



**UNITED
NATIONS**

EP

UNEP/MED BUR.88/6



**UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

19 April 2019
Original: English

88th Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Rome, Italy, 21-22 May 2019

Agenda Item 5: Specific Issues

Report by the Secretariat on Specific Issues

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, 2019

Table of contents

	Page
A. Status of Ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.....	2
B. Compliance and Reporting.....	3
C. Main Elements of the 2020-2021 UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget.	4
D. Roadmap for the Evaluation of the 2016-2021 Medium-Term Strategy and the Preparation of the 2022-2027 Medium-Term Strategy.....	8
E. Preparations for COP 21: Theme of Ministerial Session, Draft Decisions and Main Documents, Main Elements of the Ministerial Declaration, Organization and Host Country Preparations.....	8
F. Preparations for Upcoming MAP Meetings: Meeting of Thematic Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas/Biodiversity, 18th MCSD Meeting.....	9
G. Development of Host Country Agreements for RACs	11
H. Cooperation and Partners: MoUs/Agreements, MAP Partners, Joint Cooperation Strategy.....	11
I. Outreach, Information and Communication.....	15

Annexes

Annex I – Roadmap for the Evaluation of the 2016-2021 Medium-Term Strategy and the Preparation of the 2022-2027 Medium-Term Strategy

Annex II – Ministerial Session of COP 21 – Concept Note

Annex III – List of proposed draft Decisions for COP 21

Annex IV – Draft Memorandum of Understanding with UNESCO/Man and Biosphere

Annex V – Joint Cooperation Strategy between Secretariats

Annex VI – MAP Partner Applications Evaluation Table

Annex VII – Minimum Common Provisions of Host Country Agreements for RACs

A. Status of Ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

1. Based on the latest communication by Spain as Depositary Country, dated 20 September 2018, the current status of ratifications is described in Tables 1 and 2 below.

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;
8 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;
17 Contracting Parties have ratified the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol, 2002;
11 Contracting Parties have ratified the ICZM Protocol, 2008.

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

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
	Legal instruments																					
Barcelona Convention																						
and Amendments																						
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	

2. Since the 87th meeting of the Bureau (Athens, Greece, 6-7 November 2018), the Depositary has not communicated to the Secretariat any new deposit of instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

3. The Secretariat will continue to follow-up with those Contracting Parties which have not yet ratified the Barcelona Convention and/or its Protocols. In addition, to increase the ratification rate the

Secretariat will explore the possibility to develop capacity building activities for the forthcoming biennium, such as:

- (a) planning of enhanced Secretariat visits to Contracting Parties allowing for deeper understanding and identification of national opportunities for pending ratifications as well as ways to overcome difficulties;
- (b) organization of regional or sub-regional workshops for government officials of Contracting Parties seeking to enhance the exchange of experiences of ratifying and implementing the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;
- (c) development, publication and dissemination of ratification and implementation tools, to assist government officials understand the ratification process and allow for the exchange of practical examples to support countries in the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;
- (d) development of communication tools to further raise the political profile of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, including the benefits to ratifying them.

4. The Secretariat is continuing the follow-up with Bosnia and Herzegovina with the aim to achieve the universal ratification of the amended Convention as soon as possible.

5. Proposed Recommendations:

(a) The Bureau takes note of the current status of ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and urges the Contracting Parties which have not yet done so to liaise with the Secretariat to facilitate coordination towards ratification of the relevant legal instruments;

(b) The Bureau encourages the President and the Secretariat to continue their efforts to achieve the full ratification of the revised Barcelona Convention as well as the ratification of its Protocols;

(c) The Bureau welcomes the proposals by the Secretariat to enhance efforts, including through the development of capacity building activities, with the aim of increasing in the forthcoming biennium the ratification rate of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

B. Compliance and Reporting

6. At COP 20, Contracting Parties adopted Decision IG.23/1 on the “*Revised reporting format for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols*”. The revised reporting format was made available on the new online Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS), which was launched on 4 October 2018 for Contracting Parties to submit their national implementation reports for the biennium 2016–2017. As of 5 April 2019, fifteen (15) Contracting Parties have initiated their reporting tasks under the new BCRS. This has resulted in the official submission of the national implementation reports for the Barcelona Convention and/or its Protocols under Article 26 of the Convention by six (6) Contracting Parties.

7. Regarding the submission of outstanding national implementation reports for the biennia 2012–2013 and/or 2014–2015, following a letter from the Chair of the Compliance Committee to the MAP Focal Points of Egypt, Libya, Syria and Tunisia, asking those Contracting Parties to provide an explanation of the nature of the difficulties encountered in submitting their outstanding national implementation reports: (a) the 2012–2013 national implementation report of Tunisia has been submitted, while work is at its final stages for Tunisia to submit the 2014–2015 national implementation report, (b) notification was received from Egypt, Libya and Syria that work is ongoing for the submission of their pending national implementation reports as soon as possible.

8. Following-up on the discussions at the 14th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (Athens, Greece, 27–29 June 2018) and the conclusions of the 86th Meeting of the Bureau (Teleconference, 11 July 2018), a Resumed Session of the 14th Meeting of the Compliance Committee was held through

teleconference on 30 October 2018 for the election of the officers of the Compliance Committee for the current biennium. The Meeting elected the following Members for the biennium 2018-2019: Odeta Cato (Group III) as Chairperson of the Compliance Committee, Bernard Brillet (Group II) as Vice-Chairperson of the Compliance Committee and Ezzedine Jouini-Berzine (Group I) as Vice-Chairperson of the Compliance Committee.

9. In addition, Professor Denis Allemand, nominated by Monaco as Alternate Member of the Compliance Committee, took over his position following the Bureau's concurrence, in line with Decision IG. 23/2 on "*Compliance Committee: biennium 2016-2017*".

10. The 15th Meeting of the Compliance Committee will take place in Athens, Greece, from 25-26 June 2019. Key issues on the Agenda include key findings and draft recommendations to COP 21, corresponding to the national implementation reports for 2014-2015, and the draft set of criteria for assessing compliance.

11. Proposed Recommendations:

(a) The Bureau strongly urges those Contracting Parties who have not yet done so, to submit their national implementation reports for the reporting periods 2012–2013 and 2014–2015 without further delay;

(b) The Bureau strongly urges Contracting Parties to submit their national implementation reports for the biennium 2016-2017, using the new online BCRS without further delay.

C. Main Elements of the 2020-2021 UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget

Background and process

12. Decision IG.23/14 on "*Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget for 2018-2019*", mandated the Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, and in line with the relevant provisions of the Governance Paper, Decision IG.17/05 (COP 15) and the UNEP/MAP Mid-term Strategy 2016-2021 (MTS), Decision IG.22/01 (COP 19), to prepare for consideration and approval by COP 21 a simplified and more strategic results-based PoW and Budget for 2020-2021, explaining the key principles and assumptions on which it is based, taking into account the progress achieved during the implementation of 2018-2019 PoW

13. As in previous biennia, a highly participatory process is being followed for the preparation of the 2020-2021 PoW, aiming at ensuring strong ownership by the Contracting Parties, through regular consultation and better reflection of regional priorities and country needs, and delivering as one, as MAP System and in an integrated manner. Based on the outcome of the 37th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 9-10 January 2019, the MAP Components shared, in early February 2019, an initial list of activities and expected related deliverables with their respective Focal Points, with a copy to the MAP Focal Points for a preliminary consultation, aiming to trigger a first technical discussion on the relevance and pertinence of the proposed activities and their deliverables to MAP mandates as well as on their technical feasibility. Based on the inputs received from the first technical round of consultation, the Coordinating Unit in consultation with the ECP completed the first draft of the 2020-2021 PoW.

14. The draft PoW accompanied by a narrative part was shared with the MAP Focal Points on 4 April 2019 for review and submission of comments. Based on these comments, the Secretariat will advance the preparation of the 2020-2021 PoW and Budget. In accordance with the Terms of Reference of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (Decision IG.22/17), the Secretariat will also inform the MCSD at its 18th Meeting in June 2019. The proposed 2020-2021 PoW and Budget, reflecting the outcomes of the 88th Bureau Meeting discussions and the online consultation with the MAP Focal Points, will be submitted to the Executive Director of UNEP for clearance before its formal submission, in July 2019, to the Meeting of MAP Focal Points (Athens, Greece, 10-13 September 2019).

Principles and main elements of the PoW

15. In line with this Decision IG.23/14, the proposed 2020-2021 PoW is designed to ensure coherence and continuity with the results achieved during the current biennium to effectively deliver the MTS by 2021, applying the following main principles:

- a) Strong ownership by the Contracting Parties through regular consultation and optimal reflection of regional priorities and country needs;
- b) Coherence with the most recent developments in global processes, such as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the preparation of the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework, UNEA Resolutions and the Paris Agreement, and justification and linkages of the proposed action to these global processes, as appropriate;
- c) Internal transparency, consultation, communication, efficiency and flexibility;
- d) Learning from the lessons of the current and previous biennia (design and implementation);
- e) Delivering as one, as MAP system and in an integrated manner;
- f) Effective partnerships and outreach to boost implementation and efficiency;
- g) Rigorous and transparent planning, monitoring, and reporting of implementation;
- h) Consideration of priorities and themes that will influence the development of the next MTS.

16. Furthermore, in designing the 2020-2021 PoW the following substantive and operational factors were taken into account:

- a) Consider the specific importance of the 2020-2021 biennium, as the last biennium of the MTS lifespan, for its full achievement;
- b) Put emphasis on strategic outcomes that have not been fully addressed in the past two biennia and may have a concrete and visible impact on achieving the MTS objectives;
- c) Ensure coherence and continuity with the deliverables achieved during the current and previous biennia, including corrective measures as need be, and program the remaining outputs to effectively deliver the MTS by 2021;
- d) Achieve integration, complementarity and amplifying impact of activities funded by core and non-core resources;
- e) Consider the lessons learnt from the implementation of UMOJA and its impact on programming and setting priorities;
- f) Consider the relevant emerging issues of global and regional importance including the streamlining of gender parity/equality across all themes;
- g) Embed a forward-looking dimension: thoughts were given to possible priorities for the new MTS cycle and its links with SDG and relevant global agenda and initiatives;
- h) Better highlight key linkages and synergies across the MTS themes and strategic outcomes; ensure and enhance integration among MAP Component work in an effective manner giving priority to common outputs and activities; strengthen partnerships at regional and global levels with relevant major actors, with special emphasis on global MEAs administered by UNEP; and reinforce the leading role of the MAP system within the Regional Seas Programme of UNEP;
- i) Ensure, where appropriate, a geographical balance of locations for activities at sub-regional and national levels.

17. Attention was paid to work towards a simplified and more strategic results-based PoW (as mandated by COP 20) by:

- a) clustering, to the extent possible, the main activities and ensuring a better balance of their number per outputs; and defining clear deliverables;
- b) assessing the activities/deliverables in the framework of 2016-2017 and 2018-2019 PoW *vis a vis* the overall strategic outcomes and outputs of the MTS and identifying gaps to be filled during the next biennium for the full implementation of the MTS by 2021;
- c) assessing the PoW targets achievements of the first two biennia of the current MTS;
- d) considering the results/deliverables of the current biennium PoW against the agreed indicators and where applicable, related baseline values;
- e) maintaining, wherever possible, the same indicators and related targets of the other biennia of the MTS which are realistic and in line with the expected deliverables; additional indicators and

targets were not recommended unless indispensable – this also with the goal of making the evaluation of the MTS as accurate and effective as possible;

f) considering on priority basis MTS key outputs which had no or minimal activities in the two last biennia of the current MTS.

18. In conclusion, the proposed 2020-2021 PoW and its effective implementation aim at further strengthening the contribution and leadership role of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system, as a unique legally-binding regional agreement and an effective collaboration framework gathering Mediterranean coastal States and the EU in partnership with other actors including civil society, for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal regions to achieve Good Environmental Status and contribute to their sustainable development in the framework of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD).

19. The proposed 2020-2021 PoW is built around 40 strategic outcomes and 70 key outputs deriving from the MTS, to be delivered through the implementation of 144 main activities, distributed over the overarching theme (Governance comprising 45 activities), 3 core themes (Land and Sea-based Pollution, Biodiversity and Ecosystems, Land and Sea Interaction and Processes comprising 33, 24 and 12 activities respectively) and 3 cross-cutting themes (Integrated Coastal Zone Management-ICZM, Sustainable Consumption and Production-SCP, Climate Change Adaptation, comprising 8, 11 and 11 activities respectively).

20. To measure the progress and results of activities' implementation, a set of 53 Indicators and corresponding Targets are proposed, distributed over the 7 themes (15 under Governance, 5 under the Land and Sea-based Pollution, 12 under the Biodiversity and Ecosystems, 5 under Land and Sea Interaction and Processes, 5 under Integrated Coastal Zone Management, 7 under Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), and 4 under Climate Change Adaptation).

Budget Proposals

21. In line with paragraphs 14 and 15 of Decision IG.23/14 on the Programme of Work and Budget for 2018-2019, the Secretariat has prepared two alternative budget proposals for the biennium 2020-2021.

22. Under the first alternative, the core expenditure budget is maintained at the 2018-2019 level in nominal terms, amounting to EUR 13,113,620. Under the second alternative, the core expenditure budget is increased by the amount of EUR 456,544 corresponding to an increase of four per cent in assessed ordinary contributions, amounting to EUR 13,570,165. Further details and the rationale are elaborated below.

23. As per the practice of UNEP/MAP and in consultation with Headquarters, Posts and Operational Costs of the Secretariat (Coordinating Unit (CU) including MEDPOL) are estimated by using the budgeted costs for the year 2019 with an increase of 2 per cent per annum for professional staff salary costs to cover for salary step increase, inflation and exchange rate fluctuations, while retaining the general service staff salary costs and other operating costs at 2019 levels. The same applies to the estimated costs of REMPEC. The administrative support costs of the other MAP Components (RACs) are estimated by using the budgeted costs for the year 2019 with an increase of 2 per cent per annum for the total of Administrative Support Costs. The professional staff salary costs projected for the CU for the biennium 2020-2021 include the posts of Programme Officer QSR Expert (P3) and Information and Communication Officer (P3).

24. Under both alternatives, the projected increase in posts and operational costs or administrative support costs for each MAP component, except for the CU, is absorbed by an equal decrease in its respective activities. Furthermore, activities of MAP Components are reduced proportionally to absorb the increase in professional staff salary costs for the CU for which the activities are maintained at the 2018-2019 level. MED POL budget allocations are absorbing 52 per cent of this increase to minimize to the extent possible substantive reduction of budget allocations for activities to the RACs.

25. Under the first alternative, total activities for the biennium 2020-2021 are reduced by EUR 656,281 (excl. PSC) as compared to the biennium 2018-2019, thereby resulting in a reduction from EUR 4,101,886 to EUR 3,445,605.

26. Under the second alternative, total activities for the biennium 2020-2021 are reduced by EUR 252,260 (excl. PSC) as compared to the biennium 2018-2019, thereby resulting in a reduction from EUR 4,101,886 to EUR 3,849,626.

27. The proposed 2020-2021 Programme of Work as indicated in the previous section is not minimalistic. Its main objective is to fully deliver the MTS. Therefore, in both scenarios the envisaged MTF resources are insufficient for the full delivery of the proposed PoW. The Secretariat envisages additional support from external sources to support IMAP and MPA agendas of MAP (4 million EUR from EU for 42 months as of July 2019); as well as approximately USD 22,500,000 from the GEF MedProgramme which will be allocated to the MAP-Barcelona Convention system and approximately USD 20,000,000 which will be allocated to regional partners to support the: 1) revised TDA; 2) the preparation of regional standards on wastewater management; 3) disposal of POPs and Mercury; 4) ICZM; 5) management of coastal aquifers and IWRM; 6) MPAs; and 7) investments addressing the approved NAPs.

28. Important mandates such as the preparation of the MTS 2022-2027, the completion of the IMAP Infosystem, the preparation of updated SAP BIO and Offshore Action Plan as well as the preparation of Regional Plans under the LBS Protocol of the Barcelona Convention will require substantial financial and human resources. It is estimated that delivering the above mandates in the 2020-2021 biennium requires at least EUR 500,000, taking into account the extensive consultation processes required with the Contracting Parties as well as the integrated work amongst MAP components. Furthermore, the Secretariat suggests that the proposed budget for 2020-2021 will include a provision of USD 600,000 over a period of five years for its contribution in cash to the MedProgramme (against the total projected amount of approximately USD 42,300,000).

29. In light of the above, the Secretariat considers the second scenario more suitable, although still financially insufficient to fully support the effective delivery of the proposed PoW. Considering the MTF positive balance of USD 8.1 million as at 31 December 2017, as reflected in the *Report by the Secretariat on Financial and Administrative Issues* (document UNEP/MED BUR.88/5), the Secretariat recommends a third alternative based on the second alternative with the following adjustments:

- (a) To add the amount of EUR 720,000 (see para. 28) to the total of EUR 13,570,165 of option 2 described in para. 22, amounting to EUR 14,290,165, with a view to cover the additional needs for the mandates indicated above, as well as the contribution in cash for the MedProgramme;
- (b) To finance the total increase amounting to EUR 1,176,544 from the MTF positive balance, thereby maintaining the assessed ordinary contributions at 2018-2019 biennium level; and
- (c) To propose a COP 21 Decision on the PoW and Budget with the commitment by the Contracting Parties for a regular increase of a minimum of 4 percent of the assessed ordinary contributions per biennium.

30. The utilization of part of the MTF surplus as suggested above will allow for a “net cash balance” to be retained at the level of at least a six-month budget and in addition to the Working Capital Reserve to provide sufficient liquidity, to prevent cash shortages and to enable continuity of operations ensuring that the timing of payments of the contributions does not affect the implementation of the PoW. This cash balance would as well allow for the implementation of projects that do require pre-financing.

31. Considering Umoja requirements, it is recommended to approve the programmatic part of the budget at the level of outputs and strategic outcomes, and no longer at the activity level, per MAP leading component. This increases flexibility and simplifies the monitoring of expenses.

32. The Secretariat has also made a reassessment of the human resource requirements to allow for full delivery of the PoW under the mandate given by the Contracting Parties. The additional costs per

annum are being calculated based on the UN salary scale used for budgeting purposes, and a detailed proposal on such requirements is being developed, depending on the guidance by the Bureau.

33. Furthermore, paragraph 70 (e) of the Report of the 87th Meeting of the Bureau reads as follows: *“The Bureau also asks the Secretariat, in line with the relevant Decision IG.23/14, to develop provisional budget scenarios that consider the financial effects of the application of the “Minimum Common Provisions of HCA of RACs”. Such scenarios will also consider the attribution to each RAC of an equal core share of financial support from the MTF to ensure the implementation of their mandate to be integrated by additional MTF resources to implement their Programme of Work of the biennium, for consideration and guidance of the Bureau at its 88th meeting.”*

34. The Secretariat has explored options to develop scenarios as requested by the Bureau. However, given the nature and diversity of the comments received from three RAC Host Countries which have provided their comments (out of the five for which this exercise is relevant), it has proven impossible at this stage to achieve a meaningful and reasonably accurate range of figures. For the sake of efficiency, the Secretariat recommends that the financial analysis be launched once there is a clear agreement on the Minimum Common Provisions and their implications, and additional guidance is provided by Contracting Parties, Bureau, and all RAC Host Countries.

35. Regarding the “attribution to each RAC of an equal core share of financial support from the MTF to ensure the implementation of their mandate to be integrated by additional MTF resources to implement their Programme of Work of the biennium”, the Secretariat needs additional guidance by the Bureau on how such a scenario can be developed meaningfully. In the meantime, the Secretariat has initiated, in consultation with the RACs, a detailed analysis of the operational/staff costs that each RAC charges to the MTF, in order to have a good understanding of the current situation and a baseline for any new scenario. Such analysis requires time to be completed.

