



UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/MED WG.468/Inf.19



UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

9 August 2019
Original: English

Meeting of the MAP Focal Points

Athens, Greece, 10-13 September 2019

Agenda Item 5: Specific Matters for Consideration and Action by the Meeting, including Draft Decisions

Report on the implementation of the “Action Plan for the Implementation of the ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean (2012-2019)”

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Report on the implementation of the “Action Plan for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean (2012 – 2019)”

I. INTRODUCTION

An important milestone for the implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in the Mediterranean Basin was the adoption, by COP17 (Paris, France, 2012), of the Action Plan for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol in 2012-2019. By adopting this Action Plan, the Contracting Parties (CPs) have decided to focus on three major objectives further articulated into a series of actions, entrusting PAP/RAC and UNEP/MAP to support them in their implementation, namely:

- **Objective 1:** Support the effective implementation of the ICZM Protocol at regional, national and local levels including through a Common Regional Framework for ICZM
- **Objective 2:** Strengthen the capacities of CPs to implement the Protocol and use in an effective manner ICZM policies, instruments, tools and processes
- **Objective 3:** Promote the ICZM Protocol and its implementation within the Region, and promote it globally by developing synergies with relevant Conventions and Agreements.

The present report is an update of the Mid-term Evaluation Report made in 2015, as foreseen by the Action Plan itself.

The main objective of this report is to summarise the accomplishments made in relation to the objectives and actions undertaken jointly by the CPs, PAP/RAC and other partners – be they a part of the UNEP/MAP system or external, in implementing ICZM in the Mediterranean Region. Alongside this reminder about the main achievements, major difficulties encountered in implementing the Action Plan will be pointed out, as well as the lessons learned for the future.

Besides the regular reporting as a part of the Barcelona Convention reporting system, the findings of two assessments conducted in 2015 were used for the preparation of this report, i.e. the evaluation of the UNEP/MAP programme 2010-2014 and the assessment of CAMP projects implemented in the period 2001-2014.

II. OVERVIEW OF THE MAIN RESULTS

A short overview that follows is structured according to the three Objectives of the Action Plan.

In order not to overburden the report with too many details, direct links are provided to all major documents produced and events organised. We kindly invite you to have a look at them and to contact PAP/RAC for any additional information you may need.

II.1 Objective 1: Support the effective implementation of the ICZM Protocol at regional, national and local levels including through a Common Regional Framework for ICZM

Action 1.1: Ratification and transposition

The main objective of this Action is to advance with the ratification of the ICZM Protocol with the objective to have it ratified by all the CPs within the period covered by the Action Plan. The responsibility for the ratification and transposition of the Protocol provisions into national legislation lies on the CPs, while the PAP/RAC is to provide assistance upon request.

The ICZM Protocol was one of the fastest to enter into force, in March 2011, after the required minimum of six ratifications. Today, the number of CPs having ratified the Protocol has grown to 11 and the process is on-going in several other CPs.

To assist the countries in this process PAP/RAC has undertaken, with the support of the French Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), several studies aiming to facilitate the understanding of the Protocol's provisions, namely:

- A contribution to the interpretation of legal aspects of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean, with a special chapter containing an analysis of the Protocol in face of the EU law (in English and French);
- An analysis of the Croatian legal framework in relation to the provisions of the Mediterranean ICZM Protocol;
- Assessment of Impacts of the Ratification of the Mediterranean Protocol on ICZM on Croatian Legislation, with a Focus on Article 8.

These studies were presented during the “Regional workshop on harmonising the national legal and institutional framework with the ICZM Protocol“, which was organised by PAP/RAC within Component 1 of the “MedPartnership” project in December 2012. The aim of the workshop was to assist countries in understanding the legal aspects of the ICZM Protocol; building capacities for the ratification of the Protocol and its transposition into the national laws; and identifying the stakeholders who could lead the implementation of the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean countries, or those who could obstruct it or make it more difficult.

As it has been stated by the participants, the ratification enables all interested stakeholders to use the ICZM Protocol as a tool to push for a sustainable coastal development. It has also been pointed out that the ratification is only one step on the long path towards sustainable coastal development for which the efficient implementation of the ICZM Protocol is a crucial challenge. The report of the workshop (in English) is available at [this link](#).

Another important initiative within this Action was implemented within the EU IPA Adriatic project SHAPE that, among others, explored the ICZM practices in the Adriatic countries and their regions. Three major documents were produced to support the implementation of the ICZM Protocol in the project region but can be (and have been) used by any other country undertaking this effort. These are:

- An analysis of the ICZM practice in the Adriatic countries/Italian regions;
- Explanatory report on institutional co-ordination, according to Art. 7 to assist the project partners in drafting reports on the establishment or improvement of such co-ordination bodies;
- Explanatory report on the implementation of the setback zone according to Art. 8, including technical assistance to six pilot projects where setback zone was defined.

Action 1.2: Strengthening and supporting governance

Good governance is a fundamental part of what ICZM is trying to achieve – a proactive and adaptive management of coastal zones, which encourages all interested parties to work together on specific coastal issues. This means in practice that success depends on forging partnerships and linking local-scale initiatives to higher-level policies, i.e. achieving horizontal and vertical co-ordination. The activities under this Action have been carried out in parallel at three levels: the regional (Mediterranean), the national and the local, as described below.

