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and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Tirana, Albania, 25-26 October 2016

Agenda Item 3: Progress Report for the period March-August 2016

Progress report by the Secretariat on the activities carried out for the period March-August 2016

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I. Introduction

1. This report covers the activities and outputs carried out in the period between 1 March 2016 and 31 August 2016.
2. The progress report is composed of a narrative part that highlights progress achieved and processes undertaken under the seven themes of the Programme of Work 2016-2017 (corresponding to the overarching theme, the core themes and the cross-cutting themes of the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021): Governance, Land and Sea Based Pollution, Biodiversity and Ecosystems, Land and Sea Interaction and Processes, Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), Climate Change Adaptation. The description of activities and outputs or processes is aggregated at strategic outcome level.
3. The Reports by the Secretariat on Specific Issues and on Financial and Administrative Issues are prepared as separate documents, namely UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.83/6 and UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.83/5 respectively. Furthermore, the Progress report by the Secretariat on the implementation of COP 19 Decisions, is presented as document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.83/4.

II. Main Activities/Outputs per PoW theme linked to specific outcome

II.1 Overarching Theme: GOVERNANCE

Strategic Outcome 1.1: Contracting Parties supported in the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, Regional Strategies and Action Plans

4. The present report will focus on the progress achieved with regards to the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 19) and its deliverables, the preparations for implementing the 2016-2017 Programme of Work (PoW) through specific UNEP/MAP project documents (Secretariat, including MED POL, as well as the other relevant MAP components). It will also address progress achieved with regards to external resource mobilization.

Ratification of Barcelona Convention and its Protocols by all Contracting Parties supported

5. Since the last meeting of the Bureau, the Depositary has communicated to the Secretariat the deposit of the instrument of ratification of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol by Italy, dated 30 June 2016. In accordance with Article 33 of the Barcelona Convention, the Prevention and Emergency Protocol entered into force for Italy on 30 July 2016. Furthermore, the Depositary has communicated to the Secretariat that a letter was sent by Lebanon rectifying the mistake made when communicating the ratification of the amended text of the Convention. More information is provided in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.83/6 "Report by the Secretariat on specific issues".

Governance meetings

6. During this period, two meetings of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) were conducted. The 28th Meeting of the ECP was held in Athens, Greece on 22-23 March 2016, while the 29th ECP Meeting was held by teleconference, on 13 July 2016. The Reports of these meetings are presented in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.83/Inf.5.
7. The 82nd meeting of the Bureau took place in Athens, Greece, on 19-20 April 2016. The conclusions and recommendations of the meeting are presented in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.82/7 "Report: Conclusions and Recommendations".

Resource mobilisation (project proposals approved or submitted in the current biennium)

8. The Marine litter Med Project funded by the EU GPGC/ENRTP was approved and the project became operational in June 2016. Work is ongoing to develop the required legal instruments to ensure project implementation with the support of SCP RAC, REMPEC and SPA/RAC. SSFA's are under preparation with several Contracting parties in order to provide financial and technical assistance to

implement pilot projects related to NAP marine litter related measures. The project will be implemented from June 2016- May 2019, with a budget of 1,400,000 EUR.

9. The ENPI SEIS II Project funded by the EEA in the framework of UfM H2020 Initiative has been submitted to HQ for review and approval. The specific objective of this project is to improve the availability and access to relevant environmental information to the benefit of effective and knowledge-based policy-making in the ENP South region. The project is expected to start soon and financial and technical support will be provided to southern Mediterranean countries for four years.

10. The EU funded project “Action Plans for Integrated Regional Monitoring Programmes, Coordinated Programmes of Measures and Addressing Data and Knowledge Gaps in Mediterranean Sea (ActionMed)” became operational during the reporting period under review. The project is co-implemented with Plan Bleu and aims at supporting a further gap analysis of measures to achieve GES as well as developing new updated measures and plans for their implementation. The results of this project will be shared with Component Focal Points and CoRMOn as well as EcAp Coordination group meetings as appropriate.

11. The GEF one step Medium Sized Project “Implementation of Ecosystem Approach in the Adriatic Sea through Marine Spatial Planning” has been submitted for the consideration and endorsement of the GEF CEO. The main objective of the project is to contribute to the restoration of the ecological balance of the Adriatic Sea and to reach the Good Environmental Status through the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and to improve sub-regional management capacity through the introduction of Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) as a viable marine management tool. The project has been endorsed by Montenegro and Albania and will be implemented in close cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina.

12. Following the Steering Committee Meeting and Final Event of the MedPartnership and ClimVar and ICZM projects held in Athens, Greece in November 2015, the terminal evaluation and closure of the two projects were completed and submitted to the UNEP Evaluation Office for a final clearance and further submission to the GEF secretariat. The co-executing partners to the MedPartnership and ClimVar and ICZM projects shared the final progress and financial reports which have been compiled in a set of final reports/templates in accordance with the GEF requirements. The documents are being cleared by the UNEP-GEF Office for final submission to the GEF Secretariat. Once finalized and formally cleared by the UNEP-GEF Office, the final reports and evaluations of both projects will be shared with the MAP Focal Points.

13. Based on the input given by the countries involved in the MedPartnership and ClimVar and ICZM projects and further consultations in the first semester of 2016, the Secretariat prepared a proposal for a new GEF regional programme entitled “Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security”. The Programme has been developed under the innovative programmatic approach scheme of the GEF-6 strategy. Its objective is to kick-start the implementation of actions aimed at strengthening climate resilience and water security, and improving the health and livelihoods of coastal populations. The Programme builds on four components which fully reflect the priorities adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in the MTS and other instruments, such as the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 (MSSD), the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas (RCCAF), etc. The MedProgramme has been submitted to the GEF Secretariat on 25 July 2016 for consideration of its inclusion in the October work programme of the GEF Council. The MAP Focal Points were informed about the submission in the form of a letter sent by the Secretariat on 29 July 2016.

