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**EP**

UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.443/3



UNEP



UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

12 July 2017  
Original: English

Meeting of the MAP Focal Points

Athens, Greece, 12-15 September 2017

**Agenda Item 3: Progress Report on Activities Carried Out during the 2016-2017 Biennium**

**Progress Report on Activities Carried Out during the 2016-2017 Biennium**

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UNEP/MAP  
Athens, 2017

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### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ABNJ	Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
ACCOBAMS	Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area
ActionMed	Action Plans for Integrated Regional Monitoring Programmes, Coordinated Programmes of Measures and Addressing Data and Knowledge Gaps in Mediterranean Sea
BACs	Background Assessment Concentrations
BAT	Best Available Techniques
BBNJ	Biological diversity of areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
BC	Background Concentrations
BCRS	Barcelona Convention Reporting System
BD	Biodiversity focal area strategy (GEF)
BP	Blue Plan
BWM	Ballast Water Management
BWM Convention	International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments
CAMP(s)	Coastal Area Management Programme(s)
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEDRE	Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CGI SCP	Cyprus, Greece, and Israel joint Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan
CIESM	Mediterranean Science Commission (Commission Internationale pour l'Exploration Scientifique de la Méditerranée)
ClimVar & ICZM	Integration of climate variability and change into national strategies for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean
CME	Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement
CMR	Carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic to reproduction
CNRS-L	National Council for Scientific Research - Lebanon
COP	Conference of Parties
CORMON	Correspondence Group on Monitoring
CPs	Contracting Parties
CS	Civil Society
CU	Coordinating Unit
CVC	Climate Variability and Change
CW	Chemicals and Waste (GEF)
DeFishGear	Derelict fishing Gear Management System in the Adriatic Region
DG MARE	Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (EC)
DOALOS	Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
EACs	Environmental Assessment Concentrations
EASIN	European Alien Species Information Network
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC	European Commission
ECA	Emission Control Area

EcAp	Ecosystem Approach
EcAp MED II	Mediterranean Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, in coherence with the European Union (EU) Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)
EcAp-MED I	Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) in the Mediterranean by the Contracting parties in the context of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols
ECP	Executive Coordination Panel
EDC	Ethylene dichloride
EEA	European Environment Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIA Directive	Environmental Impact Assessment Directive
EIB	European Investment Bank
EMODnet	European Marine Observation and Data Network
EMSA	European Maritime Safety Agency
ENI	European Neighborhood Instrument
ENI SEIS II East	implementing the Shared Environmental Information System principles and practices in the Eastern Partnership countries
ENPI	European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument
ENP-South	European Neighborhood Policy-South
EO	Ecological Objectives
ESM	Environmentally Sound Management
ETC/BD	European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity
EU	European Union
EUSAIR	EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FEBEA	European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks
FEDERCHIMICA	Federazione Nazionale dell'Industria Chimica
FEMISE	Forum Euroméditerranéen des Instituts de Sciences Économiques (the Euro-Mediterranean Forum of Institutes of Economic Sciences)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GES	Good Environmental Status
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
GIIN	Green Impact Investing Network Initiative
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GloBallast	Global Ballast Water Management Project
H2020	Horizon 2020 Programme (EU)
HCMR	Hellenic Centre for Marine Research
HELCOM	Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission - Helsinki Commission
HELMPEA	Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association
HNS	Hazardous and Noxious Substances
HW	Hazardous Wastes
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management

IMAP	Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
INFO/RAC	Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication
InfoMAP	UNEP/MAP Mediterranean knowledge platform
InforMEA	United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements
Interreg MED	Transnational European Cooperation Programme for the Mediterranean Area
IOGP	International Association of Oil and Gas Producers
IPA	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (2014-2020)
ISPRA	Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (Italy)
ITCP	Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUCN-Med	International Union for Conservation of Nature Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
IUCN-ROWA	International Union for Conservation of Nature Regional Office for West Asia
IW	International Waters (GEF)
IWRS	Institute of Water of the Republic of Slovenia
JRC	Joint Research Centre
LBS	Land Based Sources
MAMIAS	Marine Mediterranean Invasive Alien Species
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MAP II	Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Sustainable Development of the Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean (MAP Phase II)
MaPAMed	Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MAU	Mediterranean Assistance Unit
MAVA	MAVA Fondation pour la nature
MBP	Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform
MCSO	Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development
MEA(s)	Multilateral Environmental Agreement(s)
MEA-IKM	Multilateral Environmental Agreement Information and Knowledge Management Initiative
MED POL	Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean
MEDACES	Mediterranean database on cetaceans stranding
MEDASSET	Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles
MEDCIS	Support Mediterranean Member States towards coherent and Coordinated Implementation of the second phase of the MSFD
MedEcc	Network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change
MedECC	Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change
MEDITS	Mediterranean International Trawl Survey
Medkeyhabitats	Mapping of key marine habitats in the Mediterranean and promoting their conservation through the establishment of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI)

MedPAN	Network of Marine Protected Areas managers in the Mediterranean
MedPartnership	Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem
MedProgramme	GEF Mediterranean Sea Programme: Enhancing Environmental Security
MedSOS	MEDITERRANEAN SOS Network
MENELAS	Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention
MIO-ECSDE	Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development
MOIG	Mediterranean Oil Industry Group
MONGOOS	Mediterranean Operational Network for the Global Ocean Observing System
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA(s)	Marine Protected Area(s)
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
MSFD TG ML	MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning / Maritime Spatial Planning
MSSD	Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
MTF	Mediterranean Trust Fund (MAP)
MTS	UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021
NAP(s)	National Action Plan(s)
NCPs	National Contingency Plans
NGO(s)	Non-Governmental Organisation(s)
NIS	Non-Indigenous Species
OFOG	Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group
OSPAR Convention	Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
PAP/RAC	Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre
PBT	Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxic
PCB	Polychlorinated biphenyl
PCU	Project Coordination Unit
PEGASO	People for Ecosystem-based Governance in Assessing Sustainable development of Ocean and coast (Project)
PIF	Project Implementation Form
PoM	Programmes of Measures
POSOW	Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline clean-up and Oiled Wildlife interventions
PoW	Programme of Work
PRPI	Pollution Reduction and Prevention Investment
PRTR	Pollutant Release and Transfer Register
QSR	Quality Status Report
RAC(s)	Regional Activity Centre(s)
RCCAF	Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework
RCO	Regional Coordinating Organization
REMPEC	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea
RMS	Resource Mobilization Strategy
SAP-MED	Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land-Based

	Activities in the Mediterranean
SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund (GEF)
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDG 14	Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development)
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDI	Spatial Data Infrastructure
SDSN-MED	Mediterranean Sustainable Development Solutions Network
SEIS	Shared Environmental Information System
SIMWESTMED	Supporting Implementation of MSP in the Western Mediterranean region
SOI	Sustainable Ocean Initiative
SO <sub>x</sub>	Sulphur oxides
SPA(s)	Specially Protected Areas
SPAMI(s)	Specially Protected Area(s) of Mediterranean Importance
SPI	Science Policy Interface
SSSUP	Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies of Pisa
SUPrEME	Supporting MSP in the Eastern Mediterranean
SWEEP-Net	Regional Solid Waste Exchange of Information and Expertise Network
SWIM	Sustainable Water Integrated Management
SWITCH-Med	Switching to more sustainable consumption and production in the Mediterranean
TUBITAK	Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey
TUDAV	Turkish Marine Research Foundation
UfM	Union for the Mediterranean
UfMS	Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean
UN	United Nations
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/GPA	UNEP Global Programme of Action
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VPvB	Very Persistent and very Bioaccumulative
WebGIS	Web Geographic Information Systems
WFD	Water Framework Directive (EU)
WWF-MedPO	WWF – Mediterranean Programme Office

## I. Introduction

1. This report is a summary of activities and outputs carried out for the implementation of 2016-2017 Programme of Work (PoW) of MAP adopted by COP 19 delivered in the period between February 2016 and July 2017 by the Coordinating Unit and the MAP Components.

2. The progress report highlights activities undertaken during this period, aggregated at strategic outcome level. Information is organized under the seven themes of the POW 2016-2017, corresponding to the overarching theme, the core themes, and the cross-cutting themes of the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 as well as information on Financial, Personnel, and Administrative matters. More detailed information on process, activities and midterm results can be found in the Bureau Meetings Reports and in the reports of the MAP Components' Focal Points meetings (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.443/Inf.3 and UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.443/Inf.7).

## II. Main Activities/Outputs per PoW Theme

### 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**

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

3. During the current biennium, there has been a steady progress in the rate of ratifications. Instruments of ratification of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol have been deposited by Italy (30 June 2016) and by Algeria (14 November 2016). In accordance with Article 33 of the Barcelona Convention, this Protocol entered into force for Italy on 30 July 2016 and for Algeria on 14 December 2016. In addition, the ICZM Protocol entered into force for Israel on 2 March 2016 following the deposit of the relevant instrument of ratification (1 February 2016). Furthermore, Lebanon has rectified the error made when depositing the instrument of Ratification of the amendments to the Barcelona Convention.

4. Efforts continued in order to achieve the universal ratification of the Barcelona Convention and the entry into force of the Dumping Protocol Amendments. The Secretariat pursued further discussions with the one country that has not yet ratified the amendments to the Barcelona Convention. Increased policy direction is needed to facilitate the Ratification of the Amendments to the Dumping Protocol, in particular, and of all other Protocols by the remaining Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

*Table 1: Summary of Status of Ratification*

21 Contracting Parties have accepted the amendments to the Convention, 1995;
15 Contracting Parties have accepted the amendments to the Dumping Protocol, 1995;
17 Contracting Parties have accepted the amendments to the LBS Protocol, 1996;
7 Contracting Parties have ratified the Offshore Protocol, 1994;
17 Contracting Parties have ratified the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol, 1995;
7 Contracting Parties have ratified the Hazardous Waste Protocol, 1996;
16 Contracting Parties have ratified the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol, 2002;
10 Contracting Parties have ratified ICZM Protocol, 2008.



Table 2: Ratification of Barcelona Convention and Protocols by individual Contracting Parties

Contracting Parties \ Legal instruments	Contracting Parties																						
	Albania	Algeria	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia	Cyprus	European Union	Egypt	France	Greece	Israel	Italy	Lebanon	Libya	Malta	Monaco	Montenegro	Morocco	Slovenia	Spain	Syria	Tunisia	Turkey	
<b>Barcelona Convention and Amendments</b>																							
Dumping Protocol and Amendments																							
Emergency Protocol																							
Prevention and Emergency Protocol																							
LBS Protocol and Amendments																							
SPA Protocol																							
SPA and Biodiversity Protocol																							
Offshore Protocol																							
Hazardous Wastes Protocol																							
ICZM Protocol																							

	Instrument of ratification, adhesion approval or accession deposited and Convention or Protocol entered into force
	No instrument of ratification, adhesion, approval or accession deposited
	Instrument of ratification, adhesion, approval or accession deposited but Protocol has not entered into force yet

Effective legal, policy and logistic support provided to MAP decision-making process including advisory bodies meetings

5. In line with MAP decision making process, the regular meetings of the governing and advisory bodies of the Barcelona Convention-MAP system have been convened with an active participation of representatives of Contracting Parties (CPs) and stakeholders, while in some cases efforts should be made in order for meetings to be attended by all CPs to the extent possible.

