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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

31 July 2017
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Meeting of the MAP Focal Points

Athens, Greece, 12-15 September 2017

Agenda items 3 and 4: Progress Report on Activities Carried Out during the 2016 – 2017 Biennium and Financial Implementation 2016 - 2017

Reports of the 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd Meetings of the Executive Coordination Panel

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Athens, 2017



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**UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

13 April 2016
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28th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Athens, Greece, 22-23 March 2016

Report of the Meeting

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Athens, 2016

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I. Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

1. The 28th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held in Athens, Greece on 22-23 March 2016. The meeting was chaired by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator and attended by the Heads of all MAP Components. The list of participants is presented in Annex I to this report.
2. Mr. Gaetano Leone, UNEP/MAP Coordinator opened the meeting at 9.30 and introduced the provisional agenda.

II. Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work

3. The Coordinator welcomed the ECP members and thanked them for a successful COP 19.
4. The Coordinator informed ECP members that the 82nd Meeting of the Bureau would take place on the 19-20 April 2016 in Athens, Greece and recalled the Bureau membership.
5. The Coordinator referred to his missions abroad and meetings since COP 19. He announced that the priority of the MAP system for the current biennium would be on implementation. He stressed the importance of ECP coordination and partnership and acknowledged the efforts already made by ECP Members towards more inclusive ways of work.
6. The Coordinator updated ECP members on the status of the UNEP/MAP Coordination Unit's in terms of human resources. He informed the meeting of the closure of the Deputy Coordinator position and of the recruitment stages of the Governance Officer, Legal Officer and Social Economic Development Officer.
7. The Coordinator initiated an around the table discussion for ECP members comments and expectations on the 28th ECP Meeting. The main issues raised by ECP Members were the following: importance of bilateral talks with components to improve cooperation; concern for the short length of the current biennium but heavy in deliverables; need to mobilize resources; challenges of data collection; difficulties in terms of limited human and financial resources; need to better organize and start earlier discussions on the preparation of the budget for COP 20; need to expedite the process of approval of PCAs and disbursement of resources; and possibility to consider revised 3-year cycles instead of the current biennia of work for the MAP system.
8. The MAP Fund/Administrative Officer was invited to explain to ECP members the challenges faced with the administrative processes and ongoing technical difficulties of the new Umoja system. RACs were encouraged to share information on additional problems, if any.
9. In reference to the Host Countries Agreements, the Coordinator suggested to prepare together with the RACs an analysis for the Bureau meeting of October 2016, to clarify the various legal differences between the six countries hosting the RACs to the attention of the Contracting Parties.
10. The Coordinator informed that memberships of the Compliance Committee were moving forward. ECP Members were also notified that, in preparation for future MAP governance meetings, the Coordination Unit would apply the UN 16-page rule for Reports length and that RACs involvement in the revision of existing documents would be asked in due

time. He also called for the support of the ECP in mobilizing the interest of local authorities for the Global Environmental City Award in view of the COP 20.

III. Agenda item 3: Planning 2016-2017

11. The Coordinator presented the draft timetable developed for internal use, showing the MAP Planning and Priorities for 2016 and 2017 with the aim to enhance cooperation efforts, planning, and coordination amongst components, by each part stating their major activities, major deliverables and outputs.

12. A common process and harmonized terminology amongst components is to be put in place in order to tackle occurring challenges and seek opportunities for collaboration. The Coordinator asked for ECP Members input to accurately update the MAP Planning tables by 1 April 2016. The Secretariat will revise the text in the tables for formulation and consistency and to send them back to ECP Members.

13. The Coordinator made it clear that there was a crucial need to find external funding.

14. INFO/RAC was briefed on the updates needed for the MED POL pollution, info and monitoring systems, the creation of a databank by 2016, having the infrastructure established and extend the info system to fit indicators under IMAP, together with the need to support countries in uploading documents.

15. Each component should start developing their relevant baselines and discuss them during the next ECP Meeting. Several ECP members stressed the complexity of the task but agreed that this was an urgent issue. It was suggested to prepare an explanatory paper for all components to be able to interpret indicators in the same way. As for now, these are different for each other and make up one of the biggest challenges when reporting.

16. The Coordinator suggested that INFO/RAC could organize a webinar on the INFOMAP system. It was agreed that this would be held during the second quarter of 2016.

17. The Coordinator reminded ECP Members that these tables were meant for planning purposes and not to be confused with the quarterly reporting and monitoring similar table that they need to start filling at the beginning of April 2016 for the first quarter of 2016.

18. The Coordinator suggested that for COP 20 one issue, one theme, one document needs to be identified that would be the flavor of the Meeting.

19. Several ECP members raised the difficulty of collecting and exploiting data, due to important differences amongst countries. It was reminded that in order to create common tools and processes amongst the Mediterranean countries, a period of two years at least was needed but, on the other hand, this would empower the scientific work of the RACs and of the MAP system. It was suggested by PB/RAC to hold a thematic meeting in order to design and consider each RACs' concrete contribution in coordinating one indicator each.

20. There is a need to find ways to better share information among components, clarify data access matters. Data sharing policy topic to be updated and discussed at COP level.

21. The meeting addressed cross-cutting themes. A discussion followed on the desirability of a stronger focus of the MAP system on issues related to sustainable tourism. PB/RAC offered to take the lead on starting an analysis on the issue of tourism, to be reviewed before COP 20.

IV. Agenda item 4 Status of Project Documents

22. It was emphasized that the RAC Projects Documents must be completed and finalized for action at UNEP HQs as soon as possible. The Coordinating Unit will do all the necessary to avoid delays that greatly hamper the activities of the Components.

V. Agenda item 5 Financial and administrative issues

23. Bilateral meetings between the components and the Fund/Administrative Officer if needed were agreed. ECP Members received an update on budget issues and procedures, including delays occurring through UMOJA.

VI. Agenda item 6 Outreach (including names of RAC's), Information, and Publications

24. The Coordinator informed ECP Members that the current MedPartnership Information Officer would soon leave the office and he was actively seeking for a solution. He mentioned that the new website was going to be finalized and launched very soon. The Coordinator asked INFO/RAC for an urgent update during the following week regarding its capacity in terms of information and communication support to the whole MAP systems. It was agreed that the current Information Officer would call for a meeting with INFO/RAC for hand-over.

25. Given the shortage of resources, the Coordinator urged ECP Members to find creative ways for making the most in terms of visibility and outreach. Collective and concerted work amongst components is needed, for optimal results. The use of similar designs, re-issuing certain documents based on existing resources and partnerships, were mentioned as simple but effective starting points. The Coordinator highlighted the need for a coherent and periodic communication set of action addressing the Contracting Parties and Partners regularly.

26. ECP members shared their suggestions of event opportunities to present UNEP MAP work to external parties. The Coordinator stressed the importance of dissemination opportunities for the decisions taken at COP 19.

27. In terms of visibility and in line with budget restrictions, the Coordinator suggested pragmatic, simple and rapidly feasible solutions to tackle today's challenges. He proposed to build on already existing events and inputs and presented a MAP Power Point presentation that needs to be further refined and used as appropriate for the context and audience of various events. ECP Members to send 3-5 bullets text to present their work, essential themes and a summary of each RAC's contribution to the implementation of the MAP mandate. This was a simple but important tool to generate interest and understanding of the MAP/Barcelona Convention.

28. The ECP Members were encouraged by the Coordinator to communicate on publications ideas with a purpose to outreach with the overall aim of enhancing the visibility of the MAP system. It was reminded that online publications were a way forward and a common policy on publications, crucial.

29. It was agreed that as soon as resources became available, all components would proceed with starting the publications process of the documents adopted at COP 19. Common overall look and cover page were needed. The above-mentioned Task Group will work on a common template, graphic design, logos, and legal aspects, during the second half of the year, and will review and update as needed the UNEP/MAP 2010 Communication Strategy document.