36. The following preliminary questions are being presented to the Bureau on issues that go beyond the role and authority of the Secretariat; they may serve to guide an initial discussion on this important matter.

- Definition of “equal core share of support from the MTF”: What is intended by “core share of financial support from MTF”? Does this refer to the MTF resources budgeted for the operational/staff costs of the RACs (i.e. INFO/RAC, PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu/RAC, SCP/RAC, and SPA/RAC) or also to the activities of the POW whose execution they lead?
- What is the relevance of the volume of the budgeted POW activities of each RAC in calculating such “equal share”?
- What is the relevance of the volume of external resources/project portfolio of each RAC in calculating such “equal share”?
- Is the equal share independent from the prioritization of themes/outcomes/outputs/activities of the POW?
- What is the financial envelop to be equally distributed among the RACs? Is it to be calculated on the basis of the current total and how – keeping it at the highest/lowest/average current level of attribution? Or is it to be based on an increased total budget of the MTF that also reflects the financial requirements for activities?
- Is a revision of the relevant COP decisions and recommendations (e.g. Decision IG.19/5 of COP 16 on the “Mandates of the Components of MAP”; Recommendation of COP 8 on the establishment of a RAC for Remote Sensing, which was transformed into INFO/RAC through a recommendation adopted at COP 14; as well as the establishment of CP/RAC at COP 9, the name of which was changed to SCP/RAC at COP 18) a pre-condition for the definition of such scenarios?

37. Proposed Recommendations:

(a) The Bureau welcomes the proposal by the Secretariat on the principles and main elements for the PoW 2020-2021 and encourages the Secretariat to finalize the work along these lines for submission to the MAP Focal Points Meeting, taking into account comments received following the online consultation with the MAP Focal Points;

(b) The Bureau takes note of the proposal of the Secretariat on the approach and recommendations in relation to the preparation of the budget and requests the Secretariat to prepare budget proposals for submission to the MAP Focal Points meeting based on these elements.

D. Roadmap for the Evaluation of the 2016-2021 Medium-Term Strategy and the Preparation of the 2022-2027 Medium-Term Strategy

38. The Contracting Parties, with Decision IG.22/1 adopted the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 (MTS), as the framework for the development and implementation of the Programme of Work of UNEP/MAP. Furthermore, in the same Decision, the Contracting parties requested “*the Secretariat to launch an independent evaluation of the MTS implementation in 2020 for the consideration of COP 22 in 2021, with special emphasis on the interlinkages with the objectives of the MSSD 2016-2025 and the UNEP/MAP EcAp-based Ecological Objectives.*”.

39. Considering Decision IG.22/1 and since the new MTS has to be finalized and adopted at COP 22 in 2021, the Bureau at its 85th Meeting requested “*the Secretariat to develop a roadmap for the evaluation of the current MTS and the preparation of the next MTS, taking into account the relevant evaluation and assessment processes, by the 87th [i.e. the 88th, due to the holding of an extraordinary Bureau meeting through teleconference] Bureau meeting*”.

40. Following the Bureau’s request, the Secretariat prepared the roadmap for the evaluation of the current MTS and the preparation of the next MTS, which is attached as Annex I to the present document.

41. Proposed Recommendation:

(a) The Bureau takes note of the proposed roadmap for the evaluation of the current MTS and the preparation of the next MTS, as presented in Annex I of the Report on Specific Issues, and requests the Secretariat to finalise the document following the comments received during the 88th Bureau meeting for transmission to the MAP Focal Points meeting and to COP 21.

E. Preparations for COP 21: Theme of Ministerial Session, Draft Decisions and Main Documents, Main Elements of the Ministerial Declaration, Organization and Host Country Preparations

Theme of COP 21 and Main Elements of Ministerial Declaration

42. In relation to the theme of COP 21, the Bureau at its 87th Meeting suggested “*to focus on the strategic guidance for the preparation of the next UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy, considering the global context of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the CBD post-2020 Biodiversity Framework, the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the relevant UNEA resolutions. This theme will also be the basis for the Ministerial Declaration;*”.

43. Following this suggestion, the Secretariat, through discussions between the Coordinating Unit and the MAP Components, and in consultation with the host country of COP 21, prepared a Concept Note on the main theme and Ministerial Session of COP 21, which will be also used as a basis for the preparation of the Ministerial Declaration. This Concept Note is presented as Annex II to the present report.

44. The Bureau is invited to reflect on the considerations provided in the Concept Note and provide advice and guidance in the preparation of the Ministerial Session of COP 21 and the Ministerial Declaration.

COP 21 Decisions and Main Documents

45. The Bureau, at its 87th meeting “*agree[d] with the proposal of the Secretariat to focus on a limited number of forward-looking Decisions, guided by the UNEP/MAP Mid Term Strategy 2016-2021 and relevant COP decisions. The Bureau ask[ed] the Secretariat to further work on this issue*

and prepare, taking into account the comments made by the Bureau members, the list of draft COP 21 Decisions for its 88th Meeting.”

46. Following the request of the Bureau, the Secretariat prepared the list of draft COP 21 Decisions, Presented in Annex III of the present document. The members of the Bureau are expected to discuss on the draft COP 21 Decisions included in the list, and to provide their guidance and advice to the Secretariat.

47. As shown in the list presented in Annex IV, the suggested draft COP 21 Decisions are linked to the preparation of a number of substantive documents. A significant document under preparation is the 2019 State of the Environment and Development Report (2019 SoED). Three meetings of the Steering Committee were convened in the period between October 2018 and March 2019. The latest meeting took place on 29 March 2019, in Marseille, France, to discuss a Draft zero of Chapter 9 “key findings and conclusions” and provide recommendations in relation to the communication on the SoED 2019. Most potential authors (out of about 70 expected contributors) have provided their contribution to the report by the end of March 2019. Consolidation at chapter level is under way and a first draft of the report will be prepared in April 2019 and shared for consultation with the Plan Bleu Focal Points and MCSD members, during their respective meetings in 28-29 May and 11-13 June 2019. Key areas for complements and information/research gaps will be identified and a revised draft will be submitted to the MAP Focal Points in July 2019.

Organization of COP 21

48. The Secretariat is in continuous dialogue with Italy, as host country of COP 21, for the finalization of the Host Country Agreement for the COP. Following consultations with the host country and with the UNEP Headquarters, the Host Country Agreement preparations have been almost finalized and the Agreement is being prepared for signature. The preparation of the logistical aspects of the meeting has also started in parallel.

49. Proposals of the Secretariat on the organizational aspects of the Ministerial Session are included in the Concept Note presented in Annex II to the present document.

50. Proposed Recommendations:

(a) The Bureau welcomes the work of the Secretariat and the Host Country for the preparation of COP 21 and the proposal regarding the theme/s of the Ministerial Session and the preparation of the Ministerial Declaration, and asks the Secretariat, in consultation with the Host Country, to prepare the final Concept Note on the proposed theme/s and the first main elements of the Ministerial Declaration for submission to the meeting of the MAP Focal Points, where the theme/s will be agreed and the main elements of the Ministerial declaration subsequently discussed;

(b) The Bureau takes note of the proposed list of draft Decisions for consideration by the MAP Focal Points and requests the Secretariat to finalize their preparation, taking into account the considerations of the Bureau at its 88th Meeting, in a timely manner for submission to the meeting of the MAP Focal Points.

F. Preparations for Upcoming MAP Meetings: Meeting of Thematic Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas/Biodiversity, 18th MCSD Meeting

51. The Contracting Parties, with Decision IG.23/3, requested “*the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre to prepare on a trial basis, a meeting of the thematic focal points for Specially Protected Areas/Biological Diversity for the biennium 2018–2019, under the guidance of the Coordinating Unit, to achieve the greatest possible integration with the other themes of the Mid-Term Strategy*”.

52. The Bureau at its 87th meeting requested “*the Secretariat to prepare a Concept Note on the meeting of the Thematic Focal Points for SPA/BD, including preliminary agenda, participation,*

financial information, and other relevant information, before the end of 2018 and to inform the Bureau for guidance”.

53. The Secretariat, therefore, prepared a Concept Note and the draft Provisional Agenda of the meeting which was shared with the Bureau for guidance. Since no comments were received by the Bureau members, the invitation and the draft Provisional Agenda of the meeting were sent to the SPA/BD Focal Points and the MAP Focal Points, as requested, on 3 April 2019.

54. In relation to the conclusion of the 87th Bureau meeting that asked “*the Secretariat to explore the possibility of holding the meeting back-to-back with the PAP/RAC Focal Points Meeting, given its relevance, and recommend[ed] identifying a venue, if not already booked, that is preferably the seat of a RAC*” the Secretariat wishes to inform the Bureau that this option was not possible, since both meeting venues were already booked very early in the process to minimize costs and to allow for a timely organization of the meetings. Due consideration will be given to the possibility of back-to-back Focal Points meetings in the future, also on the basis of lessons learned in 2019.

55. Preparations for the 18th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) are proceeding. An Exchange of Letters will take place for hosting the meeting and signatures are expected to be concluded in April 2019.

56. Invitation letters were sent, together with the Provisional Agenda, to all MCSD Members and Observers, on 15 March 2019, inviting them to register online. Beyond the regular agenda items, the Secretariat plans to organize a roundtable gathering UN-DESA and the three UN Regional Commissions that cover the Mediterranean basin, i.e. UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). Such a roundtable aims at introducing the most recent developments regarding the implementation of 2030 Agenda and SDGs, including the forthcoming SDG Summit and its possible outcome for the functioning of the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF) after the first full cycle of four HLPF meetings. The three UN Regional Commissions would introduce their main achievements, challenges, and perspectives in this global context of assessment, as well as the outcome of their respective Regional Fora. Efforts are also being deployed to secure the participation of a senior experts involved in the preparation of the Global Sustainable Development Report 2019.

57. In relation to other upcoming MAP meetings, the Secretariat would like to note that preparations for all MAP Component/Thematic Focal Points meetings are timely progressing and that the full list of meetings is presented in document UNEP/MED BUR.88/Inf.3 “*Tentative Calendar of UNEP/MAP Meetings and Major International Events*”. Furthermore, the main issues/documents related to the MAP Focal Points Meeting (Athens, Greece, 10-13 September 2019) are addressed under the previous section of the present report, on the preparations for COP 21.

58. Proposed Recommendation:

(a) The Bureau welcomes the progress made in the preparations for upcoming MAP Meetings.

G. Development of Host Country Agreements for RACs

59. At the request of the 85th Meeting of the Bureau (Athens, Greece, 18-19 April 2018) the Secretariat prepared a first draft of minimum common provisions to ensure effective operation of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs), which was tabled at the 87th Meeting of the Bureau (Athens, Greece, 6-7 November 2018) for discussion. This draft was revised to reflect the inputs provided during the 87th Bureau meeting and further refined after consultation with RACs during and following the 37th Meeting of the ECP (Geneva, Switzerland, 9-10 January 2019). The refined draft was transmitted to Host Country Governments for comments.

60. The refined draft listed the minimum common provisions on the following key issues, which meant to be the baseline elements for future negotiation between UNEP and Host Country Governments in developing a Host Country Agreement (HCA) for each RAC: (a) identification of the Parties entering into the HCA, (b) purpose for entering into the HCA, (c) legal status of RACs, (d) regional role of RACs, (e) financial resources, (f) contribution of the Host Country Government, (g)

property, funds and assets of the RACs, (h) personnel of RACs, (j) meetings and conference, (k) director, (l) steering committee, and (m) financial standard clauses on settlement of disputes and on entry into force, duration and amendment of the HCA.

61. Based on the inputs received from the Host Country Governments, the Secretariat has prepared a revised version of the minimum common provisions, together with a short explanatory note, as presented in Annex IV of the present document. The inputs received by Host Governments of RACs are presented in full in document UNEP/MED BUR.88/Inf.6.

62. Proposed Recommendation:

(a) The Bureau welcomes the progress in the preparation of the minimum common provisions for the development of Host Country Agreements for RACs, as presented in Annex IV of the Report on Specific Issues, and requests the Secretariat to finalise these provisions following the comments received during the 88th Bureau meeting and to transmit them to the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points and to COP 21, for consideration.

H. Cooperation and Partners: MoUs/Agreements, MAP Partners, Joint Cooperation Strategy

63. The Bureau at its 87th Meeting, welcomed *“the proposal by Italy to develop for COP 21, a MOU between UNEP/MAP and UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme on the establishment of a strong cooperation among Mediterranean marine and coastal protected areas and the network of Man and Biosphere reserves, in order to contribute to the achievement of the Aichi Target 11 and the SDG 14. The Bureau ask[ed]the Secretariat to liaise with the UNESCO Secretariat in order to prepare a possible draft for consideration at its 88th Bureau meeting;”*.

64. Following the request of the Bureau, the Secretariat contacted the UNESCO Secretariat, which provided a positive first response on the possibility of cooperation with UNEP/MAP and on developing and signing such an MoU. A first draft of the possible areas of collaboration between the two Secretariats was then prepared by the Coordinating Unit and SPA/RAC and shared with the UNESCO/Man and Biosphere Secretariat for comments. The revised draft text of the areas of cooperation is presented in Annex V of the present document. In parallel, the Secretariat is preparing a fully-fledged MoU, so that once the possible areas of cooperation are approved by the Bureau, the draft MoU can be finalised, in consultation with the UNESCO Secretariat, for submission to the MAP Focal Points Meeting for consideration and approval and then to COP 21 for signature.

65. In relation to the Draft Joint Cooperation Strategy on Spatial-based Protection Management Measures for Marine Biodiversity (Joint Cooperation Strategy), the Bureau at its 87th Meeting, agreed on the following conclusion: *“...the Bureau takes note of the progress and of the explanatory note prepared by the Secretariat, and requests that a revised version of the draft Strategy be prepared to reflect the comments received through the consultations with the Thematic Focal Points for SPA/BD and during the 87th Bureau Meeting. The revised version will be circulated to the MAP Focal Points and the Thematic Focal Points for SPA/BD for additional comments and the resulting version will be presented to the Bureau at its 88th Meeting;”*.

66. In line with the above conclusion, the Secretariat prepared a revised version of the Strategy, which was circulated to the MAP Focal Points and the Thematic Focal Points for SPA/BD for additional comments. The resulting version, together with explanatory notes requested during the latest consultation, is presented in Annex VI of the present document.

67. The Secretariat finalized the development of the GEF funded “Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme) Enhancing Environmental Security”, by submitting at the end of March 2019 the complete set of information required by GEF rules and procedures, to mobilize and make available USD 37,7 million to execute the activities. The Programme has been developed in full coordination with the GEF Operational Focal Points of the participating eligible countries, namely: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco and Tunisia. The MedProgramme will be an important instrument to support concrete and coordinated actions in three

core themes of the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021: 1) Land and Sea-based Pollution, 2) Biodiversity and Ecosystems and 3) Land and Sea Interaction and Processes, and two cross-cutting themes: 1) Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and 2) Climate Change Adaptation. Following the past communications to Contracting Parties on this matter, the Secretariat will circulate updated relevant information and supporting documents upon receiving formal communication about the GEF CEO endorsement and agreement on the final version of the Programme package.

68. Following the call for new MAP Partners issued by the Secretariat, and its promotion by the Coordinating Unit and MAP Components through a series of activities, the Secretariat has received since the 87th meeting of the Bureau five applications from non-governmental organizations for accreditation as MAP Partners, as follows:

- Asociación ONDINE
- Palestine Wildlife Society
- Agence des Villes et Territoires méditerranéens durables / The Agency for Sustainable Mediterranean Cities and Territories (AVITEM)
- International Association of Geophysical Contractors (IAGC)
- Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities (FAIC)

69. The Secretariat has reviewed the documentation submitted in line with Decision IG.19/6 on “*MAP/Civil Society cooperation and partnership*” and found that the above organizations meet in general the criteria for such accreditation. The results of the evaluation of the application are presented in Annex VII to the present report for the Bureau’s consideration. The table of Annex VII includes some specific comments/clarifications by the Secretariat that the Bureau may wish to consider.

70. The Secretariat recommends that the Bureau approves the five organizations to be admitted as MAP Partners.

71. Furthermore, OceanCare has resubmitted their application as MAP Partner, presenting information on the network of national institutes in the Mediterranean that OceanCare maintains, as well as an agreement of collaboration between the Save the Med Foundation and OceanCare. The Secretariat has reviewed the documentation submitted in line with Decision IG.19/6 on “*MAP/Civil Society cooperation and partnership*” and presents the results of the evaluation of the application in Annex VII, for the Bureau’s consideration.

72. In relation to the renewal of accreditation of existing MAP Partners, email notifications were sent and telephone contacts were made with the MAP Partners endorsed at COP 18, reminding these organizations that they need to renew their accreditation in line with Decision IG.19/6, “*Every 6 years, NGO observers ask the Secretariat to renew their accreditation*”.

73. Following these reminders, the Secretariat has received since the 87th meeting of the Bureau ten applications from MAP Partners for renewal of their accreditation, as below:

- Greenpeace International
- International Centre of Comparative Environmental Law (CIDCE)
- The ARAVA Institute for Environmental Studies (AIES)
- Oceana
- Mediterranean Programme for International Environmental Law and Negotiation (MEPIELAN)
- International Association for Mediterranean Forests (AIFM)
- EcoPeace Middle East (*Former name: Friends of the Earth Middle East*)
- Mediterranean Coastal Foundation (MEDCOAST)
- Tour du Valat Foundation (Research institute for the conservation of Mediterranean wetlands)
- Fondazione IMC-Centro Marino Internazionale ONLUS

74. The Secretariat has reviewed the applications for renewal of accreditation and recommends that the Bureau approves the ten organizations to be renewed as MAP partners.

75. Since both the accreditation procedure and the accreditation renewal procedure set in Annex II of Decision IG. 19/6 on “*MAP/Civil society cooperation and partnership*” note that requests are sent to the Secretariat 6 months before a Meeting of Contracting Parties, any further requests received by the Secretariat 6 months before COP 21 will be submitted to the Bureau for approval through electronic means.

76. Cooperation with the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions Secretariat was actively pursued and led to an amended MOU with these Conventions to work on common areas of interests, including the environmental sound management of chemicals and marine litter and microplastics. The amended MOU was signed in Geneva, Switzerland, on 7 December 2018, during a side event at the second meeting of the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics. To follow-up on the implementation of the amended MOU, a meeting was held between the Secretariats in Geneva, Switzerland, on 8 January 2019.

77. The BRS Conventions Secretariat requested the support of SCP/RAC, in its quality of Regional Centre of the Stockholm Convention, to organise an international workshop on the Environmental Sound Management of Plastic Waste. The workshop was convened in Barcelona, Spain on 3-5 of April 2019 with the participation of several Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Montenegro, Spain and Tunisia).

78. The Secretariat participated in the third meeting of the UfM Environment Task Force, held in Brussels, Belgium, on 9 April 2019. The meeting reviewed the state of play of actions under the H2020 Initiative and the progress towards a second Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change and discussed the draft Concept Note on the so-called “post-2020 Initiative”. The post-2020 Initiative is structured around three thematic areas, namely: (i) support to the transition to a (blue, green and) circular economy based on sustainable consumption and production practices and nature based solutions; (ii) prevention and reduction of pollution on land, sea and air; and (iii) preservation, management and restoration of the Mediterranean environment; complemented by a fourth cross-cutting thematic area providing links with climate action for mitigation and adaptation. In the view of the Secretariat, the initiative as it stands now is very ambitious, addressing the key issues of the Mediterranean region. However, there is room for further clarifications regarding the complementarities among actions led by different regional actors, with the view to ensuring that overlapping is avoided and that the core mandates of each Organization are fully respected.

