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88<sup>th</sup> 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 3: Progress Report for October 2018–April 2019**

**Progress Report by the Secretariat on the Activities Carried Out for the Period October 2018–April 2019**

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## I. Introduction

1. This report covers the activities and outputs carried out between October 2018 and April 2019. The Reports by the Secretariat on Specific Issues and on Financial and Administrative Issues are prepared as separate documents, namely UNEP/MED BUR.88/6 and UNEP/MED BUR.88/5 respectively. The complementing “*Progress Report by the Secretariat on the Implementation of COP 20 Decisions*”, is presented as document UNEP/MED BUR.88/4.

## II. Main Activities/Outputs per Programme of Work (PoW) theme linked to specific outcome

### II.1 Overarching Theme: GOVERNANCE

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

##### Governance meetings

2. The 87<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau was held in Athens, Greece, on 6-7 November 2018. The meeting addressed a number of issues, including the development of Host Country Agreements for Regional Activity Centres, the preparation of the meeting of Thematic Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas/Biodiversity, the process for the preparation of assessment reports, and the preparations for COP 21 of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

3. The 37<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) took place in Geneva, Switzerland (9-10 January 2019) and the 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ECP, in Marseille, France (7-8 March 2019). At the core of the agenda of these two meetings was the preparation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget (PoW) for the biennium 2020-2021, in addition to the review of the implementation of the PoW for the biennium 2018-2019, the planning for 2019 and the preparations for COP 21.

4. The 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSDD) was held in Athens, Greece (23-24 January 2019). The meeting reviewed and discussed the progress in MCSDD related developments, the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard, the evaluation of MAP Regional Strategies, the work plan of the MCSDD Steering Committee for the biennium 2018-2019, including the preparation of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSDD, and the membership of the MCSDD.

5. SPA/RAC organized the 5<sup>th</sup> National Correspondents Meeting of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO - Marseille, France, 13-14 February 2019). Contracting Parties provided inputs for the draft SAP BIO evaluation including information on SAP BIO implementation at national level. The results of this evaluation, along with a concept note highlighting the importance and added value of SAP BIO for the region, providing options for a new post-2020 SAP BIO structure, elaboration steps and timeline recommendations, will be presented to the 14<sup>th</sup> SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points meeting (Portoroz, Slovenia, 18-21 June 2019).

6. The INFO/RAC Focal Points Meeting (Rome, Italy, 16-17 April 2019) discussed the implementation of the current PoW on Knowledge Management, Information and Communication, the preparation of the relevant PoW for the next biennium, as well as the preparation of key strategic documents, such as the MAP Operational Communication Strategy 2020/2021 and the MAP Data Management Policy.

7. The preparation of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSDD (Budva, Montenegro, 11-13 June 2019) is under way. The draft Exchange of Letter as Host Country Agreement is expected to be signed by the end of April 2019. Invitation letters were sent out, together with the Provisional Agenda. More information on the organization of the meeting is provided in the “*Report by the Secretariat on Specific Issues*” (document UNEP/MED BUR.88/6).

##### Resource mobilization, project proposals recently approved or submitted

8. The GEF Project “*Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in the Adriatic Sea through Marine Spatial Planning*” (GEF Adriatic), progressed consistently with the programme of work approved by Albania and Montenegro at the first Project Steering Committee (Tirana, Albania, 30 May 2018). The second Project Steering Committee will be held in Podgorica, Montenegro on 15 May 2019. The main goal of the meeting will be to review and approve the progress, expenditure reports and budget revision and to consider a no-cost project extension of 12 months, which will allow to complete all the activities and achieve all agreed targets.

9. UNEP/MAP and the co-executing partners of the MedProgramme completed the development of the information required by the GEF to mobilize and make available the funds allocated for the Programme (USD 37,7 million). The development of the full programme package was finalized before the agreed deadline and submitted

on 29 March 2019. The work was done 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 relevant project information will be circulated as soon as the formal communication on the GEF CEO endorsement is received.

10. The project “*Enhancing Regional Climate Change Adaptation in the Mediterranean Sea Marine and Coastal Areas*”, financed with USD 1 million by the GEF Special Climate Change Fund, was submitted to the GEF Secretariat on 26 October 2018. Formal comments from the GEF Secretariat were received on January 2019 and the project has been resubmitted for CEO endorsement on February 2019. It is anticipated that the GEF CEO will endorse this project together with the MedProgramme, to ensure that this set of Projects will begin their executions in a coordinated manner. The relevant project information will be circulated as soon as formal communication on the GEF ECO endorsement is received.

11. The execution of the EU-funded Project “*Towards an ecologically representative and efficiently managed network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas*” has proceeded well. A Project Steering Committee meeting was held (Brussels, Belgium, 13 February 2019), which took stock of the progress made and approved the work plan, budget and logical results framework for the completion of the Project by 23 September 2019.

12. UNEP/MAP successfully concluded the negotiation with DG NEAR for a new project supported by the EC GreenMedIII Strategy. The Secretariat together with SPA/RAC is advancing in the development of the project document and related annexes, to be finalized in May 2019 and become operational in the summer of 2019. The focus of this new project will be on integration aspects of the IMAP implementation in further Mediterranean countries and MPAs.

13. MED POL continues to support the Contracting Parties in implementing their respective national marine pollution monitoring programmes. Small-Scale Funding Agreements (SSFAs) were concluded with Egypt, Israel, Lebanon (pending), Libya and Morocco, and Tunisia. They are financed through the Mediterranean Trust Fund, including support of the EcAp-MEDII and Marine Litter MED Projects. They aim to: i) support ongoing implementation of the MED POL IV Monitoring Programme, avoiding discontinuity in submitting and assessing data related to marine pollution; ii) ensure gradual transition to new IMAP-based monitoring programmes of marine environment; and iii) support implementation of pilot projects which include marine litter monitoring. Project includes capacity building workshops to support national implementation of IMAP and related criteria for pollution and marine litter.

14. The EU-funded ENI SEIS II South Project in the framework of UfM H2020 Initiative, operational since September 2016, aims to improve the availability and access to environmental information to the benefit of effective and knowledge-based policy-making in the ENP South region. The implementation of the project, with a budget of 1,800,000 EUR, is ongoing and financial and technical support were provided to southern Mediterranean countries. The project includes workshops providing training activities to national experts to collect and share data through the Spatial Data Infrastructure developed by INFO/RAC in the framework of ENI SEIS II Project; including existing information system such as the National Baseline Budget (NBB)/PRTR of MED POL relevant to H2020 Indicators as well as data dictionaries developed for H2020 indicators.

15. In the framework of the Cooperation Agreement between UNEP and the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS), a voluntary contribution of EUR 2,015,000 was provided by Italy to support activities included in the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work for 2018-2019. The last Steering Committee meeting (Athens, Greece, 4-5 March 2019), reviewed the progress made during the period January 2018 - January 2019, and agreed that the implementation is on track. The financial provisions for 2019 were confirmed and the respective funds are being transferred to the Secretariat. The coordination mechanism established for the implementation of the 2018-2019 work plan has been operational with the designation of Technical Focal Points from both MAP and IMELS. A set of indicators to measure the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement were proposed and will be further elaborated and populated in 2019. Discussions have been launched for the possible key priorities of a potential renewed cooperation beyond December 2019, when the current Agreement ends.

16. The Secretariat is working with UNEP/Vienna Office, under the financial support of the Government of Italy (IMELS), on an initiative aiming to provide Assistance to the Western Balkans in Pollution Prevention, Monitoring and Reduction, under the overall aim to support the Western Balkan Region in the Implementation of Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements through Strengthening of Institutional Framework and Capacity Building.

17. The “*Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Cooperation in the Western Mediterranean Region Project*” proposal (West MOPoCo Project) was approved by the EC (DG ECHO). The consortium led by France includes partners

from Mediterranean coastal States (Algeria, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia). The approved budget of € 868,685.92 includes a contribution of 75% from the European Commission (€651,506.00), out of which € 386,676.60 are allocated to REMPEC. The two-year project started on 2 January 2019 and includes the recruitment of one administrative assistant by REMPEC.

18. During 2018, the IMO Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) allocated a budget of 91,176 USD to REMPEC, while additional funding from IMO ITCP amounting to 86,875 USD has been secured for activities to be implemented in 2019. REMPEC submitted a proposal to the IMO ITCP for potential activities to be implemented in the framework of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2020-2021.

