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Agenda item 2: Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap

Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap

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Note by the Secretariat

COP 15 (Almeria, Spain, January 2008) adopted, by its Decision IG. 17/6, a gradual application of the ecosystem approach with some specific steps, herein after referred to as Ecosystem Approach Roadmap, consisting of seven steps.

COP 16 (Marrakesh, Morocco, November 2009) adopted the 5 year strategic Programme of Work of UNEP/MAP highlighting ecosystem approach as its overarching principle.

COP 17 (Paris, France, February 2012) adopted by its Decision IG.20/4 a timeline and projected outputs (2012-2020) specifying the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap implementation, and requested its regular update on the basis of the progress achieved.

COP 18 and COP 19 ecosystem approach-related Decisions also provided for a number of key activities to ensure effective implementation of Decision IG.20/4.

COP 19 adopted the MAP Mid Term Strategy 2016-2021 (Decision IG.22/1) and the 2016-2017 MAP Programme of Work (Decision IG.22/20), integrating ecosystem approach as an overarching principle and providing for several outputs closely related to the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap implementation.

Furthermore, the 2016-2017 MAP Programme of Work mandated the Secretariat to undertake a Mid-term Review of the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap (the Mid-term Review).

As such, the present Mid-term Review represents an effort to assess the status of implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap by taking stock of the progress achieved with regards to its different steps in line with the respective COP Decisions relevant outputs.

The present Mid-term Review has been prepared by the Secretariat with inputs from respective UNEP/MAP components.

The Mid-term Review comprises two main parts:

1. The first part of the report provides information on the status of implementation of each of the seven steps of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap. The indication on the status of implementation is supported by a general analysis of the main activities and achievements marked under each step since its adoption (period 2008 – 2017).
2. The second part of the report provides information on the status of delivery of different outputs related to the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap, as provided for in the relevant recent COP Decisions (i.e. COP 17 Decision IG.20/4, and COP18 Decision IG.21/3 and COP19 Decision IG. 22/7), grouped under key action areas in line with the approved Programme of Work.

In the view of the Secretariat, the present report provides a comprehensive overview of UNEP/MAP efforts to implement the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap in the Mediterranean and showcases its timely implementation steps up to 2017.

This report also underlines, in line with the “Analysis of Existing Regional Measures and of the Needs for New/Updated Regional Measures to achieve Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean” (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.444/3) the following strategic points:

- the effective implementation of existing measures under the legal framework of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols is an absolute necessity to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast;
- work should continue on the implementation of the ecosystem approach, with the full implementation of IMAP (including national level implementation, data collection, reporting and assessment and further development of thresholds and assessment criteria);
- discussion on the next steps of the ecosystem approach implementation (beyond 2020) are timely to start, also in line with the international agenda of 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, addressing specific update needs of existing regional measures and possible new measures to achieve GES.

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Introduction

The present report provides information of the status of implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap, adopted by COP 15, held in Almeria, Spain, January 2008, (Decision IG. 17/6) as well as of ecosystem approach-related COP Decisions.

It is divided into two parts accordingly:

The first part of the report defines the status of implementation of the seven steps of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap while the second part presents the status of implementation of the different outputs related to the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap, as provided for in relevant recent COP Decisions (i.e. COP 17 Decision IG.20/4, and COP18 Decision IG.21/3 and COP19 Decision IG. 22/7).