79. PAP/RAC hosted, on 5 February 2019, a meeting with the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR) Facility Point and Thematic Steering Group (TSG) - 3 Pillar Coordinator, with the objective to assist the preparation of the project concept on ICZM and MSP for the Adriatic-Ionian (AI) sub-region. “To promote a sustainable growth of the AI region by implementing ICZM and MSP also to contribute to the Common Regional Framework (CRF) of the Barcelona Convention” is one of the project proposals currently under development for the implementation of this Mediterranean sub-regional strategy. PAP/RAC’s contribution is with its region-wide expertise on the subjects, as well as to guarantee the best possible synergies and complementarities between the EUSAIR and the MAP-Barcelona Convention system. Concrete outputs and related activities were discussed, and four testing areas were proposed.

80. In the context of the GEF-funded Inter-project Collaboration Opportunity (ICO) between the Benguela Current Convention (BCC) and the MAP-Barcelona Convention system, the UNEP/MAP Coordinator together with two PAP/RAC staff members paid a visit to the BCC Secretariat in Swakopmund, Namibia, on 18-21 February 2019, to discuss the application of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in the two regions. Working sessions were held with the Ag. Executive Secretary and staff of the BCC Secretariat, representatives of the three BCC Member States (Angola, Namibia and South Africa), and representatives of the GIZ-funded Benguela Current Marine Spatial Management and Governance Project (MARISMA) that supports MSP in Namibia and in the sub-region. The cooperation will continue in September this year when the BCC team will pay a visit to PAP/RAC.

81. As concluded at the 87th Bureau Meeting, the Secretariat provided legal advice on the process for the development and subscription of MOUs and other legal instruments by MAP Components. To this end, the Secretariat has prepared a draft framework for consultation among RACs, the

Coordinating Unit and the Bureau as regards the development and conclusion of MoUs and other legal instruments. The framework aims at reinforcing UNEP/MAP internal governance, by setting out consultative and communication arrangements across RACs, the Coordinating Unit and the Bureau throughout the various phases leading to the conclusion of legal agreements, including MOUs. The proposed framework is currently under consultation with RACs.

82. Proposed Recommendations:

(a) The Bureau welcomes the progress in the preparation of an MoU with UNESCO/Man and Biosphere and agrees with the possible areas of cooperation as revised during the 88th Bureau meeting. The Bureau requests the Secretariat to finalise the draft MoU, in consultation with the UNESCO Secretariat, for submission to the MAP Focal Points Meeting for consideration and approval and then to COP 21 for signature;

(b) In relation to the Joint Cooperation Strategy between Secretariats, the Bureau takes note of the revised version prepared by the Secretariat, as presented in Annex VI of the Report on Specific Issues, and requests the Secretariat to finalise it following the comments received during the 88th Bureau meeting and to transmit it to the MAP Focal Points meeting and to COP 21, so that consultations with the Partners may be finalized for signing the Strategy;

(c) The Bureau endorses the results of the evaluation conducted by the Secretariat of the new applications submitted by “Asociación ONDINE”, “Palestine Wildlife Society”, “Agence des Villes et Territoires méditerranéens durables / The Agency for Sustainable Mediterranean Cities and Territories (AVITEM)”, “International Association of Geophysical Contractors (IAGC)”, “Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities (FAIC)” [and “OceanCare”] for accreditation as MAP Partners, and requests that the Secretariat submits them to the MAP Focal Points and to COP 21 for consideration and endorsement;

(d) The Bureau endorses the proposal by the Secretariat to renew the accreditation as MAP Partners of “Greenpeace International”, “International Centre of Comparative Environmental Law (CIDCE)”, “The ARAVA Institute for Environmental Studies (AIES)”, “Oceana”, “Mediterranean Programme for International Environmental Law and Negotiation (MEPIELAN)”, “International Association for Mediterranean Forests (AIFM)”, “EcoPeace Middle East”, “Mediterranean Coastal Foundation (MEDCOAST)”, Tour du Valat Foundation” and “Fondazione IMC-Centro Marino Internazionale ONLUS” following the applications submitted by these organizations, and requests that the Secretariat submits them to the MAP Focal Points and to COP 21 for consideration and endorsement;

(e) The Bureau asks that any further requests for accreditation or renewal of accreditation received by the Secretariat up to 6 months before COP 21, in accordance with decision IG. 19/6, are submitted through electronic means to the Bureau for approval.

I. Outreach, Information and Communication

83. SCP/RAC organized the third edition of the SwitchMed Connect (Barcelona, Spain, 13 – 15 November 2018) outreach event. This was a special edition, as 2018 marked the end of the first phase of the SwitchMed programme. Over 400 leading start-ups and entrepreneurs, industry agents, initiatives, change agents, policy and financial institutions working on applications of productive, circular and sharing economies in the Mediterranean came together in Barcelona to put the “*Circular Economy in Action in the Mediterranean*”. The summary of each session is available online.

84. UNEA-4 (Nairobi, Kenya, 11-15 March 2019), to which the UNEP/MAP Coordinator and representatives of MAP Components participated, provided an important opportunity for outreach. The Coordinator contributed as panelist/keynote speaker/resource person to a number of events, such as the Meeting with the Heads of the Secretariats of Multilateral Environmental Agreements on inter-cluster synergies of the two ongoing Post-2020 processes of the Biodiversity and Chemicals Agendas; the side event Addressing Pollution in South East and Southern Europe - Outcome of the Ministerial Conference “*Innovative Solutions to Pollution in South East and Southern Europe*”; the Media

Roundtable on the SWITCH to Green; Global Partnership on Marine Litter Networking Luncheon – Marine Litter Node; the Regional Seas Roundtable on Marine Litter and Microplastics; the Breakfast Dialogue event: “*Marine litter financing instruments: Are we focusing where it hurts?*”; and the Annual Network of Women Ministers Breakfast. During UNEA-4, SCP/RAC gave visibility to the SCP activities of MAP through a SwitchMed programme stand at the “*UNEA Foyer exhibition*”, where impact videos and publications were showcased. Furthermore, innovative and sustainable products made by SwitchMed’s beneficiaries were showcased at the joint SWITCH programmes stand at the Sustainable Innovation Expo. A press release was issued and published at UNEP website.

85. Thirteen news items have been published on the UNEP/MAP website (unepmap.org) between October 2018 and April 2019, and to raise awareness and enhance the visibility of MAP activities.

86. The Coordinating Unit and the MAP Components provide regular updates regarding their activities on their respective websites, including the publication of newsletters and relevant documents and studies.

87. Further details on outreach, information and communication are provided in the *Progress Report by the Secretariat on the Activities Carried Out for the Period October 2018 – April 2019* (document UNEP/MED BUR.88/3).

88. Proposed Recommendation:

(a) The Bureau expresses appreciation for the efforts and results of the information and communication work and requests the Secretariat to further progress in this direction.

Annex I

**Roadmap for the Evaluation of the 2016-2021 Medium-Term Strategy and the Preparation of
the 2022-2027 Medium-Term Strategy**

Roadmap for the evaluation of the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) 2016-2021 and the preparation of the next MTS

1. Introduction and principles

This document puts forward a methodology for the evaluation/review of the current UNEP/MAP Medium Term Strategy (MTS) and the preparation of the next MTS. It is based on the following principles and requirements:

- The current MTS was adopted in COP 19 and it covers a period of six years until COP 22 (i.e. 2016-2021); the new MTS needs to be adopted at COP 22 in 2021, taking also into consideration the evaluation of the current MTS;
- The evaluation of the current MTS follows the request of Contracting Parties as in Decision IG.22/1: “*Requests* the Secretariat to launch an independent evaluation of the MTS implementation in 2020 for the consideration of COP 22 in 2021, with special emphasis on the interlinkages with the objectives of the MSSD 2016-2025 and the UNEP/MAP EcAp-based Ecological Objectives.”;
- The new MTS needs to be aligned with the global context of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the CBD post-2020 Biodiversity Framework, the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the relevant UNEA resolutions and the implementation of global Multilateral Environmental Agreements in the Mediterranean region;
- The new MTS will build on the following elements, among others:
 - the uniqueness of the MAP system’s mandate in the region;
 - the comparative advantages that the MAP-Barcelona Convention system has in its three dimensions (institutional, regulatory, implementation);
 - the experience, achievements, major processes and lessons learned of the past four decades and in particular of the most recent biennia;
 - the needs, policies and commitments of the Contracting Parties, at national, sub-regional and regional level;
 - the vision, key considerations, evaluation of the current MTS as well as lessons learned from its implementation;
 - the increasingly more accurate assessment work being undertaken on the Mediterranean;
 - the analysis of significant environmental challenges that the Mediterranean region will face in the coming years;
 - the analysis of emerging issues that are of particular relevance to the region;
 - the new paradigm required to achieve Agenda 2030, in which work on environment and sustainable development issues is not conducted in silos, but is intrinsically linked;
 - the implementation and enforcement of the comprehensive body of instruments of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system;
 - the increasing interest demonstrated by actors in the Mediterranean and beyond in partnering with the MAP-Barcelona Convention system;
 - the opportunities presented in the region in terms of access to financial resources, to knowledge, and to stakeholders’ involvement; and
 - the advantages provided by being part of a global inter-governmental mechanism such as UNEP and the UN.

- Focus, integration and diversification of responses and approaches will drive the development of the MTS in order to reflect the diversity of the region (possibly by integrating the DPSIR approach in the development of the new MTS);
- The evaluation of the current MTS and the preparation of the next MTS need to take into account the relevant evaluation and assessment processes within the MAP-Barcelona Convention system (including the MSSD 2016-2025 mid-term evaluation, the SCP Action Plan mid-term evaluation, the 2017 MED QSR, the 2019 SoED and the MED 2050 foresight study preparation);
- The process needs to be conducted under the leadership of the Bureau; preparation of the new MTS needs to be Contracting Party-driven, to involve the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP), and to ensure stakeholder participation to the widest extent possible.

2. Methodology and roadmap

A. Evaluation of MTS 2016-2021

The evaluation of the current MTS should be conducted during the first year of the 2020-2021 biennium. It should be based on the performance indicators and respective targets, which were set within each biennial Programme of Work and Budget, to enable MAP to measure progress against these expected accomplishments. As noted in the text of the MTS, central to the performance framework are the strategic outcomes and outputs to be achieved. Therefore, it is proposed that performance is reported on outcome and output level. To this end, the steps to be followed are:

- Elaboration of baseline values
- Complete population of indicators (based on each biennial PoW)
- Assessment of the extent of achievement of targets (at the level of strategic output)
- Assessment of the financial implementation of the MTS

Following the request of Decision IG. 22/1, the evaluation process should also provide special emphasis on the interlinkages with the objectives of the MSSD 2016-2025 and the UNEP/MAP EcAp-based Ecological Objectives.

The assessment of the extent of achievement of targets and of the financial implementation will be complete/final for the first two biennia and anticipated for the third one, since this exercise will take place at the first year of the third biennium of the implementation of the current MTS.

The financial implementation of the MTS will examine both MTF and external funds which supported each strategic outcome and will be linked to the implementation of the Resource Mobilization Strategy.

A consultancy post could be launched in the beginning of 2020 for the independent evaluation. The main steps of the process can be set as follows:

- January/February 2020: launch of the MTS evaluation process and finalization of consultant ToRs
- March 2020: Hiring of consultant
- March/April 2020: Elaboration of baseline values
- April/June 2020: Population of indicators
- June/July 2020: Assessment of target achievement, including through consultations with individual Contracting Parties and stakeholders;
- August/September 2020: Assessment of financial implementation
- October 2020: First draft of evaluation report prepared
- October/November 2020: Consultation with Bureau (and Contracting Parties/MAP Focal Points)

- December 2020: Finalization of evaluation report

B. Preparation of MTS 2022-2027

Following the principles and requirements referred to in the introductory part of this concept note, the preparation of the new MTS should be based on a number of key documents and processes. The main ones are listed below:

- Evaluation of MTS 2016-2021;
- MSSD 2016-2025 mid-term evaluation (performed in parallel, during the 2020-2021 biennium)
- Results of the main MAP assessment studies: 2017 MED QSR (which will also provide interlinkages with UNEP/MAP EcAp-based Ecological Objectives) and 2019 SoED; as well as results of global assessment studies, such as the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6) and the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC) of IPCC;
- Global processes or relevance, such as the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the CBD post-2020 Biodiversity Framework, the implementation of the Paris Agreement including the outcome of the 2019 UNFCCC COP25 “The Blue COP”, the relevant UNEA resolutions, and the global Multilateral Environmental Agreements;
- Other relevant evaluation and assessment processes performed during the 2020-2021 biennium, such as the SCP Action Plan mid-term evaluation and the preparation of the MED 2050 foresight study.

It is proposed that the new MTS follows the same timeline with the current MTS, covering the period of three biennial PoWs.

The preparation of the new MTS should start during the process of the evaluation of the current MTS, to benefit from it but also to allow a timely development of the first draft of the new MTS.

The process will be transparent, participatory and Contracting Party driven, and will be conducted under the guidance of the Bureau. It will include early involvement of all the MAP Components, through the Executive Coordination Panel, both at the phase of evaluation of the current situation/state of play, and at the phase of the preparation of the themes and strategic outcomes/key outputs. Furthermore, it will involve consultations with stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations/MAP Partners, youth and gender related organizations, private sector organizations and possible donors, as well as intergovernmental organizations, other UN bodies and MEAs. Consultations with the civil society will take place through electronic means (for example through an online consultation of 2-3 weeks) while a physical open-ended meeting could be arranged, depending on the availability of resources.

The main steps of the process can be set as follows:

- March/April 2020: Finalization of ToRs
- May/June 2020: Launch of the new MTS preparation process, following the 89th Bureau meeting
- June/August 2020: Evaluation of the current situation/state of play (global and regional processes)
- September/October 2020: First input from current MTS evaluation process
- November/December 2020: Elaboration of main directions of new MTS
- January/February 2021: First draft text of new MTS (main directions and strategic outcomes) finalized
- April/May 2021: Dedicated MAP Focal Points meeting to discuss and endorse main directions and strategic outcomes of new MTS, and consultations with stakeholders

- May/June/July 2021: Preparation of draft MTS for submission to MAP Focal Points
- September 2021: Examination of draft MTS at the MAP Focal Points meeting
- December 2021: Endorsement of new MTS by COP 22

This process will require adequate financial resources under the MTF, which are reflected in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the 2020-2021 biennium, under Key Output 1.1.2.

Annex II

Ministerial Session of COP 21 – Concept Note

Concept Note on the Ministerial Session and Themes of COP 21

A. Background and Process

This concept note introduces the main themes and processes to be addressed by the Ministerial Session of COP 21, following the suggestion of the Bureau at its 87th Meeting (Athens, Greece, 6-7 November 2018) “*to focus on the strategic guidance for the preparation of the next UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy, considering the global context of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the CBD post-2020 Biodiversity Framework, the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the relevant UNEA resolutions. This theme will also be the basis for the Ministerial Declaration*” and consultations with the host country of COP 21 as well as discussions between the Coordinating Unit and MAP Components.

The Ministerial-level discussions will aim to provide political insight to the links between the global processes and the regional evolutions in the Mediterranean, where the MAP-Barcelona Convention system, including its partners, can play a key role in translating the global processes at the regional, national and local levels and promoting and facilitating implementation.

There are currently several processes related to environment and sustainable development that set the global agenda and, to which the regional dimension has a significant contribution. These include mainly, but are not limited to, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, the CBD post-2020 Biodiversity Framework, the implementation of the Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (of particular relevance the 2019 UNFCCC COP25 “The Blue COP” and the release of the IPCC Special Report on Oceans and Cryosphere), the outcome of UNEA-4, focusing on “*Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production*”, and the relevant UNEA resolutions.

It is important to focus on a limited number of priority areas/key issues where the Ministerial-level discussions and the Ministerial Declaration can provide a useful and focused insight and an effective guidance. The priority areas identified include:

- 1) Marine Litter;
- 2) Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Biodiversity;
- 3) Climate Change;
- 4) Blue Economy (with a focus on ICZM/MSP and sustainable tourism).

The following sections of this Concept Note aim to provide a preliminary and indicative description of each of these priority areas, including background information, the current situation, and the way forward. This material will be refined during the next months of consultations, starting with the Bureau at its 88th Meeting, in order to identify the focus, elements, and specific initiatives for the Ministerial Session and Declaration.

Reflections of the Ministerial Session will also pave the way for the preparation of the next UNEP/MAP Medium Term Strategy (MTS), including on possible issues to be included in the next MTS. The process for the preparation of the MTS, which will also benefit from the Ministerial Discussions at COP 21 and the Ministerial Declaration, is presented in a separate Concept Note submitted to the 88th Bureau meeting (as Annex I to this report).

The draft Ministerial Declaration will be prepared under the guidance of the Bureau and through an inclusive, transparent and participatory process, based on the practices of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system. Following the discussions at the 88th Bureau meeting, the Host Country of COP 21 and the Bureau will take the leadership in providing guidance for the preparation of the main elements of the Ministerial Declaration. The final Concept Note, together with the main elements for the Ministerial Declaration, will be submitted to the MAP Focal Points Meeting (Athens, Greece, 10-

13 September 2019) for discussion and final decision on the theme/themes of COP 21. At the MAP Focal Points meeting a Working Group could be established – led by the Host Country of the COP – to prepare, working through electronic means, the draft Ministerial Declaration for discussion at COP 21. The process of the preparation of the draft Ministerial Declaration will build upon the experience and the practice established in the MAP-Barcelona Convention system.

In the course of the preparation of the draft Ministerial Declaration, the involvement of stakeholders will be sought, with a focus on MAP Partners and MCSD members. The involvement of stakeholders can be secured through either: (a) the MAP Partners being invited to contribute to the online Working Group formed for the preparation of the draft Ministerial Declaration; or (b) a meeting with the MAP Partners being organized for their contribution to the draft Ministerial Declaration, or, if resources are not available, with an online consultation of 2-3 weeks. Furthermore, the Members of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) are also expected to address during the 18th Meeting of the MCSD (Budva, Montenegro, 11-13 June 2019) issues of relevance to the Ministerial-level discussions of COP 21 and to provide inputs on elements that they would expect to be addressed in the draft Ministerial Declaration.

In relation to the format of the Ministerial-level discussions at COP 21, these would benefit from an interactive format. Depending on the availability of time and resources during the Ministerial Session, specific main themes could be discussed in consecutive sessions, with focused ministerial statements /interventions. Themes can be possibly grouped so that only two sessions are convened in total. Keynote speakers/resource persons, possibly arranged in small panels, could introduce each theme, and each session could be steered by a moderator and rapporteur. The discussion of each theme should involve not only the Ministers/Heads of Delegations but also stakeholders/MAP Partners. Keynote speakers should also come from different strands, including UN bodies, academia/science community, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, depending also on the thematic area to be addressed and the focus of the discussions.

A series of events organized around specific activities/achievements of the MAP system and partners in the main thematic areas of the COP with regional and sub-regional scope and other formats of outreach would be arranged throughout the COP, culminating during the Ministerial Session. These would include:

- Roundtables and panel discussions;
- Signing of agreements;
- Announcements of national or sub-regional commitments;
- Launching of reports such as SOED and others;
- Photo exhibitions; and
- Media events.

B. Overview of the Priority Areas to be Addressed

1. Marine Litter

Introduction and Background

Studies on marine litter in the Mediterranean basin were initiated in the 1990's, while attention increased only after 2010, when reliable data and information became available on its abundance and distribution. Later, when trends were assessed, micro plastics entered into the agenda and mapping of impacts became a priority.

The Mediterranean Sea is a closed basin with a coastal population of 210 million inhabitants. It is the first tourist destination in the world, with more than 320 million visitors every year. It receives waste from coastal zones, as well as from many large rivers flowing through urbanized centers. In addition,

more than 20% of the global maritime traffic passes through the Mediterranean which also contributes to a great extent to the marine litter problem in the Mediterranean.

Some of the largest amounts of municipal solid waste are found in the Mediterranean Sea. It is estimated that this amount varies from 208 to 760 kg/capita/year. Five trillion particles are afloat around the world oceans, of which 250 billion are found in the Mediterranean. In fact, one of the largest amounts of floating litter was recorded in the Levantine Sea (in the eastern Mediterranean basin) estimated at 64 million items/km², with approximately half billion items lying on the Mediterranean seafloor (nearly 100,000 items/km²).