30. The Deputy Coordinator mentioned that in the past, there was a technical publication series and that all documents were prepared matching the latter. He suggested to be a good idea, to continue the specific publication series. It was agreed that this should be decided by the Task Group. The Coordinator stated that this could also be raised as an issue for the next COP, taking into consideration the importance of the matter for the reputation of the MAP system.
31. INFO/RAC agreed to create a picture database, with clear credits and locations. In-house material coming from partners and demonstrations is to be used and better exploited. INFO/RAC will inform the ECP on relevant developments during the next ECP Meeting.
32. It was agreed that the existing MAP Task Group on Information and Communications would meet soon, before the departure of the Information Officer.
33. ECP members shared with the Coordinator their concern regarding the public name of the RACs. External stakeholder have difficulties to refer to the RACs, due to the complexity to identify with the Centers. The Coordinator referred to the legal complexity of changing names, regarding the fact that the latter are explicitly referred to in decision by the Parties and Host Country Agreements. The Coordinator highlighted that, while taking into consideration that in terms of marketing, a more appealing name could be useful, changing the name of the RACs could become counterproductive, losing the existing link with UNEP/MAP.

VII. Agenda item 7 Reporting

34. The idea of a tutorial on the BCRS to be presented in the second quarter of 2016 was evoked and a follow-up on the 2012 Reports, highlighted. There is a need for guidelines and for a new format to be put in place, to ease RACs work, and for a specific meeting on this theme to take place as soon as possible.
35. The Coordinator introduced the new Project Fiche that will facilitate the understanding of the activities of each component and the opportunities for collaboration and coordination. He asked ECP Members to comment and fill-in, by 8 April 2016. Project fiches were intended for non MTF funded projects in which components were already involved and/or applying, for information purposes only, not reporting. A compilation will be shared with all. The Coordinator encouraged ECP Members to stick to maximum two pages.
36. The participants spoke to the current complexity of the reporting and monitoring for the COP process and the urgent need for homogeneity. Quarterly tables of implementation are important for monitoring purposes and to show implementation status. The Coordinator took the opportunity to mention that there was a need for balance between reporting on impacts and activities, as well as a need to respect the maximum of 16 pages reports, recommended by UN guidelines.
37. An online system where the Components can update information is desirable. Once information is uploaded, one template could serve different documents. This could be done through a database from which the relevant reporting information would be easily extracted, as suggested by REMPEC Head of Office and MED POL Officer. It was agreed that REMPEC and MED POL would develop a reporting template by 11 April 2016.
38. The MED POL Programme Officer suggested to make a bibliography of all the reports, to link them in a in a logic way, to be updated with each reporting cycle with outcomes and outputs. Once created, the document or Excel sheet will enable an easy update every each quarter with hyperlinks for the whole MAP system. INFO/RAC should verify and

communicate if such Bibliography of Reports can be build-up. It was agreed that ECP members would send their proposal for a bibliography structure to INFO/RAC by 8 April 2016.

VIII. Agenda item 8 Date and Venue of the 29th ECP meeting

39. The REMPEC Head of Office invited all components to attend REMPEC 40th anniversary in Malta on 4 October 2016. After attending the high level meeting, he offered to host a two days meeting (5-6 October 2016) for the 29th ECP in Malta. This will be confirmed in due course, but no objection was raised to the REMPEC proposal.

40. PB/RAC and PAP/RAC made an open invitation for hosting next ECP Meetings.

41. The Coordinator announced that the Deputy Coordinator would be leaving the Coordination Unit soon, to take new functions at UNEP Headquarters, in recognition of his competences and work.

IX. Agenda item 9 Any Other Matters

42. The Coordinator informed ECP Members that Italian Cooperation Agreement was confirmed and the process of clearance was being finalized.

43. ECP Members raised issues to the Coordinator for discussion on security and safety of their missions. Due to increased political instability, ECP Members wanted to know if a specific protocol of security was in place and if the RAC staff could benefit of the UN safety and security procedures and coverage when on mission in dangerous areas for professional reasons.

44. The Coordinator acknowledged the seriousness of this issue and initiated a round of table discussion for ECP Members views. He confirmed to clarify RAC staff protection status in the MAP system with Headquarters. REMPEC informed other components that there was UNDSS training accessible online regarding security and guidelines, accessible to all.

45. The issue of the EC-sponsored Virtual Knowledge Center was raised. ECP Members were contacted to respond to questionnaire. The Coordinator informed ECP Members that whilst contacts were made with the European Commission on this matter for clarification, no additional information was given. REMPEC will distribute the questions they had received recently and the Coordinator re-check with the European Commission what was needed.

46. The MedPartnership Project Manager made a presentation on the draft Mediterranean Sea Programme. He encouraged ECP Members to give their thoughts and suggestions by 1 April 2016.

X. Agenda item 10 Conclusions and Recommendations

47. The conclusions of the meeting were summarized as described in the above paragraphs.

XI. Agenda item 11 Closure of the Meeting

48. DAY 1 Meeting closed at 19.00 and DAY 2, Meeting closed at 17.30.

Annex I

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UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

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29th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Teleconference, 13 July 2016

Report of the Meeting

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2016

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I. Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

1. The 29th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held by teleconference, on 13 July 2016. The meeting was chaired by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator and attended by the Heads of all MAP Components (apart from the Head of Office of REMPEC that was represented by Mr. Malek Smaoui, Programme Officer, OPRC), as well as the UNEP/MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues. The list of participants is presented in Annex I to this report.
2. Mr. Gaetano Leone, UNEP/MAP Coordinator opened the meeting at 11.00 and introduced the provisional agenda.

II. Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work

3. The Coordinator welcomed the ECP members and thanked them for their continuous cooperation.
4. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda that was prepared by the Secretariat, document UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECP.29/1. The participants addressed all items of the Agenda during their two and a half hours meeting.

III. Agenda item 3: Follow-up to the 28th ECP meeting

5. The Coordinator presented a brief overview of the follow-up to the 28th ECP meeting. He informed ECP members that most items had been already put in motion, while several others needed to be initiated.
6. The Coordinator gave the floor to all ECP members and discussed progress and actions to be taken in the near future.
7. The Coordinator thanked MAP Components that sent their Project Fiches to the Coordinating Unit, while reminding that Project Fiches from all components must be ready by 22 July 2016. He also referred to the document prepared by Plan Bleu entitled “Guidelines towards a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Tourism”, reminding that comments are expected by the end of July.
8. MED POL addressed ECP members in regard to developing a methodology for indicators clarifying that these will be related only to the Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) and not the Ecosystem Approach.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Send to Plan Bleu comments on the “Guidelines towards a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Tourism”	CU and MAP Components	End of July
2.	Development of an online BCRS tutorial	INFO/RAC	
3.	Send feedback to CU on MAP PPT prepared by the Coordinator	MAP components	If any
4.	Fill and send Project Fiches to CU	MAP components	22 July 2016
5.	Finalize a common reporting template, as agreed by ECP28	REMPEC and MEDPOL	Before 83 rd Bureau meeting

IV. Agenda item 4: Implementation of the PoW 2016-2017

9. The meeting examined the status of implementation of the PoW 2016-2017 (Decision IG.22/20). The Coordinator thanked the MAP Components for submitting the updated MAP Planning and Priorities Tables and noted that the Secretariat will come back to the ECP members with the compiled Tables.
10. The Coordinator gave the floor to all ECP members and discussed progress on the implementation of the PoW 2016-2017 and actions to be taken in the near future.
11. PAP/RAC informed on the Regional Framework on ICZM current preparations, on the collaboration with INFO/RAC regarding the ICZM platform and on the Coast Day event prepared in collaboration with SCP/RAC in Barcelona. SCP/RAC referred to the projects in which it is involved as implementing organization, while INFO/RAC referred to the shortage of resources.
12. Plan Bleu referred to the MCSD peer-review process and also noted that it would be useful to include activities on tourism within the work plan of each MAP Component. It was agreed to dedicate a one hour discussion on the issue of tourism, during the 30th ECP meeting.
13. A tour de table was initiated by the Coordinator for MAP Components to inform on main events with UNEP/MAP interest. A draft calendar of MAP events is to be sent electronically by the Secretariat to all ECP members. ECP members to insert updates in track mode and return the document to the Coordination Unit, by 22nd July 2016.
14. The Coordinator informed the meeting that from now on his mission reports would be shared with ECP members and invited the latter to do the same.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
6.	Prepare compiled MAP Planning and Priorities Tables	CU	August 2016
7.	Include an Agenda Item on Tourism in next ECP meeting	CU	September 2016
8.	Update calendars of events and submit them to CU	MAP Components	22 July 2016