1. Mid-Term Review of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap implementation (COP15 Decision IG.17/6)

Ecosystem Approach Roadmap Steps	Status
I. Definition of an ecological vision for the Mediterranean	Completed
<p>With regards to the implementation of the first step of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap, the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 2008 (COP15) agreed on the following ecological vision for the Mediterranean in its Decision IG.17/6:</p> <p><i>“A healthy Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems that are productive and biologically diverse for the benefit of present and future generations”</i></p>	
II. Setting of common Mediterranean strategic goals	Completed
<p>COP15 also agreed upon a set of strategic goals for marine and coastal areas, with its Decision IG.17/6, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>To protect, allow recovery and, where practicable, restore the structure and function of marine and coastal ecosystems thus also protecting biodiversity, in order to achieve and maintain good ecological status and allow for their sustainable use.</i> b) <i>To reduce pollution in the marine and coastal environment so as to minimize impacts on and risks to human and/or ecosystem health and/or uses of the sea and the coasts.</i> c) <i>To prevent, reduce and manage the vulnerability of the sea and the coasts to risks induced by human activities and natural events;</i> 	
III. Identification of important ecosystem properties and assessment of ecological status and pressures	Completed
<p>A number of assessment products have been prepared by the Secretariat since the adoption of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap, with the contribution of Contracting Parties, all MAP Components, relevant partners and regional stakeholders, with the view to provide a clearer image of the state of environment in the Mediterranean, and define the main pressures and their sources. More in particular:</p> <p>The Initial Integrated Assessment of the Mediterranean Sea and Coastal Areas was prepared in 2011, based on available knowledge and information. This initial assessment was undertaken at sub-regional and regional levels. A summary for decision makers, providing the main findings and priorities was submitted and endorsed by the COP17 with its Decision IG. 20/4.</p> <p>The State of the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment Report (SoER MED 2012) was prepared and published in 2012. It provides valuable information on the main human induced pressures, the state and impacts on the Mediterranean Ecosystems, while its last part presents the regional regulatory framework and identifies gaps and key steps for the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach.</p> <p>Furthermore, a methodology was developed to assess cost benefit and ecosystem services. The Initial Assessment report included a chapter on socio economic aspects.</p> <p>The third assessment report since the adoption of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap is the Quality Status Report 2017. Based on the COP 19 Decision on the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of</p>	

the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP, Decision IG. 22/7) and the MAP Programme of Work 2016-2017 (Decision IG.22/20), UNEP/MAP Secretariat with the input of all components and the experts of the various Correspondence Groups on Monitoring (CORMONs) have prepared the draft Quality Status Report (QSR 2017).

The draft QSR 2017 is fully based on the IMAP common indicators, using data provided by the Contracting Parties or collected through research by other available sources of information.

The preparation of QSR 2017 has followed a multi-step comprehensive review process, which has involved all relevant MAP Components, the CORMON experts, MAP Component Focal Points and Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group. Key partners such as the GFCM and ACCOBAMS have also contributed to this process.

The QSR 2017 is planned to be presented as an online interactive report, complemented by an executive summary and policy recommendations to be submitted to COP20.

IMAP lays out the preparation of future assessment products, namely the 2019 State of Environment and Development Report and the 2023 State of Environment Report.

In line with the 6-year ecosystem approach cycle and the IMAP implementation timeline, the next QSR will be delivered in 2023.

IV. Development of a set of ecological objectives corresponding to the vision and strategic goals

Completed

COP17 adopted a set of 11 Ecological Objectives based on Article 18 of the Barcelona Convention and in line with the agreed ecological vision and strategic goals for the Mediterranean under the ecosystem approach (Decision IG. 20/4).

The 11 Ecological Objectives are the following:

EO 1. Biodiversity, EO 2. Non-indigenous species, EO 3. Harvest of commercially exploited fish and shellfish, EO 4. Marine food webs, EO 5. Eutrophication, EO 6. Sea-floor integrity, EO 7. Hydrography, EO 8. Coastal ecosystems and landscapes. EO 9. Pollution, EO 10. Marine litter, EO 11. Energy including underwater noise.

The development and negotiation of these ecological objectives were based on the initial assessment report.

V. Derivation of operational objectives with indicators and target levels

Completed

As indicated above, COP 17 adopted 11 Ecological Objectives. For each Ecological Objective a set of Operational Objectives and indicators were also adopted on that occasion (IG. 20/4). The purpose was to break down and complement the ecological objectives to support their achievement, guide monitoring and assessment and as such the progress towards Good Environmental Status (GES).

