the fourth meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel, its fifth meeting was held on 26-27 February 2009 at the RAC SPA premises in Tunis, Tunisia. The meeting was chaired by the MAP Coordinator and attended by all the Directors of Regional Activity Centres (RAC) as well as MED POL Coordinator, except CP/RAC and INFO/RAC directors. CP/RAC informed in advance that it was not possible to attend this ECP meeting. A list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

II. Agenda items 1 and 2

The MAP Coordinator opened the meeting. The meeting welcomed the participation of the representative of the President of the Bureau, Mr. Jose Buceta, Head of the Marine Environment Protection and Pollution Prevention Division, Directorate General for the Sustainability of the Coast and the Sea of the Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs of Spain, following the decisions taken by Bureau 67 and 68 meetings.

The meeting reviewed and adopted the provisional agenda together with the proposed timetable. The agenda of the meeting is attached as Annex II to this report.

Following the discussion of all agenda items, the meeting concluded on some key considerations for each topic and decided on necessary actions and timetables for their implementation.

III. Agenda items 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14

Key considerations, Actions and Timetables

Agenda Item 3: Update of the meeting of the Bureau	
Key considerations	<u>Actions and Timetables</u>
<p>The meeting generally reviewed the decisions of the Bureau meeting held in Athens on 9-10 February 2009 and identified the necessary steps for their implementation by the Secretariat and MAP components.</p> <p>MEDPOL informed that the meeting of experts for the finalisation of the legally binding measures and timetable for their implementation will be held one day in advance of their Focal Points meeting.</p>	<p>In view of implementing the decisions of the Bureau meeting (Bureau 68), not subject to the agenda of the ECP V meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) each component to submit to the Secretariat a breakdown of activities for the period 2008-2009 and the related funds per country. b) MED POL to submit to the Coordinator an explanatory paper on the differentiation approach used to develop the legally binding measures and timetables as requested by Article 15 of the revised LBS Protocol. <p><i>Deadline Mid May 2009</i></p>

Agenda Item 4: Ecosystem Approach	
Key considerations	<u>Actions and Timetables</u>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The EC/MAP project</i></p> <p>The meeting reviewed the project budget and decided to revise it once the funds are available.</p> <p>Blue plan proposed to carry out the study for the estimation of the total economic value of the large marine ecosystems of the Mediterranean instead of the socio economic analysis. The first phase of the study will be of an academic nature while the second one will be more concrete and based on the assessment of the group areas led by MEDPOL and RAC/SPA.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Implementation of the Ecosystem approach</i></p> <p>a) <u><i>Recruitment of the international consultant/project manager</i></u></p> <p>With regard to the recruitment of the international consultant in charge of the overall management of the project, the meeting taking into account the comments of UNEP/DEPI, considered the need for :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the revision of the ToRs of such an assignment 2) establishment of a short list of experts either : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>going through a process of a call for application, or</i> b) <i>seeking proposals from the MAP components on possible experts for such an assignment</i> 3) selection by the Secretariat of the best candidate as per UN rules and regulations. <p>b) <u><i>Assessment of the Areas</i></u></p> <p>The meeting discussed if it would be more appropriate to use an integrated approach with regard to the ToRs for the international and national experts for both components MEDPOL and RAC SPA. After a careful consideration of the specific and diverse situations in which MEDPOL and RAC SPA are, with regard to the level of data already collected or to be collected, it was found that the tasks for the national experts for the</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The EC/MAP project</i></p> <p>Project budget and document is revised, taking into consideration Blue Plan proposal on the estimation of the total economic value of the large marine ecosystems of the Mediterranean.</p> <p><i>Deadline: once the EC project funds are available</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Implementation of the Ecosystem approach</i></p> <p>a) <u><i>Recruitment of the international consultant/project manager</i></u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Secretariat/Coordinator has the overall responsibility for coordinating the activities to be carried out under the EC/MAP project on the application of the ecosystem approach by MAP. 2. MEDPOL/M. Angelidis to circulate the ToRs for the international consultant. <p><i>Deadline: First week of March 2009</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. MAP components to submit comments on the ToRs. <p><i>Deadline second week of March 2009</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. MEDPOL/M. Angelidis to finalise the ToRs on the basis of comments and inputs received by different MAP components. 5. MAP components to propose suitable candidates for consideration by the Secretariat in view of the final selection of the consultant. <p><i>Deadline third week of March 2009, at the latest.</i></p> <p>b) <u><i>Assessment of the Group Areas</i></u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The meeting approved the ToRs for the national and international experts as presented in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECP.5/3 for both MEDPOL and RAC SPA parts of the assessment. 2. Subject to the availability of funds from the project, the necessary actions to be carried out by the concerned components are:

<p>MEDPOL and RAC/SPA assessment parts are totally different. As such separate ToRs for the national and international experts for the MEDPOL and RAC/SPA assessment parts will better accommodate the situation.</p> <p>The meeting also discussed the proposal about methodology for the estimation of the total economic value of the large marine ecosystems in the Mediterranean.</p> <p>This study will be carried out in two steps:</p> <p>a) Methodology framework for the estimation of the total economic value of the large Mediterranean marine ecosystems and b) Estimation of the economic value of the large Mediterranean marine ecosystems</p> <p>The meeting also discussed an annotated version of the table of content of the assessment jointly prepared by MEDPOL and RAC/SPA.</p> <p>The meeting took note of some concerns raised by some Contracting parties with regard to clusters where countries are grouped for operational reasons and with reference to ecological status and pressures to marine and coastal biodiversity.</p> <p>c) <u>Time frame for the implementation of the Road map</u></p> <p>The meeting discussed and found useful to convene another brain storming meeting involving all MAP components in order to identify the ecological and operational objectives and the corresponding indicators while the target levels should be left for the next stage.</p> <p>The meeting also discussed the time frame for the implementation of the road map proposed by the Secretariat on the activities to be carried until 2012.</p>	<p>a) The first assessment reports and gap analysis led by MED POL and RAC/SPA to be submitted in September 2009 (6 months after the project kick off).</p> <p>b) The methodology and techniques for the estimation of the total economic value of the ecosystems to be submitted by Blue Plan in September 2009. The progress made for its preparation to be followed at the ECP meetings on a continuous basis and in close communication with the concerned components (in particular with SPA/RAC and PAP/RAC).</p> <p>c) The first estimation of the total economic value of the ecosystems to be submitted to the meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2009 for information purposes.</p> <p>d) REMPEC and the other concerned components (CP/RAC) to submit their part on the annotated version of the table of content of the assessment as soon as possible.</p> <p>e) The meeting agreed to continue to work for the time being on the basis of the proposed clusters by the second Governmental designated expert groups.</p> <p>c) <u>Time frame for the implementation of the Road map</u></p> <p>a) Brainstorming meeting involving all MAP components to identify the ecological and operational objectives including corresponding indicators to be held as early as possible</p> <p>b) Other discussions in conjunction with case study: April – October 2009</p> <p>c) ECP decision on draft MAP objectives: November 2009</p> <p>d) Meeting to initiate discussion with national experts to be held in February 2010</p> <p>e) Third Government-designated experts' meeting to be held in May 2010</p> <p>f) Fourth Government-designated experts' meeting to be held in June 2011</p>
<p>Agenda item 5: Five-year Strategic Programme of Work of MAP</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>With regard to the Five-year Strategic Programme of Work of MAP, the meeting embarked on a discussion that tackled two main issues:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>The meeting agreed as follows:</p> <p>1) The Five-year Strategic Programme of Work to contain a cross cutting issue (climate change).</p>

<p>a) the rationale for proposing and identifying horizontal themes which implementation needs contribution and important involvement by all MAP components</p> <p>b) improvement of the presentation by adding other information to the introductory text and the tables, in particular related to the budget and contributions from the MTF from each component respectively</p> <p>c) Preparation of a 5 year and biennial programme of work for each component on the basis of the themes as per the current practice and a template to be jointly agreed.</p> <p>MEDPOL informed the meeting that an MoU is signed with CP RAC in view of ensuring a better cooperation and synergy in their work based on a common approach on tasks repartition and or joint implementation where necessary. Annexes to the MoU describe the activities to be carried out subject to revision during each biennium.</p>	<p>2) The biennial programme of work to contain the other components themes using the current template as well as a new element entitled Mid term prospective. The themes should be grouped as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • legal, policy, cooperation issues and coordination; • combating pollution from land and sea based sources as well as sustainable consumption and production, and cleaner production; • conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources • environment and development (MSSD follow up, thematic issues, ICZM, CAMPs, Information and communication technologies). <p>3) The table on climate change should have three additional columns in order to present the total cost for each activity for 5 years, the needs for the biennium, the funds available for the biennium from each component as well as the timeframe for the implementation of activities.</p> <p><i>Deadline: MAP components to submit their inputs to BP during the first week of March at the latest.</i></p>
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Agenda item 6: 13th Meeting of the MCS D