19. The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of SwitchMed (SwitchMed II) was approved by the European Commission at the end of 2018. The project will be coordinated by UNIDO and implemented by UNIDO, UNEP/Economy Division and SCP/RAC. The contract between UNIDO and SCP/RAC is under preparation. The total amount of EU budget contribution is EUR 15,000,000 for 4 years. SCP/RAC budget amounts to EUR 6,352,000. The beneficiary countries will be Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. SCP/RAC will lead 3 sub-components on the regional policy framework under the Barcelona Convention for the development of circular and green economy businesses, on the creation of an enabling environment for a Resource Efficient and Circular Economy and on the Networking Facility.

20. REMPEC contributed to the drafting of a project proposal to support the development of the Adriatic/Ionian Sub regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan (ASOSCoP), in the framework of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR). A voluntary contribution of the French Government amounting to 8,000 Euro was pledged to co-finance the Regional Workshop on Ratification and Effective Implementation of MARPOL Annex VI (Valletta, Malta, 11-13 December 2018).

21. Plan Bleu/RAC has mobilized additional funding for several activities in the PoW, as follows: (a) application to BlueMed Start-up Actions call was successful and will allow to hold three expert meetings on cruise and recreational boating in the Mediterranean; (b) financial support has been secured from the French Environment and Energy Management Agency and the French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition to help finalize assessment reports, including the holding of two face-to-face meetings of the SoED 2019 Steering Committee, in January and March 2019; (c) financial support has also been secured from the French Environment and Energy Management Agency and the French Ministry to start renewing communication tools and practices.

22. INFO/RAC, SPA/RAC and Plan Bleu/RAC will participate to the implementation of MEDREGION (Support Mediterranean Member States towards the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive Good Environmental Status (GES) Decision and programmes of measures and contribute to regional/subregional cooperation) project under the leadership of Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR). Plan Bleu will lead the subtask: “*Supporting the identification and monitoring of effects of PoMs on human activities and well-being*”. A project proposal was submitted to the Agence de l’Eau Rhône Méditerranée Corse with a focus on the impact of economic activities and usages on the marine environment and a response is expected.

23. The project ADRIADAPT “*A Resilience information platform for Adriatic cities and towns*” was approved for funding by the European Regional Development Fund - ERDF). The project, to which PAP/RAC is a partner, has a duration of 24 months, from 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2020.

24. SCP/RAC signed a direct assignment with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) that will complement the activities developed within the Cooperation with IMELS. The activities are aiming to improve the policy framework and engage with the food and beverage industry in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro for tackling plastics’ packaging value chains in a circular economy. Funds are allocated through the Austrian DRIVE (Delivering Resource efficiency InVEstments) Fund, set up within the framework of the UfM labelled project MedRESCP.

25. The project proposal of GIMED submitted in 2017 by SCP/RAC for the call for Standard project of the ENI CBC “*Mediterranean Sea Basin*” Programme call successfully passed the selection process. Contracts are being prepared. The project will last 3 years with a total budget of EUR 4,460,000. The countries involved in the project are Egypt, Italy, Lebanon, Palestine, Spain, and Tunisia. SCP/RAC is the project coordinator and its budget amounts to EUR 435,000.

26. SCP/RAC is involved as partner in two consortia for EU calls: (a) Call H2020-BG-2018-2020 on Sustainable solutions for bio-based plastics on land and sea (project title BIO-based PLASTics as enabler of the circular Economy-BIOPLAS-TEC), and (b) Call EuropeAid /139671/DH/SER/MULTI - Water and Environment Support. Both selection processes are expected to be finalized during the first semester of 2019.

27. A first draft compilation and analysis of existing regional tools on sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean is prepared by Plan Bleu/RAC, PAP/RAC, SCP/RAC and SPA/RAC, while BlueMed project funding for a Start-Up Action on sustainable cruise and recreational boating has been secured. Relevant expert meetings are tentatively planned for April and June 2019. The third capitalization event on Sustainable Tourism in the Mediterranean was held (Split, Croatia, 27-28 March 2019). Four policy factsheets on sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean as well as a Policy Paper and Advocacy Strategy are under preparation. A capitalization conference on sustainable tourism projects in the Mediterranean is organized (Barcelona, Spain, 4-5 June 2019).

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

28. The revised reporting format was made available on the new online Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS), launched on 4 October 2018 for Contracting Parties to submit their national implementation reports for the biennium 2016–2017. As of 5 April 2019, 15 Contracting Parties initiated their reporting under the new BCRS while six Contracting Parties have officially submitted their reports. Progress was also achieved in relation to the submission of outstanding national implementation reports for the biennia 2012-2013 and/or 2014-2015. More information is provided in the “*Report by the Secretariat on Specific Issues*” (document UNEP/MED BUR.88/6).

29. The 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Compliance Committee elected the officers for the current biennium (Teleconference, 30 October 2018). Preparations are under way for the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Compliance Committee (Athens, Greece, 25-26 June 2019). More information is provided in the “*Report by the Secretariat on Specific Issues*” (document UNEP/MED BUR.88/6).

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

30. Cooperation with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm 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, and a follow-up meeting was held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 8 January 2019.

31. REMPEC attended the 73<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of IMO (London, UK, 22-26 October 2018), to present the progress related to the Prevention and Emergency Protocol. Information on UNEP’s Regional Seas Programme, and the significant support provided by the associated inter-governmental organizations and RACs to the implementation of the OPRC Convention and OPRC-HNS Protocol worldwide, and the outcome of MEDEXPOL 2018 were presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> session of the Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR6 - London, 18-22 February 2019). The progress report on REMPEC activities was submitted to MEPC 74 (London, UK, 13-17 May 2019).

32. The Coordinator and representatives of SCP/RAC participated in UNEA-4 (Nairobi, Kenya, 11-15 March 2019), which provided a great opportunity for interaction and outreach. More information is provided in the “*Report by the Secretariat on Specific Issues*” (document UNEP/MED BUR.88/6).

33. The Secretariat (Coordinating Unit and Plan Bleu) joined forces with the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfMS) and the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) to organize a side event at the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya (26-28 November 2018). The side event was entitled “The Regional Dimension of a Sustainable and Inclusive Blue Economy: The Model of the Mediterranean”. SPA/RAC also participated at the Conference.

34. The preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition for the Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER) of National Strategies for Sustainable Development continued. Progress was presented for review and comments to the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee (Athens, 23-24 January 2019). Two countries (Albania and Tunisia) have confirmed their interest to be involved in the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. The participation of Egypt as a third country remains to be officially confirmed, following a number of substantial contacts. The methodology is being revised for discussion at the upcoming Plan Bleu Focal Points meeting (Marseille, France, 28-29 May) and the 18<sup>th</sup> MCSD meeting (Budva, Montenegro, 11-13 June). National reports are in preparation while missions and interviews will be held in these countries in spring or early summer of 2019. A peer review workshop is planned at the end of August/beginning of September 2019, before the MAP Focal Points meeting.

35. SPA/RAC participated at COP 14 of the CBD in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt (17-29 November 2018) with

an information booth presenting Mediterranean biodiversity activities under the Barcelona Convention and the SPA/BD Protocol. SPA/RAC presented the current work to conserve the biodiversity of the Mediterranean coasts of Egypt, through a dedicated workshop organized in collaboration with the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency. SPA/RAC also presented its activities related to marine environment data collection and associated services of data processing and modelling, undertaken in the framework of the ODYSSEA project financed by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme. To this end, a side event was organized with UNEP-WCMC, RAED and Deltares. SPA/RAC, also, participated in the side event organized by the CBD Secretariat on the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue and organized a stand to exhibit UNEP/MAP and SPA/RAC outreach material.

36. The Coordinator and SPA/RAC participated and contributed to GFCM Fish Forum 2018 (Rome, Italy, 10-14 December 2018) through the following events: a workshop on "*Complementarity among Area based Conservation tools in the Mediterranean Sea*"; a side event on "*Cross-sectorial cooperation among Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery management Bodies and added values of SOI Global Dialogue*" presenting "*the Mediterranean showcase on bilateral cooperation among UNEP/MAP and GFCM Secretariats*"; the side event co-organized by UNEP/MAP and GFCM on the sub-regional pilot project on fishery related to Non-Indigenous Species in the Eastern Mediterranean implemented within EcApMEDII project; and a stand shared with ACCOBAMS where outreach material on UNEP/MAP and SPA/RAC were displayed.