Although COP 17 (Decision IG.20/4) adopted indicators for all the operational objectives, it was decided to focus, during the initial phase of Ecosystem Approach Roadmap implementation, on those ecological objectives for which data availability and methodological advancements would allow their effective monitoring. Therefore, COP18, on the basis of article 18 of the Barcelona Convention and relevant provisions from its related Protocols, adopted an integrated list of Mediterranean Good Environmental Status definitions and related targets.

The integrated list of GES definitions and related targets as presented in Decision IG.21/3 covers the following Ecological Objectives: a) Biodiversity (Operational Objectives 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4), EO 2 on NIS (Operational Objectives 2.1, 2.2), EO 5 on Eutrophication (Operational Objectives 5.1, 5.2, 5.3), EO 7 on Hydrography (Operational Objectives 7.1, 7.2, 7.3), EO 8 on Coastal Ecosystems and Landscapes (Operational Objective 8.1), EO 9 on Pollution (Operational Objectives 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5) and EO 10 on Marine Litter (Operational Objectives 10.1, 10.2).

The Correspondence Group on Monitoring (CORMON) per each cluster and the Correspondence Group on GES and Targets (CORGEST) groups, with the overall guidance of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group and with technical support of the Secretariat and the MAP components, concluded a list of IMAP Common and Candidate Indicators covering most of the Ecological Objectives (with the exception of EO 4 and EO 6 for which conditions were not mature enough to ensure monitoring feasibility) with the aim to serve as the basis for the integrated monitoring and assessment at regional and national levels.

The list of IMAP indicators was adopted by COP 19 (Decision IG.22/7).

VI. Revision of existing monitoring programmes for ongoing assessment and regular updating of targets

Completed at regional level;
On track at national/subregional level

COP19 adopted the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and related Assessment Criteria (IMAP, Decision IG.22/7). The IMAP implementation covers the period from 2016 to 2021, same of the second cycle of the ecosystem approach.

IMAP sets out all the required elements to establish the first region-wide Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme, covering in an integrated manner monitoring and assessment of biodiversity and fisheries, pollution and marine litter, coast and hydrography, based on region-wide common indicators.

The core of IMAP are the 23 regionally-agreed common indicators and the 4 candidate indicators, for which scientific knowledge and information is not yet fully developed to allow for regional monitoring and assessment. In any case, Contracting Parties are encouraged to develop pilot monitoring programmes.

Overall the IMAP indicators cover 9 out of 11 Ecological Objectives, namely the EO 1, EO2, EO3, EO 5, EO 7, EO 8, EO 9, EO 10, EO 11.

IMAP provides the basis for the development of candidate indicators towards common indicators, based on outcomes of pilot monitoring activities, additional expert knowledge and scientific development. It also foresees the refinement of specifics of agreed common indicators, in particular on geographical scales.

During the initial phase of IMAP (2016-2019) the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention are expected to update their national monitoring and assessment programmes in line with IMAP structure and principles and based on the agreed common indicators.

In the framework of the MAP Programme of Work and with the support of the EcAp-MEDII project, work is ongoing to develop or update national monitoring programme to implement IMAP. Efforts are ongoing to support countries in delivering their national IMAP through other projects funded by GEF where appropriate.

Four additional CORMON Meetings have been held (CORMON Pollution, CORMON Litter, CORMON Biodiversity and Fisheries and CORMON Coast and Hydrography), in order to specify monitoring and assessment technicalities of IMAP design and further its implementation.

According to Specific Objective 19 of the Regional Strategy for the Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention have agreed to contribute to the development of a quality assurance programme for data reporting and collection in line with IMAP.

Science-Policy Interface Meetings (SPI Meetings) have strengthened IMAP implementation, with the overall aim to enhance interaction between scientists and policy-makers on the ecosystem approach implementation, with focus on the specific needs of IMAP.

Five SPI Meetings took place from 2015-2017 (Inception Meeting, Pollution SPI Meeting, Biodiversity SPI Meeting, Integrated SPI Meeting on the Risk-based Approach and SPI Meeting on Scales of Monitoring and Assessment).