V. Agenda item 5: Preparation of the Regional Framework on ICZM; engagement of all ECP members

15. The Director of PAP/RAC briefly introduced the RAC's proposal on elements to include and develop in the Regional Framework for ICZM (Decision IG.22/11). She also noted that the work on Maritime Spatial Planning should be closely linked to the ICZM Regional Framework and asked for relevant inputs.
16. The Coordinator asked for the RACs' inputs by the end of August, so that a substantial discussion can take place at the Regional Consultation meeting that will take place on 28-29 September 2016, in Barcelona, back to back with the Mediterranean Coast Day. The next step, after the Barcelona meeting, will be re-drafting and then presenting the document at the PAP/RAC NFPs meeting in April 2017 (Split, Croatia). It was noted that contributions have already been made by PB/RAC, while SPA/RAC informed that it will also contribute with elements on marine protected areas.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
9.	Comments on PAP/RAC's paper on elements to be included in the ICZM Regional Framework	MAP Components	Before end of August 2016
10.	PAP/RAC to develop and share with ECP the 1 st draft of the Regional Framework (before the Regional Consultation meeting)	PAP/RAC	September 2016

VI. Agenda item 6: Follow-up to the 82nd Bureau meeting and preparation for the 83rd Bureau meeting

17. The meeting followed-up on the conclusions and recommendations of the 82nd Bureau meeting (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.82/7). It also discussed preparations for the 83rd Bureau meeting (Tirana, Albania, 25-26 October 2016).
18. The Coordinator noted that he will contact Contracting Parties, together with the President of the Bureau, to improve the number of ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. He will liaise with RAC Directors in order to ascertain "political opportunities" to contact Contracting Parties.
19. The Coordinator reminded ECP members that they need to report on the state of negotiations of each RAC's Host Country Agreement, following the 82nd Meeting of the Bureau. ECP members were asked to draft maximum two paragraphs on the challenges they face and on the introduction of the new template. It was agreed that this issue would also be discussed at the 30th ECP meeting (5-6 October 2016) in view of finalizing it at COP 20.
20. On the Assessment of MAPII, the Coordinator noted that the CU will draft the ToR of the Open-Ended Working Group following the COP 19 relevant decision. The ToR will then be sent to ECP for comments, before sent to the Bureau members in view of their 83rd meeting.
21. The Coordinator suggested the creation of a Task Force, with one representative from each MAP component, to deal with the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award and especially the award criteria. MAP Components agreed.
22. The Coordinator noted that the 83rd Bureau Meeting will take place in Tirana, Albania (25-26 October 2016) and that contacts with the relevant Ministry in Albania were arranged for next week in order to discuss the 83rd Bureau meeting and COP 20 preparations (e.g. venue identification).
23. Finally, the Coordinator informed the ECP that the Bureau asked to be updated on the following issues: (a) Quality Status Report, (b) IMAP, (c) Resource Mobilization Strategy, (d) MSSD implementation, (e) new reporting format, (f) COP 20 preparations. He noted that the inputs of the MAP Components to the Progress Report to be submitted to the 83rd Bureau meeting are expected in August 2016 and that an email will be send to ECP members on the follow up to the 29th ECP meeting and related deadlines.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
11.	Report on challenges of Host Country Agreement and on introduction of new template (max. 2 paragraphs)	MAP components	17 August 2016

12.	Assessment of MAP II (ToR for OEWG)	CU	End of August 2016
13.	Appoint representatives to Task Force for the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award	MAP Components	August 2016
14.	Input to Progress Report for 83 rd Bureau meeting	MAP Components	17 August 2016
15.	Follow-up email/s on issues discussed in 29 th ECP meeting	CU	22 July 2016

VII. Agenda item 7: Preliminary discussion on COP 20

24. A first discussion on the possible theme and expected outcome of COP 20 (5-8 December 2017 [tbc], Tirana, Albania) took place. The Coordinator reminded components that this could refer to a thematic subject, such as sustainable tourism, but also to a subject closely linked to the legal framework of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, such the ICZM/Maritime Spatial Planning framework or a more horizontal theme, such as the Sustainable Development Goals and their implementation. The Coordinator mentioned that a COP 20 thematic subject could also lead to the organization of a ministerial debate or a report that could be issued at that time, as well as to an exhibition and/or a side event. He urged components to a round of consultations by email to be sent to the Coordinating Unit, with ideas on possible COP 20 themes.
25. The Coordinator informed components of the possible need to change the dates of COP 20, as it overlaps with the recently announced dates of UNEA's 3rd session.
26. One ECP member asked the Coordinator on the possibility of organizing side events on behalf of UNEP/MAP at international meetings. The Coordinator replied that this was a good idea if the logistics and the capacity for such actions were available. PB/RAC and SPA/RAC referred to two such opportunities, namely the UNFCCC COP 22 (7-18/11/2016, Marrakech, Morocco) and the 2016 Mediterranean MPA Forum (28/11-1/12/2016, Tangiers, Morocco).

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
16.	Ideas on possible COP 20 themes to be sent to the CU	MAP Components	22 July 2016
17.	Proposals on UNEP/MAP side event organization during international meetings	BP/RAC, SPA/RAC	August 2016

VIII. Agenda item 8: Date and Venue of the 30th ECP meeting

27. The date and the venue of the 30th ECP Meeting was confirmed and will be hosted in Malta on 5-6 October 2016, back to back with REMPEC's 40th anniversary (4 October 2016). REMPEC will send out more information on logistical details for the 30th ECP Meeting by email, in due time.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
18.	Invitation and logistical details for REMPEC's 40 th anniversary and 30 th ECP meeting	REMPEC and CU	September 2016

IX. Agenda item 9: Any Other Matters

28. The meeting considered other issues which were also raised by its members. In this respect, the Coordinator referred to the following:

(a) GEF funded MedProgramme proposal

29. The Coordinator informed the ECP members that the actual submission of the Programme proposal to GEF will be on 29 July 2016.

(b) Update on Human Resources at the Coordinating Unit

30. The Coordinator informed the ECP members that the UNEP/MAP newly recruited Legal Officer is Ms. Luisa Rodriguez-Lucas and is expected on duty end of July 2016. He also briefed participants on the recruitment status of the Socio-Economic Affairs Officer as well as of the MED POL Programme Officer, Pollution.

(c) Quality Status Report

31. MED POL Programme Officer updated the ECP members on the progress regarding the Quality Status Report.

(d) Update of MAP and Components Focal Points lists

32. The Coordinator informed the ECP members that the Coordinating Unit plans to update all Focal Points lists and that for this purpose will get in touch with all ECP members as soon as possible to retrieve available information and ensure that existing lists are compliant with each other. Following the finalization of the lists, the Coordinating Unit and INFO/RAC will also look bilaterally on the update of relevant online lists.

33. One ECP member raised also the issue of proposing to COP 20 to have a three-years, rather than a two-years, cycle for the organization of COP meetings. The Coordinator suggested that a note should be drafted with strong arguments explaining to the Contracting Parties the pros and cons of such change. The Coordinator agreed to inform the Bureau on this issue, if such document is proposed.

X. Agenda item 10: Closure of the Meeting

34. The Meeting closed at 13.30

Annex I

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Annex II
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UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

9 November 2016
Original: English

30th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Valletta, Malta 5-6 October 2016

Report of the Meeting

For environmental and cost-saving reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2016

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I. Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

1. The 30th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 5-6 October 2016, in Valletta, Malta. The meeting was chaired by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator and attended by the Heads of all MAP Components, as well as the UNEP/MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues. The list of participants is presented in Annex I to this report.
2. Mr. Gaetano Leone, UNEP/MAP Coordinator opened the meeting at 09.30 and introduced the provisional agenda.

II. Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work

3. The Coordinator welcomed the ECP members and congratulated them for the organization of several successful events that took place since the 29th ECP meeting. He especially congratulated REMPEC for hosting the 30th ECP meeting and for the successful 40th anniversary high-level meeting that took place on the previous day.
4. The Coordinator also referred to recent and upcoming events of global dimension on oceans and marine issues as great opportunities in terms of visibility and to promote the work of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention and showcase the Mediterranean region as an example for environmental governance. He highlighted as upcoming opportunities, the 2017 “Our Ocean” Conference to be held in Malta, the fact that Malta will hold the EU Presidency in the first semester of 2017, the G7 meeting to be hosted by Italy, the high-level Conference organized by France in January 2017 on “Mediterranean Plan for blue growth”, the IPCC Special Report on climate change and the oceans and the cryosphere, the High-Level UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14 (co-hosted by the Governments of Fiji and Sweden), with this sequence of events being concluded by COP 20 of the Barcelona Convention at the end of 2017.
5. In view of his future planned attendance to several high level meetings, the Coordinator highlighted the importance of communicating the identity and work of the UNEP/MAP system in a concrete manner. ECP members agreed on the need for a more targeted UNEP/MAP communication strategy. Several proposals were discussed, including the possibility for each Component to prepare a short text on the issue, the possibility to hire a branding/communication expert, the possibility to further engage the Task Force on Information and Communication under the ECP and the possible need for a retreat. The need to increase the capacity/resources on Information and Communication was also highlighted in this respect.
6. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda that was prepared by the Secretariat, document UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECP.30/1. INFO/RAC informed the meeting that he would like to make a presentation on the InfoMAP under Any Other Matters, if time allowed. The Coordinator and MAP Components agreed.
7. The participants addressed all items of the Agenda during their two days meeting.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Identification of needs on branding/image making	INFO/RAC	November 2016
2.	Each MAP Component to send to the Coordinating Unit a short text on: “Who we are? What are we doing? Where we are going?”	All MAP Components	November 2016

3.	Suggestions in order to identify external company/expert to help build a UNEP/MAP system image	MAP Components, according to their expertise	November 2016
4.	Organization of a retreat on the vision and visibility of UNEP/MAP	Coordinating Unit	2017

III. Agenda item 3: Follow-up to the 29th ECP meeting

8. The Coordinator presented a brief overview of the follow-up to the 29th ECP meeting based on the document UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECP.29/3. He thanked ECP members for their inputs and responsiveness in having fulfilled the major part of Action Items within the deadlines set at the 29th ECP meeting.

9. The Coordinator gave the floor to all ECP members to discuss progress and actions to be taken in the near future. He also reminded of the progress related to resource mobilization, referring to the voluntary financial contribution of the Italian government and the importance of UNEP/MAP partners and donors in the UNEP/MAP system's work.

10. On pending issues, the Coordinator informed MAP Components that the Planning and Priorities Tables was still under review by the Secretariat. Furthermore, regarding the introduction of a new template of the Host Country Agreements it was recognized that the progress since the previous ECP meeting was very limited.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
5.	Prepare compiled Planning and Priorities Table	Coordinating Unit	November 2016

IV. Agenda item 4: Implementation of the PoW 2016-2017

11. The meeting examined the status of implementation of the PoW 2016-2017 (Decision IG.22/20). A tour de table was initiated by the Coordinator for MAP Components to inform on main events and activities. An electronic version of the tentative calendar of MAP events prepared by the Secretariat was available on-screen.

12. PAP/RAC updated ECP members on the success of the Regional Consultation meeting that took place back to back with the Mediterranean Coast Day, on 28-29 September 2016 in Barcelona, Spain. She also stressed the pertinent support received from SCP/RAC and Plan Bleu while highlighting it as a good example of cooperation between MAP Components. PAP/RAC then informed on the status of the work on the Regional Framework on ICZM and the Conceptual Framework on MSP as well as on the progress of CAMP Italy and CAMP France and the launch of a new INTERREG project related to tourism.

13. Plan Bleu referred to the MCSD peer-review process, the preparation of the MSSD dashboard (indicators) as well as the preparation of side events at COP 22 of UNFCCC. She also noted the importance to include activities on tourism within the work plan of each MAP Component, an issue for which a specific agenda item was foreseen in the meeting. INFO/RAC shared with MAP Components his difficulties in delivering. Reference was made to the the new ICZM reporting format and to the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS). He noted that a datacentre that would bring the BCRS and ICZM reporting systems together will be ready before the end of the current biennium.

14. MED POL updated the meeting on existing projects and on two very important meetings on NAPs Implementation and CORMON Pollution including Workshop on Science Policy Interface (to be held in Marseille, France, on 17-18 and 19-21 October 2016 respectively), co-organized with Plan Bleu, and on the situation regarding the limited human resources capacity.

15. REMPEC updated on projects and on past and upcoming events. Reference was made to the technical committee on SOx Emission Control Areas (SECAs) and on the relevant feasibility study to be shared with the MAP Legal Officer. He also referred to the contingency plan for the Adriatic and the technical assistance related to offshore exploitation following the agreement between Cyprus/Greece/Israel. Additional updates were made on ballast waters and the implementation of the relevant COP Decisions. REMPEC stressed the fact of being under-staffed and currently short of projects to rely on. He suggested that the next PoW could be more flexible so that it can adjust to changes of circumstances during the biennium.

16. SPA/RAC updated ECP members on three projects and on several events prepared and co-organized as well as future planned activities, including the MPA Forum (Tangier, 28/11-1/12/2016). He also highlighted the existence of links with REMPECs work regarding alien and endangered species. He informed participants on the initiative of a MPA joint working Group with GFCM to be launched soon.

17. SCP/RAC updated on the series of events it has organized or attended as well as on future planned activities, including the meeting on the MSSD and SCP indicators (Barcelona, Spain, 17/10/2016), SwitchMed Connect (Barcelona, Spain, 18-20/10/2016) and the training of entrepreneurs. He highlighted the positive feedback so far and informed on new projects, while he thanked MED POL for the, soon to be signed, PCA on Marine Litter.

18. The Secretariat clarified that Contracting Parties should officially inform the Coordinating Unit for changes in regard to the designated Component Focal Points, and that one list of Focal Points as well as one list of “reporters” for the Barcelona Convention (BCRS) and ICZM reporting systems should be held centrally. It was suggested that a reminder shall be sent once a year to MAP Components on the update of Focal Points lists. In regard to the Resource Mobilization Strategy, the Secretariat updated ECP members that ToRs were under preparation, while for the baseline indicators for the MTS, work was to start soon. The Coordinator also reported on the progress regarding the MedProgramme submission to be examined by the GEF Council. Finally, the Coordinator noted that he shared with ECP members his mission reports, as promised during the 29th ECP meeting.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
6.	Update Coordinating Unit on upcoming events, to update the tentative calendar	MAP Components	November 2016
7.	Data center linking BCRS and ICZM reporting systems	INFO/RAC	Before end of biennium
8.	Send new Project Fiches to Coordinating Unit, if any	MAP Components	Dynamic
9.	REMPEC to share with CU (Legal Officer) the draft / feasibility study on the designation of SECAs	REMPEC	November 2016
10.	Creation of centralized lists of Focal Points	Coordinating Unit and MAP Components (to ensure relevant	Dynamic

		information is sent to Coordinating Unit)	
11.	Secretariat to send reminder once a year in regard to Component Focal Points nominations, making the process clear to all Contracting Parties	Coordinating Unit	-
12.	List / agendas of COP 22 Side events where MAP is involved	Plan Bleu	Early November 2016

V. Agenda item 5: Preparation of the Regional Framework on ICZM and the Conceptual framework for MSP

19. The Director of PAP/RAC updated MAP components on developments regarding the Regional Framework on ICZM (Decision IG.22/11) and the Conceptual Framework for Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), and especially on the consultation meeting held in Barcelona, Spain, on 28-29 September 2016. MAP Components were also reminded that their inputs are pertinent, as the Regional Framework on ICZM and the Conceptual Framework for MSP relate to the work of all MAP Components.