6. During the current biennium, the Coordinating Unit and MAP Components organized three Bureau meetings, the MCSD and its Steering Committee meetings, a meeting of the Compliance Committee, a meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the MAP II Assessment, five meetings of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP), as well as the MAP Component Focal Points meetings. More specifically:

(a) The 82<sup>nd</sup> (19-20 April 2016 - Athens, Greece), 83<sup>rd</sup> (25-26 October 2016 - Tirana, Albania), and 84<sup>th</sup> (19-20 June 2017 - Athens, Greece) meetings of the Bureau;

(b) The 12th Compliance Committee meeting (24-25 January 2017 - Athens, Greece);

(c) The MAP Components' Focal Point meetings, as follows: Plan Bleu on 25-26 April 2017 in Sophia Antipolis, France; SCP/RAC on 3-4 May 2017 in Barcelona, Spain; PAP/RAC on 3-4 May 2016 in Split, Croatia; SPA/RAC on 9-12 May 2017 in Alexandria, Egypt; REMPEC on 23-25 May 2017 in Valetta, Malta; and MED POL on 29-31 May 2017 in Rome, Italy;

(d) The 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee (Athens, Greece, 18-19 January 2017) and the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD (Athens, Greece, 4- 6 July 2017);

(e) The Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the MAP II Assessment (Implementation of Decision IG.21/16) in Athens, Greece, 16-17 May 2017);

(f) The Science Policy Interface and EcAp Coordination Group Joint Meeting on IMAP Scale of Assessment and QSR (27-28 April 2017, Sophia-Antipolis, France);

(g) Five meetings of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP), namely the ECP 28 (22-23 March 2016 - Athens, Greece), ECP 29 (13 July 2016 – teleconference), ECP30 (5-6 October 2016 - Malta), ECP 31 (11-12 January 2017 - Tunis, Tunisia), and ECP 32 (29-30 March 2017 - Split, Croatia).

7. The above meetings reviewed progress achieved and provided policy and technical guidance for successfully delivering key outputs mandated by COP 19. They contributed to the effective implementation of the Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021, the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-2017 and the relevant COP Decisions and moved forward the preparations for the meetings of the MAP Focal Points and of the Contracting Parties. More information on the above meetings can be found in documents UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.443/Inf.3, Inf.5, Inf.6, Inf.7 and Inf.8.

#### Resource mobilization

8. Through Decision IG.22/1 "UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021", COP 19 requested the Secretariat "to prepare for adoption at COP 20 a new, comprehensive Resource Mobilization Strategy corresponding to the period of the MTS". During the process of its preparation, inputs were provided by the MAP Focal Points, both through bilateral discussions and written responses to a questionnaire, as well as by the MAP Components. The aim of the discussions and the questionnaire was to ensure that the views and concerns of the Contracting Parties are fully taken into account. The updated RMS is submitted to the MAP Focal Points for consideration (document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.443/8).

9. The Coordinating Unit, in close collaboration with the MAP Components, has made every effort to channel a coordinated mobilization of external resources by the MAP-Barcelona Convention system in line with the priorities of the MTS, the biannual Programme of Work and Budget and the existing Resource Mobilization Strategy. To this end, each MAP Component is required to develop a Project Fiche for each approved external project, which includes general information of the project but also a justification and comments on the MAP Component's involvement and the added value to MAP-Barcelona Convention system. The current compilation of Project Fiches is presented in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.443/Inf.9.

#### (a) Project proposals approved or initiated in the current biennium

10. With the ultimate objective of achieving the Good Ecological Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea, the EU funded EcAp-MEDII Project aims to support the Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to implement the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap, through assisting them in updating their national monitoring programmes in line with the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP, Decision IG.22/7). In addition, the project addresses some specific challenges of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap implementation, strengthening science-policy interface, addressing sub-regional implementation needs, and responding to data and information challenges in the region. The project has resulted during the biennium 2016-2017 in

various tangible deliverables, such as country capacity assessments for Southern Mediterranean Countries on their specific IMAP implementation needs, followed by various capacity building activities, including trainings, supporting the development of draft national IMAPs, next to Science-Policy Interface Meetings, addressing specific IMAP implementation needs and ongoing work on the update of the INFO/MAP system in line with IMAP. The project covers the period of six semesters from 2015- 2018, with a budget of 2,675,000 EUR. It builds on the achievements of the EcAp-MED 2012-2015 EU funded project and is co-financed from the Mediterranean Trust Fund.

11. The EU funded Marine Litter MED Project to be implemented from June 2016 to May 2019 by MED POL, with a budget of 1,400,000 EUR aims to support the Contracting Parties to implement the Marine Litter Regional Plan. Small Scale Funding Agreements to ensure the implementation of concrete activities have been finalized with SCP/RAC, REMPEC, and SPA/RAC, as well as with several Contracting Parties, for the provision of financial and technical assistance to implement small scale pilot projects on different marine litter prevention and reduction measures.

12. The ENPI SEIS II South Project (2016-2019) in the framework of UfM's H2020 Initiative is funded by the EU with a budget of 1,800,000 EUR. The project is being implemented since September 2016 jointly by the Coordinating Unit through MED POL, Plan Bleu and INFO/RAC. The project's specific objective is to improve the availability and access to environmental information to the benefit of effective and knowledge-based policy-making in the ENP South region. The SEIS project beneficiary countries are currently preparing their SEIS action plans and on this basis Small Scale Funding Agreements are expected to be signed to deliver financial and technical assistance in line with project priorities.

13. The project GEF Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security, prepared by the Coordinating Unit, in collaboration with the MAP components and other partners was approved by the GEF Council on 26 October 2016. The project is funded through a large GEF grant (US\$ 47,390,000) from different GEF focal areas (IW, CW and BD). UNEP and EBRD will act as GEF implementing agencies receiving US\$ 37,652,500 and US\$ 9,737,500 respectively. The MedProgramme is based on the overarching vision of the Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 and encompasses seven interconnected child projects. The project will introduce in the region and make use of innovative practices and technologies in the fields of harmful chemical reduction, wastewater treatment and reuse, comprehensive coastal zone planning tools, sustainable production and consumption measures. The project was endorsed by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, and Tunisia. Project Preparation Grants were received and work has started to prepare the Project Documents of the seven Child Projects by May 2018.

14. The "Enhancing Regional Climate Change Adaptation in the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas" GEF funded (through the Special Climate Change Fund) project has been approved by the GEF CEO in December 2016. The Coordinating Unit is preparing the full project document, which is scheduled to be delivered by the end of 2017. The project aims to assist policy makers and stakeholders in the Mediterranean region to develop ICZM strategies and plans regarding climate change adaptation following the agreed strategic objective codified in the RCCAF, and has a financing of USD 1,000,000.

15. A Cooperation Agreement (MoU) between UNEP/MAP and the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea was signed on 14 September 2016, to support the implementation of the Mid-Term Strategy with a particular focus on Marine Protected Areas, Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance, marine litter and Integrated Coastal Zone Management/CAMPs. The three-year agreement is valued at approximately EUR 4.5M. During the first year, the agreement also supported small-scale pilot projects on marine litter in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro.

16. The Coordinating Unit, PAP/RAC and SPA/RAC are executing partners of the GEF one step

Medium Sized Project “Implementation of Ecosystem Approach in the Adriatic Sea through Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)”, approved on 14 October 2016 (USD 1,817,900). The project is endorsed by Montenegro and Albania and will be implemented in close cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the main objective of contributing to the restoration of the ecological balance of the Adriatic Sea and to improve sub-regional management capacity through the introduction MSP as a viable marine management tool. The activities in Montenegro and Albania are expected to start in August/September 2017.

17. The Coordinating Unit, PAP/RAC and INFO/RAC are participating as implementing partners in two projects on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) were approved by EC DG MARE (EASME/EMFF/2015/1.2.1.3): Supporting MSP in the Eastern Mediterranean (SUPrEME), with at total funding of EUR 290.000, and Supporting Implementation of MSP in the Western Mediterranean region (SIMWESTMED) with a total funding of EUR 233.020. The projects focus on supporting implementation of the MSP process in the EU Members States, and developing transboundary collaboration to manage MSP initiatives.

18. PAP/RAC is one of the 10 partners of the Interreg MED project CO-EVOLVE, aiming at analyzing and promoting, based on the principles of ICZM and MSP, the co-evolution of human activities and natural systems in touristic areas of the Mediterranean coastal zone. The project couples the analysis at the Mediterranean scale of threats and enabling factors for sustainable tourism with local studies in representative pilot areas, to demonstrate through pilot actions the feasibility and effectiveness of an ICZM/MSP-based planning process. The project runs for three years from September 2016, with a total budget of approximately EUR 3 million.

19. IMO’s Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) contributed to the implementation of the POW 2016-2017 through the allocation of USD 87,914.31. REMPEC secured a total fund of USD 3,166.67 and external partners contributed to the center’s resources by a total of EUR 20,287.

20. SCP/RAC is leading the Interreg MED project ACT4LITTER (1 February 2017 - 31 July 2018) for the development of joint measures to preserve natural ecosystems from marine litter in the Mediterranean Protected Areas. The project includes MedPAN, MIO-ECSDE and SSSUP as main partners and also involves an advisory board of 21 associate partners (mainly national, regional and local authorities having a role in MPA management). The total budget of the project is EUR 599,000.

*(b) New project proposals*

21. The Coordinating Unit and its MEDPOL Programme, are supporting the Marine Litter Plastic Busters MPA MED project, by being an Associated Partner. UNEP/MAP has a leading role in WP2 (i.e. address for the first time the main information gaps with regard to marine litter at a Mediterranean scale applying a unique harmonized methodology), and WP4 (i.e. assess the status of implementation of the UNEP/MAP Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean at national, sub-regional and regional level). The overall objective of Plastic Busters MPAs MED project is to investigate the emerging issue of marine litter and assess the amounts, sources and effects in Mediterranean pelagic and coastal MPAs. Plastic Busters is a UfM labelled project led by Siena University as part of the UNSD Solutions Network, in view of enhancing possibilities for its funding through different mechanisms. The Secretariat attended two fund raising and communication meetings held in Siena, Italy (April 2016 and June 2017). The project proposal has been submitted to the INTERREG Med Secretariat in March 2017 and has now passed into the second phase of the project selection from INTERREG MED.

22. PAP/RAC participated in a consortium of institutions and regional authorities from all Adriatic-Ionian countries in the PORTODIMARE project proposal (Geoportal of tools and data for sustainable management of coastal and marine environment aims) lead by the Emilia-Romagna (Italy) region, which has passed the quality assessment checks. The project proposal concerns a common platform for data and information related to coastal and marine areas in the A-I Region, by integrating existing

databases, portals and tools developed by previous 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.