Key considerations	<u>Actions and Timetables</u>
<p>The Coordinator briefed the meeting on the preparations of the 13th meeting of the MCS D to be held in June 2009 in Cairo, Egypt.</p> <p>The provisional agenda was revised following discussions at the fourth ECP meeting.</p> <p>The Blue Plan confirmed that the stocktaking paper is in its consolidated version and will be completed with the information provided by the countries, following the questionnaire sent by the Secretariat. This document will be circulated for comments to all MAP components.</p> <p>The Blue Plan will present another document regarding the indicators on the follow up of the MSSD implementation.</p> <p>With regard to the programme of work, there is a need to better align MCS D thematic issues with the UNCDD agenda. The topic is agriculture, and the Blue Plan will release a book on this issue shortly before the next CDD meeting.</p>	<p>With regard to the contribution of MAP components to the preparation of the MCS D meeting</p> <p>a) BP to submit to the Secretariat by end of May 2009:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the final stocktaking paper • indicators on MSSD follow up <p>b) Components to submit to BP by end of April 2009 their inputs for the preparation of MAP contribution to the implementation of climate change related activities</p> <p>c) Secretariat to prepare a first draft ToRs for MSSD external evaluation process for circulation among MAP Components as soon as possible and subsequently for submission to the MCS D Steering Committee meeting.</p>

<p>The meeting addressed also some general considerations on the need to make an in-depth external evaluation of the MSSD in view of the new institutional and thematic context for the Mediterranean including strategic considerations. ToRs for this assessment should be prepared and discussed first at the Steering Committee of the MCSD.</p> <p>It was highlighted that side events for the MCSD meeting are welcome.</p>	
<p>Agenda item 7: Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>The meeting embarked on a general discussion on the main issues for the preparation of the programme of work and budget for 2010-2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns were expressed regarding the level of funding that is not sufficient to implement the programme of work. • There is a clear need to prioritize the activities and a need for a more effective planning. There is no increase in the ordinary contributions to the MTF since 2004. • The Components insisted that they should propose a programme of work and budget with the necessary increase because the cost of activities has substantially increased. • Other alternative funding should be considered, in particular the voluntary contributions from the Contracting Parties. Another opportunity could be the organisation of joint activities with other partners in order to share the cost of some activities. • There is a need to develop a resource mobilisation strategy identifying different funding possibilities. <p>The meeting pointed out that there is a need at some stage for an increase of the ordinary contributions from the contracting parties; otherwise the whole MAP system will be seriously affected and face important financial constraints. This argument should be clearly pointed out at the meeting of the Contracting Parties showing that the current level of funding cannot cope with the substantial annual increase in the cost of activities and personnel.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A resource mobilization paper to be submitted to the MAP Focal Points meeting pointing out different opportunities and alternative sources of funding. 2. This resource mobilization paper to highlight the need for an increase in the contributions from the Contracting Parties in the near future. 3. Each component to prepare the programme of work on the basis of the same global amount approved during the last biennium. (0 increase globally). Regarding the preparation of the five-years Programme of work, the components to add a section entitled "mid-term prospectives" in their biennial programme of work in order to show how the proposed activities fit in the mid-term prospective and contribute to the achievements of goals and objectives.