Consequently, the basin has become one of the most marine litter-affected areas in the world. Plastics are the prevailing type, accounting up to 95-100% of total floating marine litter and more than 50% of seabed marine litter.

The analysis of 33 beaches conducted in 2016, indicated that only 5 types of debris, mostly single-use plastics (cutlery/trays/straws, cigarette butts, caps/lids, plastic bottles and shopping bags) represent more than 60% of marine litter composition. No change was observed in the percentage of the same five marine litter categories between 2013 and 2018 on the beaches of 8 Mediterranean countries. Typically, most of the litter on beaches is originating from beach/ recreational activities, with glass bottles and metal beverage cans having disappeared from the top ten lists in the non-touristic areas over the last years because of behavioral changes.

Current Situation of Marine Litter Governance (Global and Regional)

Nowadays, several global efforts and initiatives are ongoing aiming at actions for reducing and preventing marine litter, plastic pollution and microplastic generation as well as for mitigating its impacts. These include worldwide initiatives, like the UN Environment Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML); the Honolulu Strategy; the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable development Goals; the CBD post-2020 Biodiversity Framework; the recent fourth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) with its decisions and resolutions directly and indirectly related to marine litter (Marine plastic litter and microplastics; Addressing single-use plastic products pollution; Innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production; Environmentally sound management of waste; Implementation plan “Towards a Pollution-free Planet) and its Ministerial Declaration; the Sustainable Development Goals adopted in 2015 and their specific target on pollution in the oceans (Goal 14 and target 14.1); the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter; the G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter; and several regional action plans.

In the Mediterranean, the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management, adopted in 2013, is the main framework, complemented by the Regional Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production. The Regional Plan addresses several aspects including monitoring, assessment, concrete measures, financial assistance, capacity building activities, regional collaboration and partnerships. The majority of the measures as provided for in the Regional Plan should be implemented by the Contracting Parties by 2020 with an overall timeframe until 2025.

Specific Challenges and Emerging Issues

In most Mediterranean countries, the root causes of plastic pollution are found in the increase of use of plastics, unsustainable consumption patterns, ineffective/inefficient waste management and loopholes in plastic waste management.

In some areas in the Mediterranean, up to 58% of the collected municipal solid waste is still disposed in open dump sites. Out of the millions of tons of plastic waste produced each year in Mediterranean countries, less than one third is recycled and plastics recycling is less than 6%. Bearing in mind the importance of wastewater as pathway for waste leakage into the sea, a key challenge is that in the Mediterranean region 21% of wastewater (25% in Southern Countries) undergoes only basic

treatment, and less than 8%, (1 % in southern countries) is undergoing tertiary treatment. Key economic sectors in the Mediterranean, such as fisheries, tourism and shipping, also generate large amounts of marine litter.

More specific challenges to be addressed in relation to marine litter could include:

- The assessment on the economic impacts of marine litter in the Mediterranean Sea.
- Micro- and nano-plastics and the possible release of associated Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs).
- Measures on microplastics and increased efforts at regional and national levels, with a view to incorporate microplastics into the marine litter agenda for the Contracting Parties which have not yet done so.

Way forward and Future Commitments

Objectives and actions are needed towards the reduction of plastic consumption, supporting eco-design/innovation, resource efficiency and a better management of waste and water, long-term efficient and viable recycling targets for municipal waste and packaging/plastic waste, a greater use of policy instruments and control measures such as bans, incentives, taxes, etc., extended producer responsibility schemes and coordination of policy investments in the waste sector are the most critical drivers to reduce marine litter.

To date, the majority of the Mediterranean countries have made progress towards the effective management of marine litter; however, a brave step ahead could be made including the following regional commitments:

- Upgrading the regulatory framework for reducing single-use plastic bags (for those countries that lack these legislations); progress in adopting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), including approaches to tackle packaging waste; and relevant policies to further promote, strengthen and to also tackle additional, single-use items, other than the single-use plastic bags.
- Prevention measures and circular economy approaches provided in the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean should be further promoted to pass plastic reduction policies, support industry to minimize plastic packaging and redesign products, and change consumer habits.
- Changes towards a more circular economy were observed in the recent years, but important gaps remain.
- The Mediterranean region may have to face new challenges, such as the increase of plastics production, the use of new materials (bio-plastics, copolymers, etc.) that may not have been produced so as to be environmentally relevant and may mislead consumers. A clear guidance of the available solutions needs to be prepared.
- A better understanding of the links between marine litter fluxes and regional economy is needed; as coordination in establishing and implementing national programmes of measures to maximize transboundary benefits should be continuously addressed at the regional governance level.
- Regional, IMAP-based, marine litter monitoring should become fully operational.
- Policy actions by sub-national authorities, industry-based solution and large-scale green economy initiatives should be strengthened to support the transition towards a more sustainable economy, promoting the transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology to the industry, policy changes and incentives to enable the circular economy, providing innovative and long-term solutions.
- The actions of civil society should be further enhanced and coordinated through the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter. Civil society's role on awareness raising, but also on advocacy and promotion of concrete solutions to marine litter is significant. A region-wide campaign can be developed in all MAP languages.

- Binding quantitative targets to reduce marine litter (e.g. reduce beach marine litter by 20% by 2024), should be established and reached.
- Accounting and cost-recovery mechanisms in most of the countries regarding wastewater and solid waste management are insufficient. Weak enforcement, insufficient waste treatment infrastructures and policies, as well as separate collection, strong regional disparities between urban and rural areas and poor storm water management are still gaps that need to be addressed.
- All coastal cities in the Mediterranean should establish and have fully functional and operational Waste Water Treatment Plants, especially in the southern and eastern Mediterranean. Specific capacity building activities may be needed in this respect.
- Riverine inputs of marine litter should be further addressed, especially the seasonal flush of accumulated marine litter in river streams.
- Informal economy, informal recycling networks around the basin, illegal manufacturing and black markets is a reality in some Mediterranean areas and jeopardizes solutions to marine litter, making even clearer that the waste management schemes at national level need to become more effective and efficient. These informal networks should be taken over by national policies.
- Open dump sites should be closed as a matter of urgency and related enforcement mechanisms should be further strengthened.
- Relevant legislation on port reception facilities still requires efforts to be fully implemented and/or enforced.

2. Marine Protected Areas and Biodiversity

Introduction and Background

Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, including the use of marine protected areas, is essential to ensure that the world's oceans, seas and marine resources remain vital for current and future generations. A more effective management of fisheries, which are a global source for food, and an appropriate protection of the marine environment from pollution and its adverse effects, are among the critical actions to be taken. Effective management of terrestrial ecosystems is also critical to minimizing nutrient losses to marine systems and negative land-based impacts on the marine environment and its resources.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, agreed by the 193 States Members of the United Nations, sets out an ambitious framework of universal and indivisible goals and targets. Biodiversity and ecosystems feature prominently across many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and associated targets. They contribute directly to human well-being and development priorities.

SDG 14 focuses on human interactions with the ocean, seas and marine resources. It is underpinned by targets addressing conservation and sustainable use of the ocean, seas and marine resources including coastal zones, and targets referring to capacity building and ocean governance.

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has been recognized as setting the global framework for priority actions on biodiversity.

For the marine environment, Aichi Target 11¹ represents a call to effectively conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas by 2020. Aichi Target 11 relates specifically to the effective conservation of

¹ By 2020, at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water, and 10% of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically

marine areas. It represents a broader, more ambitious marine conservation aspiration than previous global targets.

The riparian countries of the Mediterranean Sea have entrusted the protection of the Mediterranean biodiversity, their species and habitats on an area-based strategy in the form of marine protected areas (MPAs), aligned with the main international conservation Conventions and Agreements. For this aim, a “Roadmap for a comprehensive coherent network of well managed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean” has been adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at their COP 19 (Athens, Greece, February 2016).

At COP 20 (Tirana, Albania, December 2017), the Contracting Parties committed through the Tirana Ministerial Declaration “to accelerate efforts to ensure the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and especially Aichi Target 11, as well as the ocean related Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets, in particular SDG target 14.5 in the Mediterranean”.

Currently, SPA/RAC is running an evaluation of the implementation of the Roadmap to achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean. The results of this evaluation, along with proposals of post-2020 targets for the region, will be presented to the 14th meeting of SPA/BD thematic Focal Points (Portorož, Slovenia, 18-21 June 2019) and subsequently to COP 21 (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019).

Current Status and Main Challenges

To date, around 1,234 MPAs and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs), covering an area of 226,000 km², as estimated by SPA/RAC through the data gathered, are in place in the Mediterranean Sea.

This means that 8.97% of the total surface of the Mediterranean is under a legal designation status. 1.6% of the Mediterranean is covered by nationally designated sites and 0.04% of the Mediterranean is covered by MPAs no-go, no-take or no-fishing zones.

However, most of the surface covered by MPAs and OECMs, representing 8.27% of the total surface of the Mediterranean, is located in the Western basin and therefore important efforts are required to reach a homogeneous spatial repartition of MPAs for a more comprehensive conservation of species. Furthermore, for most sites, there is little available information on the implementation of management measures and on the effectiveness of such measures towards reaching the site’s conservation targets.

As 2020 approaches, reaching the quantitative target in the Mediterranean seems theoretically feasible, but the qualitative mandatory ads-on have revealed as a hard task to accomplish and are far from being achieved.

An Environmental Fund for Mediterranean MPAs (M2PA) has been launched since 2015 by France, Monaco and Tunisia, and joined until now by Albania, Morocco and Spain, to support sustainable management of Mediterranean MPAs and to contribute to their financial autonomy and territorial integration.

Way Forward and Future Commitments

The effective implementation of Aichi Target 11 will depend on the effort to create the widest Mediterranean coalition to support this process among States and multilateral/regional organizations. Boosting the qualitative requirements of Aichi Target 11 to advance towards a more effective, robust

representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

and equitable network of Mediterranean MPAs, needs the reinforcement of the current structures rather than a dimensional increase.

At the global level, States and the international community have started to build a large and global consensus on the means to timely achieve Aichi Biodiversity Targets and particularly Target 11, by 2020, as well as a new global deal for biodiversity beyond 2020. By 2020, in Beijing, a new international biodiversity framework will be agreed on under the Convention on Biological Diversity at its COP 15.

Governments have the obligation to make commitments to sustainable use of natural resources, by implementing a scientifically-based management, that provides benefits to the local communities as well as contributing to environment conservation and reaching a Good Environment Status. The ecosystem approach is a general initiative meant for larger geographical areas (eco-region), often with complex socio-cultural conditions and relationships between nature and human needs.

It is critically important to be capable of making the shift from policymaking to effective implementation within a realistic timeframe but obeying to the commitment of the countries to the regional/global agreements.

For the Mediterranean, it is time to create the necessary good will and momentum to steer in a different direction to reach long-term structural solutions. A clear share of responsibilities among actors and stakeholders is needed at all levels (global, regional, national and local) and, thus, a form of individualization of targets and responsibilities.

To this end, Contracting Parties could engage in a long process to:

- Adopt additional protection measures including mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into the actions of sectoral strategies and programmes.
- Encourage the UN General Assembly to convene “high-level biodiversity summits at the level of Heads of State/Heads of Government in order to raise the political visibility of biodiversity and its contribution to the Agenda 2030 as a contribution to the development of a robust post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- Support the development of such a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, through an appropriately harmonized legal tool, built as a Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources in the Mediterranean region.
- Promote cooperation and synergies at global, regional and national levels and best practices as a key part of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- Support further work on cooperation and synergies (e.g. with biodiversity related Conventions, GEF projects, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, EU programmes).
- Support capacity building requirements to address in the future possible gaps identified in SAP BIO implementation.
- Accelerate the declaration and effective management of more MPAs to achieve the 10% goal of Aichi Target 11 in terms of marine surface coverage and connection of the Mediterranean network of MPAs, especially for the Southern and Eastern parts of the Mediterranean, considering the recent agreement on the definition of OECMs by the last CBD COP 14 (Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, November 2018).
- Improve the existing Mediterranean MPA network in terms of coverage, representativity, connectivity and management effectiveness.
- Develop, within the above, MPA connectivity measures for the protection of highly mobile migratory species (Cetaceans, turtles, Seabirds), integrating their mobility in order to cover their large home range to allow their good conservation status
- Envisage the declaration of MPAs in the areas embracing the high sea and deep sea including the Mediterranean areas already included in the CBD EBSA repository.

- Develop mechanisms for exchanging relevant information and for promoting cooperation in relevant thematic issues and interdisciplinary approaches in a range of similar sites listed either as SPAMIs, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, or both synchronously.
- Promote functional no-go, no-take or no-fishing zones to foster their positive effect on ecosystem recovery, essential habitats conservation, and fishery productivity; agree on a quantified target to achieve beyond 2020 in this regard.
- Promote a participatory planning and management of MPAs where all the local socio-economic stakeholders (fishermen, tourism actors, etc.) are involved in the management aspects, inside and outside protected areas.
- Further promote the Ecosystem Approach and the Marine Spatial Planning tools in marine resources management to better consider threats and human impacts of different socio-economic activities on the marine biodiversity and ecosystems in a coordinated manner, making the shift from policymaking to implementation, and thus setting up a form of individualization of targets and management options at the local level.
- Ensure mainstreaming of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services with the on-going work of UNEP on green/blue/circular economy in the different sectoral activities in the marine environment (fishing, energy -including renewable energy, mining, industry, infrastructures, etc.), and on health and pollution as well as sustainable consumption and production/resource efficiency.

3. Climate Change

Introduction and Background

A systemic issue: The Mediterranean Region is recognized as a climate change hot spot. Recent accelerated climate change (including warming, more severe droughts, changing extreme events, sea-level rise and ocean acidification) has exacerbated existing environmental problems in the Mediterranean Basin already caused by the combination of changes in land use, pollution and declining biodiversity.

Warming: In the Mediterranean region, average annual temperatures are now approximately 1.6°C higher than during the preindustrial period, well above current global warming trends (+1.1°C). Without additional mitigation, regional temperature increase will reach 2.2°C in 2040, possibly exceeding 3.8°C in some parts of the region in 2100. Summers will likely warm faster than winters. Warming of the Mediterranean Sea surface is currently estimated at 0.4°C per decade.

Precipitations: A global atmospheric temperature increase of 2°C is expected to be accompanied by a reduction in summer precipitation of about 10-15% in southern France, northwestern Spain and the Balkans and up to 30% in Turkey. The combination of reduced rainfall and warming generates strong trends towards drier conditions.

Extreme events: High temperature events and heat waves are likely to become more frequent and/or more extreme. Heavy rainfall events are likely to intensify by 10-20% in all seasons except for summer.

Sea level rise: Similar to worldwide trends, sea level in the Mediterranean has risen at an accelerating rate: 0.7 mm per year between 1945 and 2000; 1.1 mm per year between 1970 and 2006; and about 3 mm per year during the last two decades. Future projections range from 52 to 190 cm global mean sea level increase by 2100 but are subject to important uncertainties: the accelerating ice loss in Greenland and Antarctic implies a significant additional risk even if global warming was limited to 1.5°C, with a potential of multi-meter sea level rise.

Acidification: The world's oceans have absorbed about 30% of the CO₂ emitted by human activities. Ocean pH has subsequently decreased by 0.1 pH units since the preindustrial period. Globally, CO₂

uptake by the oceans is expected to lead, by 2100, to acidification of 0.15-0.41 pH units below 1870-1899 levels.

Links with ICZM: Coastal zones are highly coveted for both living and economic activities and thus subject to high pressures. The key challenges are high population density and overbuilding which threaten the most valuable coastal asset - the space – and, as a consequence, coastal and marine ecosystems, the richness of biodiversity, and historic and cultural heritage. To make things worse, the climate change will have greatest impact in the coastal zone, in both its land and marine parts. The land part is densely built and has a high concentration of economic activities, while the coastal sea is home to most of the marine fauna and flora, hosting at the same time many activities, such as aquaculture, fisheries, nautical tourism, bathing, diving/snorkelling, etc.

Current Status and Main Challenges

Climate change, alone or combined with other significant human induced pressures, triggers important risks for ecosystems, human security and well-being. Challenges resulting from these changes concern numerous domains, including safe access to natural resources (water and food), state of ecosystems, human security with respect to natural disasters, etc. Mediterranean ecosystems provide numerous services, including renewable natural, environmental services and social services. However, these ecosystems now face unprecedented challenges, as described below.

Impacts of climate change represent a particular challenge for the coastal zone as they will bring an increase in the extreme weather events, coastal flooding followed by accelerating coastal erosion, sea water contamination and groundwater salinization. Other impacts of climate change, like elevated temperatures and decrease of precipitation, will result in more frequent recurrence of droughts and increasing risk of wildfires, water shortage and consequently food shortage. The riparian Mediterranean countries are increasingly aware of these growing risks in coastal zones and recognize the need for regular monitoring to anticipate the adverse phenomena and to adopt appropriate forms of governance and management in the short, medium and long terms. More specifically:

Fresh water availability in the Mediterranean region is likely to suffer among the largest decreases in the world. The Mediterranean population classified as ‘water-poor’ is projected to increase from 180 million people in 2013 to over 250 million within 20 years.

Food security: Water scarcity, soil degradation and erosion will also affect agriculture and livestock production. Yields for many winter and spring crops are expected to decrease, especially in the South. Extreme events, such as droughts, heat waves and heavy rainfall may cause unexpected production losses and increase crop yield variability. Dependence of southern Mediterranean countries on imported food (estimated at around 50 % for all food products in the Maghreb) is expected to increase.

Ecosystems: The coupled effect of warming and drought is expected to lead to a general increase in aridity and subsequent desertification of many Mediterranean land ecosystems. Forests, wetlands and coastal ecosystems are also likely to be affected by changes in extreme temperature events and droughts. Drought, heat waves and changed land management will bring longer fire seasons, and potentially more frequent large, severe fires. In the Mediterranean Sea, cold-water species become less abundant or extinct and warm-water species become more abundant, leading to homogenization of the biota. Non-indigenous species enter the Mediterranean mainly from the Red Sea. Water acidification has negative impacts on many pelagic and benthic organisms with calcareous body parts. Increased water temperatures also lead to mass mortality events, in coralligenous, sponges and molluscs, threatening both biodiversity and associated economic sectors (such as tourism, shellfish aquaculture).

Coastal ecosystems are particularly exposed to climate and environmental change, including sea level rise, extreme events, sedimentation decrease, salt intrusion in coastal aquifers and habitats degradation (e.g., coastal dunes, cliffs or terraces). Coastal wetlands are particularly affected. Construction in

coastal regions, sand erosion and instabilities in beaches have destructive effects on fauna and flora and, in particular, on endemic species (e.g. monk seal and loggerhead sea turtle).

Coastal infrastructures and cities: Rising sea levels, storm-surges, flooding, erosion and local land subsidence impact harbors, port cities and other coastal infrastructures, as well as wetlands and beaches around the Mediterranean. About 15 mega cities (port cities with a population greater than 1 million in 2005) are at risk of flooding due to sea level rise, unless further adaptation is undertaken. By 2050, for the lower sea-level rise scenarios and current adaptation measures, cities in the Mediterranean will account for half of the 20 global cities with the highest increase of the average annual damages. The areas at extremely high risk are predominantly located in the southern and eastern Mediterranean region. In North African countries 1 m sea-level rise would impact approximately 41,500 km² of the territory and at least 37 million people.

Cultural heritage: Out of 49 cultural Mediterranean UNESCO World Heritage Sites (WHS) located in low-lying coastal areas of the Mediterranean, 37 are at risk from a 100-year flood and 42 from coastal erosion.