20. Discussing the main outcomes of the consultation meeting, PAP/RAC noted that there was agreement to present ICZM and MSP together and on the need for a guidance document and not for another legally binding document. PAP/RAC also added that a Roadmap for the implementation of the Regional Framework will be embedded at the end of the document, so as to provide a clear added value on its implementation.

21. On the timeline, the background documents will be completed by December 2016. The next steps is to share the latter with all MAP Components and with the Contracting Parties as a live document so to start working on the actual document of the Framework. The Framework is to be shared for a one month consultation in order to be discussed at the PAP/RAC NFPs meeting in April 2017 in Split, Croatia.

22. SPA/RAC noted that added value for marine biodiversity is much reduced if the Conceptual Framework on MSP does not go beyond territorial waters. PAP/RAC noted that the meeting in Barcelona agreed to retain for the time being the coverage in the territorial waters and then make an analysis of the implications of extending the geographical coverage.

23. The meeting also discussed the possibility to organize a side event on ICZM at COP20, and to use the opportunity of the ICZM Regional Framework to increase the number of ratifications of the ICZM Protocol.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
13.	Involvement of all MAP Components in the next stages of the preparation of the Regional Framework on ICZM and the Conceptual Framework for MSP	All MAP Components	Dynamic (emphasis in consultation phase, early 2017)
14.	Preparation of side event during COP 20	PAP/RAC (lead)	COP 20

VI. Agenda item 6: Sustainable Tourism

24. The Coordinator introduced the issue of Sustainable Tourism and gave the floor to Plan Bleu to present the document entitled “Guidelines towards a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Tourism” and to update on the actions that can be undertaken within UNEP/MAP on Sustainable Tourism, being also one of the proposed main themes for COP 20.

25. Plan Bleu referred to the internal work and to workshops organized on the theme of Sustainable Tourism until now. She stressed the importance of the sector in terms of impact on coastal communities and on the marine environment, while recognizing that there is not yet a mandate to proceed with a strategy for sustainable tourism for the Mediterranean. The Coordinator noted that Sustainable Tourism would be proposed as a possible theme for COP 20, during the 83rd Meeting of the Bureau. He also acknowledged the fact that Sustainable Tourism might be considered as a controversial issue, but this could on the other hand trigger very interesting and constructive discussions.

26. The Coordinator while acknowledging the leading role of Plan Bleu on this topic, highlighted that Sustainable Tourism is very relevant to the work of all MAP Components. He also suggested that this was an opportunity for the MAP system to work together, as each RAC can relate to it in its own field of expertise and mandate. The expected outcome of such exercise would be to develop a robust document showcasing why this issue is now relevant to the MAP mandate, and proposing to the Contracting Parties a process to be followed in order for the issue of Sustainable Tourism to be dealt with in the UNEP/MAP system. He also proposed for the MCSD to be involved in the process, since their involvement will be beneficial to all partners. Reference was also made to the relevance of presenting Sustainable Tourism as a possible theme for COP 20, considering that the United Nations (General Assembly had approved the adoption of 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
15.	Plan Bleu to update the document on Sustainable Tourism, based <i>inter alia</i> on the ECP discussions	Plan Bleu	End of 2016

VII. Agenda item 7: Preparation of the 2017 Quality Status Report

27. The meeting discussed the preparation of the 2017 Quality Status Report (2017 QSR) based on the draft concept table of contents and timeline for its preparation. MED POL noted the lack of resources and the tight deadlines, which make necessary the use of consultancy support. Inputs from MAP Components were discussed, setting a deadline for the end of 2016, since a consolidated first draft is expected by April 2017.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
16.	Input for the 2017 QSR zero draft	All MAP Components	20 December 2016

VIII. Agenda item 8: Preparation of the 83rd Bureau meeting

28. The meeting discussed the final preparations for the 83rd Bureau meeting (Tirana, Albania, 25-26 October 2016). The discussion was based on the background documents for the 83rd Bureau meeting, and especially on the Report on Specific Issues (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.83/6).

29. The Coordinator updated ECP Members on the 83rd Meeting of the Bureau preparations, while the RACs presented the latest update on the progress regarding their Host Country Agreements.

30. The UNEP/MAP Programme Officer informed ECP members of the two additional Protocol ratifications from Italy and Israel.

31. ECP members were also updated on the issue of the analysis undertaken by the Secretariat for shifting to a thematic Focal Point system, while the challenges of the first edition of the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award were also discussed.

IX. Agenda item 9: Preparations for COP 20

32. ECP members elaborated on the possible main themes of COP 20, the scope and focus of the potential COP 20 decisions and the process for the timely preparation of the relevant documents.

33. The Coordinator informed ECP members that following the need to change the date of COP 20 due to its overlap with UNEA-3 dates, two alternative dates were proposed to the Bureau. He added that Sustainable Tourism and ICZM are the two themes proposed by the Secretariat as possible themes for COP 20, noting that there is the possibility to combine them. He also noted that the opinion of the host country of COP 20, Albania, on the COP theme is very important.

34. The Secretariat raised attention to the need of minimizing the number of Decisions to be adopted at COP 20, as a lesson learned from COP 19. It was agreed that the COP Decisions, and especially the one on the Programme of Work and Budget (PoW+B), will be the main subject of the 31st ECP Meeting. The Coordinating Unit will use a transparent process for the preparation of the PoW+B, involving all MAP Components from the early stage of its preparation.

35. Regarding the proposals on new COP decisions by MAP Components, the Coordinator stressed that these should be kept to a minimum and that proposals should be accompanied by a justification. INFO/RAC mentioned the possibility of a future COP decision on Data Policy, while SPA/RAC referred to a combined decision on SPAMIs and new bird species. MED POL noted that a legal analysis is needed to clarify if Guidelines need to be adopted through a COP decision.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
17.	Legal analysis on the need of COP decisions to adopt Guidelines	Coordinating Unit (Legal Officer)	Before end of 2016
18.	Proposals for COP 20 decisions (including justification) and for possible side events at NFP meeting and COP	MAP Components (to send to Coordinating Unit)	Before 31 st ECP Meeting
19.	Documents for MAP FP meeting and COP to follow UN format	MAP Components	Timely for respective meetings
20.	Preparation and distribution of a short set of principles, guidelines and timetable for the development of the POW+B	Coordinating Unit (to send to all MAP Components)	30 November 2016
21.	Check Project Documents to confirm if budget of Component FP meetings lay with the MAP Component	MAP Components	November 2016

X. Agenda item 10: Date and Venue of the 31st ECP meeting

36. The ECP decided its 31st Meeting to take place on 11-12 January 2017. SPA/RAC offered to host the meeting in Tunis, Tunisia.
37. Dates and venue for the 32nd ECP Meeting were also discussed. It was proposed to hold the meeting on 21-22 (or alternatively 28-29) March 2017, in Split, Croatia.
38. The Coordinator reminded participants of the proposal to hold an ECP retreat. SCP/RAC offered to host the retreat in Barcelona, Spain.
39. Plan Bleu informed that the provisional dates for the Plan Bleu Focal Points meeting are 25-26 April 2017.

XI. Agenda item 11: Any Other Matters

40. The Meeting considered other issues, as follows:

(a) Updating of the SPA/RAC graphic charter

41. Concerns were raised by ECP Members, and especially SPA/RAC, regarding their naming that often proves to be not “market friendly” while causing frustration in communication. The use of an abbreviation or nickname/pseudonym was proposed as an alternative that could also help creating a sense of common identity between the RACs. The Coordinator stressed the need to have a common format in the abbreviation (i.e. the agreed acronym of the Centre followed by /RAC). He also noted that a change of the name of a MAP Component requires the agreement of the Contracting Parties.

42. The issue of graphic charter homogenization between MAP Components was also raised. SPA/RAC proposed that the existing Task Force on Information and Communication could make proposals on common rules for graphic charter format. REMPEC reminded ECP Members of the existence of a graphic charter containing UNEP/MAP technical rules on the use of logos and shared a printed copy with the ECP Members.