(c) Projects concluded during the current biennium

23. The Terminal Evaluations of the GEF Projects Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem – the MedPartnership and Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to Implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean” (ClimVar & ICZM) were received in March 2017. The evaluations were performed by independent consultants under the guidance of the UNEP Evaluation office. The overall terminal evaluation rating for the MedPartnership is “Highly Satisfactory”, reflecting achievement of project outputs, outcomes, and objectives, and in some cases exceeding targets, as well as creation of excellent enabling conditions for sustaining the project outcomes in the countries and the region. The ClimVar & ICZM project was rated as “Moderately Satisfactory” concluding that the project achieved its objectives and generated a considerable number of high quality reports, studies, guidelines, and tools but at the same time did not express its full potential due to some technical issues in the project design. The total GEF grants received by the MedPartnership project amounted to 11,891,00 USD, which generated a co-financing (in-cash and in-kind) of 37,556,200 USD. The total GEF grants received by the ClimVar & ICZM project amounted to 2,298,545 USD, which generated a co-financing (in-cash and in-kind) of 6,176,400 USD.

24. 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)” was successfully finalized in January 2017. The project executed by a consortium led by HCMR Greece. The Coordinating Unit through MED POL and the Plan Bleu RAC were partners leading the work package on programmes of measures. The main outcome of this project has been reviewed by the MED POL Focal Points meeting. The total budget of the project amounted to EUR 1,247,050, while EUR 199,187 euros amounted to the implementation of MAP led activities (under Project Activities 2 and 3).

25. The two year project for Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline clean-up and Oiled Wildlife interventions – POSOW II was completed on 31 December 2016. The total budget of the project amounted to EUR 578,035 including the contribution of the European Commission (EUR 410,174).

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

26. Following Decision IG.22/16, the Secretariat, through letters addressed to the MAP Focal Points, has invited Contracting Parties to submit by October 2016, their outstanding national implementation reports for the reporting period 2014-2015 and anterior ones, highlighting the key value of national implementation reports, as essential tools for keeping the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols under review. In addition, bilateral contacts with Contracting Parties were pursued to boost the level of reporting, by providing *inter alia* guidance on the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS) in coordination with INFO/RAC.

27. As at 6 July 2017, fifteen Contracting Parties have submitted their national implementation reports of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols to the Secretariat via the BCRS for the biennium 2012-2013, while three Contracting Parties have working drafts in the pipeline. Thirteen Contracting Parties have submitted their national reports for 2014-2015 and one has a working draft in the pipeline. Six Contracting Parties to the ICZM Protocol have submitted their implementation reports through the ICZM Reporting Questionnaire and four non-Contracting Parties to the Protocol have

filled out the ICZM Reporting Questionnaire.

28. Progress has been made since the 19<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties expressed, through Decision IG. 22/16, its deep concern over the limited number of Contracting Parties which had fulfilled their reporting requirements pursuant to Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention. However, further effort is needed to continue increasing the submission rate of national implementation reports.

29. The Compliance Committee at its 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Athens, Greece, 24-25 January 2017) addressed the implementation of Decisions IG. 22/15 and 22/16 of COP 19, focusing firstly on the extent to which Contracting Parties had fulfilled their reporting requirements under Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention for the reporting periods 2012-2013 and 2014-2015 and secondly on progress made in implementing the Working Programme of the Compliance Committee for 2016-2017. To increase the submission rate of national reports, the Compliance Committee requested the Secretariat to continue its efforts in encouraging and supporting Contracting Parties to submit their national implementation reports.

30. On the implementation of its Work Programme, the Compliance Committee put in place a set of arrangements to take work forward, ranging from the elaboration of a questionnaire to gather input from MAP Focal Points on how best to support Contracting Parties in implementing the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, to the development of a pilot test of the draft Guidelines for the Preliminary Assessment of Reports to Identify Actual or Potential Cases of Non-Compliance. The result of both exercises will be presented to the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Compliance Committee (Athens, Greece, 26-27 September 2017). The Committee is expected to recommend to COP 20, based on feedback from MAP Focal Points, actions to improve the effectiveness of compliance mechanisms and procedures as well as how to proceed with the draft Guidelines.

31. The Compliance Committee examined the Revised Reporting Format for the Implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. The Committee provided detailed comments on the Revised Reporting Format, which were taken up, together with the comments provided by MAP components.

32. The Compliance Committee will examine at its 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting an evaluation of compliance with reporting obligations for the reporting period 2014-2015, following Section IV of the Procedures and Mechanisms of Compliance, and it is expected the Committee to recommend to COP 20 next steps to take in light of the state of affairs regarding compliance. The Secretariat has started the procedure in order to renew the membership of the Compliance Committee, so that at COP 20 Members and Alternate Members of the Compliance Committee will be elected or renewed.

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

33. Engagement with stakeholders (NGOs, local authorities, civil society, scientific community, etc.) and identification of potential synergies with global and regional organisations in order to increase the effectiveness of work are crucial elements for strengthening UNEP/MAP governance. This is realised, *inter alia*, through the involvement in relevant international initiatives and the operationalising or conclusion of MOUs. In this context, the initiatives described below play a significant role in implementing COP Decision IG. 19/6 on MAP/Civil society cooperation and partnership. By promoting cooperation and partnership, UNEP/MAP responds to the call from UNEP Headquarters to encourage programmatic cooperation and coordination with other MEAs or international and regional organizations, given the importance of enhancing synergies with other actors.

34. A Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean was established, to support and facilitate the work of the Contracting Parties in implementing the Regional Plan on Marine Litter during a round table discussion organized and hosted in the Secretariat's premises in

Athens (6 September 2016). The Regional Cooperation Platform is implemented through the establishment, on a voluntary basis, of an open ended group of regional and international partners with mandates and activities contributing to the environmentally sound management of marine litter in the Mediterranean. The cooperation platform will offer to its members the opportunity to provide, on an equal footing and as appropriate, concrete contributions and inputs for the implementation of the Regional Plan based on their individual mandates, expertise, work plans, and the decisions and recommendations of their respective governing bodies<sup>1</sup>. The second meeting of the Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean is expected to be organized in the Fall of 2017 and preliminary work is already ongoing.

35. 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. During this biennium, 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.

36. Coordination is also ongoing with OSPAR, HELCOM and the Black Sea Commissions for ensuring an efficient implementation of the action plans on marine litter. 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.

37. The Memorandum of Understanding between UNEP, in its capacity as Secretariat to the Barcelona Convention, and the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfMS) was extended until 3 December 2019. To follow-up on the implementation of the MoU and to discuss future collaboration between the two Organizations, a bilateral meeting was held at the UNEP/MAP premises, in Athens, Greece, on 22 June 2017.

38. Work is continuing on the successful implementation of the MoU between UNEP/MAP and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) in 2012. In this respect, two bilateral meetings were held on 12-13 April 2016, in Rome, Italy, and 23 March 2017, in Athens, Greece. The meetings identified the need for further close collaboration in order to achieve SDG 14, discussed the consideration of a joint work plan and recent developments at each Organization of relevance to their cooperation, as well as other technical and operational issues related to priority activities for the biennium and to the implementation of the MoU.

39. GFCM and UNEP/MAP also had a joint presentation at the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (Seoul, Republic of Korea, 26-29 September 2016). Furthermore, the collaboration between the two organizations was presented as a good example of cross-sectoral cooperation in the UNEP/EC Workshop on Area-based Management and Regional Cooperation for the Implementation of Ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals (Brussels, 9-10 February 2017), while a joint side event, also involving the European Commission, took place during

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<sup>1</sup> Members of the platform include ACCOBAMS, CIESM, EEA, GFCM, GIZ, GRID-ARENDA, HELMEPA, IUCN/ IUCN-MED, IWRS, JRC/MSFD TG ML, MEDASSET, MEDITS, MIO-ECSDE, PLASTICSEUROPE, PRINCE ALBERT II MONACO FOUNDATION, SDSN-MED, SWEEP-NET, WASTE FREE OCEANS, UNEP/GPA, UNEP/MAP including MEDPOL and the RACs. Additional members are also considered upon their expression of interest. More information can be found at: <http://web.unep.org/unespmap/regional-cooperation-platform-marine-litter-established-mediterranean>.

the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, that will be convened at United Nations Headquarters, New York, 59- June 2017.

40. A bilateral meeting was organized with the World Wide Fund for Nature – Mediterranean Programme Office (WWF MedPO) – which is both a MAP Partner and an MCSD member -at the Coordinating Unit, on 8 March 2017. In the meeting, where the Director of SPA/RAC also participated through videoconference, further ways to increase cooperation were explored. Inter alia, the implementation of the 2016-2025 MSSD and its Flagship Initiatives was discussed. Areas where a strategic collaboration may bring important results were also identified, such as support to Marine Protected Areas coverage and management, preparation of assessment reports, and marine litter.

41. Following the Inter-Agency Meeting on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance related to Oil and HNS Pollution Incidents in the Mediterranean Region (London, United Kingdom, 25 February 2016), EMSA and REMPEC jointly presented the services/operational capacities that they can provide in case of marine pollution incidents, at the 38th meeting of the Directors-General for Civil Protection of the European Union (Valletta, Malta, 26 - 27 April 2017).

42. A new Memorandum of Understanding between the Permanent Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS) and SPA/RAC for a period of 3 years (2017-2019) was signed in March 2017.

43. The Memorandum of Cooperation between SPA/RAC and WWF MedPO for the period (2018-2021) has been updated and will be signed in the coming months. SPA/RAC is, also, preparing a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Conservatoire du Littoral (France) for the period 2018-2021. This Memorandum will be complemented by biennial operational joint work programmes. The first programme is under active discussion with the Conservatoire du Littoral.

44. The Secretariat has received five applications from NGOs for accreditation as MAP Partners (International Federation for Sustainable Development and Fight to Poverty in the Mediterranean-Black Sea, Fondation Mohamed VI pour la Protection de l'Environnement, Sustainable Development Solutions Network through the Università di Siena, Plastics Europe, and Youth Love Egypt). The applications were assessed and, as per the conclusions of the 82nd (Athens, Greece, 19-20 April 2016), 83<sup>rd</sup> (Tirana, Albania, 25-26 October 2016) and 84<sup>th</sup> (Athens, Greece, 19-20 June 2017) Meetings of the Bureau, were considered eligible and approved by the Bureau for onward transmission to the MAP Focal Points Meeting and the COP for final endorsement.

45. The Secretariat contributed to the preparation of the H2020 Initiative Steering Group Meeting which reviewed the implementation of the POW and co-chaired the H2020 Capacity Building sub group meeting (February 2016, Brussels) back to back with the H2020 Initiative Steering Group Meeting. The Secretariat hosted the H2020 Pollution Reduction and Prevention Investment (PRPI) meeting on 6 June 2016, in Athens, Greece, co-chaired by the UfM and EIB with the participation of donor agencies active in the Region. The meeting reviewed the investment component of the updated NAPs and discussed common approaches for supporting priority projects. MED POL participated in the H2020 PRPI meeting (4 April 2017, Brussels) that focused on the review of the UfM suggested Flagship Projects, which are closely linked with the NAPs investment portfolio and provided feedback on their further development prioritizing categories and scoring criteria. Furthermore, work is currently ongoing by EEA and MED POL in the framework of H2020 Review and Monitoring Group, with support from the ENI SEIS II South Project. In order to increase coordination and maximise synergies, the joint 1<sup>st</sup> SEIS Steering Committee and 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Horizon 2020 Review and Monitoring Group meetings, were held on 11-12 December 2016, bringing together the MED POL, H2020 and SEIS Focal Points.

46. UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit has actively contributed to the UN Ocean Conference by providing regional inputs reflected in the Partnership Dialogues Concept Papers and ensured, in



consultation with Contracting Parties and partners that the Mediterranean example featured highly in the discussions during the Conference. Activities underway in the Mediterranean region were presented through the co-organization of three side-events together with key partners, on the following topics: Implementation of the ecosystem approach at the regional level for the coordinated achievement of the SDG14 targets; Multi-stakeholders governance for tackling marine litter; Regional Marine Protected Areas networks in action (with references to the UNEP/MAP-GFCM MoU, to the Marine Litter Regional Cooperation Platform and Marine Litter Med Project, to partnership between UNEP/MAP and IMO, IAEA and EEA, to the Mid-Term Strategy and to the Ecosystem Approach Process and the Science-Policy Interface work under the EcAp-MEDII Project).

47. UNEP/MAP is a member of the steering committee of the regional cooperation initiative launched by the Ministry of the Ecology of France on 27 June 2016, entitled “Mediterranean Plan for blue growth” which builds on existing programmes and projects and 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. MAP was represented in the four meetings of the Steering Committee. The international conference “What solutions for the Mediterranean?” (23 February 2017, Paris, France) that gathered 200 representatives from 21 Mediterranean countries featured all MAP components, in all workshop round-tables highlighted that the need to strengthen existing initiatives at the regional level through the implementation of key actions, with a focus on pollution.

48. The Coordinating Unit and REMPEC participated in the panel of the Plenary Session II-B: Blue Growth and the Environment, during the 2nd Forum of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR, Ioannina, Greece, 11-12 May 2017), jointly organized by EC and Greece. The forum, with more than 600 participants, was a networking opportunity, where stakeholders gathered to discuss concrete suggestions, views and ideas on how to better achieve the Strategy objectives, with special focus on Blue Growth and its interrelations with Environmental quality, Sustainable tourism, and Connectivity. The meeting provided an opportunity to present the importance of the synergies between the regional, sub-regional and national levels to efficiently achieve the relevant objectives.

49. 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”. SCP/RAC also participated actively to the MedCOP by organizing a workshop on SCP, circular economy and climate change in the Mediterranean. The results of this workshop were also discussed during a specific event also organized by SCP/RAC during the COP of Marrakesh on circular economy within the AgoraMed COP.

50. The Coordinating Unit and Plan Bleu organized two side events during COP 22 of UNFCCC ( 7-18 November 2016 - Marrakech, Morocco). Plan Bleu also coordinated several side events at this international conference: "Towards an experts group on climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean (MedECC)", "MedClimate Day" (Organized by ENERGIES 2050 and its partners, Plan Bleu and the FEMISE/Institut de la Méditerranée) and "Strengthening Climate Risk Monitoring: A Method for Assessing Coastal Risk at Different Scales for the Mediterranean".

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

51. The preparation of the first Quality Status Report (QSR) for the Mediterranean is one of the most important outputs of the 2016-2017 PoW. The CU through MED POL is responsible to ensure the technical coordination of the preparation of the QSR by the MAP components with inputs from and review by the Correspondence Group on Monitoring (CORMON). It also led the work to prepare a common template of the Guidance Factsheet for the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) Common Indicators.

52. The Mediterranean sustainability dashboard was initially discussed during two workshops: a first Workshop on “How to monitor the MSSD 2016-2025” was held in Saint-Laurent du Var, 30-31 March 2016, and a second workshop was jointly organized by Plan Bleu/RAC and SCP/RAC (17 October 2016, - Barcelona, Spain). The dashboard was then discussed in the meeting of the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (Athens, Greece, 18-19 January 2017) and in the Plan Bleu Focal Points meeting in (Sophia Antipolis, France, 25-26 April 2017). The dashboard was further discussed in the 17<sup>th</sup> MCSD meeting (Athens, Greece, 4-6 July 2017), and the selected list of indicators are submitted to the MAP Focal Points for consideration.

53. Plan Bleu organized a first Regional Consultation Workshop held on Climate Change Science-Policy Interface in the Mediterranean (MedECC) in Aix-en-Provence, France, on 10-12 October 2016, gathering scientists and decision-makers. The objective of this workshop was to define the scope and structure of the first MedECC assessment report, which will be published in 2019 and to decide on the way forward. Three specific thematic meetings, addressing each of the chapters of the assessment report, have been organized thereafter. Furthermore, a MedECC Science-Policy Workshop has been organized on 13-14 March 2017, back-to-back with UfM’s Climate Change and Environment working groups and Climate Change Experts Group meetings. At this occasion the Secretariat presented the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 and the role of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development.

54. A regional Workshop on Sustainable Tourism in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries was held in Marseille on 23-24 May 2016, gathering more than 60 participants, resulted in the drafting by Plan Bleu of a document on Sustainable Tourism in the Mediterranean, in line with MSSD 2016-2025.

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

55. 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 (<https://www.informea.org/en>) to provide data and content to the initiative, including through its participation in a meeting of the IKM Working Group (6 September 2016), which discussed the recommendations of the 7<sup>th</sup> MEA-IKM Steering Committee, on outreach and awareness raising, e-learning and education, and impact of SDGs on IKM. The Secretariat also participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> MEA-IKM Steering Committee (Montreux, Switzerland, 20-23 June 2017), where discussions were held on the need to further increase the database interoperability between Regional Seas Conventions as a way to expand the avenues of knowledge exchange, the means and extent to which national reports could be made accessible through InforMEA, the use of SDGs indicators for tagging purposes as way to support countries in reporting on the ocean-related SDGS, and the most effective vehicles for outreach, including e-learning courses.

56. INFO-RAC launched the beta testing of the National Baseline Budget system and developed the relevant guidelines that will enable a smooth operation of data submission including through Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR).

57. Within the development of the Mediterranean clearing-house mechanism on marine and coastal biodiversity, SPA/RAC has launched within the framework of the Medkeyhabitats project the establishment of a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) for its georeferenced data which will be called the Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform (MBP). The platform will provide three main services: (a) Discovery: search and access information, (b) View: Display spatial datasets on the interactive map (WebGIS features); and (c) Download: public users (or authorised users depending on Data Policy rules applicable to the specific dataset) will be able to select and download maps of their interest.

58. INFO/RAC underwent a re-organization of its structure at the end of 2016. A mission of the new INFO/RAC team to the Coordinating Unit took place in February 2017. Discussions focused on

information management and communication activities as well as operational matters, while an updated workplan was discussed and finalized after the meeting.

### **Strategic Outcome 1.6: Raised awareness and outreach**

59. The new UNEP/MAP website and integrated official documents database were developed with the support of the EcAp-MED I project, and are available in Arabic, English, and French. Furthermore, news items were regularly prepared in three languages and disseminated through the Coordinating Unit and RACs websites, in addition to Mediterranean media and UNEP outreach tools.

60. The following publications were prepared in line with UNEP publication policy and disseminated through UNEP, MAP and other online outlets and selectively printed as appropriate: “Marine Litter Assessment in the Mediterranean - 2015 Report” (English and French); “SAP-MED/NAP Implementation Status Report 2000-2015” (English); “Regional Survey on Abandoned, Lost or Discarded Fishing Gear and Ghost Nets in the Mediterranean Sea” carried out in 2015 (English); Guidelines for ESM on Mercury, Lead batteries, PCBs, Used Oils and Tanneries; “Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean” (English and French); “Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas” (RCCAF) (English and French); “Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and related Assessment Criteria (IMAP)” (English, French, and Arabic), “Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 - Investing in environmental sustainability to achieve social and economic development” (English and French), “Enhancing Regional Ocean Governance in the Mediterranean - Memorandum of Understanding between United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan - Secretariat to the Barcelona Convention and FAO General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean” (English).

61. The SPA/RAC website and graphic charter were updated, and biodiversity related databases’ systems were enhanced. 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).

62. REMPEC launched the celebrations of its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 4 October 2016, under the theme “Cooperation in the Mediterranean to Prevent and Combat Marine Pollution from Ships”. Over one hundred and thirty participants representing Mediterranean coastal States, organizations and institutions, attended the High-level Meeting, which was chaired by the Hon. Dr. George W. Vella, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta, and included interventions by Ministers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus and Greece and twelve high-level representatives of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. All speakers expressed their satisfaction on REMPEC’s achievements.

63. The Secretariat, with the support of Plan Bleu, has progressed work on the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award. A new plan with a clear timeline was developed and approved by the dedicated Task Force, together with a detailed leaflet, a logo and communication material. The call for applications was launched in mid-May 2017 and was open until 30 June. Applications were received from seventeen Mediterranean coastal towns and cities from five Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. The evaluation process of applications has been initiated in July 2017.

64. An infographic on the ecological role of *Posidonia* meadows has been produced. A customized exhibition stand featuring the new SPA/RAC tagline was produced and used in various regional and local events.

65. PAP/RAC successfully organized the Mediterranean Coast Day celebration (27 September 2016, Barcelona, Spain) and has launched preparatory activities for the 2017 Coast Day celebration in collaboration with the Government of Montenegro. PAP/RAC is also producing a short video on the implementation of the MAVA project on Blue Economy

66. On the occasion of the Adriatic Trilateral Initiative, launched in Split, Croatia, on 10 February 2017, PAP/RAC hosted a delegation headed by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Albania, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro. The initiative aims to contribute to stability and security and to intensify the dialogue on issues of common interest for these three countries, including political dialogue, regional and international security, environmental protection, economy and tourism, transports, as well as energy and infrastructure.

67. An updated Communication Strategy for 2018-2023 has been prepared by INFO/RAC and the Coordinating Unit for submission to the MAP Focal Points, based on the existing Communication Strategy. The Strategy is aiming at enhancing outreach activities building on the increased visibility of the MAP system and its work achieved since COP 19.

68. A number of activities were held under the auspices of the Coordinating Unit, in Athens, Greece, such as the MedSOS beach-cleanup campaigns in 2016 and 2017, the Healthy Seas Fashion Project Exhibition in the Netherlands in 2017 where it will be displayed for two years, and, the MEDASSET healthy seas campaign award ceremony, on 17 May 2016.

## **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**

69. The Coordinating Unit and REMPEC met the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (IOGP) in London, UK on 27 October 2016 to discuss the industry's possible contribution to the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan, through technical and financial support as well as staff secondment. The assessment of relevant funding opportunities was also addressed, in the context of the update of the Resource Mobilization Strategy.

70. SCP/RAC is identifying existing innovative solutions to prevent the use of toxic chemicals (PBT, EDC, vPvB, CMR) by manufacturers in consumer products, and will select one to be replicated and launched as a pilot activity in one Mediterranean country. Following the same methodology, an existing innovative solution to prevent the generation of plastics ending up as Marine Litter will also be launched as a pilot project and a publication will be issued presenting a selection of the solutions identified.

71. SCP/RAC is prepared the Project Identity Forms with the countries for activities to be developed under the SWIM H2020 Expert facility of the SWIM H2020 Supporting Mechanisms project. The activities will consist in strengthening the development of the national policy framework for SCP, circular economy and pollution prevention and will take place in Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan and Palestine.