Way Forward and Future Commitments

- ICZM has an important role to play, also in relation with two other major UNEP/MAP processes, namely EcAp and Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework. With its integrative methods and tools, it offers the most operational management mechanism for implementing and reaching the objectives of both.
- The Mediterranean governance on ICZM is crucial for its success. A combination of elements: the expected adoption of the Common Regional Framework for ICZM, boosting of the UNEP/MAP Information Technology platform, governance mechanisms developed in previous or on-going projects (such as CAMPs, “MedPartnership”, etc.) and the initiative promoted mainly by the recent CAMPs towards the establishment of an official network, can make an important step forward in boosting the regional governance mechanism, improving the implementation of ICZM, and through it, Climate Change Adaptation.
- Policy responses to climate change need to be based on scientific evidence. There is a need to summarize scientific findings in a form easily accessible to regional, national and local decisions makers, including findings on the consequences of environmental change for natural systems, the economy, and human well-being. The network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC) directly contributes to the Flagship Initiative for MSSD Objective 4, in particular with the preparation of the first assessment report on the state and risks of climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean, to be published in early 2020.
- Ensure that scientific findings are recognized at high political level and broadly disseminated, including through the official adoption of the MedECC report.
- Give particular attention to emerging scenarios regarding sea level rise, that - under a precaution principle - call for an acceleration of climate change adaptation in coastal areas.
- Evaluate environmental, economic and social impacts of sea level rise and coastal hazards, associated with climate change in coastal areas.
- Ensure that land use planning and infrastructure – in particular in coastal areas – take full account of relevant climate change scenarios (e.g. 100 years projections) and uncertainties.
- Prefer versatile options in a context of high uncertainty to avoid “maladaptation”.
- Facilitate the integration of nature-based solution in adaptation plans to maximize co-benefits.
- Given the critical importance of freshwater resources in the Mediterranean, consider watersheds as a relevant unit to design subnational adaptation plans, with an integrated approach based on all complementary resources (e.g. blue, green and grey waters).
- Develop transdisciplinary research and inter-sectoral policies to tackle highly interconnected issues, in particular through the water-food-energy nexus.

- Involve a range of actors in designing and implementing adaptation strategies, including scientists, private sector representatives from banking and insurance sectors, civil society, etc., building on collaborations beyond institutional and administrative boundaries.
- Mobilize increased international funding, supported by national and sub-national resources mobilized through subsidies' reforms and efficient green tax collection. International support could in particular help increase energy and water efficiency.

4. Blue Economy

(with focus on ICZM/MSP and sustainable tourism)

Introduction and Background

Oceans cover 72% of the surface of our “blue” planet and constitute more than 95% of the biosphere. Life originated in the oceans and those continue to support our life by generating oxygen, absorbing carbon dioxide, recycling nutrients and regulating global climate and temperature. Oceans provide a substantial portion of the global population with food and livelihoods and are the means of transport for 80% of global trade.

In the “Rio +20” United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20-22 June 2012), the concept and implementation of a “green economy” was at the core of the debate. Throughout the preparatory process, however, many coastal countries questioned the applicability of the “green economy” to them and presented strong positions for a “blue economy” approach, to be more prominently addressed on the assumption that seas and oceans are crucial to move towards sustainable, low-carbon, resource efficient, and inclusive development patterns.

At the global level, the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, as well as other related processes such as the Paris Agreement, target the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources (e.g through SDG 14). Likewise, the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity is fully in line with the preparations for the Post-2020 CBD Biodiversity Framework as a stepping stone towards the 2050 Vision of “Living in harmony with nature”.

At the regional level, the Mediterranean Sea has been crucial for the economy of coastal communities and States, since ancient times. Today, traditional (e.g. *aquaculture, fisheries, coastal and maritime tourism, shipping, ship-building/repair, ports*) and emerging maritime economy sectors (e.g. *blue biotechnologies, ship recycling, ocean energy*) show enormous potential for increasing prosperity and growth, a potential inextricably linked to our capacity to apply management practices able to maintain the integrity of marine ecosystems and, as such, the services they provide.

The Mediterranean Sea can be seen as a development space that, if used sustainably, may trigger economic prosperity and contribute to the stability of the region through the creation of jobs and innovative business opportunities in the maritime sectors. This is emphasized in the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD 2016-2025), and particularly in its Objective 1 (Ensuring sustainable development in marine and coastal areas) and Objective 5 (Transition towards a green and blue economy). Also at the regional level, in 2015, the 43 countries composing the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), agreed on the need to make the best use of the potential of maritime sectors to promote growth jobs and investments while maintaining our seas healthy.

Land cover and land use in the Mediterranean region continue to change. Urban expansion and industrialization around coastal cities are driven by waterfront development for economic activities, such as tourism and real estate development, marinas, fishing and trading ports, industrial plants that need the proximity of seawater for cooling or for production export (energy, mineral), desalination, etc., with diverse environmental and social impacts.

Current Status and Main Challenges

The built-up part of the Mediterranean coastal belt has increased substantially throughout the last decades, leaving less and less space for natural coastal ecosystems in all Mediterranean countries and increasing coastal risks for the people living in the coastal zone. The largest part of the coastal urbanization in the Mediterranean happened since the 1950's when tourism in its today's form started to rise. Tourism facilities, as well as residential facilities, mostly reach the highest market price when located close to the beach, with the sea view. Therefore, urbanization pressure on the narrow coastal belt, particularly in the low lying coastal areas is the highest. Preventing this type of "ribbon development" represents one of the key goals of ICZM. Another key goal is to "leave the room to the sea" through establishing the setback zone near the sea where construction will not be allowed.

Mediterranean countries have enhanced their legal and institutional capacity to protect the coastal zones by adopting the ICZM Protocol. Entered into force in 2011, the ICZM Protocol provides the legal basis for coordinated implementation of integrated coastal and marine management policies. Half of the CPs have ratified the ICZM Protocol and another six have signed it. By adopting the ICZM Protocol, Mediterranean countries have clearly indicated their willingness to implement system-based approaches, to address interactions among ecological factors and multiple human activities, to reduce cumulative pressures on fragile or sensitive ecosystems. The Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) have extended the ICZM approach to the sea, thereby enhancing the marine part of the land-sea continuum. To strengthen the coherence of the varied approaches and methods in line with the ICZM Protocol, the Common Regional Framework for ICZM is currently under development having as one of the objectives the introduction of MSP as an important tool/process for the implementation of ICZM in the marine part of the coastal zone. This framework should help countries plan and manage maritime activities according to the ecosystem approach.

While in the past management focus was on the land part of the coastal zone, the increasing trend of "maritimisation" of human activities calls for an increasing effort to control and minimise impacts associated with the expansion and diversification of maritime sectors i.e. to extend the approach and practices of integrated management through MSP. Managing these new pressures, from the sea side, combined with those already existing on the land side require to articulate ICZM with MSP.

The Mediterranean region experiences a wide range of socio-economic and environmental threats. Among the "driving forces" behind the current pressures one can include: 1) coastal and maritime tourism, which may lead to water stress and pollution, energy mismanagement, waste generation/marine litter, habitats loss, pressure on endangered species, loss of culture authenticity and native traditions; 2) weak planning of multiple, often competitive, human activities at sea.

The sector of coastal and maritime tourism is a pillar of Mediterranean economies offering employment (11,5 % of the total employment in 2014) and economic growth (11,3% of regional GDP)². Looking at the southern shore of the Mediterranean (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia), the contribution of tourism to the GDP will reach 10.0% by 2027 and 2.8 million jobs.³ This huge potential of coastal and maritime tourism can be fully and sustainably harnessed only if Mediterranean countries and their stakeholders build and operationalize governance mechanisms able to ensure dialogue and collaboration among them.

To this end, although there is still a long way to go, several regional or EU initiatives put tourism at the core of their action: i) the *Initiative for the Sustainable development of the Blue Economy in the western Mediterranean (West Med Initiative)* which involves the governments of Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia addresses the challenges and emerging opportunities for sustainable investments and jobs creation, and pursues cooperation; ii) the

² Plan Bleu-UN Environment /MAP Regional Activity Center "Sustainable Tourism in the Mediterranean: State of the Play and Strategic Directions", Paper 17, May 2017.

³ Union for the Mediterranean "Blue Economy in the Mediterranean", 2018

“sustainable tourism” pillar of the *EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)* aims at the diversification of the macro-region’s tourism products and services along with tackling seasonality of inland, coastal and maritime tourism demand, and at improving the quality and innovation of tourism offer and enhancing the sustainable and responsible tourism capacities of the tourism actors across the macro-region; iii) the *BLUEMED Initiative*, a research and innovation initiative for promoting blue economy in the Mediterranean Basin through cooperation and now open also to non-EU Mediterranean countries, places sustainable tourism as a key economic challenge for the Mediterranean region; iv) the EU Interreg Med Programme, through the *BleuTourMed* horizontal project, builds on the experience and lessons learnt from the field (17 modular projects) to propose tools and approaches for a transition towards a more environmentally friendly and inclusive tourism.

Way forward and Future Commitments

Effective integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning in the Mediterranean, in conjunction with sustainable consumption and production approaches, are crucial to promote sustainable and synergic uses of marine and coastal areas and resources. Overall, synergies and efficient experience and information exchange at all levels must be systematically sought (particularly at transboundary level) in order to increase coordination and synergies between “blue” institutions and projects. Beyond its huge potential, the Mediterranean blue economy poses sustainability challenges that require institutional and managerial capacity, significant investments in research and innovation, and a regional governance based on true shared responsibility over the marine areas and maritime resources of the Mediterranean Region. Based also on the experience from the implementation of the ICZM Protocol and Action Plan, suggestions on the way forward include:

- An additional effort is needed by the CPs to reach the objective of the full ratification of the ICZM Protocol. However, the ratification is not an end in itself; CPs should employ additional efforts for an efficient implementation of the ICZM Protocol provisions;
- Given the proven usefulness of CAMPs and the interest of the countries for this kind of activity, CAMPs and similar ICZM demonstration projects will remain a core instrument for implementation, i.e. the mainstreaming of the ICZM principles and the improvement of the coastal management practice;
- The ever-growing competition for the use of the marine space makes it necessary to adopt a region-wide strategic/policy document on MSP and to design the future CAMP and other ICZM projects in a way to include a strong MSP component and in particular to explore the land and sea interactions;
- ICZM strategies can be an excellent management instrument for reaching sustainability in coastal zones. Therefore, they find their place within or in close relation with the strategies for sustainable development;
- Support Marine Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (Ecosystem-based Approach) through research, experience sharing and trainings on multi-level governance, management of multi-stakeholder processes, and dialogue with civil society;
- Improve the knowledge on the land-sea nexus in order to advocate for better connection between marine traffic (ports) and the main supply chains on land (train and free-way networks), also in the light of the recent New Silk Road development, which is expected to bring large investments in transport infrastructure;
- Include innovative elements of reflection in planning tools such as geo-hazard, being the Mediterranean Sea geologically active.

More specifically related to sustainable tourism, and taking in consideration the above objectives, and the strategic directions and actions already identified in the 2017 Plan Bleu/RAC Report on sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean, the following key messages are proposed:

- Assessing the impact of marine and coastal tourism at the level of destinations requires the development of a specific indicator framework and means of verification;

- Promoting sustainable marine and coastal tourism calls for the creation of enabling environment for ecotourism in regional and national organizations, addressing the current fragmented planning efforts and lack of cross-sectoral policies;
- Financial incentives for promoting the circular economy and innovative tourism products and services are needed (e.g. attractions out of season, routes to link sea and inland attractions, alternative activities such as pesca-tourism, recreational fishing, underwater heritage, etc.);
- Regional forces must be joined to establish effective dialogue with public and private financial investors (e.g. EU initiative Blue Invest) with the aim of including a set of sustainable principles and targets in their strategies when investing on tourism related projects;
- Strengthen the interface between enterprises-investors-knowledge providers so as to promote the introduction of innovative and low-impact solutions and practices within the current coastal and maritime tourism model;
- Supporting the creation of strengthening or dedicated nautical clusters is a good direction not only to promote the sector's sustainability, competitiveness, innovation and transfer of results but also as a platform for social progress (jobs creation) and inclusion (youth, women);
- Organizing region-wide advocacy work for new public policies enhancing yachting sustainability based on scientific evidence can support the engagement of key policymakers in setting up higher standards in the industry;
- Modernizing marinas through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and clustering initiatives will support the integration of sustainable solutions in the services they offer, taking advantage of new technologies;
- Support countries on the enforcement of relevant tools through the identification of compliance procedures and mechanisms.

Annex III

List of proposed draft Decisions for COP 21

List of draft COP 21 decisions

No.	Decision	Mandate/comments
1	Compliance Committee: biennium 2018-2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barcelona Convention, Article 27 - Rules of Procedure of the Compliance Committee (Decision IG.22/1, Compliance Committee including renewal of members, the modification of the rules of procedure and the Programme of Work of the Compliance Committee) - Decision IG.17/2, Procedures and Mechanisms on Compliance under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocol - Decision IG.23/14, Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget for 2018-2019, Key Outputs 1.1.2, 1.2.1
2	Governance (Including: Operational Communication Strategy, UNEP/MAP Data Policy, Process for evaluation of MTS 2016-2021 and preparation of MTS 2022-27, Cooperation and Partners, Joint Cooperation Strategy, and MCSD Composition)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decision IG.22/1, UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 - Decision IG. 23/1, Governance - Decision IG.22/17, Reform of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) and Updated MCSD Constitutive Documents - Decision, IG.19/6, MAP/Civil society cooperation and partnership - Decision IG.23/14, Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget for 2018-2019, Key Outputs 1.1.2, 1.6.1 - Barcelona Convention, Articles 12, 13, 26 - Decision IG. 22/7, Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria - Decision IG.22/1, Reporting on the Implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols; and Operational Section of the Reporting Format for the Protocol on the Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean <p>[The data policy will present a framework, focusing mainly on three types of data: a) the Barcelona Convention Reporting System data, b) the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) data, and c) other data related to assessment reports and specific work mandated to MAP Components]</p>

<p>3</p>	<p>Implementation and Monitoring of the MSSD 2016-2025 and of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean</p> <p>(Including: Update of the dashboard/indicators; SIMPEER continuation; Flagship Initiatives; and Mid-Term Evaluations)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decision IG.22/2, Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 - Decision IG.22/5, Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean - Decision IG.22/17, Reform of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) and Updated MCSD Constitutive Documents - Decision IG.23/4, Implementation and monitoring of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025 and of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean - Decision IG. 23/14, Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget for 2018-2019, Key Outputs 1.3.3, 1.4.1, 1.4.3
<p>4</p>	<p>Assessment Studies</p> <p>(Including: SoED 2019 approval for publication; MED2050 Phase II; 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report; EEA/MAP Joint Report on H2020; MedECC assessment report on Climate and Environmental Change)</p>	<p><u>2019 SoED:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decision IG.22/1, UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 - Decision IG.23/14, Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget for 2018-2019, Key Output 1.4.1 <p><u>MED2050 Phase II:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decision IG.23/4, Implementation and monitoring of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025 and of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean - Decision IG.23/14, Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget for 2018-2019, Key Output 1.4.1 <p><u>2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decision IG.22/7, Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria - Decision IG.23/6, 2017 Mediterranean Quality Status Report <p><u>EEA/MAP Joint Report on H2020:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contribution Agreement with EEA - Decision IG. 23/14, Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget for 2018-2019, Key Output 2.4.3 <p><u>MedECC assessment report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decision IG.22/1, UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decision IG.22/2, Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 - Decision IG.22/6, Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas - Decision IG. 23/14, Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget for 2018-2019, Key Output 1.4.4
5	Implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Protocol: Common Regional Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Conceptual Framework for Marine Spatial Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated Coastal Zone Management Protocol, Article 17 - Decision IG 20/2, Adoption of the Action Plan for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean (2012-2019) - Decision IG.23/7, Implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Protocol: Annotated Structure of the Common Regional Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Conceptual Framework for Marine Spatial Planning
6	Adoption of Guidelines for environmental assessment in a transboundary context	- Integrated Coastal Zone Management Protocol, Article 29
7	Identification and Conservation of Sites of Particular Ecological Interest in the Mediterranean, including Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, Articles 19, 23 - Decision IG.17/12, Procedure for the Revision of the Areas included in the List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance, - Decision IG.23/9, Identification and Conservation of Sites of Particular Ecological Interest in the Mediterranean, including Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance
8	Action Plans and Strategies under the Protocol concerning specially protected areas and biological diversity in the Mediterranean including the Monk seal, marine turtles, cartilaginous fishes and marine vegetation, Classification of benthic marine habitat types for the Mediterranean region and the Reference List of Marine and Coastal Habitat Types in the Mediterranean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean - Decision IG.22/7, the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria - Strategic Action Plan for the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean (SAP-BIO)
9	Amendments of the Annexes II and III to the Protocol concerning specially protected areas and biological diversity in the Mediterranean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, Article 14, 26 <p>[Only if amendments are proposed by Contracting Parties to the 14th SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points Meeting]</p>

10	Roadmap to examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea or parts thereof as SOx emission control area under MARPOL Annex VI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decision IG.22/4, Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) [Specific objective 15] - Decision IG. 23/14, Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget for 2018-2019, Key Output 2.7.1 <p>The outcome of the roadmap may have legal and technical implications (Regulation 14 – MARPOL Annex VI), should it lead to the adoption of the related submission by the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC)</p>
11	Mediterranean Offshore Standards and Guidelines: a) Guidelines for the Conduct of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA), b) Guidelines for the Use and Disposal of Drilling Fluids and Cuttings, c) Guidance on the Disposal of Oil and Oily Mixtures, and, d) Common Standards and Guidelines for Special Restrictions or Conditions for Specially Protected Areas (SPAs), within the Framework of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offshore Protocol, Article 5.1.a and 5.1.h (Requirements for authorization), Article 10 (Oil and Oily mixtures and drilling fluids and cuttings), Article 21 (Specially Protected Areas), Article 23 (International rules, standards and recommended practices and procedures) and Annex IV (Impact Assessment) - Decision IG.22/3, Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan in the framework of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil [Specific objective 7 (To develop and adopt regional offshore standards) and Specific objective 8 (To develop and adopt regional offshore guidelines) of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan]
12	Main elements of the 6 Regional Plans to reduce/prevent marine pollution from land-based sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land Base Sources Protocol - Decision IG. 23/14, Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget for 2018-2019, Key Output 2.2.2
13	Set of New and Updated Marine Litter Guidelines <i>New Guidelines: Adopt-a-Beach, Phase-out of Single Use Plastic Bags, Provision for the Application of Reasonable Port Reception Facilities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land Base Sources Protocol - Decision IG.21/7, Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean in the Framework of Article 15 of the Land Based Sources Protocol - Decision IG. 23/14, Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget for 2018-2019, Key Output 2.2.1
14	Updated Guidelines for Regulating the Placement of Artificial Reefs at Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This draft Decision follows-up from COP 20 (Report of the Meeting, document UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.23/23). <p>The issue and draft Decision will be discussed in the SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points meeting.</p>

15	Set of regional measures to acknowledge and to support the development of green and circular businesses and to strengthen the demand for more sustainable products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decision IG.22/1, UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 (Indicative Key Output 6.3.1) - Decision IG.22/2, Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 - Decision IG.22/5, Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean - Decision IG.21/10: Development of an Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean
16	Programme of Work and Budget for 2020 - 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decision IG. 23/14, Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget for 2018-2019 - Decision IG.22/01, UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 - Decision IG.17/05, Governance Paper

Annex IV

Draft Memorandum of Understanding with UNESCO/Man and Biosphere

**Main elements of the proposed MoU between UNEP/MAP and UNESCO/MAB
(Areas and Organization of the Cooperation, as suggested by the MAP system)**

Areas of Cooperation

1. Areas of Cooperation are agreed jointly through the cooperation mechanism in the MOU. Policies and priorities under this MOU may also be jointly reviewed every two years by the Parties, to allow the Parties to respond to newly emerging issues in the realm of environment and sustainable development.
2. The Parties have agreed to the following preliminary and overarching areas of cooperation for this MOU, in order to address key issues related to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity within the scope of the respective mandates, Strategies and programmes of work:
 - a. Promotion of the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, thus contributing to the achievement of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biological Diversity and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Cooperative and coordinated efforts in this common area of interest should include but not limited to:
 - (i) supporting Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) and biosphere reserves as models for sustainable development and advancing in the implementation of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and related targets;
 - (ii) identification and designation of biosphere reserves for inclusion in the Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves Network, to achieve both the objectives of the Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB) and the objectives of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, in particular the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol;
 - (iii) supporting governance and management structures in each SPAMI and biosphere reserve of the Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves Network to ensure the continued delivery of ecosystem services in the Mediterranean region and the involvement of local communities.
 - b. Engagement in capacity building activities and training programmes under the MAB programme and the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. Collaboration in this common area of interest should include but not limited to:
 - (i) exchange of best practices on *inter alia* the interlinked issues of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, with specific emphasis on the use of both SPAMIs and biosphere reserves as tools for ICZM, marine spatial planning, sustainable tourism, non-indigenous invasive species management, marine litter, sustainable fisheries and mitigation and adaptation to climate change;
 - (ii) the promotion of a common network of scientists and relevant NGOs working in SPAMIs and the Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves Network to build and share expertise;
 - (iii) development of a common programme for communication and promotion of traditional local fishing practices, and
 - (iv) increasing public awareness of the values and benefits of both SPAMIs and biosphere reserves as well as integrating sustainability practices into Education for Sustainable Development and training environments - from schools, to universities, to research institutes and to the wide public - by promoting/applying *inter alia* the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD), where both UNESCO and UNEP/MAP participate in its governing body.
 - c. Support mitigation and adaptation to climate change by *inter alia* promoting SPAMIs and biosphere reserve of the Mediterranean Biosphere Reserves Network as priority sites in developing and implementing strategies on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

3. The above list is not exhaustive and should not be taken to exclude or replace other forms of cooperation between the Parties on other issues of common interest.