(b) Draft Reporting Template of MAP Components

43. REMPEC presented a Draft Reporting Template that takes into consideration the existing reporting processes of the MAP system and enables and facilitates data processing for reporting. REMPEC invited all ECP Members to consider, test and comment on this draft template. Its main goal is to allow the collection of data from all Components in one central database. It was noted that this is very useful for each Component but it may be too detailed for the Coordinating Unit to manage and check qualitatively. INFO/RAC suggested that it is more a management support tool than a reporting template.

(c) Importance of homogenous UN formatting and editing rules

44. The Coordinator welcomed progress already made in this field and stressed once again the importance of homogenous formatting and editing rules, based on UN guidelines. It was highlighted that respecting collectively such practices is extremely benefitting in terms of time and human capacity efficiency.

(d) Update on Human Resources at the Coordinating Unit

45. The Coordinator updated ECP Members on the new recruitments and ongoing recruitment processes at the Coordinating Unit. ECP Members were also informed of training opportunities offered by the UNEP Headquarters and the Coordinator warmly invited them to participate.

(e) Presentation of INFO/RAC on infoMAP (iMAP)

46. INFO/RAC made a presentation on the infoMAP architecture, noting that it is based on the SEIS architecture. MED POL highlighted the need to establish priorities since there are not adequate resources for all information and communication related activities. ECP members agreed with the proposal of INFO/RAC to use the groupware (groupware.info-rac.org) for uploading meeting documents.

47. On other issues, the Coordinator stressed the need for continuing resource mobilization, noting that opportunities should be explored and seized as appropriate, as long as they are relevant to the Programme of Work or/and the Mid-Term Strategy of UNEP/MAP and in full transparency with the rest of the system. ECP members noted the need that MAP Components follow a harmonized approach in resource mobilization and do not compete with each other.

48. The meeting also referred to the issue of publications. The Coordinator stressed the importance of publications for the visibility of UNEP/MAP, noting that there is a limited budget available. He proposed the issue to be discussed in the Information and Communication Task Force, and noted the possibility to recruit somebody at the Coordinating Unit or INFO/RAC. INFO/RAC will develop and share a common template, where each MAP Component can develop its own publications, using the UN publication format.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
22.	Proposals on common rules for graphic charter format (noting the UNEP rules for the use of logos)	Task Force on Information and Communication	Early 2017
23.	Research on updates in relation to the 2001 UNEP rules on logos/graphic charter	Coordinating Unit	November 2016
24.	Distribution of the draft Reporting Template	REMPEC	October 2016
25.	Test draft Reporting Template and provide feedback on its use	MAP Components	Before 31 st ECP meeting
26.	Support regarding information & communication services (e.g. upload of factsheets, update software/web hosting)	INFO/RAC	Before the end of the biennium
27.	Share the UN Editing Manual and Guidelines	Coordinating Unit	November 2016
28.	Advice on publications (incl. use of UN format, software and licensing)	Task Force on Information and Communication	-
29.	Develop and share with MAP Components a common template for publications	INFO/RAC	-

XII. Agenda item 12: Closure of the Meeting

49. The Coordinator thanked all participants and closed the 30th ECP meeting at 17.30.

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UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

6 February 2017
Original: English

31st Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Tunis, Tunisia, 11-12 January 2017

Report of the Meeting

For environmental and cost-saving reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

UN Environment/MAP
Athens, 2017

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I. Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

1. The 31st Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 11-12 January 2017, hosted by SPA/RAC in Tunis, Tunisia. The meeting was chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment)/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Coordinator and attended by the Heads of MAP Components (with the exception of INFO/RAC, undergoing a restructuring exercise), the UN Environment/MAP Deputy Coordinator and the UN Environment/MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues. The list of participants is presented in Annex I to this report.
2. Mr. Gaetano Leone, UN Environment/MAP Coordinator opened the meeting at 09.30 and introduced the provisional agenda.

II. Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work

3. The Coordinator welcomed the ECP members and noted that the meeting will mainly focus on the preparation of a more advanced draft of the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (PoW 2018-2019).
4. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda that was prepared by the Secretariat, document UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECP.31/1. SCP/RAC recommended to include in the agenda a very brief discussion on the performance review of SCP/RAC and INFO/RAC to be prepared for COP 20, REMPEC a discussion on the reporting template between MAP Components and the UN Environment/MAP Coordinator a short agenda point on the evaluation of procurement practices. The participants agreed to discuss these issues under Any Other Matters, if time allowed.

III. Agenda item 3: Follow-up to the 30th ECP meeting

5. The Coordinator referred to the recent developments since the previous ECP meeting (5-6 October 2016, Valetta, Malta) in relation to resource mobilization, participation in international and regional events and reach-out activities. He also referred to a recent restructuring in ISPRA that lead to changes in INFO/RAC.
6. In relation to the possible involvement of UN Environment/MAP in the Volvo Ocean Race related events, SCP/RAC Director noted the Centre's collaboration with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, while PAP/RAC Director noted that international sailor Didac Costa was elected "Ambassador for the Coast" during the 2017 Coast Day celebrations.
7. The Coordinator reminded the ECP Members to send project fiches for the new projects (non-MTF funded).
8. He then gave them the floor for possible updates on the progress regarding the status of Host Country Agreements. Following a brief discussion, he stressed that an analysis is needed of what exists and what is missing, of the legal situation and of the requirements for a new template. Each MAP Component will do this analysis and the overall outcome will then be discussed with the Bureau.
9. The Plan Bleu/RAC Director also informed the meeting of a change in the Centre's structure.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Send new Project Fiches to Coordinating Unit	MAP Components	Dynamic
2.	Analysis of Host Country Agreement status for each MAP Component	MAP Components	End of March 2017

IV. Agenda item 4: Implementation of the PoW 2016-2017

10. The Deputy Coordinator informed the meeting that the updated planning and priorities table will be sent to MAP Components and will show the process and deliverables for 2016. The MAP Components are to provide feedback on needs of changes for 2017 (proposals for budget revision for 2017). It was noted that revisions of more than 20% need UN Environment Nairobi HQ approval.

11. The Coordinator noted that efforts should be made to send meeting documents in all languages within the deadline and that meeting documents should follow UN Guidelines. He also emphasized the advantages on preparing a limited number of concise documents for meetings.

12. MAP Components updated the meeting regarding their upcoming events and especially the venue and dates of their Focal Points Meetings. Based on this information it was decided that an updated calendar of events will be prepared by the Coordinating Unit and will be distributed to MAP Focal Points. MAP Components will continue providing updates on meetings and events.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
3.	Updated Planning and Priorities Table for 2016 to be shared with MAP Components	Coordinating Unit	January 2017
4.	Needs of budget revisions for 2017	MAP Components	Early February 2017
5.	Updated calendar of events to be prepared and sent to MAP Focal Points	Coordinating Unit	January 2017
6.	Update Coordinating Unit on upcoming events	MAP Components	Dynamic

V. Agenda item 5: Preparation of the 2018-2019 UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and budget

13. The Deputy Coordinator referred to the document entitled “Draft guiding elements for the preparation of 2018-2019 UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) and budget”, that was sent to the ECP Members before the meeting. The meeting welcomed the document and the early involvement of all MAP Components in the process and discussed the “Roadmap and consultation process”, which was presented in section IV of the document. Following the discussion the process was fine-tuned, as follows:

- Overall agreement on key deliverables for the 2018-19 (to take place during the meeting).
- Deputy Coordinator to send updated version with comments / simplified to each MAP Component in Excel (by the end of next week).
- Each MAP Component to finalize the first draft, without budget (by the end of January). The format of the table will contain: Key outputs, main activities, key deliverables, and remarks.
- Coordinator to send a letter to MAP Focal Points informing them on the process (end of January).
- Informal consultation of MAP Component FPs, with copy to MAP FPs (beginning of February with a 2 week consultation period).
- Revised version to be prepared by the Coordinating Unit (end of February).
- Work on budget by all MAP Components and aggregation by Coordinating Unit (March).
- Revised version and budget to be discussed and finalized in next ECP meeting (29-30 March).
- Then the process will follow the steps presented under section IV(4) of document “Draft guiding elements for the preparation of 2018-2019 UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) and budget”, starting with the discussions at the MAP Components’ Focal Points meetings.