<p>The MTF is the only joint financial mechanism established in the Mediterranean under the auspices of UNEP, therefore increasing its resources is crucial for the work of MAP and the region.</p> <p>The RAC/SPA Director raised the issue of the discrepancy among the salaries of the different categories of the national staff of the Centre. The Coordinator was asked to address this issue on the basis of the RAC.SPA Director proposal to the Bureau in order to make possible the correction of these salaries provided that there is no increase in the total budget for the Centre.</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 8: Information and Communication Activities</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Review of MAP Information and communication Strategy</i></p> <p>After hearing to the presentation by the MAP Information Officer, the meeting had an exchange of views as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The meeting drew attention on the fact that the elaboration and implementation of such a strategy is somehow related to the role of INFO/RAC that is the RAC established by the Contracting Parties for this purpose, which future role and scope of activities needs to be clarified as soon as possible. b) There is an ambiguity with regard to the word information and a clear distinction should be made in this regard. MAP produces a lot of information, reports, assessment, etc. c) The proposed Information communication strategy paper mainly addresses communication using the on demand approach. There is a need to know the opinion of MAP stakeholders and partners. In this regard, it would be interesting to establish a process of consultation for this purpose with the parties, partners and other actors. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Review of MAP Information Strategy</i></p> <p>Each RAC and programme to appoint a contact point to interact with the information office of the Secretariat.</p> <p>The Information officer to revise the draft paper on MAP information communication strategy on the basis of the discussion at this ECP meeting and circulate it for comments to ECP members for their consideration.</p> <p>The paper to also analyze the financial resources for the implementation of the MAP Information communication strategy.</p>

<p>d) MAP needs to project a coherent approach with regard to communication.</p> <p>e) There is a need to establish a close working relationship between the substantive officers at the Coordinating Unit and the RACs with MAP Information Officer with regard to communication activities. There is a need for a better and early planning and coordination with regard to the identification of the promotional activities of the whole MAP system.</p> <p><i>Information and Communication activities for the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties</i></p> <p>The tools used in Almeria meeting were the exhibition, posters and publications as well as side events.</p> <p>The ministerial topic could be also communicated through exhibitions, posters and other tools including media.</p> <p>The ECP addressed this issue at its fourth meeting and agreed to avoid exhibitions and concentrate on the media and side events from the partners, as well as publication of posters from the Secretariat and MAP components.</p> <p>Moroccans authorities should be contacted to know if they are planning activities to promote MAP and the 16th Contracting Parties meeting to the public.</p> <p>Communication with media is crucial and it is important to identify a topic that would attract media attention. The SoED reports could be a very good subject for this purpose.</p> <p>The report could be broken into subjects, developed into posters and adapted for a wider audience.</p> <p>However, special attention and efforts should be devoted to the objective of media coverage. Moroccan authorities should be contacted by the Secretariat for this purpose and lines of cooperation established.</p>	<p>The ECP at its first meeting every year to identify the main events and outputs to be communicated during the year as well as the appropriate targeted groups, in consultation and cooperation with the MAP Information Officer.</p> <p><i>Information and Communication activities for the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties</i></p> <p>The contact points network on communication is instrumental in identifying and coordinating Information and Communication activities for 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties</p>
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Agenda item 9: Host Country Agreement Template and Mandates of MAP components

Key considerations	<u>Actions and Timetables</u>
<p>There is a need to make a distinction between two types of situation in which different RACs are with regard to the HCA template:</p>	<p>The Secretariat to update the common introduction to the draft mandates on the basis of the Bureau proposals and circulate for comments to ECP members.</p>

<p>a) The RACs for which a signed HCA exists, therefore an amending procedure could be the most appropriate</p> <p>b) The RACs for which there is a need to negotiate a new agreement with the respective host countries.</p>	<p>The HCA template to be updated as soon as possible on the basis of comments received so far for submission to UNEP and then to the host countries for negotiation.</p> <p>The explanatory paper that was submitted to the Bureau 68 meeting on the content of the HCA explaining its rationale to be updated and sent to UNEP together with the draft HCA template.</p> <p>The Secretariat to keep the MAP Components informed on any progress made on this issue.</p>
<p>Agenda item 10: Timetable for submission of documents for the Meeting of MAP Focal Points</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p>The meeting discussed the preparation of the joint Focal Points meeting BP/PAP/RAC and INFO/RAC. The Blue Plan indicated that due to the fire in 2008, it didn't yet get the additional funding from other sources.</p> <p>The draft decision on effectiveness indicators will be prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of inputs and comments of the meeting of the RACs Focal Points, including the MED POL Focal Points meeting.</p> <p>The obligation for the submission of the reports on the implementation of MAP legal instruments according to the new reporting format as approved in Almeria is legally binding for 2006-2007 biennium. Any other report by the RAC Focal Points to their Focal Points meeting is welcomed.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p> <p>The joint invitation letter for the joint Focal Points meeting to be sent by PAP/RAC, INFO/RAC and BP copied to MEDU and ISPRA.</p> <p>The draft decision related to merging of the functions of Blue Plan and INFO/RAC with the MAP Focal Points to be prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the final versions of the mandates for both Centres.</p> <p>The meeting agreed on the template and timetable for the submission of the inputs in French and English as proposed by the Secretariat for the preparation of the progress report, programme budget and draft decisions for submission to the MAP Focal Points meeting.</p> <p>Each component to submit its input for the preparation of the progress report according to the template used for the preparation of the progress report for the meetings of the Bureau.</p> <p>Each component to submit their programme of work and budget 2010-2011 according to the last biennium template including a new section entitled "mid-term prospective".</p> <p>The templates for the preparation of the progress report and programme and budget 2010-2011 as well as the timetable for submission of inputs by all MAP components, are given in Annex III to this report.</p>