Organization of the Cooperation

1. The Parties agree that, with a view to facilitating the achievement of the objectives set forth in the Barcelona Convention and its relevant Protocols and the MAB Programme, they will act in close cooperation with each other and will consult each other regularly with regard to matters of common interest to achieve an effective utilisation of existing expertise, whenever this may be appropriate, in the light of their respective mandates and within available resources. In particular, the Parties shall cooperate by, without being limited to:
 - i. exchanging unclassified or non-sensitive information, practices, experiences and materials of relevance to the implementation, of the Barcelona Convention and its relevant Protocols and the MAB Programme;
 - ii. informing each other of their work programme activities of mutual interest;
 - iii. participating, within the resources available to each Party, in meetings, events, and fora organized by the other Parties to this MOU.
 - iv. collaborating jointly with other relevant and interested parties to enhance ownership, synergies and impacts.
2. Where either Party proposes to initiate an activity funded from its own budget on a subject, in which the other Party has or may have a substantial interest, consultations will take place to increase synergies and impact.
3. Parties shall bear their own costs, except when expressly provided for otherwise by mutual written agreement. In all cases, the actions of either Party shall not implicitly or explicitly lead to, result in or otherwise impose on any of the other Parties any financial obligation, responsibility or liability without the express agreement of the Parties.
4. In implementing activities, projects and programmes in the agreed priority areas, the Parties shall execute a separate legal instrument appropriate for the implementation of such initiatives. In identifying the areas of cooperation under this MOU, due regard shall be given to Barcelona Convention's and UNESCO's geographic coverage; capacity for implementation and experience in the related field.

Annex V

Joint Cooperation Strategy between Secretariats

Joint Cooperation Strategy - Introductory Note

Background

The Bureau at its 85th Meeting (Athens Greece, 17-18 April 2018) asked the Secretariat to launch a formal written consultation of the SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points on the draft text of the Joint Cooperation Strategy to collect the comments and proposals for amendments and to prepare an advanced draft text accompanied by an explanatory note for submission to the 87th Bureau meeting.

Following the comments received during this consultation and the Explanatory Note prepared by the Secretariat, the Bureau at its 87th Meeting, agreed on the following conclusion: “...*the Bureau takes note of the progress and of the explanatory note prepared by the Secretariat, and requests that a revised version of the draft Strategy be prepared to reflect the comments received through the consultations with the Thematic Focal Points for SPA/BD and during the 87th Bureau Meeting. The revised version will be circulated to the MAP Focal Points and the Thematic Focal Points for SPA/BD for additional comments and the resulting version will be presented to the Bureau at its 88th Meeting;*”.

The present text provides some further explanations requested by the Contracting Parties during these further consultations, together with the revised text of the Joint Cooperation Strategy. The explanation requested during the consultations were on the following issues:

- (a) The role that MedPAN would have in this Joint Cooperation Strategy and what their particular expertise offers to the Strategy;
- (b) Further information on the institutional/ administrative capacity implications of establishing of the Committee need to be elaborated, as well as possible financial implications for consideration of the Contracting Parties.

Following this request, the references to MedPAN as well as to the Coordination Committee are retained in the text within brackets.

Finally, Contracting Parties suggested that the document addressing extracts from the MoUs on spatial-based management and conservation measures that was prepared by the Secretariat for the 87th Bureau meeting, would need to be shared with all the Contracting Parties, as complementary information. The Secretariat will present this information as part of the document on the Joint Cooperation Strategy that will be prepared for submission to the Contracting Parties.

Rationale for development of the Joint Strategy “in collaboration with MedPAN”

MedPAN is a network of over 100 MPA managers in the Mediterranean. It is an organisation strongly involved in the support to policy implementation regarding MPAs management in the Mediterranean, which is the main tool for spatial management measures in the region. It is composed by public organizations in charge of MPAs all around the Mediterranean, having as partners ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN-Med and SPA/RAC itself, which is at the origin of its foundation long ago. SPA/RAC has the Honorary Vice-presidency of MedPAN within its Board of Directors (MedPAN management body). It has MoUs with all the organisations involved in the Strategy.

Noting however that MedPAN is not an intergovernmental organization under member countries’ supervision, such as ACCOBAMS and GFCM, neither has a status of UN General Assembly Observer, such as IUCN, the terminology “in collaboration with MedPAN” was used to ensuring involvement of MedPAN in the Cooperation Strategy, which is closely related to its mandate, without giving it equal legal status within the agreement.

Involvement of MedPAN in the development and running of the Joint Cooperation Strategy would greatly benefit the Strategy and its implementation at the level more directly engaged in day-to-day field management of areas needing human intervention to address environmental sustainability, that of MPAs

managers and other actors, by enhancing their interconnection and regular exchange of experience and information. It would be also very much in line with the objectives of the Joint Cooperation Strategy, as well as with the overall international efforts of involving civil society in decision-making.

The mission of MedPAN is to actively contribute to achieve a representative, connected, integrated and effectively managed system of Mediterranean MPAs, through a strong and active networking of MPA managers and other actors at all levels (national, sub-regional, regional/Mediterranean) that increases knowledge and capacities of MPAs while improves awareness, MPA policy implementation and funding.

MedPAN provides technical support to MPAs directly at local level (targeted expertise, capacity-building through sharing experience and trainings, improved knowledge and know-how, small projects) as well as through joint actions at Mediterranean level (common database on MPAs and Roadmap, harmonized monitoring and coordinated actions especially on small-scale fisheries' sustainable management and mobile species conservation, thematic multi-MPA projects). MedPAN is also acting with strategic activities at national, European, Mediterranean and International level (awareness and communication, policy implementation and funding) by reinforcing the link between local experience and decision-making processes.

MedPAN is acting as a network by decentralizing action to MPA managers, mobilizing and finding synergies with partners in the Mediterranean, establishing thematic working groups, but also by creating new connections to multiply some activities through national and sub-regional networks as well as to joining forces with other regional networks of MPA managers worldwide.

MedPAN is focusing on some priority MPA-related topics (such as small-scale fisheries, sustainable tourism, mobile species, climate change, sustainable financing and management effectiveness).

The above is the reason to see a merit in keeping references to MedPAN; in case need be, specifying further in the text the differentiated role in implementation.

Institutional/administrative capacity implications of establishing the Joint Cooperation Strategy Coordination Committee

The Coordination Committee would need the official appointment of one representative by Partner to act as Focal Point for exchanges on the activities derived from the Strategy. The representative would directly report to the highest hierarchy of the Partner and should be an officer skilled with topics related to spatial management from the perspective of the respective Body; condition that is expected to already exist within all the Partners, and hence without new post appointments needed.

In view of optimising the process regarding administrative and financial implications, it may be practical to consider holding the Coordination Committee meetings with physical presence back-to-back with the meetings of governance bodies of the Partners. This would also mean that the meetings can take place either in the headquarters of the organizations or at the venues of their governance bodies without additional cost.

Annual periodicity would be the most appropriate timing for such gatherings, also since is the periodicity of GFCM Sessions, where new decisions can be taken at that organisation level. More regular meetings can be organized through electronic means when convenient.

That way benefits of the enhanced coordination would exceed the eventual costs.

Based on the above considerations, and since costs will be shared between the partners, the cost implications for each organization will be limited to the participation of one representative to one (possibly two-days) meeting annually, which would not exceed 3,000 USD on a biannual basis.

**Joint Cooperation Strategy on
Spatial-based Protection and Management Measures for Marine Biodiversity
Among the Secretariats of ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN-Med, and UNEP/MAP through SPA/RAC,
[and in collaboration with MedPAN]
(the draft Joint Strategy)**

Considering the need of facilitating effective conservation and sustainable use of the Mediterranean marine biodiversity, as required by their respective mandates and with special emphasis on areas beyond national jurisdiction;

Recognising that the challenges facing marine ecosystems in the Mediterranean including its areas beyond national jurisdiction, require effective monitoring and development of spatial-based protection and management measures;

Recalling the common vision, the Mediterranean Ecological Objectives and the Good Environmental Status descriptions and targets, as defined in the Decisions of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention on the Ecosystems Approach (Decisions IG. 17/6, IG. 20/ 4, IG. 21/3 and IG. 22/7);

Reaffirming that the UNCLOS sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out;

Considering the on-going negotiations in the Intergovernmental Conference on an International Legally Binding Instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, following United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/249;

Considering importance of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which is being prepared pursuant to CBD decision CBD/COP/DEC/14/34, and its subsequent implementation;

Building on, where available, the bilateral Memoranda of Understanding signed by the Partners, and in particular their topics addressing spatial-based management and conservation measures¹;

The Secretariats of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the International Union for Conservation of Nature Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med), and the United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) through its Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC), herein after referred to as “the Partners”, [in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Network of Marine Protected Area Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN),] agree on the following Joint Cooperation Strategy:

1. Objectives

The overall aim of the Joint Cooperation Strategy is to contribute to the achievement in the Mediterranean of SDG 14, in particular Targets 14.2, 14.5, 14.7 and the CBD Aichi Target 11; and that the application of the precautionary principle and of the Ecosystem Approach is strengthened in a coordinated manner and a coordinated application of spatial-based protection.

In particular, the objectives of the Joint Cooperation Strategy are that:

- (1) the conservation and the sustainable use of the marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean including its areas beyond national jurisdiction are ensured through the application of the

¹ The relevant extracts of the MoUs are presented as an Appendix to the Joint Cooperation Strategy.

Ecosystem Approach, the use of the best available knowledge and technologies and the application of the precautionary principle;

- (2) the activities undertaken by the concerned Partners, following the respective mandates by their Parties, in relation to the spatial-based management and conservation in the Mediterranean, including its areas beyond national jurisdiction, are harmonised and complement each other, while respecting the role and jurisdiction of relevant coastal States and allowing for consultation of other States concerned in line with UNCLOS.

2. Areas of Cooperation

The Partners, in line with the individual mandates, strategies and Programmes of Work of their respective Organizations will cooperate to:

- (1) Collect and exchange information and identify and fulfil existing gaps in information, to identify potential priority areas that could be protected or managed, in close collaboration with the relevant coastal States;
- (2) Initiate the process of consultation of the relevant coastal States on the identified potential priority areas;
- (3) Assist interested countries in a coordinated manner in declaring intent/interest of protecting a specific area and on the process to do so, in consultation with relevant coastal States;
- (4) Assist interested countries, to:
 - (i) elaborate the designation files;
 - (ii) undertake national consultation processes in case need be;
 - (iii) finalize the designation files including the agreed area-based conservation and management measures;
 - (iv) undertake the official designation of SPAMI and/or FRA or other area-based conservation and/or management measures;
- (5) Address follow up actions, in consultation with relevant coastal States, in a coordinated manner.

3. Modalities of Cooperation

[A Coordination Committee is established under this Joint Cooperation Strategy, made of a] [Regular [annual] meetings will be convened for the implementation of this Joint Cooperation Strategy, with the cost shared between all Partners, and with the participation of] a representative of each Partner, and observers from the interested coastal States, [and with the rotating chairing among the Secretariats]. [These meetings] will:

- (i) Steer the process and identify options for the Areas of Cooperation, as described in point 2 above;
- (ii) Propose to the Contracting Parties of the relevant Conventions a roadmap for implementing actions described under point 2 above, and propose role-sharing among the Partners, in line with their mandates and comparative advantages;
- (iii) Foster and promote coordinated outreach, public awareness and scientific research and observation, and liaise with other appropriate organisations (such as IMO);
- (iv) Facilitate the information among Partners on new areas registered, as well as on any change regarding the border or status of an area previously registered;
- (v) Advise the established regular evaluation processes of the status of the areas;
- (vi) Undertake, upon consultation with Contracting Parties, other tasks as may be deemed appropriate in line with the individual mandates, strategies and Programmes of Work of their respective Organizations;
- (vii) Publish the outcomes of the meetings and the information on the activities in the respective web sites of the Partners.

4. Implementation Aspects

The practical arrangements for the implementation of this Cooperation Strategy and the related activities, including defining financing of the modalities of the cooperation and the Areas of Cooperation will be identified and discussed in the first meeting [of the Coordination Committee], in line with the Partners' mandates and financial rules and Programmes of Work. If necessary, upon the request of the respective governing bodies of the respective organizations, joint efforts will be undertaken to mobilize resources for activities foreseen under point 2 in a transparent manner, without additional financial burden to the respective Organizations of the Partners, nor to the Contracting Parties.

5. Reporting

Each Partner will inform its respective governing body on the implementation of this Joint Cooperation Strategy.

6. Participation

This Joint Cooperation Strategy is open for the participation of any other relevant and interested International or Regional Organization, provided its participation is approved by all the Partners and their Contracting Parties, in line with the rules of their respective governing bodies.

APPENDIX TO JOINT COOPERATION STRATEGY

References to area-based management measures within signed MOUs

MOU between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) acting as Secretariat of the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), acting on behalf of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) (14th May 2012)

Clause 2

Scope

... //...

2. The Parties shall work together, to the extent possible, within the remit of their respective mandates, for the implementation of the activities undertaken pursuant to this MoU. The areas of cooperation for this MOU are :

- 1) Promotion of ecosystem based approaches for the conservation of marine and coastal environment and ecosystems and the sustainable use of marine living and other natural resources;
- 2) ... //...
- 3) Identification, protection and management of marine areas of particular importance in the Mediterranean (hot spots of biodiversity, areas with sensitive habitats, essential fish habitats, areas of importance for fisheries and/or for the conservation of endangered species, coastal wetlands);
- 4) Integrated maritime policy with a special emphasis on marine and coastal spatial planning, and integrated coastal zone management, and other integrated zoning approaches, with a view to mitigate cumulative risks due to reduced access and availability of space affected by multiple and increasing conflictive uses;
- 5) ... //...

Annex 1

ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE AREAS OF COOPERATION OF THIS MoU

1. Promoting ecosystem based approaches for the conservation of the marine and coastal environment and ecosystems and the sustainable use of its living and natural resources
 - Contribute to the formulation/implementation of a regional framework strategy based on the ecosystem approach and on agreed indicators and reference points (ecological, biological, etc.) to monitor the status of the marine environment and coastal ecosystems and that of marine living natural resources;
 - Cooperate in undertaking assessments of the state of marine environment and ecosystems and that of marine living resources, including socio economic aspects relating to the impact of the exploitation of fisheries on marine environment and ecosystems, the impact of the establishment of marine protected areas on marine living resources, and the impact of coastal and marine aquaculture;
 - ...//...
2. Mitigating the impact of fisheries and aquaculture activities on the marine habitats and species
 - Collaborate in the elaboration, including extra-budgetary fundraising, of a joint regional project on the evaluation and mitigation of by-catch of endangered and non-target species and of the impact of fishing gears on marine habitats;
 - Consider initiatives to develop the concept of marine spatial planning in a manner that takes into account fisheries and aquaculture activities, activities for the preservation of marine habitats and associated species, and possible conflicts between these activities and other uses of the sea (e.g. shipping, marine renewable energies, etc.);
 - Exchange data and information on deep sea habitats in order to further the knowledge of these habitats, their biodiversity and their living resources for the purpose of better management;
 - ...//...
3. Identification, protection and management of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), marine areas of particular importance (hot spots of biodiversity, areas with sensitive habitats, essential fish habitats, areas of importance for fisheries and/or for the conservation of endangered species, coastal wetlands)
 - Enhance collaboration with other relevant organizations as appropriate, including those whereby other MoUs have been signed, to create a common regional database of sites of particular importance for biodiversity conservation and for fisheries management, complementary and coherent to the MAP database on pollution and biodiversity monitoring;
 - With regard respectively to the Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) and the Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs) in particular those located partially or wholly on the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), the Parties will collaborate to harmonize existing respective criteria to identify those areas, for the cases where their location may be coincident and in the selection of mechanisms needed for their establishment;
 - The Parties will cooperate to promote respective Parties adoption of eventual Management Schemes developed within SPAMIs and FRAs to ensure that measures are consistent with the objectives pursued and respectful with the Mandates of both organisations. Measures with potential impact on fisheries in SPAMIs will be discussed by the Parties with the spirit of optimizing common goals.
 - ...//...
 - Cooperate in undertaking assessments of the state of coastal lagoons and other relevant coastal wetlands to be used for the formulation and dissemination of sustainable management measures and sustainable use of its living resources.

4. Integrated Maritime Policy

- Study the impacts of climate change on the marine environment and ecosystems and their marine living resources;
- ...//...
- Strengthening scientific advice on issues of common interest, including the negative effects of pollution of the marine environment and ecosystems on marine living resources and ways to better address cumulative impacts;
- Explore new fields of investigation applied to the conservation of marine environment and marine ecosystems and the sustainable use of marine living resources to promote an integrated approach to environmental and fisheries related issues;
- Collaborate in initiatives related to the implementation and monitoring of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) approach and marine spatial planning as well as other zoning approaches; and,
- ...//...

5. Legal, institutional and policy related cooperation

- ...//...
- Participate (as permanent member in the case of the GFCM) to the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development so to formulate sustainable development frameworks and guidelines for coastal areas management;
- Exchange views regarding the governance of the Mediterranean, with particular regard to those areas located beyond national jurisdiction and take part, where possible, to ongoing initiatives aimed at improving the said governance;
- ...//...

MOU between the Permanent Secretariat of the Agreement on Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the contiguous Atlantic area and the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas of the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan concerning the Sub-regional Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Sea (1st January 2017; renewed every 3 years since 2005)

...//...

3. ROLE OF THE PARTIES

Roles and functions of the RAC/SPA:

- a) to facilitate implementation in the Mediterranean of the activities provided for in Annex 2 to the ACCOBAMS Agreement;

...//...

- d) to facilitate, in consultation with the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee and Secretariat, the preparation of a series of international reviews or publications, to be updated regularly, including:

-...//...

- a subregional directory of important areas for cetaceans;

...//...

ANNEX - ACCOBAMS – RAC/SPA JOINT WORKING PROGRAM FOR 2017-2019

(English version)

1. ...//...