14. The proposed Programme represents a comprehensive and powerful response to the above-mentioned environmental and social challenges. In particular, through a series of child projects, the MedProgramme will focus on: (i) reduction of land-based pollution in priority coastal hotspots and measuring progress and impacts; (ii) enhancing sustainability and climate resilience in the coastal zone; (iii) protecting marine biodiversity; and (iv) knowledge management and programme coordination. In addition, the MedProgramme will introduce another long-term impact and innovative factor, namely it will complement its technical assistance interventions with a large investment portfolio to address the needs defined by the updated NAPs. This component will be supported by the

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the European Investment Bank (EIB).

15. The Secretariat is participating, as an implementing partner, in two proposals submitted to a DG MARE Call for MSP proposals (Supporting Implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning in Call for Proposals EASME/EMFF/2015/1.2.1.3). The two proposals are related to the Eastern and Western Mediterranean: Supporting Maritime Spatial Planning in the Eastern Mediterranean (SUPrEME) & Supporting Implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning in the Western Mediterranean region (SIMWESTMED). Both proposals were submitted in April 2016 and they are being now reviewed by the European Commission. They are both related to MSP and UNEP/MAPs key role in them is to ensure the sub-regional and regional links.

16. Through UNEP Headquarters, UNEP/MAP submitted a concept note for a project proposal on the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy (MSSD) implementation, targeting the project funding available for projects addressing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

17. The Secretariat is supporting the Marine Litter Plastic Busters project, UfM labelled, in view of enhancing possibilities for its funding through different mechanism. For this purpose, the Secretariat attended a fund raising and communication meeting held in Siena, Italy on 13-14 April 2016. This project is led by the Siena University (UNISI), Italy as part of the UNSD solutions initiative. UNEP/MAP is expected to contribute to several working packages of this project upon funding availability.

18. UNEP/MAP, through PAP/RAC, participated to the PORTODIMARE project proposal (geoPORtal of TOols & Data for sustainable Management of coAstal and maRine Environmentaims) lead by the Emilia-Romagna region. The project proposal gathers a consortium of institutions and regional authorities from all Adriatic-Ionian countries proposing to create a common platform (Geoportal) for data and information related to coastal and marine areas of the A-I Region, by integrating existing databases, portals and tools developed by previous EU projects, by local and national administrations and by other initiatives. The Geoportal represents a decisive contribution to the transnational cooperation between A-I Countries on maritime and marine governance and services, i.e. ICZM and MSP, and an important support to the EUSAIR Strategy and Action Plan implementation, cross-cutting to the four pillars of the Strategy. The Geoportal aims to be a daily working tool for decision-makers, practitioners, marine scientists and other stakeholders.

Strategic Outcome 1.2: Contracting Parties supported in compliance with the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, Regional Strategies and Action Plans

19. Specific consultations have taken place between UNEP/MAP, GFCM and ACCOBAMS on how to implement IMAP and more specifically PoW points 1.4.3 and 2.4.1 in a coherent manner. For example, with the support of EcAp-MEDII project, the Secretariat, together with GFCM and ACCOBAMS, has developed a draft Common Indicator Fact Sheets (Fact Sheets to be presented in autumn at country level trainings and at the upcoming Pollution and Litter CORMON). In addition, a draft country capacity need analysis for Southern Mediterranean countries is currently being conducted in consultation with relevant institutions and Focal Points of the Southern Mediterranean countries, to enable future, even more targeted, country-specific trainings.

20. The progress under this Strategic Outcome specifically related to ratification, compliance and reporting is reported in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.83/6 "Report by the Secretariat on specific issues".

Strategic Outcome 1.3: Strengthened participation, engagement, synergies and complementarities among global and regional institutions

21. The Secretariat hosted the H2020 PRPI (Pollution Reduction and Prevention Investment) meeting at the premises of the Coordinating Unit in Athens, Greece on 6 June 2016. The meeting of the PRPI group is co-chaired by the UfM and EIB Secretariat and with the presence of several donor agencies active in the Region. The main objective of the meeting was to review the investment component of the updated NAPs and discuss common approaches for supporting priority projects.

22. Work is ongoing by MED POL to establish a regional coordination mechanism, as a tool to support and facilitate the work of the Contracting Parties for the implementation of the Marine Litter Regional Plan. In this respect, the Secretariat is making the final preparations for hosting the first meeting of key regional partners on 6 September 2016. Invitations and documents of this meeting were dispatched and around 20 organizations have expressed their interest to attend and contribute to this meeting. Coordination is also ongoing with OSPAR, HELCOM and Black Sea Commission for ensuring an efficient implementation of the Regional Plans on marine litter. For this purpose, a consultation meeting was held among all regional seas in Madeira, Portugal, in June 2016 which reviewed progress on the implementation of the Marine Litter Regional Plan and suggested common actions to enhance efficiency.

23. In order to pursue the achievement of SDG14 and Aichi target 11 in the Mediterranean; and to ensure that the application of the precautionary principle and the Ecosystem Approach is strengthened in a coordinated manner, UNEP/MAP through SPA/RAC, together with the Secretariats of ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN-Med, in collaboration with MedPAN has drawn up a “Joint Cooperation Strategy on Spatial-based Protection and Management Measures for Marine Biodiversity” (the draft Joint Strategy), in order to ensure, within their mandates, that the spatial-based management and conservation in the open seas in the Mediterranean are harmonised and complement each other. Additional information on the process and its outcome is presented in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR 83/6 “Report by the Secretariat on specific issues”.