Agenda item 11: Any other business	
Key considerations	<u>Actions and Timetables</u>
<p>The work for the preparation of the SoED reports is ongoing and progressing well.</p> <p>BP informed the meeting that they were granted ISO 9001 certification.</p> <p>The meeting addressed the need to clarify any procedure to be followed with the donor and the Secretariat in case the RACs responsible for the implementation of the project are not the signatory institution of the project.</p> <p>The meeting pointed out the due to the tight schedule of the MAP focal points meeting to be held in July 2009, it is not feasible to carry out this time the preliminary consultation with the MAP focal points of the biennial programme of work and budget as requested by the Governance paper, before its finalisation and official dissemination for the meeting.</p>	<p>Secretariat to consult UNEP and clarify the procedures.</p> <p>BP and RAC/SPA to provide details on their projects with the Spanish International Cooperation Agency to the Secretariat for follow up.</p>
Agenda item 12: Next meeting of the ECP	
Key considerations	<u>Actions and Timetables</u>
	<p>The time and place of the sixth ECP meeting will be announced later.</p>
Agenda item 13: Adoption of the report	
Key considerations	<u>Actions and Timetables</u>
<p>The meeting agreed on the draft report of the meeting prepared by the Secretariat.</p>	<p>The final report was adopted through electronic communication tools.</p>
Agenda item 14: Closure of the meeting	
	<p>The meeting was closed by the Coordinator on 27 February 2009 at 18:30.</p>

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work
3. Update on the Meeting of the Bureau
4. Ecosystem approach activities
5. Five Year Strategic Programme of Work of MAP
6. 13th Meeting of the MCSD
7. Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011
8. Information and Communication Activities
9. Host Country Agreement Template and Mandates of MAP components
10. Timetable for submission of documents for the Meeting of MAP Focal Points
11. Any other business
12. Next meeting of the ECP
13. Adoption of the report
14. Closure of the meeting

ANNEX III

**TEMPLATE AND
PROPOSED TIME-TABLE FOR THE SUBMISSION
OF DOCUMENTS FOR MAP FOCAL POINTS MEETING**

1. Template for the programme of work and budget 2010-2011

The following template was used to format the Programme Budget for the 2008-2009 biennium.

Title of the programme or sub-programme

Goal of the programme/sub-programme:

Objective 1: (if there are more than one objectives)

Objective 2:

Objective 3:

Expected Outputs for each objective:

Activities needed to deliver the outputs (short description of proposed activities and justification.

Mid-term prospective: (please describe how the proposed activities fit within a mid-term prospective)

Table as presented in the following page

2. Proposed time-table for the submission of documents for MAP Focal Points meeting

List of working and information documents from each component	End of March 2009
Inputs in English and French for the Progress Report	End of April 2009
Inputs for the Programme of work and Budget	Mid May 2009*
Draft decisions and Annexes (if any)	End of April*
Information documents	End of May 2009
Dissemination of documents of the MAP focal points meeting	20 June 2009 at the latest