11. To enhance the effective conservation of **Cetaceans Critical Habitats**, especially by continuing the ongoing threat based management approach.

...//...

ACCOBAMS AGREEMENT

ANNEX 2 CONSERVATION PLAN

...//...

3. Habitat protection

Parties shall endeavour to establish and manage specially protected areas for cetaceans corresponding to the areas which serve as habitats of cetaceans and/or which provide important food resources for them. Such specially protected areas should be established within the framework of the Regional Seas Conventions (OSPAR, Barcelona and Bucharest Conventions), or within the framework of other appropriate instruments.

4. Research and monitoring

Parties shall undertake co-coordinated, concerted research on cetaceans and facilitate the development of new techniques to enhance their conservation. Parties shall, in particular:

a) ...//...

b) co-operate to determine the migration routes and the breeding and feeding areas of the species covered by the Agreement in order to define areas where human activities may need to be regulated as a consequence;

...//...

5. Capacity building, collection and dissemination of information, training and education

...//...

c) prepare a directory of existing protected or managed areas which could benefit the conservation of cetaceans and of marine areas of potential importance for the conservation of cetaceans;

d) ...//...

MOU between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) acting as Secretariat of the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) (3rd December 2013)

**Article 4
Areas of Cooperation**

1. .../...
2. The Parties have agreed to the following preliminary and overarching areas of cooperation under this MOU, which form part of UNEP/MAP's mandate and programme of work. The items listed below are also priorities or ongoing activities of IUCN, in accordance with its mandate. The detailed areas of cooperation are listed in Annex 1.
 - a. Promotion of ecosystem based approaches for the conservation of coastal and marine environment and ecosystems and the sustainable management and use of coastal and marine living and other natural resources;
 - b. Identification, protection and management of coastal and marine areas of particular importance in the Mediterranean;
 - c. .../...
 - d. .../...
3. .../...

Appendix 1

UNEP/MAP and IUCN have agreed to cooperate under this agreement on the following areas:

1. ECOSYSTEM APPROACH - Species and ecosystems conservation processes, assessments and monitoring
 - a. Ecosystem Approach for the Mediterranean - setting of indicators and targets, Integrated Assessment and Monitoring Programme, assessments (Biodiversity section of the State of the Mediterranean Environment biodiversity report), framework programme of measures
 - b. ICZM— Integrated Coastal Zone Management and the Marine Spatial Planning and Management;
 - c. Ecosystem Red List - its potential role in the Mediterranean;
 - d. .../...
 - e. .../...
 - f. .../...
 - g. Mediterranean Atlas of seagrasses — supporting national processes
 - h. .../...
 - i. .../...
2. MPAs AND SPAMIs - Marine protected areas and marine area of ecological interest
 - a. Technical, legal and scientific cooperation — utilizing IUCN's technical expertise regarding MPAs beyond national jurisdictions
 - b. SPAMI external evaluation — High Quality assessments to ensure maintenance on the list as per Article 9 of the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol and corresponding Decision by Contracting Parties

- c. SPAMI declaration - Position papers on sites and management measures
- d. SPAMI Elaboration of the management Plans - based on ecosystem approach and on good practice examples and exchange of experience
- e. Identification of new MPAs -national strategies and Action Plans for MPAs and exploration of new concepts such as MPAs for fisheries (MPA-F) in collaboration with GFCM
- f. Provision of the information needed for inclusion of SPAMIs in the World Database of Protected Areas (WDPA) (and in particular in its web interface Protected Planet)
- g. Advancing knowledge on and disseminating it to Promote Open Seas and Deep Seas Protected Areas in the Mediterranean

3. ECOSYSTEMS GOODS AND SERVICES - Evaluations, studies, pilot programmes and promotion activities to better understand and enhance valuation of Mediterranean ecosystems goods and services

- a. Economics of conservation in particular MPAs, Protected Areas, marine area of ecological interests of conservation and species
- b. Joint socio-economic evaluation with GFCM of the fishing activities carried out in pelagic ecosystems and deep benthic habitats (open seas, including deep seas);
- c. ...//...
- d. ...//...

Mémorandum Cadre de Collaboration entre Le Centre d'Activités Régionales pour les Aires Spécialement Protégées et Le Réseau des Gestionnaires d'Aires Marines Protégées en Méditerranée (10th Sep 2014)

Article I — Domaines de collaboration

Le CAR/ASP et le MedPAN décident d'établir une collaboration dans les domaines suivants :

1. La mise en œuvre des activités du Réseau des Gestionnaires d'Aires Marines Protégées en Méditerranée, à savoir :
 - La mise à jour et les développements supplémentaires de la base de données commune des aires marines protégées de Méditerranée ;
 - L'élaboration d'un rapport sur la situation des aires marines protégées de Méditerranée au regard des objectifs 2016 ;
 - La réflexion sur les suivis à l'échelle du réseau des AMP (espèces invasives, changement climatique. ;
 - L'organisation du Forum des aires marines protégées de Méditerranée en 2016 ;
 - La définition de la Feuille de route pour les AMP de Méditerranée d'ici 2020 ;
 - La mise en œuvre de l'appel à petits projets pour appuyer des projets sur la gestion des aires marines protégées ;
 - L'organisation de réunions d'échanges d'expérience et de formations des gestionnaires d'AMP sur des thèmes prioritaires identifiées conjointement ;
 - ...//...
 - La communication sur les aires marines protégées en Méditerranée et le réseau auprès des gestionnaires, scientifiques, socio-professionnels, grand public et autorités des pays méditerranéens et notamment les liens entre le site web et la newsletter MedPAN et ceux du CARIASP ,
 - Le lancement d'études sur les bénéfices socio-économiques des AMP,
 - Le lancement d'une étude sur l'analyse des besoins de financement des AMP de Méditerranée comme contribution à l'initiative du fonds fiduciaire lancée par Monaco, France et Tunisie ;
 - La représentation du réseau des gestionnaires des aires marines protégées dans les différentes instances et conférences internationales et notamment la Conférence des Parties de la Convention sur la Diversité Biologique et sur la Convention de Barcelone.
2. La mise en œuvre des activités se rapportant à la mise en place de réseaux, à l'assistance technique, à l'échange d'information ou à d'autres activités à définir conjointement, prévues par le PAS BIO ;
3. La coordination dans le cadre du réseau des ASPIM,
4. La coordination dans le cadre des EBSA en Méditerranée et pour œuvrer à la connaissance de la connectivité écologique entre les AMP de Méditerranée ;
...//...
8. Collaborer à l'établissement d'outils techniques et de lignes directrices pour l'utilisation durable des aires marines et côtières protégées dans la région.

Annex VI

MAP Partner Applications Evaluation Table

INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANTS

ACRONYM	FULL NAME	Country	Aims
	Asociación ONDINE	Spain	Asociación ONDINE enables the Balearic sea to recover its rich biodiversity and to thrive in harmony with a prospering, environmentally conscious and proactive local population. Its team of experienced marine scientists and divers work closely with local authorities and stakeholders to create an effectively managed network of Marine Protected Areas around the Balearic Islands, allowing marine ecosystems to recover and thrive together with prospering local communities and industries. It also covers thematic areas such as School educational programs, Balearics without plastics, and Beach cleans.

EVALUATION**Part I: General conditions for accreditation****Two categories of NGOs are eligible for observer status**

	Asociación ONDINE
International and regional NGOs	
National and local NGOs from Mediterranean riparian states	√

Both categories of NGOs should satisfy the following general conditions:

	Asociación ONDINE
be representative in the field(s) of their competence and fields of action by the Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;	√
be able, through their work, to support the achievement of the objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;	√
be able to make known the work of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in the region and/or their respective countries;	√

be able to contribute, through a specific project or programme, to the implementation of MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols programme of activities;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific event or manifestation linked to a Mediterranean Action Plan field of activity, to public awareness-raising;	√
be able to provide, through their specific activity or experience, expert advice on the definition of Mediterranean Action Plan policies, programmes and actions;	√
be able regularly to disseminate information to their members, where applicable, on the standards, activities and achievements of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention in their own field(s) of competence;	√
be able to furnish, either spontaneously or at the request of the Mediterranean Action Plan's different bodies, information, documents or opinions relating to their own field(s) of competence.	√

Part II: Specific accreditation criteria and procedures

Accreditation

The following criteria apply to international and national/local NGOs:

	Asociación ONDINE
to have legal status; terms of reference, objectives and scope of activities related to one or more of MAP's areas of activity and to the scope of the Convention and its Protocols;	√
to have existed for at least 4 years;	√
to submit financial and activity reports from the last two years;	√

to operate democratically;	√
to have their regional office or headquarters in a Mediterranean country;	√
to demonstrate proof of general or specialised, technical or scientific competence on issues related to the activities of MAP, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;	√
to demonstrate what contributions the NGO could make to MAP and the Convention and Protocols.	√

The following specific criteria apply to national/local NGOs:

	Asociación ONDINE
NGO objectives genuinely related to the marine environment and coastal zones;	√
NGOs participating or wishing to participate in specific national or local programmes or projects on the implementation of the objectives of the MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.	√

INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANTS

ACRONYM	FULL NAME	Country	Aims
AVITEM	Agence des Villes et Territoires méditerranéens durables / The Agency for Sustainable Mediterranean Cities and Territories	France	The mission of AVITEM is to conduct a system of exchange of experiences, expertise, training and cooperation to promote integral and exemplary approaches to urban development in and between the territorial actors of the Mediterranean.

EVALUATION**Part I: General conditions for accreditation****Two categories of NGOs are eligible for observer status**

	AVITEM
International and regional NGOs	
National and local NGOs from Mediterranean riparian states	√ [AVITEM is a Public Interest Group which associates the State (Commissariat Général à l'Egalité des Territoires, Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires Etrangères), territorial collectivities (Région Sud-Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur et Métropole, Nice - Côte d'Azur), as well as the Euroméditerranée public development organization. It can be considered as a national or local entity with a regional, Mediterranean scope.]

Both categories of NGOs should satisfy the following general conditions:

	AVITEM
be representative in the field(s) of their competence and fields of action by the Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;	√
be able, through their work, to support the achievement of the objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;	√
be able to make known the work of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in the region and/or their respective countries;	√

be able to contribute, through a specific project or programme, to the implementation of MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols programme of activities;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific event or manifestation linked to a Mediterranean Action Plan field of activity, to public awareness-raising;	√
be able to provide, through their specific activity or experience, expert advice on the definition of Mediterranean Action Plan policies, programmes and actions;	√
be able regularly to disseminate information to their members, where applicable, on the standards, activities and achievements of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention in their own field(s) of competence;	√
be able to furnish, either spontaneously or at the request of the Mediterranean Action Plan's different bodies, information, documents or opinions relating to their own field(s) of competence.	√

Part II: Specific accreditation criteria and procedures

Accreditation

The following criteria apply to international and national/local NGOs:

	AVITEM
to have legal status; terms of reference, objectives and scope of activities related to one or more of MAP's areas of activity and to the scope of the Convention and its Protocols;	√
to have existed for at least 4 years;	√
to submit financial and activity reports from the last two years;	√

to operate democratically;	√
to have their regional office or headquarters in a Mediterranean country;	√
to demonstrate proof of general or specialised, technical or scientific competence on issues related to the activities of MAP, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;	√
to demonstrate what contributions the NGO could make to MAP and the Convention and Protocols.	√

The following specific criteria apply to national/local NGOs:

	AVITEM
NGO objectives genuinely related to the marine environment and coastal zones;	√
NGOs participating or wishing to participate in specific national or local programmes or projects on the implementation of the objectives of the MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.	√

INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANTS

ACRONYM	FULL NAME	Country	Aims
PWLS	Palestine Wildlife Society	Palestine	PWLS is an NGO / non-profit organization working in research and education on nature conservation issues among the Palestinian society and the region. PWLS focuses on education and awareness raising as the main pillar in the conservation movement. Therefore, it works in the field of awareness and education with different sections.

EVALUATION**Part I: General conditions for accreditation****Two categories of NGOs are eligible for observer status**

	Palestine Wildlife Society
International and regional NGOs	
National and local NGOs from Mediterranean riparian states	√

Both categories of NGOs should satisfy the following general conditions:

	Palestine Wildlife Society
be representative in the field(s) of their competence and fields of action by the Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;	√
be able, through their work, to support the achievement of the objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;	√
be able to make known the work of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in the region and/or their respective countries;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific project or programme, to the implementation of MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols programme of activities;	√

be able to contribute, through a specific event or manifestation linked to a Mediterranean Action Plan field of activity, to public awareness-raising;	√
be able to provide, through their specific activity or experience, expert advice on the definition of Mediterranean Action Plan policies, programmes and actions;	√
be able regularly to disseminate information to their members, where applicable, on the standards, activities and achievements of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention in their own field(s) of competence;	√
be able to furnish, either spontaneously or at the request of the Mediterranean Action Plan's different bodies, information, documents or opinions relating to their own field(s) of competence.	√

Part II: Specific accreditation criteria and procedures

Accreditation

The following criteria apply to international and national/local NGOs:

	Palestine Wildlife Society
to have legal status; terms of reference, objectives and scope of activities related to one or more of MAP's areas of activity and to the scope of the Convention and its Protocols;	√
to have existed for at least 4 years;	√
to submit financial and activity reports from the last two years;	√
to operate democratically;	√
to have their regional office or headquarters in a Mediterranean country;	√
to demonstrate proof of general or specialised, technical or scientific competence on issues related to the activities of MAP, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;	√

to demonstrate what contributions the NGO could make to MAP and the Convention and Protocols.	√
---	---

The following specific criteria apply to national/local NGOs:

	Palestine Wildlife Society
NGO objectives genuinely related to the marine environment and coastal zones;	√ [PWS work is mainly linked to the land and coastal zones]
NGOs participating or wishing to participate in specific national or local programmes or projects on the implementation of the objectives of the MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.	√

INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANTS

ACRONYM	FULL NAME	Country	Aims
IAGC	International Association of Geophysical Contractors	U.S.A.	IAGC mission is to optimize the business and regulatory climate, and enhance public understanding to support a strong, viable geophysical industry essential to discovering and delivering the world's energy resources.

EVALUATION**Part I: General conditions for accreditation****Two categories of NGOs are eligible for observer status**

	IAGC
International and regional NGOs	√ [Non-Governmental organization - International Trade Association]
National and local NGOs from Mediterranean riparian states	

Both categories of NGOs should satisfy the following general conditions:

	IAGC
be representative in the field(s) of their competence and fields of action by the Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;	√
be able, through their work, to support the achievement of the objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;	√
be able to make known the work of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in the region and/or their respective countries;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific project or programme, to the implementation of MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols programme of activities;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific event or manifestation linked to a Mediterranean Action Plan field of activity, to public awareness-raising;	√

be able to provide, through their specific activity or experience, expert advice on the definition of Mediterranean Action Plan policies, programmes and actions;	√
be able regularly to disseminate information to their members, where applicable, on the standards, activities and achievements of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention in their own field(s) of competence;	√
be able to furnish, either spontaneously or at the request of the Mediterranean Action Plan's different bodies, information, documents or opinions relating to their own field(s) of competence.	√

Part II: Specific accreditation criteria and procedures

Accreditation

The following criteria apply to international and national/local NGOs:

	IAGC
to have legal status; terms of reference, objectives and scope of activities related to one or more of MAP's areas of activity and to the scope of the Convention and its Protocols;	√
to have existed for at least 4 years;	√
to submit financial and activity reports from the last two years;	√
to operate democratically;	√
to have their regional office or headquarters in a Mediterranean country;	√ [IOGP is based in U.S.A., but has governing members who have their headquarters or regional offices based in a Mediterranean country (including CGG, Eni and Total, as well as PGS and WesternGeco)]

to demonstrate proof of general or specialised, technical or scientific competence on issues related to the activities of MAP, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;	√
to demonstrate what contributions the NGO could make to MAP and the Convention and Protocols.	√

The following specific criteria apply to national/local NGOs:

	IAGC
NGO objectives genuinely related to the marine environment and coastal zones;	√
NGOs participating or wishing to participate in specific national or local programmes or projects on the implementation of the objectives of the MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.	√

INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANTS

ACRONYM	FULL NAME	Country	Aims
FAIC	Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities	Italy	The Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities is aiming at creating a place for intercultural dialogue and political mediation and fostering a peaceful Adriatic and Ionian community, open to Europe. It represents a tool for economic, political, environmental, cultural and human cooperation and cohesion.

EVALUATION**Part I: General conditions for accreditation****Two categories of NGOs are eligible for observer status**

	FAIC
International and regional NGOs	√ [Non-profit international association]
National and local NGOs from Mediterranean riparian states	

Both categories of NGOs should satisfy the following general conditions:

	FAIC
be representative in the field(s) of their competence and fields of action by the Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;	√
be able, through their work, to support the achievement of the objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;	√
be able to make known the work of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in the region and/or their respective countries;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific project or programme, to the implementation of MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols programme of activities;	√

be able to contribute, through a specific event or manifestation linked to a Mediterranean Action Plan field of activity, to public awareness-raising;	√
be able to provide, through their specific activity or experience, expert advice on the definition of Mediterranean Action Plan policies, programmes and actions;	√
be able regularly to disseminate information to their members, where applicable, on the standards, activities and achievements of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention in their own field(s) of competence;	√
be able to furnish, either spontaneously or at the request of the Mediterranean Action Plan's different bodies, information, documents or opinions relating to their own field(s) of competence.	√

Part II: Specific accreditation criteria and procedures

Accreditation

The following criteria apply to international and national/local NGOs:

	FAIC
to have legal status; terms of reference, objectives and scope of activities related to one or more of MAP's areas of activity and to the scope of the Convention and its Protocols;	√
to have existed for at least 4 years;	√
to submit financial and activity reports from the last two years;	√
to operate democratically;	√
to have their regional office or headquarters in a Mediterranean country;	√

to demonstrate proof of general or specialised, technical or scientific competence on issues related to the activities of MAP, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;	√
to demonstrate what contributions the NGO could make to MAP and the Convention and Protocols.	√

The following specific criteria apply to national/local NGOs:

	FAIC
NGO objectives genuinely related to the marine environment and coastal zones;	√
NGOs participating or wishing to participate in specific national or local programmes or projects on the implementation of the objectives of the MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.	√

INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANTS

ACRONYM	FULL NAME	Country	Aims
	OceanCare	Switzerland	OceanCare is a politically independent organisation that has been committed to marine wildlife protection since 1989. With research and conservation projects, environmental education campaigns (for children, teenagers and adults), engagement in legislation, and participation in international fora, OceanCare strives for long-lasting improvements in ocean conservation. In the process, it builds sustainable, solutions-oriented cooperative relationships with scientific expert committees and other partners, and promotes a consciousness of ocean conservation with all stakeholders, with a special emphasis on the Mediterranean Sea where several OceanCare projects are ongoing. Finally, OceanCare draws attention to the influence residents and users of inland waters and coastal regions have on fragile ocean ecosystems.