37. UNEP/MAP and the French G7 Presidency are jointly organizing, with support from the Italian Government, a Workshop on the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter in synergy with the Regional Seas Convention (Metz, France, 5-6 May 2019). The main objective of this workshop is to strengthen complementarities between the implementation of the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter and the work undertaken by regional organizations, such as the Regional Sea Conventions (RSCs) and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs). Key outcomes from the workshop are expected to be transmitted to the G7 Environment Ministers Meeting (Metz, France, 5-6 May 2019) and feed its discussions.

38. The Secretariat participated in the first Steering Committee of the EU-funded SwitchMed II Programme (Vienna, Austria, 3-4 April 2019). A common understanding on the programme's main objectives was reached among implementing partners, the first year's work plan was reviewed and agreed, and the role of Focal Points was validated. Building on the outcomes of the first phase of SwitchMed, its second phase is expected to have an even greater contribution to the switch towards SCP patterns and circular economy in the Mediterranean, in line with the MAP - Barcelona Convention framework. The programme will be structured around six outputs: (i) greener and circular industry – Med Test iii; (ii) support for the creation and development of circular and green businesses; (iii) improved regional policy framework under the Barcelona Convention; (iv) support the implementation of SCP National Action Plans (NAPs); (v) networking facility; and (vi) programme management.

39. The Closing Conference of the SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism (SM) was held in Brussels, Belgium (8 April 2019). The meeting reviewed the project's key results, achievements and on the ground impact and highlighted its contribution to the regional coherence and cooperation. The Secretariat acknowledged the very good work undertaken with support from the Project towards the implementation of NAPs under the LBS Protocol and stressed that an even more important contribution is expected when the time comes for Contracting Parties to report on the implementation of NAPs.

40. The Secretariat participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Steering Committee meeting of ENI SEIS II South Project and the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the H2020 Review and Monitoring (RM) Group, jointly held in Vienna, Austria (6-7 November 2018). The meeting acknowledged the progress at regional and national levels, including on agreement of H2020 sets of indicators, the preparation of indicator factsheets and the development of infrastructure for data reporting. Concrete steps towards the next H2020 assessment were agreed, highlighting the need to avoid duplications and build on information coming from key MAP Assessment Reports. The regional plan of activities until 2020 was concluded with a specific focus on strengthening in country-support, further supporting the population of H2020 Indicators, and enhancing capacities for data management and infrastructure.

41. The Coordinator attended and delivered a presentation at the conference "*Before the Blue COP*" organized by the Ministry for the Ecological Transition of Spain in preparation for the UNFCCC COP 25 in Chile, "*The Blue COP*". He made a presentation on the relevance of the institutional/regulatory/implementation framework of the MAP system for climate change and its impact on the Mediterranean, in particular the ICZM Protocol, the progress on Marine Spatial Planning, and the work on Marine Protected Areas. He explained the strategic emphasis that UNEP/MAP is putting on delivering at the regional level the goals, commitments and

ambitions of global Multilateral Environment Agreements and other intergovernmental mechanisms, and emphasized the strong role being increasingly recognized to the regional dimension. Finally, he made suggestions on the possible support of the MAP system to the Contracting Parties in achieving their UNFCCC commitments and ambitions.

42. In the context of the GEF-funded Inter-project Collaboration Opportunity (ICO) between the Benguela Current Convention (BCC-Angola, Namibia and South Africa) and the MAP-Barcelona Convention, CU and PAP/RAC representatives visited Namibia on 18-21 February 2019, to meet with the BCC Secretariat and discuss the application of the Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in the two regions. The goal of this collaboration, which will also involve a visit to PAP/RAC by the BCC Secretariat in September 2019, is to exchange and transfer knowledge and experiences on the application of MSP in country and cross-border Large Marine Ecosystems.

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

43. Three meetings of the Steering Committee for the 2019 State of Environment and development Report (2019 SoED) were convened in the period between October 2018 and March 2019 (Teleconference, October 2018; Geneva, Switzerland, 11 January 2019; Marseille, France, 28 March 2019). The first draft of the 2019 SoED will be presented at the Meetings of the Plan Bleu/RAC Focal Points and then at the 18<sup>th</sup> MCSD meeting (28-29 May and 11-13 June 2019, respectively).

44. Plan Bleu, in cooperation MED POL and INFO/RAC and with the European Environment Agency (EEA) developed the methodological factsheets and the data dictionaries for the Waste and Marine Litter indicators and for the “*Industrial Emissions*” Indicators.

45. The progress on the MED2050 Phase I was presented to the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee (Athens, January 2019); the draft revised roadmap for the MED2050 Phase II will be presented at the Plan Bleu/RAC Focal Points and MCSD meetings.

46. One of the activities undertaken under the Agreement with IMELS is related to comparative analysis between IMAP and GES Decision 2017/848/EU and to related assessment of necessary actions, for all three IMAP clusters (biodiversity and non-indigenous species, pollution and marine litter and coast and hydrography). All these actions will be performed with the view to contribute to filling the gaps raised by the 2017 MED QSR, in view of the preparation of the 2023 MED QSR. The roadmap and needs assessment for the 2023 MED QSR were shared with the EcAp Coordination Group members, and their comments were fully taken into account. In compliance with COP 20 Decision IG.23/6, several outputs of the MED QSR roadmap are included in the PoW for 2020-2021.

47. The finalization of the proposal for the update of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard is under way, considering the SDGs, the relevant COP decisions and the recommendations of the MSCD Steering Committee. The roadmap on the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard until COP 21 was discussed at the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee. The MSSD Indicators are being populated and the methodological and analytical factsheets are drafted and used to inform the 2019 SoED.

48. The preparation of the draft scientific assessment report on environmental and climate change in the Mediterranean is continuing and the first draft of the report will be submitted for peer review in late spring or early summer 2019. Plan Bleu participated in the UNFCCC COP 24 in Katowice, Poland (2-14 December 2018), and contributed to a side-event by MedECC.

49. Plan Bleu also contributed to the organization and moderation of a two-days capitalization event on marine protected areas management tools and policies, with a focus on EcAp (Brussels, Belgium, 4-5 December), and co-organized two capitalization workshops: on science-policy interface for a blue economy (Marseille, France, 16-17 April 2019) and on blue growth (Barcelona, Spain, 22-23 November 2018).

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

50. The prototype and structure of the new REMPEC’s website was discussed with IMO, UNEP/MAP and SPA/RAC for online deployment and content development. Continuous exchange with INFO/RAC is in place for the hosting and transfer of REMPEC’s tools into INFO/RAC’s server as well as for the development of REMPEC website. Within the approved EU Funded West MOPoCo Project, a company was hired to develop the project website in March 2019.

51. SPA/RAC started collecting data on various biodiversity components based on the metadata template



already prepared in the framework of the Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform (MBP). New data has also been integrated in the MBP catalogue. Furthermore, SPA/RAC issued a call for tenders to upgrade the MBP and redesign the other SPA/RAC databases: The Marine Mediterranean Invasive Alien Species Database (MAMIAS), the Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Database (MAPAMED), and the Standard Data-entry Form (SDF) for national inventories of natural sites of conservation interest Database.

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

52. To enhance MAP's visibility, a stand has been set up by SPA/RAC and INFO/RAC at the CBD COP 14 in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt (17-29 November 2018), to present UNEP/MAP activities on the ecosystem approach implementation in the Mediterranean. The CBD COP14 was attended by 3,800 participants from all over the world and offered the opportunity to enhance MAP visibility. Another stand has been set up in collaboration with ACCOBAMS during the FishForum in Rome, Italy (10-14 December 2018). This event was attended by 428 participants from 45 different countries and offered the opportunity to strengthen MAP's position as a key stakeholder in marine biodiversity conservation, working in close collaboration with fisheries bodies and the scientific community.