24. The Secretariat held the Annual bilateral meeting with GFCM, regarding the progress of the implementation of the MOU between MAP and GFCM (signed in 2012). The meeting, which took place in Rome, Italy, on 12-13 April 2016, identified the need to work further closely together in order to achieve SDG14 and subsequently implement the MoU. A possible joint workplan was recommended, to be reached after the exchange of calendars and further informal consultations between GFCM and UNEP/MAP in light of the compiled table relating to the activities listed in the MOU.

25. The “Work plan for the MCSD Steering Committee and MSSD implementation (2015-2017)” and the “Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025. Implementation and Monitoring Plan”, were prepared and sent to the Members of the MCSD Steering Committee for comments. The process of a simplified peer review mechanism has been set in motion. More details are provided in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR 83/6 “Report by the Secretariat on specific issues”.

26. The cooperation between the European Environment Agency (EEA) and UNEP/MAP has a long-standing history, which builds on the framework for structured and consistent collaboration dating back to 2006 when the first joint work plan was signed by both organisations. Since the last Bureau meeting, the Secretariat and EEA have worked together to update the 2006 workplan to align it with the MTS and the EEA priorities. The implementation of the EU funded project and the co-chairing of the Review and Monitoring sub group of the UfM H2020 initiative, demonstrated the added value of such a cooperation and created a strong basis for its strengthening. The updated joint work plan is a new path for 2016-2021, fully in line with the MTS cycle, which underlines the importance of joint efforts in streamlining the information delivery and its dissemination in support to the implementation of relevant policies and influencing decision-making.

27. France (Ministry of the Ecology) launched on 27 June an initiative of regional cooperation entitled “Mediterranean Plan for blue growth” (“Plan Méditerranée pour la croissance bleue”), building on existing programmes and projects. UNEP/MAP is member of the steering committee established to lead this initiative, which is in line with the priorities and content of the legally-binding framework of the MAP-Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the Decisions of the Contracting Parties. Four meetings of the Steering Committee took place (22 May, 15 June, 20 July, 7 September) and UNEP/MAP participated in all of them through the Coordinating Unit or/and MAP Components. The workshop “What solutions for the Mediterranean” was held in Paris in June 2016, with the objective to identify and develop initiatives to accelerate certain projects or initiate innovative actions with a regional and possibly lasting impact for the sustainable development of the Mediterranean Sea. It is very important that the Mediterranean Plan for Blue Growth contains a clear reference to the

wider context of the existing legally-binding framework of UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention to avoid possible confusion and the impression of duplication of efforts. The initiative is promoting several activities in line with the strategic decisions taken at COP19 of the Barcelona Convention (Athens, February 2016). In particular, the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2021, together with the entire package of legally-binding instruments and decisions of the Barcelona Convention, provide a very robust framework for the preparation of the Conference planned for January 2017 and, most importantly, for the work on the protection of the environment of the Mediterranean Sea and coasts and for the sustainable development of the Mediterranean region.

Strategic Outcome 1.4: Knowledge and understanding of the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast enhanced through mandated assessments for informed policy-making

28. The MSSD hard copy edition was prepared by Plan Bleu with the collaboration of UNEP/MAP – UNEP/DTIE – UNESCO. The latter has been published and is also available on line. Regarding the establishment of the sustainability dashboard, an initial workshop on “How to monitor the MSSD 2016-2025” was organized in Saint-Laurent du Var, France, on 30-31 of March 2016. Starting the design of the Mediterranean sustainability dashboard, about 40 priority indicators have been selected for the MSSD implementation monitoring in line with the workshop of Saint-Laurent du Var; the first version of the Mediterranean sustainability dashboard will be discussed during the dedicated workshop to be held in Barcelona, Spain on 17 October 2016. Some more details on these issues are provided in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR 83/6 “Report by the Secretariat on specific issues”.

29. The preparation of the first Quality Status Report (QSR) for the Mediterranean is one of the most important outputs of the 2016-2017 Programme of Work (PoW). The draft concept and table of contents for the preparation of the 2017 Quality Status Report (QSR) based on MAP EcAp-based EO and related common indicators has been developed in detail following internal discussion and agreement, including during the last EcAp Task Force meeting that took place in Athens, Greece in June 2016. More information on this process and, the proposed course of action is presented in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR 83/6 "Report by the Secretariat on specific issues".

30. In order to support the country assessment, national monitoring programmes and in accordance with the Decision IG.22/7 on the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP), the Secretariat is preparing the CORMON meeting on Pollution. The meeting will be held on 19-21 October 2016 in Marseilles, France, together with the Regional Workshop on Science Policy Interface (SPI). More information on the CORMON meeting is provided under the relevant sections of this report, while the aim of the SPI meeting is to shape the regional science policy interface in line with the EcAp Med II Output 3, identify the priority policy needs, good practices and actions to mobilize scientific responses.

31. Plan Bleu participated to the MedCOP Climate 2016, in Tangiers, Morocco, on 17 -18 July 2016, to present the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025, and especially its 4th Objective “Addressing Climate Change as a priority issue for the Mediterranean”.

32. Plan Bleu is preparing the first Regional Consultation Workshop to be held on Climate Change Science-Policy Interface in the Mediterranean (MedEcc) in Aix-en-Provence, France, on 10-12 October, gathering scientists and decision-makers

33. The Secretariat is also preparing its representation in COP 22 of UNFCCC that is taking place in Marrakech, Morocco on 7-18 November 2016, including with the organization of side events.

34. Work is ongoing, with Plan Bleu in the lead, for the MED2050 roadmap to be presented to COP 20 and the first step of identification of partners and collaboration with scientist and NGOs, as IUCN, has started. All MAP Components are involved in preparing the next report on environment and development in the Mediterranean Sea RED2019.