EVALUATION**Part I: General conditions for accreditation****Two categories of NGOs are eligible for observer status**

	OceanCare
International and regional NGOs	Non-Governmental Organization ✓
National and local NGOs from Mediterranean riparian states	

Both categories of NGOs should satisfy the following general conditions:

	OceanCare
be representative in the field(s) of their competence and fields of action by the Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;	✓
be able, through their work, to support the achievement of the objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;	✓

be able to make known the work of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in the region and/or their respective countries;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific project or programme, to the implementation of MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols programme of activities;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific event or manifestation linked to a Mediterranean Action Plan field of activity, to public awareness-raising;	√
be able to provide, through their specific activity or experience, expert advice on the definition of Mediterranean Action Plan policies, programmes and actions;	√
be able regularly to disseminate information to their members, where applicable, on the standards, activities and achievements of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention in their own field(s) of competence;	√
be able to furnish, either spontaneously or at the request of the Mediterranean Action Plan's different bodies, information, documents or opinions relating to their own field(s) of competence.	√

Part II: Specific accreditation criteria and procedures

Accreditation

The following criteria apply to international and national/local NGOs:

	OceanCare
to have legal status; terms of reference, objectives and scope of activities related to one or more of MAP's areas of activity and to the scope of the Convention and its Protocols;	√
to have existed for at least 4 years;	√

to submit financial and activity reports from the last two years;	√
to operate democratically;	√
to have their regional office or headquarters in a Mediterranean country;	[OceanCare maintains a network of national institutes in the Mediterranean Sea including, between others: Adrian Dolphin Project; Archipelagos - environment and development, Greece; equinac; Pelagos Cetacean Research Institute; Tethys Research Institute; and has a cooperation agreement with fundación SAVE THE MED]
to demonstrate proof of general or specialised, technical or scientific competence on issues related to the activities of MAP, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;	√
to demonstrate what contributions the NGO could make to MAP and the Convention and Protocols.	√

The following specific criteria apply to national/local NGOs:

	OceanCare
NGO objectives genuinely related to the marine environment and coastal zones;	√
NGOs participating or wishing to participate in specific national or local programmes or projects on the implementation of the objectives of the MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.	√

Annex VII

Minimum Common Provisions of Host Country Agreements for RACs

Development of Host Country Agreements for RACs

A. Introduction and Background

1. At the request of the 85th Meeting of the Bureau (Athens, Greece, 18-19 April 2018), the Secretariat prepared a first draft of minimum common provisions to ensure effective operation of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs), which was presented at the 87th Meeting of the Bureau (Athens, Greece, 6-7 November 2018) for discussion. This draft was revised to reflect the inputs provided during the meeting and further refined after consultation with the RACs during and following the 37th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (Geneva, Switzerland, 9-10 January 2019).
2. The refined draft listed the following common provisions, which are meant to be the baseline elements for future negotiation between UNEP and Host Country Governments in developing Host Country Agreements for each RAC: (a) identification of the Parties entering into the HCA, (b) purpose for entering into the HCA, (c) legal status of RACs, (d) regional role of RACs, (e) financial resources, (f) contribution of the Host Country Government, (g) property, funds and assets of the RACs, (h) personnel of RACs, (j) meetings and conference, (k) director, (l) steering committee, and (m) financial standard clauses on settlement of disputes and on entry into force, duration and amendment of the HCA.
3. The refined draft was transmitted to the MAP Focal Points of the Host Country Governments (i.e. Croatia, France, Italy, Spain and Tunisia) for commenting within the deadline of 5 April 2019. Comments were received from France, Italy and Tunisia and are compiled as received in document UNEP/MED BUR.88/Inf.6.
4. With the aim of facilitating the Bureau's review and discussion, comments received have been incorporated in track changes in the text of the minimum common provisions as transmitted to the MAP Focal Points of the Host Country Governments in March. The result is presented below in Section B in the form of consolidated text. In addition, in Section C a number of points are provided by the Secretariat for the consideration of the Bureau. They touch upon particular issues that in the view of the Secretariat should be considered in addressing some of the comments made by Host Country Governments.
5. This document is brought to the attention of the Bureau for review and guidance on the next steps, in order for the Contacting Parties to decide on the implementation of COP 20 Decision IG. 23/3 on Governance, under which the Coordinating Unit was urged in consultation with the Contracting Parties hosting Regional Activity Centres, to find and propose, under the guidance of the Bureau, ways and means to address a list of common reference provisions to be applied, taking into account the specificities of each Centre, with a view to have a discussion and a possible agreement by the Contracting Parties at their twenty-first meeting.

B. Consolidated Version of the Minimum Common Provisions of Host Country Agreements of Regional Activity Centres

1. The proposed minimum common provisions¹ are meant to be used, [as appropriate](#),² as building blocks for the HCAs to be signed between UNEP and the representative of the Host Country Government for INFO/RAC, PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu/RAC, SCP/RAC and SPA/RAC. As such, they have been devised to offer a flexible framework for the privileges, immunities and further guarantees necessary for the smooth functioning of the RACs to be agreed with the Host Country Governments as

¹ [Comment from France: From the side of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, after legal analysis, it proves that if the French legislation does not allow, \(...\), to sign a host country agreement for an association, it does not allow it either at this stage to be granted privileges and immunities. Therefore, we cannot, accept this text except in the event of any mention of privileges and immunities being withdrawn.](#)

² [Insertion proposed by France](#)

appropriate, bearing in mind the legal status of the relevant RAC and its regional mandate in delivering the Programme of Work of UNEP/MAP.

2. Minimum common provisions refer, as appropriate,³ to the points below:
 - (a) Identification of the Parties entering into the HCA: HCA to be signed between UNEP and the representative of the Host Country Government.
 - (b) Purpose for entering into the HCA: To set forth the terms and conditions under which RACs will perform their regional role pursuant to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and related decisions of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.
 - (c) Legal status of RACs⁴: To be clearly defined for each RAC. Legal nature across RACs (e.g. international, national, public, non-profit oriented) may vary from RAC to RAC depending on its constitutive legal instrument. The legal personality of RACs has to be established, keeping in mind that RACs should have the necessary functional autonomy in performing their regional role. ~~In this context, and to the extent permissible under national laws, RACs should be accorded their own independent legal personality~~⁵
 - (d) Regional Role of RACs⁶: To be defined as per COP 16 Decision IG.19/5 on Mandate of the Components of MAPs. Two separate elements are to be included: firstly, reference to the

³ Insertion proposed by France

⁴ Comment by Tunisia: Since the 1993 Host Country Agreement, which remains in force, SPA/RAC is a local entity created by the Government of Tunisia to fulfill the MAP's RAC functions and legally independent from the United Nations. This may contradict the orientations/proposals of the functional review conducted in 2013 which recommends a better harmonization and coordination of activities between the Athens-based Coordination Unit and the other regional centers in order to improve the visibility and effectiveness of the MAP system. In this context and to facilitate the task of SPA/RAC, Tunisia provides the necessary means and facilities (premises, contribution to the operating budget, permanent staff, etc.) enabling it to carry out its mission in the better possible conditions and in a permanent and stable way. Since 1996, year of construction of the International Center for Environmental Technologies (CITET), SPA/RAC occupies a pavilion in CITET. In 2002, SPA/RAC was able to rent a new office (annex) to facilitate the implementation of the MedMPA project. Since 2014, the status and legal capacity of SPA/RAC remains an issue under discussion with the relevant departments in Tunisia in order to determine all the resulting arrangements including those concerning the provisions of privileges and immunities of staff and property. As a result, the main concern would be to give SPA/RAC the status which facilitates the fulfilment of its regional intergovernmental mission within the framework of the Barcelona Convention, and particularly the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological diversity in the Mediterranean. Therefore, any modification of its status should be made with the aim of making it easier and improving the conditions of accomplishment of its mission namely, bank account facility, management efficiency, accessibility and means of connection and communication with the outside world, fluidity of movement abroad given its regional obligations towards all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

⁵ Deletion proposed by Italy. In the view of Italy, the previous sentence is sufficient and leaves flexibility

⁶ Comment by Tunisia: With a view to revising the status of the Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC), hosted by Tunisia by the provisions of the 1993 Host Country Agreement and its amendments, it is crucial that this revision account of the fact that SPA/RAC is one of the 6 other Regional Activity Centers (RACs) of the United Nations Environment Program/Barcelona Convention /Mediterranean Action Plan with the mandate of assisting Contracting Parties for the implementation of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD), with a view to implementing the provisions of the Protocol including the Regional Action Plans as well as assume other regional responsibilities devolved in accordance with the functions assigned to it in Article 9, Article 11 para. 7 and Article 25 of the Protocol and decision UNEP IG.23/11 of the 2nd Conference of the Parties held in Cannes in 1981. In addition to contacts with the Mediterranean governments, the Center maintains relations and partnerships with Global and/or Regional Conventions and Initiatives, which gives it a technical presence and an active force in the field of Marine Biodiversity not only at the Mediterranean regional level but also at the global level. Therefore, the center acts as an inter-governmental organization with governments and partner government organizations and also as a pan-Mediterranean organization.

overall mandate to assist Mediterranean countries to fulfil their commitments under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and implement the decisions of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties; secondly, short description of the objective and mission statement for each RAC.

(e) Financial Resources:

(i) Description of the source of funding to be provided, by referring to both principal and additional sources of funding. This includes but it is not limited to: (1) contributions provided by the Host Country Government (in kind, cash or services), (2) equal core share of financial support from the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) to ensure the implementation of their mandate (3)⁷ funds transferred to RACs from the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) through Project Cooperation Agreements (PCAs) signed between UNEP and RACs in accordance with the relevant COP decisions, (34) voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, (54) funds from donors such as non-Parties, international and national organizations, programs, funds, institutes and other bodies, ~~and (56) other funds received by RACs~~⁸;

(ii) Separate management and accounting of the funds provided to the RACs through the MTF to be operationalized by the requirement to the RACs of having a separate account for those resources in a bank of the host country Government in the currency in which they are to be remitted;

(iii) Reporting (i.e. progress and financial reports) and audit requirements to be specified for all RACs in line with the PCAs signed between UNEP and RACs. This is key for the purposes of transparency and accountability;

(iv) Role of RACs and UNEP/MAP-Coordinating Unit in seeking resources for RACs from sources other than the MTF to be included and put in the framework of COP 20 Decision IG.23/5 on the Updated Resource Mobilization Strategy.

(f) Contribution of the Host Country Government: To spell out the responsibility of the Host Country Government in providing ~~free of charge~~⁹ adequate premises for the RAC, adequate and timely maintenance of the premises, and financial and in-kind contributions to the operational costs of the RAC. ~~These~~ Operational costs to be defined include as, for instance,¹⁰ personnel costs (i.e. posts of the RAC financed by the Host Country Government), premises and services (e.g. furnished office space, office equipment, phone, electricity and water services), ~~and in-cash contribution for operation costs.~~¹¹

(g) Property, Funds and Assets of the RACs: As appropriate, and taking into consideration the legal nature of the concerned RAC and its regional mandate,¹² ~~t~~there is room for negotiation with Host Country Governments, for property, funds and assets transferred to RACs by UNEP/MAP in carrying out its regional role, to enjoy the privileges and immunities equivalent to those provided for in Article II of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, 13 February 1946 (General Convention).¹³ Of particular importance in the negotiation would be to define the

⁷ Insertion proposed by Italy. As indicated in the report of the 87th Bureau Meeting (Athens, Greece, 6-7 November 2018)

⁸ Deletion proposed by France. As the sentence begins with "This includes but it is not limited to", it is not necessary to add this item (5)

⁹ Deletion proposed by France

¹⁰ Editorial adjustment proposed by Italy

¹¹ Deletion proposed by Italy. In the view of Italy, it is unclear.

¹² Addition proposed by Italy

¹³ Existing footnote by the Secretariat: This approach is taken in the Framework Agreements signed between the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the host country Governments for its Regional and Coordinating Centers holding the legal status of national institutions (<http://www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/TheCentres/tabid/5275/Default.aspx>). The provision reads as

privileges and immunities regime, including the exemption regime from taxation, applicable to RACs premises and the funds transferred to the RACs from the MTF and other sources of funding allocated for the delivery of the PoW of UNEP/MAP.¹⁴

(h) Personnel of RACs:

(i) Categories of personnel of RACs to be specified making clear that the category of UN Officials does not apply to personnel of RACs. There is a need to clearly spell out the personnel falling under the term personnel of RACs to include the Director and staff as a single category different from experts, such as consultants;

(ii) As appropriate, and taking into consideration the legal nature of the concerned RAC and its regional mandate¹⁵, tThere is the possibility for consideration with Host Country Governments, for personnel of RACs (i.e. Director and staff) to enjoy the privileges and immunities equivalent to those provided for in Articles V and VI of the General Convention.¹⁶

(ii)(iii) Identification of standard procedures and criteria for the recruitment of personnel of RACs, including consultants (to be included as an Annex to the HCA)¹⁷

(j) Meetings and Conferences:

(i) Meetings and Conferences convened by UNEP: To indicate that the privileges and immunities provided for in Article IV, Article V and Article VI of the General Convention apply.

(ii) Meetings and Conferences convened by RACs: As appropriate, and taking into consideration the legal nature of the concerned RAC and its regional mandate¹⁸, tThere is room for negotiation with Host Country Governments, for representatives of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention participating in those meetings to enjoy the privileges and immunities equivalent to those provided for in Article IV of the General Convention^{19, 20}

(k) Director: To address the appointment, functions, duties and responsibilities of the Director. The following elements to be included: appointment of the Director falls on the Host Country Government, in consultation with UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit; the

follows: “Article XV Property, Funds and Assets of the Centre 1. The property, funds and assets of the Centre held and administered on behalf of UNEP, and those held and administered on behalf of the Parties to the Basel Convention, wherever located and by whomsoever held, shall enjoy the privileges and immunities, exemptions and facilities equivalent to those provided for in Article II of the General Convention. 2. Property, funds and assets transferred to the Centre pursuant to the Project Document signed between the Centre and UNEP or between the Centre and the Secretariat, in the performance by the Centre of its regional role shall enjoy the privileges and immunities, exemptions and facilities equivalent to those provided for in Article II of the General Convention”.

¹⁴ Comment by Italy: The application of the mentioned articles of the General Convention seems to be difficult in most RACs, since they are not UN bodies

¹⁵ Addition proposed by Italy

¹⁶ Comment by Italy: The application of mentioned articles of the General Convention seems to be difficult in most RACs, since they are not UN bodies. Furthermore, it is not coherent with the previous para (h, i), where it is stated that the category of UN Officials does not apply to personnel of RACs

¹⁷ Addition proposed by Italy

¹⁸ Addition proposed by Italy

¹⁹ Existing footnote by the Secretariat: This approach is taken in the Framework Agreements signed between the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the host country Governments for its Regional and Coordinating Centers holding the legal status of national institutions. The provision reads as follows: “Article XIV Privileges and Immunities. 1. The representatives of the Parties to the Basel Convention participating in meetings and other activities organized by the Centre in the territory of [host country Government] shall enjoy the privileges and immunities equivalent to those provided for in Article IV of the General Convention.”

²⁰ Comment by Italy: Article IV refers to Representatives of Members to the principal and subsidiary organs of the United Nations and to conferences convened by UNEP. Therefore, considering that RACs are not organs of the UN and have an independent legal personality, the application of Article IV to meetings and conferences they convey seems very difficult

Director has the role of administering the RAC with the aim to ensuring that the RAC performs its regional role; the Director has to report on the implementation of the activities of the RAC in carrying on its regional role to the UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit and the Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. As appropriate, and taking into consideration the legal nature of the concerned RAC and its regional mandate²¹, there is the possibility for consideration with Host Country Governments, for the Director to enjoy the privileges and immunities equivalent to those provided for in Article V of the General Convention.²²

- (l) Projects and partnerships: identification of standard procedures and criteria for the participation of RACs in projects and partnerships that are not included in the Programme of Work of UNEP/MAP and in relevant Decisions (to be included as an Annex to the HCA)²³
- ~~(m)~~ Memoranda of Understanding: identification of standard procedures and criteria for the signature of Memoranda of Understanding by RACs (to be included as an Annex to the HCA)²⁴
- ~~(n)~~ Steering Committee: To establish a Steering Committee with the specific objective of following-up on the implementation of the HCA. The Steering Committee to be composed by the Director of the RAC, one representative of the host Government and one representative of the UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit.
- ~~(o)~~ Final standard clauses on settlement of disputes and on entry into force, duration and amendment of the HCA.

C. Points identified by the Secretariat for Bureau's consideration

In discussing the comments received by Host Country Governments, the points below have been identified for the consideration of the Bureau. They address some of the comments made by Host Country Governments, which in the view of the Secretariat raise some particular issues to consider during discussion.

- (1) The proposal by France to insert the words “as appropriate” in the first sentence of paragraph 1 after “The proposed minimum common provisions are meant to be used”, and in the first sentence of paragraph 2 after “Minimum common provisions refer”, may be construed as potentially leading to different minimum common provisions from one Host Country Government to another. This would not be in line either with the COP 21 mandate in Decision IG. 23/3 to address “a list of *common* reference provisions” (emphasis added) or the request of the 85th Meeting of the Bureau to prepare “a first draft of minimum *common* provisions” (emphasis added). The Secretariat understands that should different common minimum provisions across the RACs be the result of this exercise, the objective of identifying commonalities to build on would not be met. This does not mean that once identified a set of minimum common provisions for all RACs, for each provision different options may emerge depending on the concerned RAC. It would be up to the Host Country Government to reflect these options as appropriate for its RAC;
- (2) The proposal by Italy to delete the last sentence of paragraph 2 (c), reading “In this context, and to the extent permissible under national laws, RACs should be accorded their own independent legal personality” could be interpreted as ruling out the option for RACs to hold their own legal personality, if the national law so provides. Some RACs have already their own independent legal personality. In this context, the deletion proposed could be construed as suggesting re-negotiation of this point with the relevant Host Country Governments;

²¹ [Addition proposed by Italy](#)

²² [Italy refers to previous comments](#)

²³ [Addition suggested by Italy](#)

²⁴ [Addition suggested by Italy](#)

- (3) The proposal by Italy to insert the sentence “equal core share of financial support from the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) to ensure the implementation of their mandate” in paragraph 2 (e)(i) requires specific guidance on the parameters and a decision by the Contracting Parties, who approve the Programme of Work and Budget (Article 18 of the Barcelona Convention). In addition, RACs’ mandates as established in COP 16, Decision IG. 19/5, vary from one RAC to another, and consequently the transfer of financial resources to them from the MTF;
- (4) The proposal by France to delete the words “free of charge” before the sentence “adequate premises for the RAC” in paragraph 2(f) is suggested to be reformulated as replacing “free of charge” with “ at no cost for MAP”, so that the sentence would read: “ To spell out the responsibility the of the Host Country Government in providing at no cost for MAP adequate premises for the RAC” ;
- (5) The proposal by Italy to insert the following sentence “As appropriate, and taking into account into consideration the legal nature of the concerned RAC and its regional mandate” in paragraphs 2(g), 2(h)(ii), 2(j)(ii) and 2(j)(k) is suggested to be shortened for the sake of simplicity to read “As appropriate”;
- (6) The proposal by Italy to insert the text “Identification of standard procedures and criteria for the recruitment of personnel of RACs, including consultants (to be included as an Annex to the HCA)” in paragraph 2(h) needs further elaboration, as the recruitment of the personnel of RACs is under the terms of national law. In this context, encouraging consultation with the Coordinating Unit when it comes to recruitment of RAC personnel is suggested instead;
- (7) The proposal by Italy to insert a new paragraph 2(l) reading “ Projects and partnerships: identification of standard procedures and criteria for the participation of RACs in projects and partnerships that are not included in the Programme of Work of UNEP/MAP and in relevant Decisions (to be included as an Annex to the HCA)” is felt that it is a matter outside the intended purpose of the minimum common provisions. The provisions cover the functioning of RACs as entities with a regional mandate as per COP16 Decision IG. 19/5 on the “*Mandates of the Components of MAP*”. Activities of the RACs which are not related to their UNEP/MAP-related mandate do not fall under the minimum common provisions. In this context, the suggestion would be to request concerned Host Country Governments and RACs to ensure that such activities do not interfere or affect the UNEP/MAP mandate of RACs;
- (8) The proposal by Italy to insert a new paragraph 2(m) reading “Memorandum of Understanding: identification of standard procedures and criteria for the signature of Memoranda of Understanding by RACs (to be included as an Annex to the HCA)” may be better addressed in the framework of the ongoing work with the MAP Components to set up a framework for consultation among RACs, the Coordinating Unit and the Bureau as regards the development and conclusion of MoUs and other legal instruments.