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

72. MED POL developed updated guidelines on management of dredged materials and on placement for artificial reefs under the Dumping Protocol in order to bring them in line with the latest IMO relevant developments, where appropriate, and streamline relevant GES targets. It also developed updated guidelines on desalination activities. The Regional Meeting of Experts to review the Draft Desalination and Dumping Protocol Guidelines was held in Greece, 4-6 April 2017. All the proposed Updated Guidelines, in accordance with the conclusions and recommendations of the experts meeting, were submitted for review by the MED POL Focal Points Meeting.

73. The Meeting of the Mediterranean Informal Network on Compliance and Enforcement (Loutraki, Greece, 6-7 April 2017) reviewed two Guides prepared by the Secretariat. The Guide on Best Available Techniques (BAT) aims to assist the permitting authorities of the Contracting Parties to extract and evaluate the necessary information to assess the information provided by the applicants for permits concerning BAT introduction in industrial installations and support the operators in their application for a permit on the selection of BAT options. The Guide on Inspection of Industrial Facilities comprises a practical guidance tool to support the relevant national authorities in promoting BAT application in the inspection process addressing both overall processes related to inspection (planning, effectiveness, follow up, indicators, etc.) and the check lists required to facilitate the inspection process with the view to be used as guidance for the conduction of inspections in selected industrial sectors.

74. One of the outputs of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED Project, is the strengthening of the implementation of harmonized approaches at regional and sub-regional levels to reduce and prevent marine litter generation from land-based and sea-based sources including pilot preventions (EU countries to participate on a no-cost basis). In this context, MED POL will develop in cooperation with SCP/RAC, REMPEC and SPA/RAC specific tools/guides/guidelines in accordance with the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean.

75. MED POL has undertaken an assessment of the Annexes of the Pollution-related Protocols (Dumping, LBS, HW, and Offshore), to propose for consideration by the MED POL Focal Points possible revisions, in the light of relevant global and regional developments, where appropriate, with the view to achieve GES. In this regard, relevant global and regional instruments were reviewed, including the London Dumping Convention and Protocol, the Stockholm Convention, the Basel Convention, the Minamata Convention, as well as developments under relevant EU legislation including the MSFD, WFD, EIA Directive etc.

76. MED POL, with support from the EU-funded ActionMed Project prepared an analysis (policy paper) on potential future pollution prevention and control programmes of measures required to achieve GES based on existing studies related to sectors/drivers development.

77. Work on the development of PRTR, in line with the MAP PoW 2016-2017 will be undertaken in the framework of the ENI SEIS II South Project, with the development of PRTR Guidelines, the development of PRTR legislation in all SEIS countries, the implementation of SEIS pilots in five partner countries.

78. The revised Mediterranean “Principles and Guidelines on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance related to Oil and HNS Pollution Incidents”, were discussed at the Workshop on cooperation arrangements in the field of preparedness and response to oil and HNS spills (MEDEXPOL 2016) held in Malta from 14 to 15 December 2016. 14 Contracting Parties as well as Regional and International Organizations participated in this meeting. The Meeting approved a set of Conclusions and Recommendations. and the “Draft Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents” for consideration by the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points.

79. In the framework of the SWIM H2020 Supporting Mechanisms project, SCP/RAC prepared terms of reference for the preparation of two technical studies that will aim at screening the best practices, circular economy measures and technologies for the target countries of SWIM-H2020 Support Mechanism. The selected sectors are the olive oil sector and the cement sector, with focus on the best practices for the waste minimization, water and energy consumption and valorisation of the sub-products of the olive oil production, and on the best practices for the waste to energy process in order to avoid or minimize environmental issues, respectively.

**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**

80. 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).

81. Work has advanced in assessing the information provided in the updated NAPs/PoM regarding in particular the list of updated 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 was held in Marseille, France, on 17-18 October 2016 (co-organized by MED POL, Plan Bleu and the EU funded SWIM H2020 Support mechanism). The objective of this meeting was to draft a roadmap for the implementation of the updated NAPs/PoM and identify key common targets, measures and priorities. The meeting was an opportunity for the Contracting Parties to share best practices, and exchange experiences on success stories, 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, in view of achieving GES and H2020 targets on pollution and litter.

82. The Regional Expert Meeting on National Action Plans for the Implementation of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) was organized by REMPEC in Barcelona, Spain from 8 to 9 November 2016. The principal objective of the Meeting was to support the preparation of NAPs for the implementation of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021). The Meeting was attended by 26 participants from 18 Contracting Parties

83. Following the Meeting of the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS) organized in Toulon, France, from 29 September to 1 October 2015, REMPEC, between May and September 2016, prepared an analysis of relevant information at Mediterranean level and synthesised findings into short reports on: (a) IMO mandatory reporting system under MARPOL; (b) specific marine oil pollution detection/investigation reports; (c) applicable sanctions applied by Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention with regard to illicit ship pollution discharges; and (d) developments on the review of Recommendation 19/14 of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (Helsinki Commission) on a harmonized system of fines in case a ship violates anti-pollution regulations.

**Strategic Outcome 2.4: Marine Pollution Monitoring and Assessment**

84. The MED POL Programme also contributed to UNEP's global work through the preparation of the Mediterranean chapter on the Global Marine Litter assessment as well as the development of a set of UNEP Regional Seas Global Indicators, the DOALOS' report on Recent and Ongoing Assessments and reviewed the World Ocean Assessment.

85. Work is ongoing to support up to ten Contracting Parties to establish updated national monitoring programmes in line with the IMAP (Pollution and Marine Litter Cluster). Related legal agreements have been developed and signed with Israel, Morocco and Lebanon. Work is ongoing to sign the agreements with Algeria, Libya and Tunisia.

86. MED POL undertook a review from the data of the MED POL Monitoring Programme (2000 to date) and from the Contracting Parties reporting. The Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Pollution Monitoring (Marseille, France, 19-21 October 2016) discussed in depth the current status of the MED POL Monitoring Programme database, and the results of the 2015 Quality Assurance Programme and training. The CORMON meeting recommended that the countries which have not yet done so should report without further delay the pollution monitoring data as

provided for in the provisions of the Convention and the LBS Protocol including past monitoring reports and expressed concern on the results of the proficiency tests carried out in 2015 with regards to eutrophication and contaminants and noted the imperative need to maintain a proper quality assurance of the data. For the current biennium (2016-2017), as of the 28 April 2017, data submissions have been received by Croatia (2011-2014), Cyprus (2013, 2014 and 2015), France (2010, 2011, 2012) Morocco (2013, 2014, 2015), Montenegro (2014, 2015, 2016) Slovenia (2014 and 2015) and Tunisia (printed report for 2014).

87. The CORMON Meetings on pollution (contaminants and eutrophication) and marine litter were held in October 2016 and February-March 2017 respectively. The CORMON on Pollution reviewed the status of the marine pollution monitoring regional data base and reporting, MED POL database gaps and related quality assurance issues, and agreed on solutions to address them; reviewed the proposal for Background Concentrations (BC)/Background Assessment Concentrations (BACs)/Environmental Assessment Concentrations (EACs) for contaminants and biomarkers at Mediterranean and sub regional scales; and discussed the Science Policy Interface (SPI) strengthening related to marine pollution monitoring. In addition the meeting discussed to process to develop the 2017 Quality Status Report (QSR) including sources of information to be used and case studies to be developed. The CORMON on Marine Litter provided Contracting Parties with a training programme on specific elements of marine litter monitoring and related best practices, and ensured the exchange information on the revision of their national monitoring programmes in relation to Marine Litter to be updated in light of the IMAP adopted by COP 19. The draft Indicator Guidance Factsheets on Marine Litter and the first completed QSR Assessment Factsheets Common Indicators 22 and 23 were reviewed in detail. In addition, the meeting agreed on the process to further develop Marine Litter Metadata Templates and Monitoring Protocols, led by France Spain and Italy.

88. A joint training on monitoring the ingestion of marine litter on sea turtles is planned for July 2017 in Naples, Italy, while a francophone training is to be organized at a later stage in France. Moreover, MED POL is in the advisory board of the MEDCIS EU-funded project (Support Mediterranean EU Member States towards coherent and Coordinated Implementation of the second phase of the EU MSFD), facilitating the overall coordination and communication of the project.

89. The 2016 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. Final reports of the 2016 proficiency tests on trace metals and organics in sediments and biota will be shared with MED POL Focal Points and laboratory codes for each laboratory will be sent individually.

90. MED POL has worked closely with REMPEC to develop monitoring guidance related to shipping and offshore activities. The First Meeting of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG) Sub-Group on Environmental Impact of Offshore Monitoring Programmes was held in Loutraki, Greece, on 3-4 April 2017, with the support of the EU-funded EcAp MED II project. The Meeting reviewed the proposed outputs related to the establishment of National and Regional Offshore Monitoring Programmes, including pollutants, parameters and minimum requirement, and gave guidance to the Secretariat for the further preparation of the required documentation in relation to offshore monitoring. The meeting decided that the correspondence group will be led by Cyprus and France.

91. REMPEC provided technical support to the development of a quality assurance programme for oil and hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) pollution from ships and offshore data reporting and collection in line with the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP) (Decision IG.22/7), within the framework of the EcAp-MED II Project. Kick-off Meetings were convened in Athens, Greece, from 20 to 21 and from 22 to 23 September 2016 respectively.

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

92. The Marine Litter Project has a strong national component with pilots to be implemented by the southern Mediterranean countries to ensure a better management of sea-based litter in ports; to enhance the regulatory framework related to non-single use of plastic bags and promote Extended Producer Responsibility; to support the implementation of Fishing for Litter guidelines adopted by COP 19; to implement “Adopt a Beach” system, and to contribute to the assessment of impacts of marine litter and micro litter in biota with a particular focus on endangered species.

93. In collaboration with the IPA-Adriatic funded DeFishGear Project, the Secretariat organized 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.

94. In consultation and collaboration with the Secretariat of the Agreement for cooperation in dealing with pollution of the North Sea by oil and other harmful substances, 1983 (Bonn Agreement), REMPEC sponsored two representatives from Algeria and Tunisia to participate, as observers, in the Super Co-ordinated Extended Pollution Control Operation organized in the Netherlands from 5 to 9 September 2016 within the context of the Bonn Agreement. The National Training Course on Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Response, prepared by REMPEC in cooperation with the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency initially scheduled for 3-8 September 2016 was postponed to the second half of 2017. This activity to be held in Cairo, Egypt is financed by IMO ITCP.

95. The 2-year project for Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline clean-up and Oiled Wildlife interventions – POSOW II was completed on 31 December 2016. The trainers who attended the two four-day “Train the Trainers” courses on the 6 POSOW themes between 19 and 22 and between 26 and 29 April 2016, ran a National Pilot Training Course in their respective countries, drawing on the materials available in their language. Six National Pilot Training Courses have been organized in Egypt between 27 and 29 November 2016, in Morocco between 20 and 21 December 2016, in Tunisia between 11 and 13 October 2016 and in Turkey between 11 and 13 October 2016. For Libya, with the in-kind contribution of MOIG, a Train the Trainers course was organized in Tunisia between 22 and 24 November 2016. All the trainees, including 43 representatives for the Train the Trainers courses and 133 participants for the National Pilot Training Courses have been recorded in the POSOW database by REMPEC. 173 volunteers from 16 countries are now registered in the POSOW database. All the project promotion documents (movie, leaflet, presentations, newsletters) and training materials prepared during POSOW I and POSOW II are freely available in several languages on the POSOW website.