35. A number of activities were held under the auspices of UNEP/MAP, in Athens, Greece, such as: i) the MEDASSET healthy seas campaign award distribution ceremony, on 17 May 2016, the MedSOS cleanup the beach campaign (to which eight members of UNEP/MAP staff participated), on 15 May 2016, and c) an orientation visit for students from the Athens Academy, in collaboration with REMPEC, on 24 May 2016.

36. In order to support Contracting Parties in the implementation of their national monitoring programme in this initial phase of the IMAP, SPA/RAC has developed the common indicator fact sheets related to Biodiversity and NIS. These fact sheets will provide, among others, the information needed to evaluate the severity of the environmental problems and the distance from the EcAp targets, the Biodiversity and NIS Ecological Objectives and GES. Based on the elaborated draft, the CORMON will further refine the assessment criteria of the common indicators and update the definition of GES.

37. A regional Workshop on Sustainable Tourism in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries (Marseille, 23-24 May 2016) was held, gathering more than 60 participants (documents and results are available on line). As an outcome of the workshop, a document on Sustainable Tourism in the Mediterranean, in line with MSSD 2016-2025, has been drafted and is being circulated for feedback and comments from the UNEP/MAP CU and Components.

Strategic Outcome 1.5: MAP knowledge and MAP information system enhanced and accessible for policy-making, increased awareness and understanding

38. The MED POL Programme is in close dialogue with INFO/RAC to ensure that the MED POL online database, which was developed in 2012, is made available to all Contracting Parties to report their monitoring data and view their past reports. The online database has required some revision from the “testing phase” to ensure clear and easy accessibility and uploading of data. Also past MEDPOL data from 2000 is in the process of being re-uploaded by INFO/RAC into the system.

39. The Barcelona Convention was the first regional Convention to join the Multilateral Environmental Agreement Information and Knowledge Management Initiative (MEA-IKM) and is working in close cooperation with InforMEA to provide data and content to the initiative. The Secretariat participated in the last meeting of the IKM Working Group (6 September 2016), where the recommendations of the 7th MEA-KIM Steering Committee were discussed. These ranged from outreach and awareness raising to e-learning and education to impact of SDGs on IKM. The Secretariat is working to identify how the Barcelona Convention could further contribute to InforMEAs in light of the recommendations of the MEA-KIM Steering Committee.

40. REMPEC is currently drafting a working document on this issue of streamlining and rationalizing the reporting obligations.

Strategic Outcome 1.6: Raised awareness and outreach

41. A new website and data base was developed. Its English version is live, while the French and Arabic versions, in addition with a training, are expected by October 2016. The main sections are completed, while more work will take place until the end of the year. On the meantime, the existing UNEP/MAP website was regularly updated: 13 news items were posted in three languages and disseminated through RACs websites, DEPI Dispatch and UNEP in Europe monthly newsletter.

42. The UNEP/MAP media list was updated and the process for developing a plan for the handing over of communication activities to INFO/RAC was initiated.

43. The UNEP/MAP website was updated with the support of the EcAp-MEDI project, with the objective to make the website more accessible, user-friendly, with fully integrating EcAp in the structure of the site.

44. The Coordinating Unit produced a series of publications in cooperation with Plan Bleu and INFO/RAC and other partners and obtaining ISBN number from HQ namely, the MSSD in English and French, IMAP, Marine Litter Assessment, SAP-MED, GFCM MoU brochure, and 5 MEDPOL guidelines under MedPartnership project. The following publications were produced in hardcopy form by August 2016: (a) the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 (in English and French), (b) the Memorandum of Understanding between UNEP/MAP and GFCM (in English), (c) the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and related Assessment Criteria – IMAP (in English), and (d) the Marine Litter Assessment in the Mediterranean 2015 (in English and French).

45. Furthermore, the SAP MED/NAP implementation status 2000-2015 report (in English) as well as the results of the Regional survey on abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear and ghost nets in the Mediterranean Sea carried out in 2015 (in English) were published in May 2016.
46. SPA/RAC has launched a call for tender to upgrade the MedGIS to a Spatial Data Infrastructure (MedbiodivSDI) in compliance with the Inspire Directive. The MedbiodivSDI will be composed of a catalogue of the spatial data available at SPA/RAC and a geoviewer to display the georeferenced data.
47. The Guidelines on ESM on Mercury, Lead batteries, PCB, Lube oils and Tanneries were designed and published with support from SCP/RAC. The publications were prepared in line with UNEP publication policy.
48. The elaboration of a cartoon on the ecosystem approach in the Mediterranean (EcAp) is ongoing. The first screening of the cartoon is scheduled during the MPA forum in Tangiers, Morocco, on 28 November 2016.
49. A Marine Litter (ML) spot preparation for COP 19 was largely used in other fora as well as from Contracting Parties, where appropriate.
50. PAP/RAC carried out preparatory activities for the Mediterranean Coast Day (27 September 2016, Barcelona, Spain) celebration (documentation, promotional material, invitations, logistics) and is producing a short video on the implementation of the MAVA project on Blue Economy.
51. The Secretariat proceeded with work to finalize the selection criteria and process regarding the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award. The following actions were taken in this respect: (i) a Task Force was created (as per Annex of Decision IG. 22/19) composed of representatives from the Coordinating Unit and MAP Components, (ii) a document describing the nomination and selection process was drafted, together with an Application Form, (iii) the two above mentioned documents were revised by the Task Force and are presented as an Annex to document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.83/6 "Report by the Secretariat on specific issues".

II. 2 Core Theme I: LAND AND SEA-BASED POLLUTION

Strategic Outcome 2.1: Strengthening regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and four pollution-related Protocols, and of programmes of measures in existing relevant Regional Strategies and Action Plans

52. REMPEC initiated discussion with IOGP to support the development of offshore common standards and guidelines.
53. Activities to mobilize funding for projects in support to SCP Regional Action Plan have been developed, with the aim to contribute to pollution and waste prevention.