VII. Development and review of relevant action plans and programmes

On track

The implementation of the final step of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap is looked at on a multi-layer perspective, covering all the aspects of the legal and policy framework of the MAP- Barcelona Convention. In a nutshell, the ecosystem approach has been raised by the Contracting Parties to the programmatic level, reaffirmed as an overarching principle of the Barcelona Convention and as such has been integrated into the legal and policy framework of the Barcelona Convention including legally and non-legally binding instruments. More specifically:

A. Programmatic level

The ecosystem approach has been repeatedly affirmed as an overarching principle of the MAP – Barcelona Convention. Firstly, the Decision IG.19/17, adopted by COP 16 (Marrakesh, Morocco, November 2009), provides that “*the holistic ecosystem approach will be an overarching principle of the Five-Year Programme of Work*”. Furthermore, ecosystem approach has been recognized by COP 18 as an overarching principle of the Barcelona Convention – MAP Integrated Assessment Policy. Finally, the Athens Declaration, adopted by COP 19, reaffirms “*the application of the ecosystem approach as an overarching principle to achieve the Mediterranean Ecological Objectives and related targets towards good environmental status of the Mediterranean and to contribute to sustainable development*”.

Furthermore, the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 (Decision IG. 22/1, MTS) and the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-2017 fully integrate the ecosystem approach and its vision, as well as the specific steps of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap.

B. Streamlining ecosystem approach and GES targets to the regulatory and policy instruments at regional level

During the last years, the legal and policy framework of the Barcelona Convention has been significantly strengthened, with the adoption of new or updated regional plans and programmes, providing for measures to support the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, based on the article 4 of the Barcelona Convention and respective articles of its Protocols. Since the recognition of ecosystem approach as an

overarching principle of MAP/Barcelona Convention, these regional instruments have been developed in an integrated manner, aiming at streamlining the Good Environmental Status in their implementation.

The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 (Decision IG.22/2, COP 19), is a concrete example of the strong linkages between the environmental pillar of sustainable development and GES/ecosystem approach.

The thematic regional policy and regulatory instruments developed or updated since 2008 that take into account ecosystem approach and relevant GES targets include the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean (see Decision IG.21/7, COP 18), Species and Habitats Actions Plans in the framework of the SPA/BD Protocol (see Decision IG.21/4, COP 18, Decision IG.22/12, COP 19), the Action Plan for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean (2012-2019) (Decision IG.20/2, COP 17), the Action Plan for the implementation of the Offshore Protocol (Decision IG.22/3, COP 19), the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) (Decision IG. 22/4, COP 19), the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean (Decision IG.22/05, COP 19), the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas (Decision IG.22/6, COP 19), the Roadmap for a Comprehensive Coherent Network of Well-Managed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to Achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean (Decision IG 22/13) and the List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI List, Decision IG 22/14).

Work is ongoing on the development of the Regional Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), and of a Conceptual Framework for Marine Spatial Planning (MSP).

C. State of play of existing regional measures and their contribution to GES: Potential new/updated measures

The Secretariat has worked to assess the existing regional measures and identify potential new/updated measures to achieve GES.

An Initial Ecosystem Approach Gap Analysis was prepared in 2013, with a focus on the existing regional legal framework to achieve GES. During the 2016-2017 biennium, the Secretariat undertook a deeper analysis of the regional measures taking into consideration the pressures, GES and related targets.

The regional measures were therefore assessed in relation to the key pressures on the marine and coastal environment of the Mediterranean and main gaps in achieving/maintaining GES were identified. On the basis of this analysis and taking into account other available regional analyses and reports, areas were identified where measures are efficient but require strengthened implementation, and others where new/updated measures should be considered in order to bridge the gaps between GES and the current situation.

A proposed list of new/updated potential measures has been developed for further consideration by the Contracting Parties on the way forward for the period 2020-2030.

D. National Programmes of Measures

Further to the regional measures, the national programmes of measures, adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to implement specific Protocols and Regional Plans, should also take also into account the need to streamline the Ecological Objectives and achieve/maintain GES.