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

96. IMO ITCP supported, through REMPEC, the participation of representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro to attend the third Adriatic Oil Spill Conference (ADRIASPILLCON 2016) held in Opatija, Croatia, from 10 to 12 May 2016.

97. Within the framework of the “Joint Declaration of Intent on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection” signed by the Ministers responsible for environment of Cyprus, Greece and Israel in Jerusalem April 2016, the competent national authorities of the three countries agreed to develop and implement a joint sub-regional marine pollution contingency plan and requested the assistance of REMPEC. A meeting was, held in Barcelona, Spain on 9 December 2016, to review and discuss the National Contingency Plans (NCPs) of each Party, the concept for the development of the SCP and the preliminary proposal of its contents. A second Meeting of the Competent National



Authorities for the Preparation of the CGI SCP, was convened in Valletta, Malta, on 13 December 2016, and the Working Group on the Drafting of a Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan met on the invitation of the Government of Cyprus on 23 February 2017 in Nicosia, Cyprus, to further review the draft CGI SCP. During the latter, a programme was agreed including the next Meeting of the competent national authorities, to be held in Cyprus, in July 2017, with a view to ensuring the signature of the Agreement related to the CGI SCP prior to the end of 2017.

98. Further to a request from the Minister for Environment and Sustainable development of Tunisia, REMPEC mobilised funds from IMO's ITCP to support the Tier 3 exercise to be organized by the Government of Tunisia in September 2017 to test the "Supporting Operational Document (Manuel de Procedure) for the implementation of the National Contingency Plan", recently finalised by the Tunisian National Agency for the Protection of the Environment. REMPEC will facilitate the participation of representatives from Algeria and Morocco, as neighbouring countries and Parties to the Agreement concerning the Sub-Regional Contingency Plan for the South-Western Mediterranean signed in 2005 between Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, with a view to strengthening cooperation and revitalising the sub regional agreement.

99. The renewal of REMPEC's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the framework of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU) with the Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) is being finalized, while the final draft MoU with Federazione Nazionale dell'Industria Chimica (FEDERCHIMICA) was approved and is pending signature following the update of the list of experts in annex to the MoU. The MoUs between REMPEC and Sea Alarm, between REMPEC and the Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution (CEDRE) as well as between REMPEC and the Mediterranean Operational Network for the Global Ocean Observing System (MONGOOS) were renewed. In addition, from 9 March to 15 March 2017, REMPEC activated the MAU through MONGOOS - Emergency Response Office for the preparation of simulations of the worst case scenario of pollution incident in Ras Lanuf and Es Sidra Terminals.

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

100. Regarding the assessment of the feasibility of designation as a SO<sub>x</sub> 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 14 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**

101. The 2016 Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (Tangier, Morocco, 28 November-1 December), organized by MedPAN, SPA/RAC and the '*Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte Contre la Désertification*', gathered around 300 key players involved in the marine environment (representatives of national environmental agencies, fishing and tourism, land managers, scientists, non-governmental and civil society organizations, local economic actors and Mediterranean and international institutions) coming from 33 countries. This Forum was an opportunity for a mid-term assessment of the implementation of the 2012 MPA Roadmap and led to propose new recommendations to tackle the challenges faced by MPAs, especially those related to climate change, with an integrated and long term vision (the Tangier Declaration).

102. SPA/RAC started, during the 2016 MPA Forum (Tangier, Morocco, 28 November-1 December), a reflection on the design and rationale behind the creation of the Ad hoc group of experts on Mediterranean MPAs, in consultation with relevant regional organizations. The rationale and terms of reference of such advisory group were presented for discussion and approval by the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of

Focal Points for SPAs (Alexandria, Egypt, 9-12 May 2017).

103. 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. Data has been analysed and a leaflet of the main findings was produced and disseminated during the 2016 MPA Forum, as well as a poster showing MPA distribution in the Mediterranean. The full status report will be produced and spread in 2017 through an online user-friendly interface.

104. Regarding the collection in documents of data on pressures and impacts in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) or where limits of jurisdictions have not yet been defined, to support the Parties for working together in the planning of management measures tailored to different sub regions to improve status of environment in ABNJ, the output documents produced through the MedOpenSeas project were edited and published on line for three subregions: West Mediterranean (Alboran Sea), Adriatic (Adriatic Sea) and Central Mediterranean (Sicily Channel), on their ecology, key vulnerable species (cartilaginous, turtles, marine birds, cetaceans) marine resources and related pressures and impacts in those areas, including fisheries overviews for each of them. A GIS compilation is also being developed with data and metadata following INSPIRA standard and including features, biota, marine areas and pressures embracing ABNJ, notably increased, reaching so far over 160 georeferenced layers. They are hosted on SPA/RAC databases and ready for inclusion in online map portals. Further, a synthesis document on legal points to be aware of for the protection of BBNJ has been prepared.

105. 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" (also called PISCO booklet). The booklet was launched during the 2016 Mediterranean MPA Forum (Tangier, November 2016) and is translated into Mediterranean languages.

**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**

106. SPA/RAC made the necessary arrangements to support the participation of three Mediterranean experts in the EuroMarine workshop on "Management of Bio-invasions in the Mediterranean Sea - the way forward (Ischia-Naples, Italy, 4-5 May 2016).

107. 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 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 and expand its scope at international and regional level.

108. 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.

109. In the context of the assessment of the level of implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management, in August 2016, REMPEC sent a Circular Letter to all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the purpose of reviewing, amending and completing the content of their specific Assessment Templates. In early 2017, 16 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention reviewed their specific Assessment Template. The Synthetic Report on the Assessment,

which provides a succinct account of the general status of implementation in statistical terms and specific recommendations under each Strategic Priority of the Mediterranean BWM Strategy as well as general conclusions, was presented to the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC for its consideration, prior to onward transmission to the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points as well as COP 20 for their consideration.

110. In its capacity of Regional Coordinating Organization (RCO), REMPEC coordinated the implementation of the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships Programme in the Mediterranean region, in collaboration with SPA/RAC. In particular, the Centre participated in the following meetings for which it also coordinated, together with the PCU, the participation of Lead Partnering Countries in the region, namely Croatia and Turkey, as appropriate: (a) the First Croatia-GloBallast National Global Industry Alliance Conference on BWM (Zagreb, Croatia; 14-15 November 2016), for which it participated, as a speaker; (b) the Regional Training Workshop on practical aspects of Risk Assessment and Port Biological Baseline Surveys related to the implementation of the BWM Convention (Zagreb, Croatia; 16-17 November 2016); and (c) the Fifth Global Project Task Force Meeting (Panama City, Panama; 16-17 March 2017) convened back-to-back with the Panama Maritime XIII World Conference and Exhibition (Panama City, Panama; 12-15 March 2017).

111. The 2011 Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species (Biofouling Guidelines), which were approved by the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee at its sixty-second session in July 2011 and circulated as Resolution MEPC.207(62), as well as the Guidelines for the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping to address adverse impacts on marine life, which were approved by the Committee at its sixty-sixth session in April 2014 and circulated as MEPC.1/Circ.833 were presented to the Twelfth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC for the perusal of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

112. SPA/RAC is elaborating a short practical guide on gap analysis and MPA system planning adapted to the Mediterranean context to be used by Mediterranean countries' planners and decision-makers and other stakeholders involved in MPA planning processes, based on the most recent available technical tools, literature and best practices developed at international level. This guide will be ready by July 2017 and will be made available in English and French.

113. SPA/RAC has developed the following Guidelines within the implementation of the Action Plan for the conservation of Marine turtles in the Mediterranean: (a) Guidelines for the long term Monitoring programmes for marine turtles nesting beaches and standardize monitoring methods for nesting beaches, feeding and wintering; (b) Guidelines to standardize methodologies to estimate demographic parameters for marine turtles populations in the Mediterranean.

114. The Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine and Coastal Bird Species Listed in Annex II of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, which includes an update on the 25 species has been updated and is presented to the 13<sup>th</sup> SPA Focal Points meeting.

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

115. An ecological characterisation of three ecologically important sites in Lebanon: Batroun, Medfoun and Byblos, has been carried out from 28 September to 7 October 2016, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment of Lebanon, the National Council for Scientific Research of Beirut, the University of Alicante (Spain) and IUCN-ROWA. The report of the ecological characterisation is under finalisation.

116. The process for the elaboration of a management plan for the Jbel Moussa future MPA in

Morocco has started in November 2016. An inception meeting bringing together the main stakeholders at local level was organized on 7 April 2017 in Tangier.

117. The process for the elaboration of a management plan for the North-Eastern part of the Kerkennah Islands in Tunisia has started in May 2017, with the process for the elaboration of a management plan for the Sallum MPA in Egypt is expected to start during the second semester of 2017.

118. In the framework of the CAMP Var (France) programme, SPA/RAC is collaborating with the Conservatoire du littoral, PAP/RAC and other partners in the elaboration of three short films highlighting the good management practices acquired through the “Archipel d’excellence” initiative and implemented in the Var region SPAMIs (the Port-Cros National Park and the Embiez Archipelago) and other islands of the Var Department.

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

119. SPA/RAC is supporting the southern Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia) to update their national monitoring programmes according to the relevant the IMAP recommendations. The respective draft of monitoring programmes related to biodiversity and NIS will be validated through national workshops involving stakeholders and institutions engaged in biodiversity monitoring.

120. SPA/RAC carried out the ordinary periodic review of the Banc des Kabyles Nature Reserve and Habibas Islands (Algeria), and the Portofino Marine Protected Area (Italy), in collaboration with the relevant authorities in the two countries, in early 2017. A new online platform that will allow the monitoring of SPAMIs evolution was presented to the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Focal Points for SPAs (Alexandria, Egypt, 9-12 May 2017). A draft report on the evaluation of the implementation of the 2009 Regional working programme on MCPAs supported by the 2016 Roadmap on MPAs, was also presented to the meeting

121. SPA/RAC has supported the following activities: (a) Survey and monitoring of the common dolphin population around the islands of Corfu, Paxos/AntiPaxos, Lefkada, Ithaki/Kephallonia (Greece); (b) Satellite telemetry applied to fin whales in the Mediterranean Sea” carried out by the “Tethys Research Institute” around Lampedusa Island (Italy); (c) A photo –identification survey on the bottlenose population in the Bay of Bizerte (North of Tunisia) carried out by the Tunisian Association for Taxonomy, Tunisia; (d) Dolphin Project: population size and habitat use for bottlenose and common dolphins along the North of Tunisia, which is ongoing by “L’Association Nationale du Développement Durable et de la Conservation de la Vie Sauvage”; (e) The Monitoring and conservation of sea turtles and their habitat in Albania. Main actions have focused on bycatch monitoring, data collection, capacity building, education and awareness raising; (f) The monitoring of Marine and coastal birds in Palm Island (SPAMI, Lebanon); (g) The monitoring of Marine turtles nesting (Kuriat island, Tunisia); (h) Improving the conditions and the functioning of the rescue centre in Monastir (Tunisia); (i) The functioning of the Mediterranean database on cetaceans stranding (MEDACES) in collaboration with the Secretariat of ACCOBAMS; (j) The implementation of the ACCOBAMS-GFCM project on mitigating interaction between endangered marine species and fishing activities. As partner, to this project, SPA/RAC is coordinating the achievement of actions on “Purse seine small pelagic fisheries in Kelibia” and “Bottom and surface longline fisheries in the Gulf of Gabès”.