Strategic Outcome 2.2: Development or update of new/existing action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines

54. MED POL has started to develop updated guidelines on the dredged materials and artificial reefs under the Dumping Protocol in order to bring them in line with the latest IMO relevant development where appropriate and streamline relevant GES targets. The proposed amended guidelines will be reviewed by an expert meeting appointed by the Contracting Parties scheduled in February 2017.
55. MED POL is working closely with REMPEC to develop monitoring guidance related to shipping and offshore activities. The draft guidelines will be reviewed by a meeting of experts appointed by the Contracting Parties, scheduled in February 2017, that will be jointly organized by MED POL and REMPEC under the EU funded EcAp MED II project.
56. MED POL started to work under the new Marine Litter Project to develop in cooperation with SCP RAC, REMPEC and SPA/RAC the following tools in accordance with the Marine Litter Regional Plan:

- (a) guidance document to determine the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, application of No-Special-Fee system
- (b) risk assessment tool for identifying where in the Mediterranean accumulations of ghost nets pose a threat and should be removed
- (c) guidelines on 'Adopt a beach' best practices
- (d) template of legislation/regulation on the non-single use of plastic bags and Extended Producer Responsibility with regards to plastic and microplastic materials
- (e) specific guidelines and training material to prevent the generation of plastics and wastes ending up as marine litter.

57. The first draft of the above guidance documents or tools is expected to be delivered next year for review by the experts of the Contracting Parties at both national and regional levels.

58. MED POL is reviewing the annexes of the Pollution related Protocols to consider needs for their update in view of relevant global and regional developments, in particular related to Stockholm, Basel, EU WFD and EU MSFD, where appropriate, to achieve GES.

59. REMPEC prepared the specific guidelines to determine the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities. REMPEC provided input to the drafting of the GPGC/ENRTP UNEP Project document, including budget, for the "Marine Litter-MED" project. The implementation of the project should be initiated by the end of 2016.

60. REMPEC updated Principles and Guidelines on cooperation and mutual assistance. The First Draft that was prepared by the selected consultant is currently being reviewed by REMPEC, prior to its dissemination to CPs for comments and further discussion at a technical workshop (MEDEXPOL 2016) scheduled to take place in Malta on 14-15 December 2016.

Strategic Outcome 2.3: Strengthening and implementation of marine pollution prevention and control legislation and policies at national level, including through enforcement and integration into sectorial processes

61. Work has advanced in assessing the information provided in the updated NAPs regarding in particular the status of hotspots and sensitive areas, loads of pollutants, operational targets to achieve GES, envisaged national programmes of measures, capacity building needs, list of indicators to assess the NAP implementation and priority project fiches. A regional meeting is to be held in Marseille, France in 17-18 October 2016 (co organized by MED POL, Plan Bleu and the EU funded SWIM H2020 Support mechanism). The objective of this meeting is to draft a roadmap for the implementation of the NAPs and identify key common priorities. The meeting will be an opportunity for the Contracting Parties to share best practices, lessons learnt and challenges faced during the NAP update process and strengthen their capacities for better prioritizing the programmes of measures and elaborating the investment project fiches.

62. A proposal of Background Concentrations (BC)/Background Assessment Concentrations (BACs)/Environmental Assessment Criteria (EACs) for contaminants and biomarkers at Mediterranean and sub regional scales has been drafted and will be discussed at the CORMON Pollution meeting in Marseille, France on 19-21 October 2016 (see Strategic Outcome 1.4).

63. REMPEC carried out preparatory work to follow up on the Conclusions and Recommendations of the 2015 MENELAS meeting, in particular with a view to implementing the MENELAS Programme of Activities for the period 2016-2017.

64. In order to support the preparation of sea-based NAPs, a Draft common template for the preparation of NAPs, including national assessments, prepared by REMPEC with the assistance of the selected consultant was disseminated to the Contracting Parties for updating and for further discussion at a regional expert Meeting, scheduled for 8-9 November 2016, in Barcelona, Spain.

65. Technical support was provided by REMPEC to the Lebanese Government in the preparation of its National contingency plan. REMPEC participated in or contributed to several exercises, (Israel,

April and June 2016); RAMOGEPOL 2016 (Monaco, April 2016); and Simulex 2016 (Morocco, April 2016).

Strategic Outcome 2.4: Marine Pollution Monitoring and Assessment

66. Work is ongoing to support 10 Contracting Parties to establish updated national monitoring programmes in line with the IMAP (Pollution and Litter Cluster). SSFA's are in the process of development.

67. MED POL undertook a review from the data of the MED POL Monitoring Programme (2000 to date) and from the Contracting Parties reporting. Short reports per Contracting Party were prepared including the results of the 2015 Quality Assurance programme that will be shared shortly with the respective MED POL Focal Points.

68. The 2015 Quality Assurance programme for trace elements in sediment sample and chlorinated pesticides, PCBs and petroleum hydrocarbons in biota; the Quality Assurance of data regarding eutrophication parameters; the Biological effects studies and organization of an Inter-calibration exercise were successfully finalized. New activities to support countries in their monitoring and quality assurance activities are under preparation as provided for in the PoW as well as EcAp-MED II Project.

69. In the framework of the EcAp-MED II Project, REMPEC prepared terms of references for the provision of Consultancy Services for the development of Offshore Monitoring Programmes and a quality assurance programme for data reporting and collection.

Strategic Outcome 2.5: Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building

70. In collaboration with the EU funded Defishgear Project, the Secretariat organised the regional meeting in Tirana, Albania, 19-20 July 2016, on the further implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management the Mediterranean. Over 50 participants attended this meeting which provided the opportunity to Contracting Parties to enhance their capacities and exchange experience on best marine litter practices, addressing both land and sea based sources of marine litter. The meeting also agreed on a list of priority for future actions.