53. The Secretariat co-organized with the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy, in cooperation with France and Montenegro, a side event at the 2019 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region, held in Geneva, Switzerland (21-22 March 2019). This side event aimed at (i) showcasing all the analogs of global mechanisms for sustainable development that are in place in the Mediterranean region; and, (ii) introducing testimonies from France, Greece and Montenegro on peer learning activities related to national frameworks established for implementing the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

54. The Secretariat (Coordinating Unit and SCP/RAC) contributed to the Annual Conference of the Arab Forum on the Environment and Development (AFED) (Beirut, Lebanon, 8-9 November 2018), with a specific session on Circular Economy and Sustainable Consumption and Production

55. The Coordinator delivered a statement on "*Environmental Sustainability and Regional Governance*" at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sustainability Summit for the South-East Europe and the Mediterranean, a high-level event organized by The Economist and the Center for SDGs Governance and Public Law (Athens, Greece, 1-2 October 2018), and a video message to the 2018-Eco City Forum "*Circular Economy in Smart Cities*" (Thessaloniki, Greece, 3-5 October 2018).

56. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the "*Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction*" (N.York, USA, 25 March-5 April 2019), Spain, participating at the meeting, made on behalf of UNEP/MAP two presentations prepared by the Secretariat (SPA/RAC) at a side event on "*Application of area-based management tools under the regional seas programmes*".

57. A travelling photos exhibition to inform and raise awareness on Mediterranean marine key habitats and non-indigenous species has been designed. The exhibition was held for the first time in Antalya, Turkey, during the SPA/RAC Symposia on Marine Key Habitats and NIS, on 14-18 January 2019. Communication material (tote bag, thermos, USB stick) have been produced and distributed.

58. SCP/RAC's publication on 20 solutions to prevent the use of toxic chemicals was disseminated, while SPA/RAC is elaborating a brochure for the institutional presentation of the Centre in three languages.

59. SPA/RAC supported ENVIROFEST (19-23 March 2019), the first environmental film festival in Tunisia, through its participation in films projections and debates, and in the organization of an educational workshop for children on marine biodiversity. SPA/RAC also adapted from French to Arabic the FAO/GFCM-ACCOBAMS-SPA/RAC good practices guides for the handling of vulnerable species (Sea Birds, Cetaceans, Sea turtles, Sharks and rays) caught incidentally in Mediterranean Fisheries.

60. Recent publications of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system include the following:

- State of Mediterranean Forests 2018, Plan Bleu co-published with FAO, November 2018
- Science-Policy Interface (SPI) to support monitoring implementation plans and sub-regional and regional policy developments regarding EcAp clusters on pollution, contaminants and eutrophication, marine biodiversity and fisheries, coast and hydrography (Plan Bleu Paper n°18), February 2019
- Enabling access to finance for green entrepreneurs in southern Mediterranean countries – Available options and potential innovations, produced jointly by SCP/RAC and UfM, with the financial assistance of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

- SwitchMed Magazines for Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia
- The Switchers Support Programme: Regional and National Scaling Up Roadmaps
- The heroes of the Mediterranean disembark against single-use plastics, produced jointly by SCP/RAC and Zero Zbel (Zero Waste Morocco).

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

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

61. MED POL started a process for the evaluation of the implementation of the existing Regional Plans/measures adopted by COP Decisions between 2009 and 2013. The evaluation reports examine the status of implementation of the Regional Plans for reduction of BOD5 from Urban Wastewater and in the Food Sector; Reduction of Inputs of Mercury; eliminations of POPs; and Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean. Contracting Parties' achievements in meeting the provisions of the Regional Plans are described including a short concise section explaining the status of implementation on the regional level; information on trends and quantitative data within the scope of action of the Regional Plans; and recommendations on future actions to address challenges faced with the view to fully ensuring the successful implementation of the Regional Plans.

62. The main elements of six Pollution Reduction Regional Plans with regards to Municipal Waste Water Treatment Plants, Sewage Sludge Management, Agriculture nutrients Management, Aquaculture nutrients Management, Urban Storm Water Management, Marine Litter (upgrade), are being developed for review by the MED POL Focal Points Meeting, in May 2019. MED POL organized the 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Meeting of Experts (Athens, Greece, 20-21 November 2018). A 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of experts is prepared to review the second chapter of the proposal for final review by the MED POL Focal Points Meeting in May 2019.

63. REMPEC contributed to the drafting of a project proposal to support the development of the Adriatic/Ionian Sub regional Oil spill contingency Plan (ASOSCoP), in the framework of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) (Valletta, Malta, 12 February 2019). Furthermore, REMPEC supported the organization of the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Competent National Authorities in charge of the implementation of the Sub-Regional Contingency Plan between Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia (Algiers, Algeria, 27-28 November 2018) and subsequently prepared and submitted 11 revised annexes to the Plan for completion by the Parties for the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Operational Authorities (Morocco, end of 2019).

64. REMPEC facilitated further collaboration and exchange of experience between the South-Western Mediterranean Contingency Plan and the RAMOGE Agreement and contributed to the discussions held at the RAMOGE Working Group Meeting (Monaco, 15 November 2018) to explore synergies on areas of common interest. REMPEC also facilitated the organization of the Sub-regional seminar on compensation for oil pollution damage and the 1<sup>st</sup> Preparatory Meeting for the implementation of the Sub-regional marine oil pollution contingency plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel, (4-6 December 2018, Larnaca, Cyprus). The assistance of REMPEC was formally requested to elaborate a Trilateral Agreement (Sub-regional Marine Oil Pollution Contingency Plan) between Greece, Cyprus and Egypt.

65. Within the approved EU Funded 2019-2020 West MOPoCo Project, Sub-regional training is organized on the use of the Mediterranean Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spills (Malta, 24-26 April 2019) to assist Western Mediterranean coastal States in assessing the gaps of their national oil spill contingency plan. The REMPEC's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) within the framework of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU) with the Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution (Cedre) has been renewed. The MoUs with Sea Alarm, Federazione Nazionale dell'Industria Chimica (FEDERCHIMICA), and with the Mediterranean Operational Network for the Global Ocean Observing System (MONGOOS) are in force. The MoU with ISPRA is still under discussion. The MAU (MONGOOS) was activated during the ULYSSE/VIRGINIA collision (France, October 2018) with regular submission of oil spill forecasting models to the French Authorities and upon request of Tunisia, from 6 March to 14 March 2019, to predict the movement of a lost offloading hose from an offshore field, eventually retrieved on 14 March 2019. The activation of the MAU was tested during the TOMMOSSOS and MALTEX 2018 exercise. On 15 October 2018, the MAU celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

66. REMPEC contributed to the following national exercises: MALTEX 2018 (Malta, October, 2018), TOMMASSOS (Israel, November 2018), NEMESIS 2018 (Cyprus, September 2018) and the regional exercise

RAMOGEPOL 2018 (France, Italy and Monaco, September 2018). Developments within MENELAS were presented at the EMSA Workshop on ship-source pollution - Implementation of Directive 2005/35/EC (Lisbon, Portugal, 13 November 2018). REMPEC invited all MENELAS Designated Representatives to nominate their representatives on the MENELAS Working Group.

67. The Secretariat organized two Regional Meetings on Marine Litter Best Practices (Izmir, Turkey, 9-10 October 2018; Seville, Spain, 8-10 April 2019) which reviewed the progress on the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean and introduced the main elements for its evaluation. Four regional guidelines for the implementation of selected marine litter prevention and reduction measures were reviewed and approved for submission to the respective MED POL, SCP/RAC and REMPEC Focal Points Meetings in May and June 2019, on: (a) Implementation of the “*Adopt-a-Beach*” measures in the Mediterranean; (b) Phase out Single-Use Plastic Bags in the Mediterranean; (c) Operational Guidelines on the Provisions of Reception Facilities in Ports and the Delivery of Ship-Generated Wastes in the Mediterranean; (d) Guidance Document to Determine the Application of Charges at Reasonable Costs for the Use of Port Reception Facilities or, when Applicable, Application of No-Special-Fee System in the Mediterranean.

68. Furthermore, during the two Regional Meetings the preliminary results, findings and lessons learnt from the implementation of several pilots on selected measures (i.e. Adopt-a-Beach, Fishing-for-Litter, development/implementation of the regulatory framework for the reduction of single-use plastic bags and promote Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), better management of sea-based litter in ports and marinas), were presented and discussed. In addition, the main elements and preliminary results from the socioeconomic analysis on marine litter key best practices to prevent/reduce single use of plastic bags and bottles were presented.