A concrete example on this national implementation is the development of updated National Action Plans (NAPs) in the framework of the LBS Protocol and SAP MED, which has been done in accordance with the pollution-related Ecological Objectives (EO 5, EO 9 and EO 10), with the aim to achieve/maintain GES on pollution and litter.

The majority of the Contracting Parties updated their NAPs during the period 2015-2016, based on NAP Update Guidelines, prepared by the Secretariat. The updated NAPs have been endorsed by the COP 19 (Decision IG 22/8).

With regards to the Contracting Parties which are EU Member States, it was agreed that the pollution-related part of the national Programmes of Measures (PoM) developed in the framework of the EU MSFD, represent the updated NAPs, providing that they take into account the specificities of the Barcelona Convention system and comply with the requirements of the Convention and its Protocols.

Concerning non-indigenous species, with the support of SPA/RAC, Egypt and Cyprus have elaborated their NAPs during 2016-2017. Lebanon and Israel are in the process to elaborate their NAPs by the end of 2017. Concerning marine turtles, Egypt has elaborated its NAP.

The Guidance Document for the preparation of National Action Plans (NAPs) for the implementation of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021) agreed upon by the Twelfth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC addresses Ecological Objectives (EO 2, EO 9, EO 10 and EO 11), with the aim to achieve/maintain GES on non-indigenous species, pollution, litter and underwater energy/noise respectively.

E. Technical Guidelines

The implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols is facilitated by technical Guidelines, prepared in close coordination with the Contracting Parties. These guidelines clarify and provide guidance on technical aspects of the implementation of the Protocols and Regional Plans. Every effort has been made to take into account and streamline the ecological objectives and GES targets in the MAP guidelines delivered in the last 6 years.

Some recent examples include the Updated Guidelines under the Dumping Protocol (Guidelines for Management of Dredged Material and Placement for Artificial Reefs) as well as the Updated Guidelines for Management of Desalination Activities. The ultimate objectives set out in these Guidelines is the achievement/maintenance of GES for pollution and litter, taking into account relevant Ecological Objectives, which go beyond the strictly pollution-related ones, such as EO 1 on biodiversity, EO 6 on sea-floor integrity, EO 8 on coastal ecosystems and landscapes, etc.

Concerning threatened species, marine key habitats and Non Indigenous Species (NIS), several guidelines and tools have been developed by SPA/RAC and made available to Contracting Parties through the SPA/RAC website or in hard copies; the most recent ones are:

- Monitoring guidelines to assess cetaceans' distributional range, population abundance and population demographic characteristics
- Guidelines for the long term monitoring programmes for marine turtles nesting beaches and standardized monitoring methods for nesting beaches, feeding and wintering areas
- Guidelines to standardize methodologies to estimate demographic parameters for marine turtles populations in the Mediterranean
- Guidelines for Inventorying and Monitoring of Dark Habitats
- Guidance on developing invasive alien species national and sub-regional lists

Other examples includes the efforts in the framework of the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENEAS) as well as the development of the Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents, which both should contribute at achieving/maintaining GES for pollution addressing in particular EO 9 and Common Indicator 19.

F. Governance to foster ecosystem approach implementation

At COP 18, the Contracting Parties adopted a governance mechanism in Decision IG. 21/3 to ensure the efficient and coordinated implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap.

They established the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group consisting of MAP Focal Points, together with three specific correspondence groups, (on GES and targets: COR GEST, on monitoring: CORMON and on economic and social analysis, COR ESA), composed of national experts designated by the Contracting Parties, invited experts and respective MAP components.

Since 2008, six (6) Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group Meetings took place to review progress achieved and validate different outputs for the consideration by the MAP Focal Points meetings and COP.

Five CORGEST Meetings took place for each cluster (biodiversity and fisheries, pollution and marine litter, coast and hydrography), strengthened by an Integrated CORGEST Meeting to negotiate and propose the operational objectives, GES definition and related targets as well as a potential list of common indicators.