Calendar of meetings

- REMPEC Focal Points meeting: 21-24 April 2009 - Malta
- CP/RAC Focal Points meeting: 4-5 May 2009 (venue to be confirmed at a later stage)
- Joint Focal Points meeting PAP, PB and INFO/RAC: 25-27 May 2009, Zagreb, Croatia
- MED POL Focal Points meeting: 2009, 1-4 June 2009, Kalamata, Greece
- SPA/RAC Focal Points meeting: 3-6 June 2009 – Malta,
- 13th Meeting of the MCSD, 22-24 June 2009, Cairo, Egypt,
- Bureau meeting: 8-10 June or 15-19 June 2009 (dates and venue to be confirmed)
- Meeting of MAP Focal Points: Athens, Greece, 7 – 10 July 2009
- 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties: 4-6 November 2009, Marrakech, Morocco.

* If the documents are amended during the Focal Points meeting of each respective component, the revised documents should be submitted the day after the meetings are concluded.

3. Template for the Progress report for the Bureau meetings

The following template is to be used by all MAP Components for the Progress Report for the Bureau meetings

Title of the Component

Main Goal/s:

(As described in the Working Programme submitted for the consideration of the MAP focal points meeting held in Madrid, Spain, 2007. Document UNEP (DEPI) MED WG 320/21)

Objective X	<i>As described in the working programme submitted for the consideration of the MAP focal points meeting held in Madrid, Spain, 2007. Document UNEP (DEPI) MED WG320/21</i>
Expected outputs	<i>Summary of objective related outputs described in the working programme. (Decision IG 17/18 of the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties)</i>
MAP Components and/or other partners involved	<i>List of actors involved and brief description of their role and contribution</i>
Indicators/ achievements	<i>Summary of indicators/achievements as described in working programme 2008-2009. (Decision IG/17/18 of the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties)</i>
Final Results	<i>Real figures on indicators as described above, if available</i>
Total Budget spent or committed/towards approved budget (in %)	<i>Budget calculation should be based on the planned and spent budget for all activities together under each objective</i>
Main achievements	
Please describe the main achievements for activities carried out to attain each objective in a text that could be between 1-3 pages.	
Constraints and Lessons learnt	
Please describe any constraints faced and/or lessons learnt during implementation in a text that could be between one paragraph to one page.	



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECPextraordinary/2
30 April 2009

ENGLISH



MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Athens, Greece, 29 April 2009

REPORT

Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2009

Introduction

In view of ensuring the smooth transition following the retirement of Mr. Paul Mifsud, the MAP Coordinator, Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, DEPI Director, UNEP, called an extraordinary meeting of the ECP which was held on 29 April 2009 at the Coordinating Unit, in Athens, Greece.

The meeting was chaired by the DEPI Director and attended by all the Directors of Regional Activity Centres (RAC), MEDPOL Coordinator, who was appointed by Mr. Thiaw as Officer-in-Charge of MAP, as well as all the Programme Officers of the Coordinating Unit. A list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

Agenda items 1 and 2

Mr Thiaw in opening the meeting, recalled Mr. Mifsud's 5-year contribution to the implementation of the programme of work of MAP during his tenure through the Secretariat and the RACs.

The meeting reviewed and adopted the provisional agenda together with the proposed timetable. The agenda of the meeting is attached as Annex II to this report.

Agenda item 3 : **Managing the transition, including the response and implementation of the recommendations of the audit of UNEP/MAP Financial performance**