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

69. Five guidelines stipulated in the PoW for 2018-2019 were prepared by MED POL in coordination with other MAP Components in the fields of marine litter, land-based pollution, and monitoring and assessment. These are: (a) Guidelines for the Implementation of the Adopt-a-Beach Measures in the Mediterranean; (b) Guidelines to Phase out single use plastic bags in the Mediterranean; (c) Practical Implementation Guidelines on PRTR; (d) Methodology for Developing and Applying National Emission Factors; (e) Guidance on Application of Water Typology and related Monitoring and Assessment Aspects.

70. Within the framework of the EU-funded “*Marine Litter-MED*” Project as well as the Cooperation Agreement between UNEP and IMELS, coordinated by MAP, REMPEC: (i) prepared a Study on existing best practices in the Mediterranean as well as other European regional seas for the application of charges at reasonable costs and No-Special-Fee system for the use of port reception facilities, (ii) launched a consultation process with all Contracting Parties for the preparation of an Operational Guidelines on the Provision of Reception Facilities in Ports and the Delivery of Ship-Generated Wastes in the Mediterranean and a Guidance Document to Determine the Application of Charges at Reasonable Costs for the Use of Port Reception Facilities or, when Applicable, Application of No-Special-Fee System in the Mediterranean; and (iii) carried out the Field visit by Port Authorities representatives in the Port of Antwerp (Antwerp, Belgium, 30-31 October 2018).

71. The Secretariat organized a Regional Meeting on Reporting of Releases to the Marine and Coastal Environment from Land-Based Sources and Activities and related Indicators (Tirana, Albania, 19-20 March 2019). The meeting reviewed a number of documents including lessons learnt from the ongoing 4<sup>th</sup> Cycle of the NBB of Pollutants. Furthermore, reporting and support to the countries to implement and further develop their capacity on Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) implementation and the Horizon 2020 Initiative/NAPs Assessment Outline for industrial emission cluster indicators at national and regional levels.

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

72. National consultants recruited by REMPEC have supported Albania, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey in the preparation of the NAPs for the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021), including a national assessment.

73. In the framework of Marine Litter Med project, SCP/RAC continued its technical support to the countries in order to improve their legislation to reduce Marine Litter and in particular single-use plastics. Targeted countries are Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon, Egypt and Algeria. The support provided varies between support for the development of a norm for reusable plastic bags, feasibility study for the setup of an EPR Scheme at the national or

regional level, and multi stakeholders' consultation event.

74. In the framework of the SWIM H2020 SM project, SCP/RAC coordinated the preparation of two technical studies to screen the best practices, circular economy measures and technologies for the target countries of SWIM-H2020 SM. The Selected sectors were olive oil and cement, with focus on the best practices for the waste minimization, water and energy consumption and valorization of the sub-products of the olive oil production, and on the best practices for the waste-to-energy process in order to avoid or minimize environmental issues, respectively. The studies have been finalized and will be disseminated.

75. SCP/RAC also provided technical support to Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia for the development of SCP/circular economy/pollution abatement measures. ToRs for the specific activities to be developed in each country have been prepared and activities have been developed (Institutional support for the implementation of the National Action Plan for Sustainable Public Procurement in Tunisia, Technical support for the development of a national module for the abatement of industrial pollution in Lebanon, Support to local authorities to reinforce their knowledge in circular economy in Morocco, Capacity building for the development of economic and financial instruments and incentives to promote circular and green economy and SCP in Jordan, addressing industrial pollution and supporting environmental inspection and inventory for the Olive Oil and the Tanning industries of Palestine).

76. A regional training was organized on "*Fostering a Switch to Green Economy in the Mediterranean: Designing circular economy strategies in the food and beverage packaging sector*" (Barcelona, Spain, 11-13 December 2018), back to back with a study visit "*Design Circular Economy Strategies in the Food and Beverage Packaging Sector*" of an Algerian Delegation (Barcelona, Spain, 10 and 14 December 2018).

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

77. The 1<sup>st</sup> ENI SEIS South Supporting Mechanism Regional Workshop on Infrastructure and Data Management was held in Rome, Italy, on 4-5 October 2018. The regional workshop provided technical solutions to the countries developing the Regional Infrastructure based on the SEIS principles. The Workshop provided training to national experts to collect and share data through the reporting infrastructure developed by INFO/RAC in the framework of ENI SEIS II Project; discussed existing information system such as NBB/PRTR of MED POL relevant to H2020 Indicators and agreed on the data dictionaries developed for H2020 indicators.

78. Contracting Parties are supported to comply with their legal obligation under Art.13 of the Land Based Sources Protocol (LBS) regarding reporting on NAP implementation throughout preparation and submission of updated NBB (for 2018). A process has been initiated to ensure efficient NBB/PRTR reporting and the Secretariat is currently providing support to ten Contracting Parties to submit quality assured data to the NBB/PRTR infosystem.

79. In preparation of the 2023 MED QSR, the Secretariat organized a Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Pollution Monitoring (CORMON Pollution), and a Joint Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Marine Litter Monitoring (CORMON Marine Litter) and ENI SEIS II Assessment of H2020/NAPs of Waste Indicators (Podgorica, Montenegro, 2-3 and 4-5 April 2019, respectively). The Meetings provided the opportunity for Contracting Parties to take stock on the national implementation of IMAP, emphasizing the need for further work to successfully implement the IMAP-based national monitoring programmes to deliver the required data to assess GES and contribute to the preparation of the 2023 MED QSR.

80. The CORMON Pollution Meeting approved the methodologies proposed for GES-integrated assessment based on DPSIR approach; the steps towards further refinement of the scales of assessment in Mediterranean by applying nested approach; the IMAP Common Indicators Data Standards and Data Dictionaries; the implementation of new Quality Assurance Scheme; as well as the proposed monitoring protocols related to EO5 and EO9 and further revision and testing of the assessment criteria.

81. The CORMON Marine Litter Meeting agreed to further advance the work with regards to the development of the IMAP EO10 Candidate Indicator 24, with a particular focus on the common marine turtle *Caretta caretta* and requested from the MAP Secretariat to submit the report for the most representative species and the protocol for monitoring interactions between marine litter and marine turtles (ingestion and entanglement) to the Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points in May 2019.

82. A synthesis of past evolution, current state, and future trends of marine litter in the Mediterranean - with a focus on main sources and drivers as well as on responses to prevent - was prepared by MEDPOL.

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

83. Within the framework of the Implementation Agreement between Cyprus, Greece and Israel on the Sub-regional marine pollution contingency plan, REMPEC, with the assistance of the Cyprus Maritime Authority, organized the Sub-Regional Seminar on Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage (Larnaca, Cyprus, 4-5 December 2018). REMPEC in collaboration with IMO organized a National IMO training course on response to HNS in the marine environment, based on the newly developed IMO model course (Istanbul, Turkey, 13-16 November 2018). REMPEC in collaboration with IMO and the European Maritime Safety Agency is scheduling a new session of the National IMO training course on response to HNS in the marine environment towards the end of 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey. Within the framework of the EU-funded “*Marine Litter-MED*” Project as well as the Cooperation Agreement between UNEP and IMELS, the literature-based review and the field visits and national meetings, are being prepared as part of the targeted diagnosis of the pilots related to the better management of sea-based litter in ports and marinas.

84. In the framework of SwitchMed Project’s demonstration component, seven pilot projects were finalized in the areas of tourism, agro-food, textile and organic waste, in Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. The projects included activities ranging from technical assistance, technical trainings, site visits, marketing support, mentoring, access to finance support, pilot installations, guidelines, and support to eco-labelling. It concluded with concrete technical and economic results and enabled the creation of green jobs.

85. SCP/RAC, in coordination with MED POL, prepared the report on baseline scenarios, baseline projects and alternative scenarios on PCBs/POPs and mercury, in the framework of the preparatory phase of the Child Project 1.1 “*Reduction of Land Based Pollution in priority Coastal Hotspots, and measuring progress to impacts*” of the GEF-funded MedProgramme.

