

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><i>Cross thematic issues/5-year strategic programme of work</i></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 style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;"><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 style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;"><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.