<u>Key considerations</u>	<u>Actions and Timetables</u>
<p>Mr Thiaw informed the meeting that the Deputy Coordinator will report on duty on 1st June 2009.</p> <p>He requested that, until such time, full support should be given by the MEDU staff and the RACs to F. S. Civili, as the Officer-in-Charge.</p> <p>Mr Thiaw pointed out that until the Deputy Coordinator reports for duty, all communication with her should be done in a coordinated manner.</p>	<p>1) The Officer-in-Charge or an officer designated by him will be responsible with coordinating any necessary communication with the deputy coordinator until she reports on duty</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Audit recommendations</u></p> <p>Mr Thiaw informed the meeting of the response of the Executive Director to the audit of UNEP/MAP Financial performance report.</p> <p>He requested that the implementation of the Audit recommendations should be given due consideration by UNEP/MAP and the Coordinating Unit.</p> <p>Mr. Thiaw highlighted that most of the necessary actions to be taken by UNEP/MAP to implement the audit recommendations are of a short and medium term nature.</p>	<p>2) The meeting agreed on the focal point for each audit recommendation as well as the deadline for their implementation as presented in Annex III to this report.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Next ECP meeting</u></p> <p>Following discussions with regard to the 6th ECP meeting expected to be held on 22 May 2009 in Rome, the MAP components raised the question of the need for the Deputy Coordinator to attend as an important briefing event for her. On the other hand it was pointed out that any postponing of this ECP meeting may raise difficulties in the finalisation in due time of the MAP Focal Points meeting documents.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Other issues</u></p> <p>INFO/RAC presented their financial situation and in particular the difficulties related to the implementation of the programme of work approved in Almeria by the Contracting Parties because of the seriously delayed transfer of the committed funds by the Italian MOE. All the obligations and responsibilities between UNEP/MAP and INFO/RAC (Sicilian Region) with regard to the GEF Project.were also precisely highlighted.</p> <p>The Director of INFO/RAC, referring to the issues mentioned in the auditing report with regard to their Center, clarified that any action taken by INFO/RAC was in full conformity with the HCA signed between UNEP/MAP and Italy on the 19/10/04.</p> <p>INFO/RAC Director urged for the establishment of a small Committee composed of MEDU, DEPI, the Italian Government representatives and the Sicilian Region in order to asses any implications or impact for MAP of the recent decisions taken with regard to INFO/RAC of the Sicilian Region Status.</p>	<p>3) The 6th ECP meeting will be postponed for the 10 June 2009 in order to enable the Deputy Coordinator to lead the work of the Secretariat in the preparation of the meeting and the meeting itself.</p> <p>4) MEDU Programme Officer is to immediately prepare a file with a copy of Host Country Agreement between Italy and UNEP/MAP for Info/RAC as well as other related documents for DEPI's attention.</p>
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Agenda Item 4: Preparation of the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties

<p style="text-align: center;">Key considerations</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Main MAP institutional meetings</i></p> <p>The meeting reviewed the calendar of MAP meetings for 2009 that will be taking place up to the meeting of the Contracting Parties. All Directors reported that work for the preparation of their focal points is ongoing.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Actions and Timetables</u></p>
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With regard to the preparation of the MAP Focal Points meeting, MEDU programme officer reported that the work is ongoing, however, the preparation of the main documents was slightly behind schedule.

It was pointed out that every effort should be made to meet the deadline fixed by the Coordinator in its MEMO to MAP components with regards to the deadlines for submissions of inputs and documents for the Progress report, Draft decisions and programme of work and budget.

16th Contracting Parties meeting 3-5 November 2009

Mr. Thiaw drew the attention of all MAP components on the necessary actions to be taken for the preparation of the 16th meeting of the CPs. He also pointed out that it is not possible to have the Coordinator on duty by that time, so all efforts should be made to organize and handle a highly successful meeting under the guidance of the Deputy coordinator.

The meeting embarked on a discussion on three main related issues:

- a) Ministerial segment topic
- b) Impact of the freeze on the budget and possibilities for an increase for the next biennium
- c) Access to and participation of all Contracting Parties to the meeting

Ministerial Topic

While discussing the main ministerial topic on "Adaptation to climate change in the Mediterranean", Mr. Thiaw, taking advantage of his participation in other international meetings where such a topic was discussed drew the attention of the meeting that, in order to be more balanced, the ministerial topic should also address mitigation together with adaptation in view of ensuring that joint efforts are being made by all developing and developed countries of the Mediterranean to cope with climate change.

Some of the directors took the floor and explained that several internal discussions were held within the ECP on this issue.

In light of Mr. Thiaw suggestion, the ECP agreed that both adaptation and mitigation could be combined and finally it was decided to raise the question at the Bureau meeting.

5) The meeting agreed to use a flexible approach with regard to the ministerial topic by considering adaptation to and mitigation of climate change as parts of the same process and tackle both of them at the ministerial level in an integrated manner.

Budget Freeze

Referring to a decision by the last ECP meeting, with regards to the preparation of the programme budget 2010-2011 on a 0 basis increase, several MAP components wondered if there was still time to preview a slight budget increase for the forthcoming biennium.