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

86. SCP/RAC is preparing the Terms of Reference for the Development of a Web-Portal offering Green Business Development Tools which will provide resources and services to develop green business ideas to Business Development Service Providers and Green Entrepreneurs in the Mediterranean countries. A range of tools will be available such as a Green Business Model Development Toolkit, a Green Business Plan Development Toolkit, an Access to Finance Guide, an Eco-Design Tool, a Methodology on Alternatives to Hazardous Chemicals, etc. The creation of new green businesses will prevent the generation of waste ending up as marine litter and promote the shift to safe alternatives to POPs and toxic chemicals.

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

87. In October 2018, the draft technical and feasibility study to examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea, or parts thereof, as SOx ECA under MARPOL Annex VI prepared by REMPEC was submitted to the SOx ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts for review and comments. The draft study and the comments were presented and discussed at the Regional Workshop on Ratification and Effective Implementation of MARPOL Annex VI (Valletta, Malta, 11-13 December 2018) organized by REMPEC. The revised draft study and draft recommendations were submitted to the SOx ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts for review and comments.

88. REMPEC attended the intersessional meeting on consistent implementation of regulation 14.1.3 of MARPOL Annex VI (ISWG-AP 1) (London, UK, 9-13 July 2018) and held an informal regional meeting, in cooperation with IMO, on the ongoing relevant activities in the Mediterranean. REMPEC also participated in an international technical workshop “Data, trends, impacts and benefits associated with the creation of an emission control area by vessels in the Mediterranean” organized by the French Ministry of Ecological Transition and Solidarity, and Plan Bleu (Marseille, France, 6- 7 September 2018).

89. REMPEC delivered a presentation during the side-event entitled “Assessment of impacts of air pollution in the Mediterranean” organized by France (23 October 2018), in the margins of MEPC 73, and participated in the Workshop on “*Sulphur Regulation: awareness raising for the upcoming 0.50% Sulphur requirement and consistent implementation as of 2020*” (EMSA, Lisbon, Portugal, 13-14 February 2019).

## **IL3 Core Theme II: BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS**

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

90. Within the framework of the Cooperation Agreement between UNEP and IMELS, REMPEC and SPA/RAC have been cooperating on the preparation of their respective ToRs related to the provision of guidance on Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs) identification in relation with Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) and the strengthening of the capacity building in enhancing scientific description of Ecologically/Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) or PSSAs.

91. In the framework of the EU-funded “*MedMPA network*” project, SPA/RAC has set up on a pilot basis the Ad hoc Group of Experts on MPAs in the Mediterranean (AGEM). The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the AGEM (Tunis, Tunisia, 15 March 2019) discussed technical documents that will constitute the main AGEM deliverables that will be presented to the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of SPA/BD thematic Focal Points.

92. The SPAMI Twinning Programme “*Developing and strengthening an effective management of marine protected areas and particularly Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance*”, is implemented by SPA/RAC in the framework of the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS. The Twinning partners were identified based on proposals from Albania, Algeria, Slovenia and Tunisia and the kick-off meeting took place in the Torre del Cerrano MPA, Italy (26 February 2019). Agreements are signed between four SPAMIs/MPAs from Italy and four SPAMIs/MPAs from Albania, Algeria, Slovenia and Tunisia.

93. A training on standardized, adaptive management systems (ISEA) took place on 11-12 March 2019 in Tunis, Tunisia; three exchange visits in Karaburun Sazan SPAMI (Albania), Kneiss Island SPAMI (Tunisia) and Strunjan MPA (Slovenia) are executed. A call for Project to involve Civil Society Organizations is launched.

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

94. Interested parties for the implementation of a pilot on mutually granted exemptions under the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships’ Ballast Water and Sediments, making use of the same risk area concept for short sea shipping trade between two neighboring countries, have been contacted by REMPEC to specify the type of assistance and timeframe to support the process. REMPEC initiated the coordination with IMO for the organization of the Regional Workshop on the AntiFouling Systems (AFS) Convention and the Biofouling (Valletta, Malta, 12-14 November 2019).

95. The Coordinating Unit, with the support of REMPEC, proceeded to the selection of a consultant/regional expert to assist the Secretariat in identifying gaps and needs regarding the integration of GES and targets and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) processes in the Offshore Action Plan implementation. The work of the consultant is progressing.

96. A dedicated session on possible steps towards common approaches for MSP at the Adriatic took place in Split, Croatia, on 27 November 2018, back-to-back with the Sub-Regional Workshop on Stakeholders’ Involvement in MSP in the framework of the SUPREME project. A meeting with EUSAIR Facility Point and Thematic Steering Group (TSG) 3 Pillar Coordinator regarding future collaboration for the ICZM/MSP implementation in the Adriatic-Ionian sub-region took place in Split, Croatia, on 5 February 2019. Close collaboration towards synergies and complementarities of activities between the EUSAIR and MAP in the Adriatic were confirmed, and concrete outputs and related activities proposed. The 1<sup>st</sup> Adriatic-Ionian meeting towards drafting recommendations for a common approach on MSP will be held in Zagreb, Croatia, on 10 April 2019, back-to-back with the regional MSP training.

97. In accordance with Decision IG.23/8, SPA/RAC held a Meeting of Experts on the finalization of the Classification of benthic marine habitat types for the Mediterranean region and the Reference List of Marine and Coastal Habitat Types in the Mediterranean (Rome, Italy, 22-23 January 2019). The meeting was organized at the kind invitation of Italy and financial support of the MAVA Foundation for Nature.

98. SPA/RAC is updating the following Strategy and Action Plans: (a) The Action Plan for the conservation of cartilaginous fishes (Chondrichthyans) in the Mediterranean Sea; (b) The Regional Strategy for the conservation of monk seal in the Mediterranean; (c) The Action Plan for the conservation of marine turtles in the Mediterranean; and (d) The Action Plan for the conservation of marine vegetation in the Mediterranean; the drafts will be presented as working documents to the 14<sup>th</sup> SPA/BD thematic Focal Points meeting in view to be submitted to the MAP Focal Points meeting and COP 21.

99. In the framework of the MedKeyHabitats II project, the elaboration of distribution and sensitivity maps of the main habitats in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia is ongoing (phase I completed on 4 October 2018 in Tunisia, on

30 November 2018 in Morocco and on 28 March 2019 in Algeria).

100. The Interreg Med ACT4LITTER project successfully ended on 30 October 2018. In this framework: (a) nine Specific Action Plans including measures to prevent Marine Litter in MPAs were developed with nine voluntary pilot MPAs (Kornati National Park (Croatia), Miramare MPA and the MAB-UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Miramare and coast of Trieste (Italy), MPA of Torre Guaceto (Italy), MPA Torre del Cerrano (Italy), Axios-Loudias-Aliakmonas Delta National Park (Greece), Ebro Delta Nature Park (Spain), MPA Cala Ratjada-Balearic Islands (Spain), Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park/UNESCO Global Geopark-Andalucia (Spain), Strunjan Landscape Park (Slovenia)); two new editions of the ACT4LITTER Marine Litter Watch Month were organized; the final conference of the project took place in Athens, Greece (23-24 October 2018) back-to-back with the EU SWIM-H2020 SM workshop on marine litter, ensuring the participation of national and local authorities from the Southern Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia).

101. The Interreg Med Plastic Busters MPAs that kicked off in April 2018 is moving forward. SCP/RAC is leading the communication workpackage of the project and is preparing pilot actions to support the implementation of the Marine Litter Action Plan in five MPAs.

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

102. In the framework of the EU-funded “*MedMPA network*” project, SPA/RAC finalized the management plan for the north-eastern part of Kerkennah Islands (Tunisia), that was presented and endorsed by concerned stakeholders during a workshop, held on 4 January 2019, in Kerkennah, that gathered representatives of national and local stakeholders.

103. The report of the diagnosis-assessment phase for the elaboration of the Jbel Moussa (Morocco) future MPA management plan has been endorsed by the representatives of national and local stakeholders. The assigned team of national experts are progressing on the elaboration of the draft management plan in view of its final endorsement.

104. Within the MAVA funded MedKeyHabitats II project SPA/RAC elaborated an updated report on the coralligenous in the Mediterranean and started the elaboration of a report on marine caves biocenosis.