Furthermore, eight (8) CORMON Meetings took place (two for each sub-cluster and one Integrated CORMON) discussing specifics of monitoring and assessment needs and two (2) COR ESA Meetings were held, with a focus on socio-economic aspects of ecosystem approach implementation.

Additional external resources were mobilized to support the different steps of the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap and the Programme of Work.

- a) EU funded EcAp-MEDI (2013-2015) supported the development of ecological objectives, operational objectives, GES definition and targets
- b) EU funded EcAp-MEDI (2015-2018) is supporting the development of IMAP and the initial phase of its implementation including national monitoring programmes, science policy interface aspects and related information system
- c) EU funded Marine Litter MED project is supporting concrete measures at pilot sites to achieve marine litter reduction targets. This project is also supporting the work on the candidate marine litter indicator 24).
- d) GEF Programmatic approach "Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security" will be instrumental for the further implementation of IMAP with a particular focus in offshore areas.
- e) GEF funded "Implementation of Ecosystem Approach in the Adriatic Sea through Marine Spatial Planning" (GEF-Adriatic Project), which, among other goals, aims to contribute to the development of national Integrated Monitoring Assessment programmes for Albania and Montenegro.
- f) In addition, the project for defining the methodological framework for marine spatial planning, piloted in Boka-Kotorska bay (Montenegro), initiated in 2016 aims to analyze and point out the possibility of using the vulnerability analysis based on ecosystem approach principles.
- g) The Coastal Area Management Plan (CAMP) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, commencing in 2017, is also based to great extent on Ecological Objectives of the ecosystem approach.

- h) The CO-EVOLVE Interreg project the use of indicators of Ecological Objective 8 (Coastal ecosystems and landscapes) is being considered for assessment of Littoralization and Urbanization, in the context of sustainable tourism. As the project is based on ICZM and MSP, the EcAp indicators will be taken into consideration as much as possible.
- i) EU funded SEIS project that is supporting the implementation of SEIS national action plans for a number of Contracting Parties.
- j) Strong linkages established with other scientific projects in the region, relevant to ecosystem approach implementation.
- k) A project on Mapping of key marine habitats in the Mediterranean and promoting their conservation through the establishment of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) (MedKeyHabitats Project) has been implemented by SPA/RAC in synergy with EcAp-MEDII project, which further supported Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Montenegro to establish a permanent monitoring system in relation to Common indicator 1.

G. Synergies and visibility

Synergies have been established and strengthened with the relevant work under UNEP Regional Seas Programme, Global Programme of Action, EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (EU MSFD), OSPAR, Black Sea Commission and HELCOM. Synergies have been established with several regional projects aiming at facilitating the implementation of the EU MSFD. Of major relevance is the establishment of the Marine Litter Regional Collaboration Platform comprising over 22 Regional Partners to support the coordinated implementation of the Marine Litter Management Regional Plan in the Mediterranean.

The Mediterranean experience, lessons learnt and key achievements of the implementation of Ecosystem Approach Roadmap were presented and projected in several global, regional and national events.

2. Status of implementation COP 17 Decision IG.20/4¹, COP18 Decision IG.21/3² and COP19 Decision IG. 22/7³, related to ecosystem approach

Action areas	Outputs	Status
Initial Assessment	Preparing Initial Assessment Report for four subregions and on Mediterranean wide commonalities	Completed (executive summary adopted by COP17)
	Preparing a Mediterranean regional study on ecosystem services/ Economic and Social Analysis	Completed (Economic and Social Analysis of the use of coastal and marine water in the Mediterranean)
	State of Environment Report (SOER 2011) based on Initial Assessment	Completed (SoER MED 2012)
Ecological Objectives,	Development of Ecological Objectives, Operational Objectives	Completed (COP 17 IG. 20/4)

¹ Decision IG.20/4 Implementing MAP ecosystem approach roadmap: Mediterranean Ecological and Operational Objectives, Indicators and Timetable for implementing the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap

² Decision IG.21/3 on the Ecosystem Approach including adopting definitions of Good Environmental Status (GES) and targets