71. REMPEC assisted in facilitating the participation of Contracting Parties to surveillance operations. Two Contracting Parties have been invited to attend the Special Co-ordinated Extended Pollution Control Operation (Special CEPCO) 2016 organised by The Netherlands in the context of the Bonn Agreement.

72. A National Training Course on Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Response, to be held in Cairo, Egypt between 25 and 29 September 2016, is being prepared by REMPEC in cooperation with the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA). This activity is financed by IMO ITCP.

73. In relation to the implementation of the project for Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline clean-up and Oiled Wildlife interventions – POSOW, two new manuals on waste management and response with local fishermen assistance and a video were published in English, whilst the related posters and PowerPoint presentations were prepared in English, Arabic and Turkish. 34 Trainers from the recipient countries were trained during the two Train the Trainers courses, organised in Cedre, France, on 19-22 and 26-29 April 2016. Preparation for the organisation of national pilot training courses to be delivered by the newly trained trainers in their respective countries has been initiated.

74. In relation to pilot projects (Key Output 2.5.2), funding mobilization activities have been developed. In addition, pilot actions that are being developed to address Key Output 6.1.1 are also relevant to Key Output 2.5.2.

Strategic Outcome 2.6: Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels to prevent and control marine pollution

75. REMPEC supported the organization of a technical regional workshop (MEDEXPOL) and a high level meeting on cooperation arrangements in the field of preparedness and response to oil and

HNS spills. Regular meetings were held between the Maltese Competent Authorities and REMPEC to prepare the High level Meeting to celebrate Forty Years of “*Cooperation in the Mediterranean to Prevent and Combat Marine Pollution from Ships*”. The High Level Meeting and the Launch of the fortieth anniversary celebrations of the Centre will be held on 4 October 2016. It is organised within the framework of the Malta Maritime Summit, to take place from 3 to 6 October 2016. IPIECA support financially and technically, the implementation of 2.2.1.9 and 2.6.1.4.

76. In order to maintain the level of preparedness of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU), the renewal of REMPEC’s Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the framework of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU) with ISPRA and FEDERCHIMICA reached its final stage. Whilst, the MoUs between REMPEC and Sea Alarm, as well as between REMPEC and the Mediterranean Operational Network for the Global Ocean Observing System (MONGOOS) were renewed.

77. IMO ITCP supported, through REMPEC, the participation of representatives from Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Montenegro to attend the third Adriatic Oil Spill Conference (ADRIASPILLCON 2016) held in Opatija, Croatia, from 10 to 12 May 2016. Further to the signature in April 2016 of the Declaration for cooperation in the field of environment by the Ministers of Cyprus, Greece and Israel and the subsequent request of assistance to support the development of a Sub-Regional Contingency Plan (SCP), the Centre, in consultation with the MAP Coordinating Unit and IMO, submitted a project proposal and confirmed its availability to initiate the work in 2016. The three Contracting Parties accepted the proposal and REMPEC initiated the implementation phase.

78. In relation to the preparation of 2 project documents and the implementation of West MOPoCo and West MOPoEx, the outcome of the selection process should be communicated between by September 2016.

79. Funding mobilization activities are being developed for training and capacity building activities addressing Act. 2.6.2.1.

Strategic Outcome 2.7: Identifying and tackling new and emerging issues, as appropriate

80. Regarding the assessment of the feasibility of designation as a SOx Emission Control Area (ECA) certain areas of the Mediterranean Sea or the whole of the Med Sea, REMPEC established the technical committee of experts under Specific Objective 15 of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021). So far, nominations have been received from 13 Mediterranean coastal States and the European Union.

II.3 Core Theme II: BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS

Strategic Outcome 3.1: Strengthening regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention, and its relevant Protocols and other instruments

81. Geo-referenced data on the extension of MPAs as well as qualitative data on their management have been collected by SPA/RAC and MedPAN and led to the updating of the MAPAMED dataset as of 2016. The full report will be produced and spread in the beginning of 2017.

82. In March 2016, SPA/RAC and MedPAN have met, in Rabat, Morocco, with the Moroccan High Commissioner for Water and Forests in order to invite him to host and co-organize the second edition of the Mediterranean MPA Forum (28 November – 1 December 2016, Tangiers, Morocco). To date, two Steering Committee meetings have been held, the first in Rabat, Morocco on 1 March 2016 and the second in Marseille, France, on 12 July 2016. A save-the-date announcement was launched in February 2016 and a first call for participation in June 2016. Registration process will be open in September 2016.

83. A consultant has been hired for the evaluation of the 2020 MPA Roadmap implementation, the selection of case studies to be showcased during the Forum and the drafting of the Tangiers declaration. Several task forces have been set up for logistics, communication and programme/contents of the Forum. Communication tools have been developed, such as flyers and a dedicated website. The Forum was labelled as a “Marrakech COP 22 - 2016 UN Climate Change Conference” event.

84. SPA/RAC collaborated with the University of Nice Sophia-Antipolis (France) and other partners in the elaboration of the Mediterranean version of the educational booklet "The Science of Marine Protected Areas" (called PISCO booklet). SPA/RAC support consists particularly in (i) involving its scientific staff within the booklet Advisory Committee, and (ii) financially contributing to cover the participation fees of experts from Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries at the meeting of policy and management advisors, held in Nice, France, mid-June 2016.

85. A leaflet summarising the scope and objectives of SPA/RAC activities under the UNEP-EC MedMPAnet II project was elaborated in three languages (Arabic, English, and French).

Strategic Outcome 3.2: Development of new action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines for the conservation of Coastal and Marine biodiversity and ecosystems

86. Prefilled national assessments of the level of implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management were prepared by REMPEC. The latter were disseminated to the Contracting Parties for updating and analysis with a view to preparing a Synthetic Report to be referred to the Focal Points of REMPEC for their review and recommendations.