105. Within the MAVA funded Med Bycatch project and in collaboration with BirdLife International, GFCM, ACCOBAMS, IUCN Med and MEDASSET, a scientific committee for bycatch was set up and its 1<sup>st</sup> meeting was held in Rome, Italy on 13 December 2018, during the GFCM Fish Forum. The sampling methodologies and the multi taxa observer programmes of incidental catches of vulnerable species for Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey were agreed by the bycatch scientific committee during the meeting. Within the same project, SPA/RAC, in collaboration with AAO/BirdLife, started the implementation of the bycatch observation programme in Tunisia (Duration: March 2019-June 2020).

106. Within the implementation of the MAVA funded Marine turtles project, SPA/RAC is supporting the elaboration of the NAP for the conservation of sea turtles in Libya, Lebanon, Spain and Tunisia as well as a national strategy to reduce illegal trade of marine turtles in Tunisia. The 2<sup>nd</sup> steering committee meeting of this project was organized (Dalyan, Turkey, 21- 23 March 2019) to present the project’s progress and to discuss the ways forward.

107. Three Gap analysis reports have been elaborated and integrated in a call for proposal launched on March 2019 in order to improve knowledge on species and habitats affected by unsustainable fishing activities within the MAVA Foundation “*species knowledge*” project.

108. Within the Deep-Sea Lebanon Project, SPA/RAC elaborated a Management plan for future deep sea MPAs (Jounieh Nature Marine Reserve) that was presented and endorsed by concerned stakeholders during a workshop held on 11 December 2018 in Beirut, Lebanon.

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

109. SPA/RAC has organized a CORMON Biodiversity cluster meeting (Marseille, France, 12-13 February 2019) to discuss the progress made in the initial phase of IMAP implementation, including the monitoring protocols on common indicators related to biodiversity and non-indigenous species, and pointed out the need for further collaboration between the Contracting Parties to assess GES and contribute to the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report (2023 MED QSR) preparation. It also emphasized the need to start developing the

Ecological Objectives EO4 and EO6 and their related Common Indicators, in synergy with the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, and acknowledged the need to organizing a second CORMON meeting with the aim to consider the harmonization of the monitoring protocols of the common indicators related to marine benthic habitats and the data management issues before the 14<sup>th</sup> Thematic SPA/BD Focal Point Meeting (Portoroz, Slovenia, 18-21 June 2019).

110. Within the GEF Adriatic Project, SPA/RAC contacted the international experts on EO1 (Marine Habitat, Sea turtle, Seabirds, Marine mammals) and EO2 (NIS) providing support to the Albanian and Montenegrin project team, to elaborate the national knowledge gap assessment for EO1 and EO2 for these countries and to draft the respective national monitoring programme. Additionally, in March 2019, Albanian and Montenegrin fishery experts (contracted by PAP/RAC) started the elaboration of a knowledge gap assessment related to EO3 “fishery” with SPA/RAC support and GFCM contribution.

111. In conformity with COP 20 Decision IG.23/9, SPA/RAC collaborated with the relevant authorities in France, Italy, Lebanon, Monaco, Spain and Tunisia, to carry out, through mixed independent/national Technical Advisory Commissions (TACs), the ordinary periodic review for 19 SPAMIs. The site visits and meetings of the various TACs took place during March 2019. The outcomes of this review will be presented to the 14<sup>th</sup> SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points meeting, the MAP Focal Points Meeting and COP 21.

112. The ordinary review of the Pelagos Sanctuary allowed for testing the SPAMI online evaluation system for transboundary high-sea SPAMIs. The results of this test will be brought to the attention of the 14<sup>th</sup> SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points meeting.

113. SPA/RAC is undertaking, in collaboration with Contracting Parties, an evaluation of SAP BIO, after 15 years since its adoption, aimed to assess the actions achieved, existing gaps and pending issues at regional and national levels, calibrating the added value played by the role of SAP BIO for all Mediterranean countries, and providing options for a new post-2020 SAPBIO structure, elaboration steps and timeline. The ongoing evaluation discussed at the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of National Correspondents of SAP BIO, will be again verified by the Sixth meeting of National Correspondents of SAP BIO (Portoroz, Slovenia, June 2019). The results of the evaluation will be presented to the 14<sup>th</sup> SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points meeting.

114. SPA/RAC is undertaking an evaluation of the “*Roadmap for a Comprehensive Coherent Network of Well-Managed MPAs to Achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean*” to assess the progress made (including success and possible failure) by the Mediterranean countries towards achieving the Aichi Target 11. The results of such evaluation, along with post-2020 recommendations for the Mediterranean region, will be presented to the 14<sup>th</sup> SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points meeting.

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

115. SPA/RAC organized the Mediterranean Symposia on Marine Key Habitats and NIS, in Antalya, Turkey, as follows: (a) 6<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Symposium on Marine Vegetation (14-15 January 2019); (b) 3<sup>rd</sup> Mediterranean Symposium on the Conservation of Coralligenous and other Calcareous Bio-Concretions (15-16 January 2019); (c) 2<sup>nd</sup> Mediterranean Symposium on the Conservation of the Dark Habitats (16 January 2019); and (d) 1<sup>st</sup> Mediterranean Symposium on the Non-Indigenous Species (17-18 January 2019).

116. Two capacity building workshops (including exchange of best practices on monitoring the IMAP agreed common indicators) were organized in collaboration with the Permanent Secretariat of ACCOBAMS (Beirut, Lebanon, 2-5 October 2018; Bizerte, Tunisia, 25-28 February 2019). The events were aimed to reporting quality assured data on the common indicators 3,4 and 5 related to cetaceans.

117. Within the MAVA funded Med Bycatch project, a training for Tunisian bycatch observers and representatives of national institutions and NGOs was jointly organized on 3-6 October 2018 in Tunis, Tunisia, by SPA/RAC and the direct Bycatch Project partners (BirdLife International, ACCOBAMS, IUCN Med and MEDASSET) and the Tunisian National partners (AAO/BirdLife, INSTM and DGPA).

118. Within the GEF Adriatic Project, SPA/RAC and PAP/RAC jointly organized an EcAp national training workshop on EO1, EO2, and EO7 in Kotor, Montenegro, on 26 and 27 November 2018. The training was provided for a team of experts from Albania and Montenegro to allow them to start a gap knowledge assessment and draft a national monitoring programme aligned with the IMAP.

119. SPA/RAC co-organized with the CBD Marine Team the SOI Capacity Building Workshop for Northern



Africa and the Mediterranean (Tangier, Morocco, 15-19 October 2018). The event showcased efficient cooperation among a RSC and a RFMO with a Global Environment Convention, commonly aimed to provide support towards achieving Aichi Targets 6 and 11 at national level in the countries of the region. National experts and practitioners from marine biodiversity conservation and fisheries and marine resources management public administrations worked together with regional organizations, with the support of the CBD Secretariat, UNEP/MAP and GFCM.

120. The Coordinating Unit and SPA/RAC participated to the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas: celebrating a decade of IMMPA (Costa Navarino, Messina, Greece, 8-12 April 2019). This is an occasion to present and discuss the first draft of the Monk seal strategy.

121. The first ODYSSEA training workshop dedicated to Observatories Managers and Technical Staff held in Lisbon, Portugal, 23-25 October 2018, simultaneously with ODYSSEA 1<sup>st</sup> General Assembly. SPA/RAC has prepared the outlines of the Training Programme, based on a survey conducted within the project stakeholders. ODYSSEA Deliverable D10.1 “*Training material for workshops*” was prepared by SPA/RAC and delivered in November 2018. On 23-24 January 2019, SPA/RAC attended the official launch of ODYSSEA project in Morocco and identified the capacity building needs of the Moroccan stakeholders in the field of Operational Oceanography. SPA/RAC took part to the ODYSSEA project review meeting held in Brussels, Belgium (13 February 2019) and resented the activities carried out in the frame of WP10 “*Capacity Building in North African Countries*”.

122. SPA/RAC is preparing an action in synergy with REMPEC to compile information on pressures and impacts in a sub-region where an EBSA and SPAMIs exists and PSSAs can be developed, with the view to undertake in November 2019 a training workshop on management measures and PSSAs declaration processes in the Adriatic, and to provide coordinated support to Contracting Parties in identifying areas where PSSAs declarations could be promoted.

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

123. SPA/RAC is participating in relevant meetings of the CBD on the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework elaboration. It is also leading a UNEP/MAP Secretariat Task Force set with members of all RACs and the Coordinating Unit to compile contributions to be provided to the CBD Secretariat on this future Global Framework for biodiversity conservation.