14. Following the agreement on the roadmap/timetable a detailed discussion was conducted on the activities proposed by each MAP Component in order to reach an overall agreement on the key deliverables. It was clarified that while thematic activities needing relevant expertise will be included under the three Core and the three Cross-cutting themes, the Overarching theme (Governance) will include a streamlining of what will be delivered in an integrated manner.

15. For activity 1.5.1 on the InfoMAP platform, SPA/RAC Director noted that the Centre could facilitate the process until INFO/RAC can take the lead following its recent restructuring. This process will also need the involvement of all MAP Components and was therefore decided to establish a new Task Force on Data Management. It was noted that this Task Force can also examine the issue of a common reporting template of MAP Components, which takes into consideration the existing reporting processes of the MAP system and enables and facilitates data processing for reporting.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
7.	Actions for the preparation of the PoW 2018-9 as described in the roadmap presented in paragraph 14	Coordinating Unit and all MAP Components	As described in the roadmap presented in paragraph 14
8.	Information on updated list of MAP and Components' Focal Points from Libya	UN ENVIRONMENT/MAP Coordinator	January 2017
9.	Establishment of Task Force on Data Management	SPA/RAC and then INFO RAC	February - March 2017

VI. Agenda item 6: Baseline values for evaluation of the MTS implementation

16. The meeting discussed the issue of defining baseline values for evaluation of the MTS implementation. On the way forward, they suggested to hire a consultant to assist the Secretariat to derive baseline values, subject to the availability of resources.

17. The participants decided to consider at this point only the indicators presented under the PoW 2016-7 (1st page, under the Governance theme). The consultant would then suggest if any further indicators should be included due to the longer time frame/context of the Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 in relation to the PoW 2016-2017. It was also suggested to examine the possibility to consider also the list of indicators presented to the MAP Focal Points before COP 19, which were finally rejected as premature. Finally, the meeting decided to take as a basis the 1st of January 2016 in order to derive the baseline values.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
10.	Initiate process to hire a consultant for the baseline values for evaluation of the MTS implementation	Coordinating Unit	February 2017

VII. Agenda item 7: Preparations for COP 20

18. ECP members elaborated on the main theme of COP 20, based on the suggestion of the Bureau at its 83rd Meeting (25-26 October 2016, Tirana, Albania). It was agreed that the focus should be on the implementation of SDG14 in the Mediterranean looking at one specific sector, e.g. tourism. A possible further refinement of the theme could be to focus on the promotion of sustainable solutions for tourism to protect the environment and to implement SDG14.

19. It was agreed to inform the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) to take this in consideration when discussing the theme of the next MCSD meeting (planned for June 2017). The meeting suggested that, if the focus of COP 20 is on tourism, it may be advisable to invite the World Tourism Organization as well as Ministers of Tourism.

20. The preliminary list of possible decisions to be adopted at COP 19 was discussed. The meeting decided to focus on a concise list of aggregated decisions and to further refine the list and cluster possible decisions based on the PoW 2018-2019, which is under preparation.

21. The Coordinator asked the ECP Members to suggest side events for the COP, the MAP National Focal Points (NFP) Meeting and the MCSD. Suggestions should be sent to the Coordinating Unit before the end of March 2017, accompanied by a text of half to one page on the subject/organization of the side event.

22. The meeting also decided that the MAP NFP Meeting should be held in the week 11-15 September 2017.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
11.	Legal analysis on the need of COP decisions to adopt Guidelines	Coordinating Unit (Legal Officer)	By Mid-March 2017
12.	Proposals for possible side events at MCSD meeting, MAP NFP meeting and COP (half to one page text on the subject/organization)	MAP Components (to send to Coordinating Unit)	Before end of March 2017

VIII. Agenda item 8: Preparation of the 18th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development - Involvement of all MAP Components

23. The meeting discussed preparations for the 18th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, to take place in June 2017. The participants stressed that the responsibility of the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) lies with the Contracting Parties, the partners and stakeholders, as well as with UN Environment/MAP.

24. The ECP members discussed the document “MAP Components & Partners – Follow-up of the MSSD 2016-2025 implementation – Progress done towards achievement of Targets and Flagship initiatives” that was prepared by Plan Bleu/RAC and was sent to ECP members before the meeting. They suggested that it was probably not the most efficient way for MAP Components to report, taking also into account the proliferation of reporting exercises, but that it could be further refined in the future as a useful tool for the reporting of partners on the implementation of the MSSD (and possibly linked to the MSSD indicators, when these are finalized).

IX. Agenda item 9: Date and Venue of the 32nd ECP meeting

25. The ECP decided its 32nd Meeting to take place on 29-30 March 2017. PAP/RAC offered to host the meeting in Split, Croatia.

X. Agenda item 10: Any Other Matters

26. The Meeting considered other issues, as follows:

- (a) Main elements of the Regional Framework on ICZM and the Conceptual Framework for MSP

27. The PAP/RAC Director informed participants on the more refined document with two annexes that was sent before the meeting. After a brief discussion, it was decided that PAP/RAC will send a more detailed version by the end of January for comments by all MAP Components.

- (b) Sustainable Tourism

28. The meeting recalled the discussion on this issue under Agenda Item 7.

- (c) Update on the preparation of the UN Environment/MAP communication strategy

29. ECP members elaborated on the process of updating the strategy, in order to guide the relevant work of the Information Task Force. They suggested that the Communication Task Force should make an assessment on what has been implemented from the previous communication strategy of UN Environment/MAP. To this end, the ECP Members would send possible comments within January. Depending on availability of resources, a meeting of the Task Force or the hiring of a consultant could be also anticipated. The Coordinator stressed the lack of communication capacity/trained personnel in the Coordinating Unit, while the SPA/RAC Director noted that the Centre has already done some relevant work in this field, which he would share with participants.

- (d) Update on the preparation of the 2017 Quality Status Report

30. A short update on the process was provided by the Coordinating Unit, noting that the more detailed timeline will be discussed at the CORMON meetings planned for the end of February-beginning of March (Madrid, Spain).

- (e) Gender policy

31. The UN Environment/MAP Programme Officer made a presentation on the Gender Policy of UN Environment and on how it can be reflected within the work of UN Environment/MAP. He suggested that for further information, ECP Members could contact the Gender Focal Point for UN Environment/MAP, Ms. Gyorgyi Gurban.

32. The meeting did not discuss the performance review of SCP/RAC and INFO/RAC to be prepared for COP 20 that will be looked into at the next available opportunity.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
13.	Refined document on ICZM and MSP frameworks	PAP/RAC	31 January 2017
14.	Assessment on what has been implemented from the previous communication strategy of UN Environment/MAP	Communication Task Force	February-March 2017
15.	Comments on process for the update of the communication strategy	SPA/RAC and all MAP Components	January 2017

XI. Agenda item 11: Closure of the Meeting

33. The 31st ECP meeting was closed at 18.00 on Thursday 12 January 2017.

Annex I

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Annex II
Agenda

Provisional Agenda

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UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

15 May 2017
Original: English

32nd Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Split, Croatia, 29-30 March 2017

Report of the Meeting

For environmental and cost-saving reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

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I. Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

1. The 32nd Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 29-30 March 2017, hosted by PAP/RAC in Split, Croatia. The meeting was chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment)/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Coordinator and attended by the Heads of MAP Components, the UN Environment/MAP Deputy Coordinator and the UN Environment/MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues. The Senior Consultant for the update of the Resource Mobilization Strategy also attended the meeting. The list of participants is presented in Annex I to this report.
2. Mr. Gaetano Leone, UN Environment/MAP Coordinator opened the meeting at 10.30 and introduced the provisional agenda.

II. Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work

3. The Coordinator welcomed the ECP members and noted that the meeting will mainly focus on the preparation of a more advanced draft of the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (PoW 2018-2019) and on preparations in view of COP 20.
4. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda that was prepared by the Secretariat, document UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECP.32/1. The participants agreed to address under “Any other Matters” the issue of procurement by the Regional Activity Centers.