122. Maps concerning the distribution of marine key habitats and in particular Posidonia meadows and coralligenous assemblages, that were produced in the framework of Medkeyhabitats project are available through the Mediterranean Platform on Biodiversity (MBP).

123. SPA/RAC has launched the updating of the Reference List of Marine and Coastal Habitat types for the Mediterranean region, taking into account dark assemblages, also to be in line with the EcAp Process. The draft reference list was reviewed during an ad hoc meeting involving a number of Mediterranean experts and regional partner organizations (GFCM, IUCN-Med, OCEANA, and ETC/BD). The updated draft was presented for consideration by the 13<sup>th</sup> SPA Focal Point Meeting.

124. The MAMIAS database was updated until September 2016 and another updating is currently underway. SPA/RAC is working towards enabling to reporting of Invasive Alien Species occurrences in the Mediterranean, allowing citizens to contribute to the early detection of new invaders. Since October 2016, MAMIAS is a data partner to EASIN (European Alien Species Information Network), a platform developed by the EC's Joint Research Centre to enable easy access to data on Alien Species reported in Europe.

125. SPA/RAC collaborated with Oceana in the preparation of a draft document on the basic guidelines for inventorying and monitoring Mediterranean "Dark Habitats", as a follow up to the Action Plan for the conservation on of habitats and species associated with seamounts, underwater caves and canyons, aphotic hard beds and chemosynthetic phenomena in the Mediterranean Sea. The document aims to present a census of the main methods used in the Mediterranean, and to offer a better understanding of their benefits, limitations and conditions of use. The draft guidelines were presented to the 13<sup>th</sup> SPA Focal Point Meeting.

126. SPA/RAC is assisting Egypt to develop the National Action Plans for the conservation of marine vegetation, the conservation of marine turtles, and the species introduction and invasive species. Support was also offered to Cyprus, Lebanon and Israel for the elaboration of their NAPs concerning species introduction and invasive species.

127. SPA/RAC supported TUDAV in the organization of a workshop on the Lionfish in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea (9-10 February 2017, Antalya, Turkey). SPA/RAC is supporting the elaboration of the National Action Plan for the conservation of cartilaginous fishes in Turkey. A national workshop was held on 10 March 2017 in Istanbul to set up the outlines of the NAP.

128. In the framework of the MedKeyHabitats project, SPA/RAC continued the implementation of the activities planned for the Project objective 1, concerning the inventory and the mapping of the marine key habitats in the concerned countries, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Montenegro. The maps produced were uploaded to the [MBP](#).

129. In order to promote the standardized techniques/methodologies adopted in the framework of the Barcelona Convention, the following tools were published and distributed through the SPA/RAC website: (a) Manual of interpretation of marine habitat types for the selection of sites to be included in national inventories of natural sites of conservation interest, (b) Standardized methods for the inventory and monitoring of coralligenous and maërl stands and lists of stands of the coralligenous and main species to be considered in the inventories and monitoring, (c) Guidelines for the Standardization of the Methods of Cartography and Surveillance of Marine Magnoliophytes in the Mediterranean, and (d) Protocol for the establishment of a monitoring of Posidonia meadows.

130. The Deep Sea Lebanon Project "Towards Deep-Sea Conservation in Lebanon" is based on a request by the Ministry of Environment of Lebanon, in line with its Marine Protected Areas strategy. This project relies on scientific data collected, compiled and analyzed by project partners OCEANA, IUCN and SPA/RAC, representatives from the Ministry of Environment with the support of CNRS-L (scientific partner), GFCM and ACCOBAMS, and funded by MAVA Foundation. The project has concluded a one-month deep-sea expedition (October 2016) embracing five canyon systems, in previously unstudied areas in Lebanon, reaching a record survey depth of 1050,9 m. In total, more than 200 species were observed, including new records for the Mediterranean Sea that had only previously been found in the Atlantic Ocean and in Polar Regions.

**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**

131. The Medkeyhabitas project activity of mapping marine key habitats in Libya was interrupted and a training program was developed instead, in collaboration with the SPA Focal Point for Libya. Participants from the General Authority for the Environment have been selected based on their ability to dive and their current and future work on habitats and marine protected areas.

132. SPA/RAC has supported the participation of Tunisian students in national trainings on marine turtles nesting monitoring (Kuriat islands, August 2016) and birds' identification methodologies (Djerba, January 2017). Two training workshops on monitoring Biodiversity and NIS common indicators will be held in Tunisia from (18 to 24 July 2017) and in Greece (17-24 September 2017).

133. SPA/RAC is carrying out a long-term evaluation of its training programmes provided to MPA practitioners and marine conservationists since 2010. The resulting detailed recommendations will be contribute to the improvement of SPA/RAC capacity-building planning and delivery approach and techniques and increase its effectiveness.

134. The facilitation of a Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Capacity meeting with the CBD Secretariat for the Mediterranean marine spatial planning and management was undertaken (CBD Secretariat proposal pipelined for spring 2018).

135. SPA/RAC ensured external EC funding for a four and half years project to develop an interoperable observatory platform, integrating networks of marine environment and maritime activity observing and forecasting systems across the Mediterranean basin, addressing both the open sea and the coastal zone. This ensures at least two country-level training workshops of practitioners and two coordination meetings of technical country representatives to operate them in North Africa countries, with the aim to cover Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Egypt.

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

136. 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. The Joint Strategy is being revised following the comments of the 83<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Bureau (25-26 October - Tirana, Albania)

**Strategic Outcome 3.7: Identifying and tackling with new and emerging issues, as appropriate**

137. The Coordinating Unit co-organized with GFCM, a side-event on 31 August 2016 in New York, entitled "Regional Ocean Governance in Practice: The Mediterranean experience", at the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the Preparatory Committee on the Development of an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). A compilation document on the ongoing BBNJ process links to the Mediterranean region was also prepared for the Contracting Parties.

138. A new Memorandum of Understanding between the Permanent Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area

(ACCOBAMS) and SPA/RAC was signed in March 2017 including an updated joint work programme.

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

##### **Strategic Outcome 4.1 Strengthening regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and of programmes of measures in the existing Regional Strategies and Action Plans**

139. PAP/RAC continued providing assistance to the Contracting Parties with regards to the ratification and implementation of the ICZM Protocol. In February 2017, PAP/RAC hosted a high-level delegation composed of parliamentarians and representatives of national authorities from Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia, organized by WWF North Africa. Regulatory perspectives in North Africa regarding the ICZM Protocol were discussed, with particular emphasis on the support needed for its ratification by Algeria and Tunisia.

140. PAP/RAC organized, together with its Focal Point for Greece a national meeting with 28 representatives, including Greek institutions and universities actively involved in the process of ratification of the ICZM Protocol, to introduce the work on the Regional Framework for ICZM, the links between ICZM and MSP, the UNEP/MAP's work on IMAP and EcAp indicators and their utilization for planning purposes, in particular in MSP. The meeting was held on 7 April 2017 in Athens, Greece.

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

141. The GEF Adriatic project proposal "Implementation of ecosystem approach in the Adriatic Sea through marine spatial planning" also addresses this strategic outcome.

##### **Strategic Outcome 4.3: Strengthening national implementation**

142. CAMP Italy held its mid-term conference (21-22 March 2016 - Bologna, Italy) and its final conference (17 January 2017 -Rome) under the theme "Caring for our Coasts – Mediterranean and Italian Experiences". The conference focused on the main results and methodologies of the two-and-a-half-year project, and their integration within the Mediterranean and international contexts. The three project regions developed strategies and procedures for the rational use of coastal and marine resources and the environmental protection that can be replicated within the network of CAMPs and used by institutions in charge of coastal management.

143. The First Land-Sea Forum within the CAMP France was held on 30-31 March 2016 in Grimaud, Var, France. The second edition of the Land and Sea Forum of the CAMP Var (France) was organized in Saint-Raphaël on 15-16 November 2016 with the focus on coastal governance and sustainable and responsible boating. This was also an opportunity to present the results of the survey "The Var, the sea and the coastline" conducted in the entire Var territory and to broadcast two video interviews on governance approaches in other French coastal areas. The Forum also included a workshop intended to set several priorities for the management of the sea and the coast in the Var, to be relayed to local decision-makers. Six working groups were established to encourage actors from different backgrounds to reflect, discuss and decide together on actions to be implemented in the Var.

144. The Feasibility Study for a CAMP project in Bosnia-Herzegovina was contracted and a working meeting with the selected consultant organized in Split, in January 2017. The first draft of the study reached PAP/RAC for comments at the end of April 2017.

**Strategic Outcome 4.5 Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building**

145. The first training workshop on indicators related to coast and hydrography was held in Rabat, Morocco on 26-27 October 2016, in the framework of the EcAp Med II project. In addition to two PAP/RAC representatives and three experts, four government-designated experts, two representatives of the Moroccan Ministry of Environment, and one UNEP/MAP expert participated in the workshop. One of the main requests formulated by the national experts was the establishment of a sub-regional experts group to support the coordination of monitoring activities.

146. The second training workshop took place in Rome on 24-25 April 2017. The main objective was to train national consultants on how to prepare their national IMAP on Coast (EO8) and Hydrography (EO7) indicators, taking into account the improvements of the Guidance Fact Sheets made at the CORMON meeting in Madrid (3 March 2017). More specifically, the objectives were to review the work done on drafting the national IMAPs; to train on the monitoring guidance for the three indicators; to discuss links to EO1 on habitats and the SEIS principles; and to exchange experiences and provide specific suggestions to national consultants drafting IMAPs. Seven EcAp Med II project eligible countries attended the workshop as well as representatives of Turkey.

**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**

147. PAP/RAC progressed in the preparation of the Regional Framework for ICZM through the preparation of a Background Document as the basis for discussion with regional stakeholders during a consultation meeting (Barcelona, Spain, 28-29 September 2016) attended by 56 participants, including MAP and PAP Focal Points, and a number of experts. The general structure and elements of the Regional Framework were elaborated, incorporating the Conceptual Framework for MSP and were discussed during two meetings attended by PAP/RAC Focal Points or their representatives, held on 5-6 April 2017 and 28-29 June 2017, in Athens, Greece. The meetings were organized with the support of the Italian Ministry of Environment and Protection of Land and Sea.

**Strategic Outcome 5.3: Strengthening national implementation**

148. 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 at the European Maritime Safety Agency's headquarters, and lectured on international cooperation: addressing the issue of places of refuge for ships in distress in the Mediterranean.

**Strategic Outcome 5.5 Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building**

149. In response to the increased demand for the MedOpen on-line training course, PAP/RAC updated and organized the following training sessions: French version of the advanced training course (September-December 2016); Italian version of the Basic Course; advanced training on the CVC module in French (April-May 2017).

**Strategic Outcome 5.6 Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels**

150. Regarding the Mediterranean ICZM platform, support was provided by INFO/RAC to the CAMP Italy project, for the development of a customized SDI on the InfoMAP platform.



151. With the technical advice and support of INFO/RAC, PAP/RAC prepared ToRs and opened the call for the implementation of the ICZM Platform as a major tool to facilitate dialogue and networking; provide forum for knowledge and capacity development; enhance awareness of coastal issues, in support of the implementation of ICZM in the Mediterranean.