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

124. The CBD Secretariat, GFCM and UNEP/MAP are following and contributing to the process for the development of the international legally binding instrument on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), which is expected to improve coherence to better support conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ, by establishing standards for environmental impact assessments, MPAs and marine technology transfer, while preserving the rights and obligation guaranteed by the UNCLOS.

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

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

125. PAP/RAC finalized an overview of the existing practices with EIA and SEA in a transboundary context in early 2019, while Draft Guidelines for Environmental Assessment in a Transboundary Context will be presented and discussed during the PAP/RAC Focal Points meeting.

126. A sub-regional workshop for the Eastern Mediterranean EU member states within the SUPREME project was held in Split, Croatia (26-27 November 2018), while a Regional Training Workshop on MSP is held in Zagreb, Croatia (9-10 April 2019).

**Strategic Outcome 4.3: Strengthening national implementation**

127. Feedback from the National Ministry of Bosnia and Herzegovina is still pending on the CAMP Agreement submitted for signature in September 2018. PAP/RAC and the Coordinating Unit are continuously following up on this issue.

128. In February 2019, the preparation of the Feasibility Study for a transboundary CAMP project for the Otranto Area was initiated, following consultations with the relevant Ministries of Albania and Italy. The possibility is examined to propose a national CAMP in Israel.

#### **Strategic Outcome 4.4: Monitoring and assessment**

129. The preparation of case studies on SDG14 and Blue Economy is in progress with the involvement of a network of relevant actors. The draft case studies and a recommendation report will be submitted to the Plan Bleu Focal Points and MCSD meetings. Furthermore, a Coastal Risk Index (CRI) is further developed in collaboration with the RAMOGE Convention.

130. The testing of a step-by-step guide for LSI implementation within the pilot cases of SIMWESTMED and SUPREME projects was finalized, producing the following outputs under the coordination of PAP/RAC: (a) Definition of approaches for implementation of pilot actions in Var (France) addressing LSI; and (b) Feedback on the utilization of a methodology for assessing land-sea interactions (LSI) in the pilot area of the Dubrovnik-Neretva County (Croatia).

131. Preparations are under way for the CORMON meeting on Coast and Hydrography (Rome, Italy, 21-22 May 2019). The meeting will discuss and provide guidance on data standards and data dictionaries for IMAP Common Indicators related to coast and hydrography, agree on details related to Guidance Fact Sheets for the EO7 and EO8 common indicators and discuss cross-cutting issues and the status of national IMAPs.

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

132. Trainings based on IMAP indicator factsheets were organized in Podgorica, Montenegro, for Albania and Montenegro, as a part of the GEF Adriatic project: (a) IMAP training for EO5 and EO9 (2-3 October 2018); (b) IMAP training for EO10 (22 November 2018); and (c) IMAP training for EO1, EO2, and EO7 (26-27 November 2018). Additional trainings were organized in Podgorica, Montenegro, on 28 November 2018 (contaminants and eutrophication) and in Tirana, Albania, on 17-18 December (eutrophication, contaminants and marine litter).

133. The Adriatic GEF project supports the organization of the CORMON meeting for EO5, EO9 and EO10 (Podgorica, Montenegro, 2-5 April 2019) with the participation of Albanian and Montenegrin experts.

#### **Strategic Outcome 4.6: Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels.**

134. Criteria for labelling of ICZM projects were drafted and an on-line tool to facilitate networking was designed. Both deliverables will be presented and discussed at the PAP/RAC Focal Points meeting.

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

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

135. Two meetings were organized to work on the Methodological Guidance for Reaching GES through ICZM: (a) Working meeting of PAP/RAC, MED POL and SPA/RAC (Athens, Greece, 24-25 January 2019); and (b) 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Working Group for drafting the Common Regional Framework for ICZM (Rome, Italy, 27-28 February 2019). Both the CRF and the Methodological Guidance document will be presented and discussed at the PAP/RAC Focal points meeting.

136. The draft methodology for the analysis of the coherence between the SAP BIO and ICZM Protocol provisions with the view to contribute to the SAP BIO revision was presented and discussed during the SAP/BIO meeting organized by SPA/RAC in Marseille, France, on 13-14 February 2019. The methodology is being updated in line with the meeting recommendations, and the draft analysis will be presented first at the PAP/RAC Focal points meeting and then at the SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points meeting.

137. The 2<sup>nd</sup> training course on ICZM/MSP for the Co-Evolve project partners was held in Barcelona, Spain, on 29-31 October 2018.

138. Work has been initiated by the Secretariat, with support through the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS, to undertake an analysis of the Offshore Action Plan, with the view to identifying gaps and developing concrete recommendations for enhanced streamlining of GES and targets, as well as SDGs and ICZM provisions, for review by the relevant MAP bodies.

#### **Strategic Outcome 5.2: Development of new action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines**

139. A conceptual methodology for addressing LSI and its relationship with ICZM was developed in synergy between the SIMWESTMED and SUPREME projects and presented at the projects' final conference in Venice,

Italy, on 11-13 December 2018.

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

140. Updating of the training material and other preparatory activities for the next run of the MedOpen Advanced course are on-going, in order to be able to deliver it in the second half of this year.

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

141. The ICZM Platform has been launched within the refreshed PAP/RAC web site. The Platform has been populated with material and is currently under updating.

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

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

142. Activities in the framework of SwitchMed's Green Entrepreneurship and Civil Society component have been concluded. During the reporting period: (a) 800 Green Entrepreneurs have been trained to develop their Green Business Model in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Israel and Lebanon; (b) 15 selected Green Entrepreneurs have been incubated and supported to launch their green businesses in 8 countries; (c) 60 Green Entrepreneurs have been supported to access finance through national meetings between entrepreneurs and investors; (d) Access to finance guide for green entrepreneurs has been developed

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

143. In the framework of the SwitchMed Networking Facility, a number of activities have been developed, including: Publication on 'Opportunities and Challenges of Financing for Green and Circular Economy Entrepreneurship in MENA'; Preparation of the second round of the Switchers Fund Grant Scheme; Fundraising and engagement activities; Publication of regional and national roadmaps for scaling-up of green entrepreneurship support tools in the Mediterranean (the Switchers Support Programme); Management of the SCP Hub and the social media channels; Strengthening and development of the Switchers platform; 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of SwitchMed Connect (Barcelona, Spain, 13-15 November 2018) with 400+ participants; Participation in several meetings and events.

144. The Networking Facility was also represented at UNEA-4 (Nairobi, Kenya, 11-15 March 2019) to: 1) share the results achieved during the first phase of the programme, which ended in December 2018; 2) develop joint outreach activities together with other regional SWITCH programmes; and 3) give an insight about the second phase of the SwitchMed programme which is now starting.

**II.7 Cross-cutting Theme III: CLIMATE CHANGE**

**Strategic Outcome 7.1: Strengthening the regional implementation of the obligations under the BC and its Protocols, and of programmes of measures in existing Regional Strategies and Action Plans**

145. Exchanges started between SPA/RAC and Plan Bleu/RAC to build synergies to favour the increase in the use of harmonized climate change vulnerability and impacts indicators for biodiversity in SPAMIs. Collaboration will include the provision to Plan Bleu/RAC of pertinent documentation for a meeting co-organized with MedPAN on climate change and MPAs

**Strategic Outcome 7.2: Development of new action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines**

146. Work is ongoing on "Nature-Based Solution" as a means to adapt to climate change in the Mediterranean, through capitalization on the best practices workshop organized by Plan Bleu/RAC, IUCN Med, IUCN France, Tour du Valat, Conservatoire du Littoral, MedWet, Wetlands International (Marseille, France, 22-24 January).

147. A Policy Paper on integrating natural areas in the methods of adapting to climate change is in preparation to be presented to the Plan Bleu Focal Points meeting (Marseille, France, 28-29 May 2019).

**Strategic Outcome 7.4: Monitoring and assessment**

148. As noted above, SPA/RAC and Plan Bleu/RAC work together on indicators on vulnerability and impact of climate change on biodiversity and natural resources, also addressing socio-economic trends: a cost analysis for the implementation of the indicators in a sample of SPAMIs is under way.