³ Decision IG.22/7 on Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria

Operational Objectives and Indicators	and Indicators for Mediterranean wide GES	
	Testing the Ecological Objectives, Operational Objectives and Indicators / Pilot implementation for testing the indicators and targets	Completed with support of EcAp- MED I Project (testing candidate indicator 25) and ongoing with support of EcAp-MEDII (joint UN Environment/MAP-GFCM sub-regional pilot implementation on NIS related to fisheries in the Eastern Sub-Region is under-way)
	Definition of the process and methodological approach for the establishment of GES and targets	Completed (COP 17 IG. 20/4 and COP 18 IG. 21/3)
	Establishment of GES relative to each indicator (subject to data availability)	Completed (COP 18 IG. 21/3)
	Established coordinated targets per indicator (subject to data availability)	Completed (COP 18 IG. 21/3)
Development of an Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP)	Develop MAP assessment policy to address multiple needs for thematic and integrated assessment in the EA framework	6 year cycle agreed based on IMAP common indicators
	Agreement on principles and process of an Integrated Monitoring Programme and of an Integrated Assessment Policy	Completed (COP 17 IG. 20/4)
	Agreement on an Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme	Completed (COP19 IG.22/7)
	Information and GIS system established ⁴	Ongoing
	Updating national monitoring programmes.	In process, following IMAP Decision (IG.22/7)
	Assessment of needs for implementing the updated national monitoring programmes	Completed for Southern Mediterranean countries with the support of the EcAp-MEDII project
	Implementing national monitoring programme in line with the integrated regional one with coordinated support from the Secretariat, where appropriate	Ongoing
	Reporting monitoring data and information on the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols	Ongoing but not at the same level per each cluster, depending on data availability and country capacities
	SoE report finalized in the form of quality status report and submitted to the CPs meeting	QSR 2017 prepared for submission to COP20
	Existing national monitoring and assessment programmes will be	Ongoing.

⁴ A Mediterranean Platform on biodiversity is online at <http://data.medchm.net>

<p>IMAP Initial Phase (2016-2019)</p>	<p>integrated, in line with the IMAP structure and principles and based on the agreed common indicators.</p>	<p>Various trainings, capacity-building activities at national, sub regional and regional levels have been carried out, such as the most recent two country training workshops on Coast and Hydrography in Rabat, Morocco (October 2016) and in Rome, (April 2017). Biodiversity and NIS country trainings are under-way, with one undertaken in July 2017, Tunisia, Kuriat Island and another one planned in September 2017, in Samos Island, Greece. Pollution and litter country trainings are planned between September-November 2017. With regards to Marine Litter, a regional training to share best practices related to marine litter monitoring was held 28 February 2017, Madrid, Spain.</p>
	<p>Update of GES definitions, further refinement of assessment criteria, further development of the candidate indicators towards common indicators as well as further refinement of the specifics of agreed common indicators, in particular on geographical scale, in light of the ongoing implementation experience of IMAP and agreement on the scale of reporting units.</p>	<p>Ongoing, in CORMON expert groups and with support of SPI Workshops New assessment criteria developed for contaminants, 2016-2017</p>
	<p>Quality Status Report in 2017 and the State of Environment and Development Report in 2019 to build on the structure, objectives and data collected under IMAP</p>	<p>Ongoing, with draft QSR prepared building on IMAP common indicators</p>
	<p>Contracting Parties to continue reporting based on their existing national monitoring programmes until they are updated into a national Integrated Monitoring Programme and following the update of their existing monitoring programmes, report quality assured data following a common regional monitoring reporting template</p>	<p>Ongoing, More efforts should be made by the Contracting Parties to share and or report quality assured data based on existing monitoring programmes.</p>
	<p>UNEP/MAP to strengthen its cooperation with the relevant regional bodies, build synergies and strengthen exchange of best practices</p>	<p>Ongoing, close cooperation established with GFCM, ACCOBAMS, Regional seas, OSPAR, Black Sea Commission and other relevant regional organizations on ecosystem approach implementation</p>

	UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention integrated data and information system (based on the structure of the Common Indicator Facts, region-wide, electronic, common indicator based monitoring reporting formats and up-to-date tools for data exchange, following UNEP access-to-information policy (UNEP/EA.1/INF/23).	Ongoing, first proposal on the information standards of common indicators including data dictionaries. Common indicators and data user needs analysis has been developed covering all common indicators data collection and management issues. A feasibility study of a pilot information system for new monitoring requirements and its integration into the infoMAP platform has been also developed. The IMAP compatible development of the data-management and information system that will be integrated into the InfoMAP platform is under-way.
IMAP full implementation (by 2021)	IMAP to be reviewed once at the end of every EcAp six year cycle (current cycle 2016-2021)	Planned
UNEP/MAP policies under development to incorporate ecosystem approach application	Integrate the ecosystem approach objectives/indicators in the ICZM Protocol Action Plan	Completed
	Updating the SAP BIO as appropriate with regards climate change, the evaluation of the SAPBIO is planned for 2018-2019. It will be updated accordingly, afterwards.	Ongoing
	Preparing Action Plan to implement the Offshore Protocol	Completed (COP19 IG.22/3)
	Preparing Action Plan on Marine Litter	Completed (COP 18 IG.21/7)
	Review of the management Plans of 1-2 SPAMIs	Ongoing
Review, development and implementation of Action Plans and Programmes of measures to take into account the Ecosystem Approach application progress	New Regional Plans on LBS Protocol identified and developed as appropriate	In process Gap analysis of regional measures with proposed list of new/updated measures delivered for consideration by the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group
	Regional plans on endangered species, marine key habitats and NIS, updated or new ones, developed as appropriate	Completed (COP19 IG.22/12)
	Regional strategy to combat pollution from ships updated	Completed (COP 19 IG.22/4)
	Update as appropriate NAPs (LBS) and SAPs (BIO) to reflect the targets and commitments under the regional plans	Updated NAPs (LBS) Ongoing for SAPs
	Management plans of selected SPA and SPAMIs adjusted to reflect Ecosystem Approach	Ongoing

	application progress and other requirements under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as well as commitments under the Regional Plans	
	Establishment of new protected areas as appropriate and development and implementation of their management plans in order to address priority issues identified by the IA and the ecosystem approach progress	Ongoing
	National ICZM strategies and coastal plans to take into account Ecosystem Approach application progress	Ongoing
	Developing and reviewing relevant measures for implementation of Ecosystem Approach	In process Gap analysis of regional measures with proposed list of new/updated measures and list of 6 clustering regional plans approved by MED POL FP and submitted to MAP FP through Ecosystem Approach CG)
Review process and implementation of its outcome	Coordinated review of national and regional/subregional assessment	Completed on regional level-IMAP and QSR 2017 prepared for submission to COP20, ongoing on national level
	Review progress achieved towards Ecological Objectives, Operational Objectives, Indicators and Targets	Ongoing- QSR assesses state of marine and coastal environment based on common indicators. 2023 QSR will be even more detailed, complete assessment on the progress achieved towards EOs/GES
	Evaluation of implementation of regional plans, legally binding measures	Completed – Regional Gap Analysis
	COP decisions to suggest policy/adjustment and revision of monitoring programmes as appropriate and other regional policy instruments	Completed (COP 17 IG. 20/4, COP18 IG.21/3 and COP19 IG.22/7)
	Suggest the necessary policy adjustments as appropriate to the meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2019 with regard to EO, OO, Indicators, Targets and Monitoring Programme	Planned
	COP 2019 decision adopted to approve the list of updated/new regional measures and or regional plans	Proposed
	Endorsement of the Second State of Environment Report (and	Proposed

	possibly recommendations adopted for MED QSR 2023)	
Public Awareness raising on the Ecosystem Approach	Public awareness raising, targeted communication and visibility products.	Ongoing, UNEP/MAP website was updated with ecosystem approach process and with related projects and various publications, visibility events have been undertaken.