87. REMPEC developed the regional risk assessment tool for compliance, monitoring and enforcement (CME) as well as exemptions under the Ballast Water Management Convention. In its capacity of Regional Coordinating Organization (RCO), REMPEC has been coordinating the implementation of the GloBallast Partnerships Programme in the Mediterranean region, in collaboration with the SPA/RAC. Within the framework of the GloBallast Partnerships Programme, IMO and EBRD are discussing the possibility of supporting TUBITAK from Turkey to have their tool translated to expand the scope of the tool at international and regional level.

88. In the framework of the Action Plan concerning species introductions and invasive species in the Mediterranean Sea and as provided for in the IMAP, SPA/RAC has organized, on 24 April 2016 in Hammamet (Tunisia), an *Ad hoc* meeting to discuss criteria to declare an alien species invasive in the Mediterranean Sea, which will be used for the proper running of the Early Warning System part of MAMIAS.

Strategic Outcome 3.3: Strengthening national implementation of biodiversity conservation policies, strategies and legislation measures

89. Three ecologically important sites (namely Batroun, Medfoun and Byblos) have been identified in Lebanon and will be extensively surveyed from 28 September to 7 October 2016.

90. In Morocco, an inception meeting between the "Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte Contre la Désertification" (HCEFLCD) and the SPA/RAC-MedMPAnet II Project has been organized on 16 May 2016, in Rabat, Morocco. This gathering allowed presenting the planned activities of the Project in the country and establishing a detailed work programme and calendar of the activities to be undertaken in the potential site of Djebel Moussa, including a socio-economic study, the elaboration of a management plan and a sustainable financing mechanism for the future MPA of the Djebel Moussa. The socio-economic survey and research on the socio-economic environment and actors of Djebel Moussa marine and coastal area has already been started.

Strategic Outcome 3.4: Monitoring, inventory and assessment of biodiversity with focus on endangered and threatened species, non-indigenous species and key habitats

91. SPA/RAC has developed guidelines for the elaboration of the national monitoring programme for biodiversity and NIS, and is presently supporting the concerned southern Mediterranean countries to hire national expert(s) to develop their national monitoring programme.

92. A consultant has been hired for the evaluation of the 2020 MPA Roadmap implementation (see Strategic Outcome 3.1 above). The evaluation is underway.

Strategic Outcome 3.5: Technical assistance and capacity building at regional, sub-regional and national levels to strengthen policy implementation and compliance with biodiversity -related national legislation

93. A regional training on the integrated monitoring of Mediterranean biodiversity has been organized from 18 to 23 July 2016 at the Kuriat Islands, Monastir, Tunisia.

Strategic Outcome 3.6: Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels to protect and conserve biodiversity and ecosystems

94. The preparation of a “Joint Cooperation Strategy on Spatial-based Protection and Management Measures for Marine Biodiversity among the Secretariats of ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN-Med, UNEP/MAP through SPA/RAC and in collaboration with MedPAN” (the draft Joint Strategy) has got to its final stage. Following the discussions in Malta on the sidelines of the 40th GFCM Steering Committee, the draft has been further refined by the Secretariat, to highlight that the cooperation among the Secretariats is fully in line with their existing mandates. Noting that the aim of the Secretariats is to finalize and sign the draft Joint Strategy at the 2nd MPA Forum, the draft Joint Strategy is an Information Document to the Bureau (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.83/Inf.4).

95. In order to progress towards Key Output 3.7.1 “Coordination with the ongoing process towards the adoption of an implementing agreement on BBNJ” and strengthen the visibility of the Mediterranean in the international BBNJ process, the Secretariat co-organized and held, together with GFCM a side-event on 31 August 2016, entitled “Regional Ocean Governance in Practice: the Mediterranean experience”, at the 2nd Preparatory Committee on the Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, that is taking place in New York, USA, from 26 August to 9 September 2016. The UNEP/MAP Coordinator has participated in this side event.

II.4 Core Theme III: LAND AND SEA INTERACTIONS AND PROCESSES

Strategic Outcome 4.2: Development of new action plans, programmes of measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines

96. PAP/RAC proceeded with the organization of the 1st working meeting to start drafting the Conceptual Framework for MSP in the Mediterranean and with the launching of coast and hydrography related activities of EcAp Med II project (preparation of the annotated contents of the monitoring plan and consultations with countries).

Strategic Outcome 4.3: Strengthening national implementation

97. Work is ongoing to implement the CAMP projects. In this respect, PAP/RAC undertook the organisation of the Mid-term conference of the CAMP Italy (21-22 March 2016 Bologna, Italy) and the First Land-Sea Forum within the CAMP France (30-31 March 2016, Grimaud, Var, France), as well as the continuation of the respective CAMP activities.

98. Further work included, inter alia, the preparation of ToR and starting the process of selection of consultant(s) to prepare the feasibility study for a CAMP in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

II.5 Cross-cutting Theme I: INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT (ICZM)

Strategic Outcome 5.1: Strengthening regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and of programmes of measures in existing Regional Strategies and Action Plans

99. PAP/RAC launched the process of the preparation of the Regional Framework for ICZM. This included the organisation of the 1st working meeting, drafting of the document, preparatory activities for the first regional consultation meeting.

100. PAP/RAC also organized the 2nd run of the MedOpen module on Climate Change, prepared within the MedPartnership project and repeated upon frequent requests by interested candidates.