152. PAP/RAC has provided support to the Contracting Parties through the creation and functioning of national and sub-national coordination mechanisms which are key to the implementation of ICZM, such as: the Inter-sectoral Committee for ICZM of the Šibenik-Knin County of Croatia, established with the adoption of the ICZM Plan by the County Council in 2016; the Montenegrin National Council for sustainable development, climate change and ICZM, chaired by the President of Montenegro; the Interministerial Commission established for the preparation and implementation of the Croatian “Marine and coastal strategy”, responding to the requirements of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the ICZM Protocol.

## **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**

153. The following pilot actions and implementation activities are ongoing:

(a) Lebanon: Developing composting processes for organic material from the wine industry; (b) Morocco: Developing solution for onsite biogas production in farms and cooperatives; (c) Tunisia: i. Giving value to co products of organic olive oil production, ii. Consolidating an ecotourism site, iii. Consolidating an ecotourism tour operator; (d) Algeria: (i) Giving value to downgraded dates and co-products; (ii) Consolidating a sewing shop based on the recovery of household linen and clothing remains.

### **Strategic Outcome 6.2: Monitoring and assessment**

154. SCP/RAC developed a set of indicators on SCP mainstreaming and streamlining in the Mediterranean, in accordance with the Regional SCP Action Plan. The process consisted in a first screening of existing indicators (in particular SDGs and FAO indicators). The list was developed through consultations at a technical workshop involving country representatives and experts jointly organized with Plan Bleu as well as with the the SCP/RAC Focal Points. A common decision between the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard (MSSD indicators) and the SCP indicators is being prepared.

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

155. The training and support programme for green entrepreneurs is running in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Palestine, and Lebanon. So far 1,558 green entrepreneurs have received training through 79 workshops, with extremely positive feedback. Additional support is provided to eligible trainees through the incubation phase. A relevant access-to-finance guide and a meeting with are being planned in addition to a second phase of training.

156. The training and support program for Civil Society SCP drivers is running in the eight countries. Support services and coaching to 8 selected civil society-led eco-innovation initiatives in Tunisia, Lebanon, Algeria and Morocco is continuing through coaching/mentoring and technical assistance. In Egypt, Jordan, Israel and Palestine, local partners and local trainers have been selected, local trainers have been trained and the National Workshops for civil society ecological innovation initiatives have been held. The best initiatives will be selected for the support phase.

157. Regarding the National Synergy workshops for the promotion of green entrepreneurship and

grassroots eco-innovation in eight countries, the final versions of the White Papers from the Workshops in Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia are being drafted. The preparation of the Synergy Workshops in the rest of the countries is ongoing.

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

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

159. Actions and studies for scaling-up tools for green industries and green entrepreneurs in the Mediterranean have been launched. An initial analysis i.e. a benchmarking exercise was done reviewing the services of 19 entrepreneurship support programmes.

160. Missions to Morocco, Tunisia, and Lebanon took place in the framework of the Green Impact Investing Network Initiative (GIIN) in partnership with European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks (FEBEA). Interviews were conducted with more than 20 relevant stakeholders in each country and mappings were completed.

161. 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 includes more than 1,100 members. Additional outreach is achieved through the dissemination of the newsletter and through designated social media accounts. The SwitchMed Connect 2016 event (18-20 October), included 36 sessions and more than 100 speakers and attracted over 360 registrations. Participants' feedback confirms excellent level of satisfaction.

162. The selection of content has continued for *The Switchers* web platform which showcases stories from Mediterranean champions offering eco and social innovative solutions to be. To date, a total of 120 Switchers have been selected.

163. Over 450 green entrepreneurs participated in a survey aiming to collect information on their profile and professional needs. Among the most important needs reported were the right connections for their business, media coverage, participating in international events, trainings in business development and marketing, access to financing, and connecting to peers in the same fields from the region.

#### **II.6 Cross-cutting Theme III: CLIMATE CHANGE**

##### **Strategic Outcome 7.4: Monitoring and assessment**

164. To consider Climate Change vulnerability issues in existing monitoring programmes, a guideline document has been elaborated on five priority indicators of climate change impact, applied in Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance.

#### **III. Financial, Personnel and Administrative Matters**

165. The MTF fund balance continued to be positive in 2015-2016 biennium. The fund balance increased from USD 5.8 million<sup>2</sup> as at 31 December 2015 to USD 6.3 million<sup>3</sup> as at December 2016. The 2016 balance includes the unspent 2016 budget which is to be expended in 2017 as well as USD 1.4 million Working Capital Reserve which was increased from the level of USD 1.1 million in 2014-

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<sup>1</sup> The figure is exclusive of unpaid pledges for 2015 and previous years recorded as income by the UNEP HQs as well as the balance set aside as working capital reserve.

<sup>2</sup> The figure is exclusive of unpaid pledges for 2016 and previous years recorded as income by the UNEP HQs as well as the balance set aside as working capital reserve.

2015 as decided at the COP 19 held in Athens in February 2016.

166. The contribution rate of the assessed contribution in 2016 reached 97.37% and the collection rate in 2017 reached 65.1% in June 2017.

167. Deficit recovery of the host country contribution (CAL account) progressed well in 2016 as planned. The CAL fund balance increased from USD 403,000 as at 31 December 2015 to USD 552,000 as at 31 December 2016. This amount includes part of the 2016 rent to the National Research Institute which was only accounted in 2017, the deficit recovery for last three years, and some administrative costs temporarily charged to the MTF (MEL account) in 2015 prior to the receipt of the host country contribution.

168. The conversion of the data from the previous UN finance system (IMIS) to the new UN Enterprise Resource Planning tool (Umoja) took place in May 2015, which required the balance of all the UNEP funds were temporarily made positive. Therefore, UNEP HQs provided a loan of USD 170,000 to the MAP in 2015 to cover the deficit under the CAL. In 2016, the full repayment of the USD 170,000 loan to the CAL account was requested to the HQs upon receipt of the 2016 Host Country contribution from the Government of Greece in accordance with the operational clause 5 of the Budget Decision (UNEP(DEPI)/MED (IG.22/20), “Welcomes the loan of USD 170,000 provided by UNEP HQs to ease the cash flow of the Host Government Contribution account and requests the Secretariat to reimburse it as soon as practical and to continue implementing the Host Government Contribution account recovery plan as adopted by COP 17.”

169. Regarding the 2017 Host Country Contribution, the Government of Greece informed the Coordinating Unit that the payment process was already initiated and should be completed soon.

## 1. Financial Matters

170. The status of the Mediterranean Trust Fund as at 30 June 2017 stood as follows (Annex I):

- *Total annual pledges of ordinary contributions for 2016 and 2017: EUR 5,706,788 annually.*
- *Total collections during 2016: EUR 5,556,624 (97.37%)*
- *Total collections as of 30/6/2017: EUR 3,715,152(65.1%)*
- *Total arrears as of 30/6/2017 are EUR 688,994*

171. An additional contribution has been received from the EU in 2016 and 2017 (EUR 596,484 annually being the discretionary contribution).

172. With regards to Consultancy, efforts continued to minimize hiring consultants from the MTF/EU discretionary funding. The percentage of consultancies funded by MTF/EU Discretionary funding between Jan to December 2016 remains at a low level of 28 percent. In the first half of 2017, there was a relative increase in the consultancies funded by MTF/EU Discretionary funding while it is less than half, the Coordinating Unit will be monitoring the situation in coordination with the RACs.

## 2. Personnel matters

173. The information regarding the new recruitments is as follows:

P5 Deputy Coordinator (Position No: 30600864): Ms. Tatjana Hema (Albanian national) was promoted to the post and assumed her new functions as at 15 October 2016.

P4 Programme Management Officer (Governance) (Position No: 30600865): the selected candidate, Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis (Greek national) reported for duty as at 22 June 2016.

P4 Programme Management Officer (Med Pol) (Position No: 30600866): the selected candidate, Ms. Jelena Knezevic (Montenegrin national) took up the position on a temporary basis for 9 months as of 28 June 2017. The regular post was reclassified and the advertisement is underway.

P3 Legal Officer (Position No: 30605901): the selected candidate, Ms. Maria Luisa Rodriguez-Lucas (Spanish national) reported for duty on 24 August 2016.

P3 Programme Management Officer (Pollution) (Position No: 31005935): the selected candidate, Mr. Erol Cavus (Turkish national) reported for duty on 2 May 2017.

P3 Programme Management Officer (Socio-economic Activities/Sustainable Development) (Position No: 31003291): the selected candidate, Mr. Julien Le Tellier (French national) reported for duty on 20 June 2017.

P3 Programme Management Officer (Monitoring) (Position No: 31002533): Ms. Virginie Hart, incumbent of the post resigned from the position for personal reasons as at 16 June 2017. The post is to be advertised in INSPIRA shortly.

G6 Finance and Budget Assistant (Position No: 30606488): the post was advertised in INSPIRA with a deadline for applications of 1 July 2017. The recruitment is underway.

174. In implementing the 2016-2017 Programme of Work, a number of areas in which there are gaps in the human resources allocations and the actual workload and required functions have been identified. As was acknowledged at the 84th Bureau meeting, the area in which the human resources are mostly needed is in information and communication while the needs for resource mobilization was also expressed. The Secretariat is seeking to secure other necessary human resources through the Junior Professional Officers Programme, non-reimbursable loan of experts' scheme, and UN Volunteer programme.

**Annex I**

**Status of 2016 and 2017 contributions as at 30/06/2017**



**Table 2. Status of 2017 contributions as at 30/06/2017**

Country	Unpaid Pledges for 2016 and Prior years	Pledges for 2017	Collections for 2017	Unpaid Pledges for 2017
	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
Albania	-	3,217	3,217	-
Algeria	19,379	64,746	-	64,746
Bosnia & Herzegovina		5,228	407	-
			4,821	-
Croatia	-	39,813	1,950	-
	-	-	37,863	-
Cyprus	-	17,292	17,292	-
Egypt	61,126	61,126	-	61,126
European Union	-	142,670	142,670	-
France	-	1,954,037	1,954,037	-
Greece	-	189,412	-	189,412
Israel	-	172,924	-	172,924
Italy	-	1,507,250	1,507,250	-
Lebanon	8,646	18,499	-	18,499
Libya	513,930	50,268	-	50,268
Malta	-	6,434		6,434
Monaco	-	4,021	4,021	-
	-	1,609	1,609	0
Montenegro				-3,218
				-48
Morocco	1,093	21,716	-	21,716
Slovenia	-	33,780	33,780	-
Spain	-	982,447	2,969	979,478
Syrian Arab Republic	84,820	9,652	-	9,652
Tunisia	-	11,260	-	11,260
Turkey	-	409,387	-	409,387
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>688,994</b>	<b>5,706,788</b>	<b>3,711,886</b>	<b>1,991,636</b>

65.04%

Additional contributions for information only

	Expected contribution	Received contribution
European Commission	596,484	596,484

	Expected contribution	Received contribution
Greece	378,000	-

The negative balances show that the Contracting Party paid more than the obligated amount and the excess will be deducted from the next Invoice.

\* Montenegro double paid the contributions for 2016 & 2017 on 12 January 2017.