Different options were presented and finally it was agreed to go either for a moderate increase as of 2010 in order to unblock the budget freeze in place since 2005 or with 0 increase for this biennium but for a considerable increase on the basis of the ongoing needs with effect as of 2012.

Mr. Thiaw suggested to Mr. Civili, OIC, to informally consult the parties and ask for their opinion on the matter keeping in mind the financial crisis at hand. On this basis the secretariat would be in a position to prepare, with the assistance of an expert, a realistic paper outlining the impact of the 2005 budget freeze on the delivery of the programme of work and present a pragmatic request for the future.

Discussions were also held on the recommendation of the audit on the methodology for prioritising the programme of work activities and determining the level of funding for each of MAP components for approval by the Contracting Parties in line with the corresponding mandate.

Mr. Thiaw informed the meeting of the innovative experience that UNEP had on programme of work prioritising. It enabled UNEP not only to prepare an ambitious and realistic medium term strategy and programme of work but also to look at divisions as administrative structures to serve its effective implementation and in addition, to ensure full support, including an important increase in the budget by the governments.

Mr. Thiaw suggested that MAP should go through this exercise that is somehow painful but effective in view of medium and long term perspectives.

6) Consultation should be undertaken by the Secretariat at the forthcoming Bureau meeting for this purpose.

7) Secretariat to prepare a paper outlining the impact of 2005 budget freeze on delivery of the programme of work for the consideration of the forthcoming Bureau meeting.

8) OIC to informally consult the MAP Focal Points on their views on whether an increase of the budget could be proposed for the forthcoming biennium.

Agenda Item 5: Other matters

<u>Key considerations</u>	<u>Actions and Timetables</u>
<p>Under other matters the meeting agreed to discuss the following issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) New WB/GEF Initiative for sustainable development in the Mediterraneanb) MCSD meeting Preparationc) GEF Projectd) Sustainable Tourism <p><i>New WB/GEF Initiative for sustainable development in the Mediterranean</i></p> <p>The meeting discussed the new initiative as an opportunity for other agencies to join forces with MAP to work together for SD in the Mediterranean. On the other hand, it was also pointed out that this new project could potentially be a risk to MAP in case proliferation of governance structures for SD in the Mediterranean is encouraged.</p> <p>As such, it is imperative for UNEP/MAP and UNEP to have an open mind in view of using this new GEF project as a) an opportunity to better promote MAP, MSSD and MCSD and CP ministerial governing structures with added value and visibility as important forums for cooperation and actions towards sustainable development in the Mediterranean as well as b) to better link MAP with the other economic development sectors on the regional and national level, including the private sector.</p> <p>In his intervention, Mr. Thiaw highlighted the need for making a clear distinction between cooperation at project levels for which most of the RACs are interested and how they should actively participate according to their mandate and field of expertise, and strategic governance positioning that should be dealt with in a prudent and proactive manner by the Coordinating Unit in consultation with the ECP.</p> <p><i>GEF Project</i></p> <p>The meeting decided that the concerned RACs address GEF project bilaterally after the ECP meeting with V. Hart, UNEP/GEF Task manager.</p>	

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sustainable Tourism</i></p> <p>Mr. Thibault, BP director briefed the meeting on the work of an international group for sustainable tourism that recently had a meeting in Marrakech, Morocco. That meeting decided to transform the work undertaken by this group into a global partnership for sustainable tourism. Mediterranean was present in the work of this group by three states France, Morocco and Croatia and in his view there was room for a more institutionalized representation of the region by MAP through, for example, the MCSD.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>MCSD meeting preparation</i></p> <p>The meeting was briefed on the preparation of the MCSD meeting that was planned to be held on 28-30 September 2009 in Cairo, Egypt.</p>	
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Agenda item 6: Closure of the meeting

After the usual exchange of courtesy, Mr. Thiaw closed the ECP meeting at 1430.

ANNEX I

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ANNEX II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work
3. Managing the transition
4. Preparation for the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties
5. Other business
6. Closure of the meeting

Time frame

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 10.30: | Coffee break |
| 10:30 – 13:30 | Extraordinary ECP Meeting (ECP member +PO Staff as observers) |
| 13:30 – 14:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00 – 16:00 | ECP Meeting and meetings with RAC Directors |