III. Agenda item 3: Follow-up to the 31st ECP meeting

5. The Coordinator presented a brief overview of the follow-up to the 31st ECP meeting based on the document UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECP.31/3. The ECP discussed progress and actions to be taken, and the RACs presented the latest updates regarding the analysis of the status of their Host Country Agreements.
6. The Coordinator referred to the recent developments since the previous ECP meeting (Tunis, Tunisia, 11-12 January 2017) in relation to resource mobilization, participation in international and regional events and bilateral meetings. The need to proceed with the baseline values for the evaluation of the MTS implementation was highlighted and it was proposed to group this task within a wider one.
7. The Coordinator reminded the ECP Members to send project fiches for the new projects (non-MTF funded) to the Coordinating Unit, in order for the latter to update the current compilation. The meeting agreed that there is no need to prepare a separate document for COP 20 on the performance review of SCP/RAC and INFO/RAC, since this issue can be addressed in an introduction to the PoW.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Send new Project Fiches to Coordinating Unit	MAP Components	Dynamic
2.	Suggest side events to take place during all MAP Governance meetings until COP 20	MAP Components	April/May 2017
3.	Revised draft of the Terms of Reference for Communication Strategy	Coordinating Unit	End of April 2017
4.	Each MAP Component to send to Coordinating Unit two paragraphs on the status, challenges and proposed way forward regarding their Host Country Agreements	MAP Components	End of April 2017

5.	Legal Officer to update on the legal analysis on guidelines	Coordinating Unit	April 2017
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IV. Agenda item 4: Implementation of the PoW 2016-2017

8. The Coordinator updated the ECP on meetings and events where the Coordinating Unit participated, and provided information about bilateral meetings and collaboration with Contracting Parties and partners, such as the Union for the Mediterranean, IMO, GFCM and WWF MedPo.

9. The meeting examined the status of implementation of the PoW 2016-2017 (Decision IG.22/20), including the needs of budget revisions for 2017.

10. The Coordinator reminded that efforts should be made to send meeting documents in all languages within the deadline and that meeting documents should follow UN Guidelines. He also emphasized the advantages of preparing a limited number of concise documents for meetings.

11. He then referred to the upcoming MAP events, namely the MAP II Assessment Meeting on 16-17 May 2017, the 17th MCSDD Meeting on 4-6 July 2017, the MAP Focal Points Meetings on 12-15 September 2017 and the 13th Compliance Committee Meeting on 26-27 September 2017. MAP Components updated the ECP on their upcoming events and committed to continue providing updates on meetings and events to the Coordinating Unit, so that these can be registered in the MAP tentative calendar.

12. The Coordinator welcomed and presented to the MAP Components the new MAP Senior Consultant on Resource Mobilization, Ms. Vera Weill-Halle. Ms. Weill-Halle presented the main concepts of the revised Resource Mobilization Strategy, while she arranged to have bilateral discussions with the ECP members at the sidelines of the ECP meeting. The meeting discussed the preparation of the updated Resource Mobilization Strategy, stressing the need to link it with the relevant policies (e.g. the MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021) and the Communication Strategy to be prepared for possible adoption as COP 20. Reference to the need to increase capacities to enable successful resource mobilization was also made by participants.

13. In conclusion, the Coordinator stressed the importance of all ECP members joining hands for the preparation of project proposals, participation at global and regional events, especially considering the increased interest in the Mediterranean region. In this respect, he referred to upcoming events of global dimension as great opportunities in terms of visibility and for delivering a strong message on behalf of the MAP system.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
6.	Update of Planning and Priorities Table	MAP Components and Coordinating Unit	April/May 2017
7.	Organize a meeting with UfM	Coordinating Unit	Spring/early summer 2017
8.	(a) INFO/RAC Focal Points Nomination Process initialized, (b) Discussion with MAP Components on their information-related needs, and (c) INFO/RAC to lead the work of the Task Force on Information Management	INFO/RAC	May 2017

V. Agenda item 5: Preparation of the 2018-2019 UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and budget

14. The preparation of the 2018-2019 UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget was the core agenda item of the meeting. Participants discussed the revised version of the 2018-2019 UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work, including the first draft of the Budget, and elaborated on the next steps.

15. The Deputy Coordinator informed ECP members of the process, thanking them for the commitment that all MAP Components had shown and for their teamwork. The first draft received from each MAP Component was discussed in detail. In this respect, the meeting tasks were fully accomplished and it was agreed that the Deputy Coordinator would provide further comments to MAP Components in order for them to develop a revised detailed table of the POW, within the framework of the 2016-2021 Mid-Term Strategy, to share with their respective Focal Points. The main principles of the budget distribution were also discussed. The process of coordinated preparation of the POW was agreed to continue as agreed, in the planning and timetable paper prepared for this purpose.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
9.	CU to send comment to each RAC on its proposed PoW	Coordinating Unit	First week of April 2017
10.	CU to send consolidated version of Governance part of the PoW to MAP Focal Points	Coordinating Unit	May 2017
11.	MAP Components (a) to send their part of the PoW as working documents for their respective FP Meetings, and (b) to encourage their Focal Points to communicate with the MAP Focal Points on the PoW	MAP Components	April/May 2017

VI. Agenda item 6: Regional Framework on ICZM and Conceptual Framework for MSP

16. The members of the ECP expressed their opinions and comments on the draft document of the Regional Framework for ICZM and the Conceptual Framework for MSP, which was provided by PAP/RAC before the meeting, in view also of the technical meeting to take place on this issue on 5-6 April 2017, in Athens, Greece.

17. The PAP/RAC Director mentioned that this document was based on several consultations and on written comments received, while trying to be as concise as possible. The Coordinator expressed the view that this was a good first draft and stressed that he is looking forward to next week's meeting, and that collaboration on this matter does not end here, but will continue until COP 20.

VII. Preparations for the upcoming MAP/Barcelona Convention bodies' meetings

18. The members of the ECP discussed upcoming meetings of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system, including the 84th Bureau meeting (Athens, Greece, 19-20 June 2017), the 17th MCSDD meeting (Athens, Greece, 4-6 July 2017) and COP 20 (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017). *Inter alia*, they discussed the focus, main documents and expected deliverables of the meetings as well as possible side events.

19. The Coordinator encouraged MAP Components to produce as few and as short as possible documents, in line with the UN Editing Guidelines. He also pointed out that due to financial constraints, RACs should arrange, where possible, their own translation arrangements for the Working

Documents they are responsible for. He noted that the progress reports for these meetings should be more representative of MAP's impact (e.g. input to UNEA-3) and need to consider issues of visibility and dissemination. He also expressed his appreciation of the RACs substantial contribution to this collective effort. The meeting agreed that a "Note from The Secretariat" should be prepared to accompany each draft Decision.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
12.	Inputs to documents in view of the 84 th Bureau Meeting	All MAP Components	End of April 2017
13.	Proposals on speakers/resource persons, format and discussions for the 17 th MCSD Meeting	All MAP Components	April 2017
14.	Suggestions on the List of Decisions and potential theme for COP 20	All MAP Components	Mid-May 2017

VIII. Agenda item 8: Date and Venue of the 33rd ECP meeting

20. The ECP decided on the date and the venue of its 33rd meeting which is currently set to take place on 10 September 2017, in Athens, Greece.

IX. Agenda item 9: Any Other Matters

21. The meeting considered other issues raised by its members. In this respect, the following issues were discussed:

22. The Coordinator updated participants on rules and procedures for meetings organized by the Coordinating Unit and MAP Components. In this respect, reference was made to UN guidelines regarding travel arrangements and DSAs and it was stressed that the relevant procedures should be followed.

23. Regarding the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award, the Coordinating Unit briefly updated participants on the issue and on the future steps, following reception of the voluntary contribution for the Award by Turkey.

24. On the issue of RAC's procurement, the Coordinator thanked the ECP for participating in the relevant exercise. The ECP members briefly shared their experience on completing this difficult exercise.

25. The meeting was closed by the Coordinator at 17:30 on 30 March 2017.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
15.	ECP members to disseminate the outcome of the discussion on preparation and organization of meetings to their staff	ECP members	April/May 2017
16.	Preparation of public voting survey for the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award	INFO/RAC	August/September 2017

Annex I

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Annex II
Agenda

Agenda

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