101. At the same time, PAP/RAC undertook the updating of the French version of the MedOpen on-line training course.

Strategic Outcome 5.3: Strengthening national implementation

102. In the framework of assisting one Contracting Party, which so requested, to define procedures and draw up a plan to deal with ships in distress, REMPEC attended the SAFEMED III Seminar on places of refuge for ships in need of assistance. It was held at the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)'s headquarters, and lectured on international cooperation: addressing the issue of places of refuge for ships in distress in the Mediterranean.

II.6 Cross-cutting Theme II: SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION (SCP)

Strategic Outcome 6.1: Development of new action plans, programmes of measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines and implementation of current ones

103. Pilot actions have been identified for Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria and activities for their implementation have been launched:

- Lebanon: Develop composting processes of organic material from the wine industry, like sludge from the winery's wastewater treatment plant, fresh stalks and organic waste from the filtering stages, in order to obtain quality compost.
- Morocco: Develop solution for onsite biogas production in farms and cooperatives (target organization: Biodome).
- Tunisia: Pilot action 1: Giving value to co products of organic olive oil production (target organization: Sabra Olive Oil); Pilot action 2: Consolidating an ecotourism site (target organization: Dar Zagouhan); Pilot action 3: Consolidating an ecotourism tour operator (target organization: Tunisia Ecotourism).
- Algeria: Pilot action 1: Giving value to downgraded dates and co-products of date production (target organization: Rima dates); Pilot action 2: Consolidating a sewing shop based on the recovery of household linen remnants and other remains of clothes (target organization: Atelier Printemps).

Strategic Outcome 6.2: Monitoring and assessment

104. Activities were initiated to review existing SCP indicators for the selection of the appropriated ones for the monitoring of the SCP Action Plan.

105. SCP/RAC together with Plan Blue/RAC are organizing a Technical workshop on MSSD and SCP indicators that will take place in Barcelona, Spain on 17 October 2016.

Strategic Outcome 6.3: Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building

106. The training programme on Green Entrepreneurship is running in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Palestine and Lebanon. To date, 3,778 entrepreneurs have submitted their applications for the training programme. Out of them, 1,444 green entrepreneurs have started or completed the training programme, while 83 green entrepreneurs have been selected as eligible for the incubation phase. 59 have already submitted their green business models applying for the incubation phase. The selection process is ongoing.

107. Support services and coaching to eight selected civil society-led eco-innovation initiatives in Tunisia, Lebanon, Algeria and Morocco have started. These initiatives have been selected from the ones that participated in the national workshop organised in each of the four countries. Selection of

local partners to support civil society ecological innovation initiatives in Egypt, Jordan, Israel and Palestine is being developed.

108. Synergy workshops bringing together green entrepreneurs and relevant local stakeholders have been organized in Tunisia and Morocco (nearly 100 attendants per workshop). White papers are currently being drafted, while the White Paper from the Synergy Workshop in Lebanon is being reviewed by the NFP.

Strategic Outcome 6.4: Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels to prevent and control marine pollution

109. Actions and studies for scaling-up tools for green industries and green entrepreneurs in the Mediterranean have been launched.

110. Missions to Morocco and Tunisia took place under the framework of the Green Impact Investing Network Initiative (GIIN). Interviews with relevant stakeholders (more than 20 in each country) have been made and mappings have been drafted. A mission to Lebanon is being planned.

111. A collaboration agreement has been signed with EBRD to train three main Turkish local Banks on eco-design and eco-innovation.

112. As the Mediterranean SCP Hub, the SwitchMed website is being managed and systematically updated with relevant news and information on SCP actions:

- The SCP Action Network of the Platform has increased to more than 1,100 members;
- 2-3 news items per week have been posted on the website;
- 5th and 6th SwitchMed newsletters have been circulated;
- Social media accounts have been regularly maintained (Performance of reach: FB 2,437; Twitter 677; Linked-In 320);

113. SwitchMed Connect 2016 (18-20 October 2016, Barcelona, Spain) website content and communications materials have been developed (<http://switchmedconnect.com/en/media/>). Furthermore, a call for Contributions for SwitchMed Connect has been developed (<http://switchmedconnect.com/en/call-for-contributions/>). More than 100 submissions were received in response to the call. 25 sessions were selected and launched in collaboration with the regional partners. The agenda is uploaded online (<http://switchmedconnect.com/en/agenda/>). Mailing and social media campaigns were carried out leading to already about 250 participants by start of August 2016.

114. 16 new case stories have been selected and uploaded on *The Switchers*, the web platform showcasing stories from Mediterranean champions offering eco and social innovative solutions (www.theswitchers.eu). The platform currently counts a total of 87 successful stories.

III. Issues at stake for a sound implementation of the 2016-2017 PoW

115. MAP Components have expressed concerns for the following main issues for a sound implementation of the 2016-2017 PoW: inadequate level of resources (including contributions from the MTF to their activities, human resources, and time); increased complexity and demands of the processes initiated during COP 19; delays due to the implementation of UMOJA; late start of the biennium due to COP 19 taking place in February 2016. Some more specific inputs follow.

116. PAP/RAC highlighted the complexity and demands of the process for developing a regional framework for ICZM, which will require urgent attention and support by all MAP Components, as well as by the Contracting Parties. The strategic processes that will have to be opened as soon as possible and will need a large consultation including with the Bureau members, PAP/RAC and MAP NFPs are: the preparation of the Mediterranean Regional Framework for ICZM and the conceptual framework for MSP.

117. The lengthy process for the release of resources approved by COP 19, including the drafting of the project document and its approval by UNEP/MAP, IMO and UNEP, has had a negative impact on the work of REMPEC.

118. The implementation of UMOJA has increased complexity and resulted to delays. The delay of payments to providers can jeopardize the MAP system relations with the latter and affect its operations. Priority was therefore given to activities from external sources, which were made available to REMPEC in 2016 or early 2017, after the adoption of the PoW in February 2016, hence the low rate of expenditure of the MTF funds at this stage.