Governance structures are being established in all ICZM implementation projects (such as CAMPs or the “MedPartnership” pilot projects, or the recently implemented MSP pilot projects) as they are the best guarantee that the most appropriate solutions will be adopted for the managed areas. These will be

pointed out in the presentation of individual projects. The same will be done for the inter-ministerial committees established within the process of preparation of national ICZM strategies supported by the “MedPartnership” project in Algeria, Croatia and Montenegro.

In this chapter we shall focus on three large initiatives detected as a priority under this Action:

- the Governance Platform created within the EU FP7 project PEGASO for the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions (in which two MAP components have participated: PAP/RAC and Plan Bleu); and
- the Common Regional Framework (CRF) for ICZM;
- the EcAp governance structure (CORMON).

The PEGASO Governance Platform

The main objective of the PEGASO project being to bridge the gap between science and decision-making on coastal issues, the establishment of an interactive governance platform was considered as a crucial element to ensure a constructive, two-way dialogue between those who have to take decisions at different levels – from regional to national and local, and those who have to provide quality data and tools for that.

The PEGASO ICZM governance platform was made of some *250 people* (including representatives of international organisations, national and local stakeholders from the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions) that worked together to put in place effective ICZM plans and programmes by exchanging, learning together, sharing knowledge, designing and testing new planning and management tools. To do so, these people had at their disposal a powerful *technical infrastructure* to use: the *Intranet*, which is a common work space with an active forum and document repository; a *Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI)* that supports interactive information sharing and assure that spatial data are organised and presented in a standardised way, complying with INSPIRE directive; and a *web portal* allowing contact with the “external world” and dissemination of the project results to wider audience. This collaborative work has yielded several important products of relevance for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol, which will be detailed as appropriate in the paragraphs that follow.

Already during the PEGASO lifetime this governance platform has associated many external actors, such as PAP/RAC Focal Points (FPs) or other coastal and marine projects, who have enriched it and boosted the network of coastal practitioners, scientists and decision-makers. After the closure of the PEGASO project in 2014, the technical infrastructure of the platform has continued operating owing to the effort of some of the project partners, who have secured the additional EU funding for it.

The Common Regional Framework for ICZM

The preparation and adoption of the ICZM Protocol is probably the only objective of the first MSSD achieved at 100 per cent. Therefore, the MSSD 2.0 was initially identified as the most appropriate document to give a regional strategic context to ICZM. Unfortunately, the MSSD revision was a complex process involving many stakeholders who were not always at the same track and not ready to accept ICZM as the most adequate management approach that offers tools and methods that can lead to sustainable coastal development.

Consequently, by a decision of COP19 PAP/RAC was entrusted with coordination of the preparation of the Common Regional Framework (CRF) for ICZM to be submitted for adoption by COP20. Given the complexity of the task, which included thorough desk work to examine relevant documentation, drafting of the text, and extensive consultation process with stakeholders at the Mediterranean and national levels, and all this in a rather short period of time, a core group was created for its implementation composed of PAP/RAC staff members supported by a team of consultants with experience in implementing the Barcelona Convention, and in particular its ICZM Protocol.

After a series of consultation meetings with the CPs it was decided that, given the limited time available for the preparation and negotiation of the text of the CRF, in the biennium 2016-2017 only its general structure and annotated contents would be submitted for adoption by COP20, coupled with another strategic document foreseen by the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) for 2016-17 – the Conceptual Framework for MSP.

The preparation of the CRF has been a major output in the biennium 2018-19. Several versions of the main document were prepared and discussed together with the members of the open-ended Working Group (WG) created for that purpose, as well as an additional document requested to be prepared i.e. the Methodological Guidance for Reaching Good Environmental Status (GES) through ICZM. Both the CRF and the Methodological Guidance document will be presented and discussed at the FPs meeting prior to their submission to MAP NFPs in September and hopefully its adoption by COP21 in December 2019.

The work on the CRF has progressed through a series of meetings of different types i.e.:

- First meeting of the WG for drafting the CRF for ICZM (Split, Croatia, 13-14 March 2018);
- Second meeting of the WG for drafting the CRF for ICZM (Athens, Greece, 30-31 May 2018);
- Consultation workshop with PAP/RAC FPs (Split, Croatia, 26-27 September 2018);
- Working meeting of PAP/RAC, MEDPOL and SPA/RAC on interaction matrices and operational guidance (Athens, Greece, 24-25 January 2019);
- Third meeting of the WG for drafting the CRF for ICZM (Rome, Italy, 27-28 February 2019).

The CORMON

Since the beginning of the EcAp process implementation PAP/RAC supports the Coordinating Unit (CU) in organising the governance (CORMON) meetings related to the Coast and Hydrography Ecological Objectives (EOs) of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP).

Two meetings were organised (i.e. Meeting of the EcAp CORMON on Coast and Hydrography in Madrid, Spain, on 3 March 2017; and Regional Meeting on IMAP Implementation: Best Practices, Gaps and Common Challenges in Rome, Italy, on 10-12 July 2018) with the aim to discuss the Guidance Fact Sheets, knowledge gaps and issues in implementing the indicators related to Coast and Hydrography cluster comprised of the following common indicators:

- Location and extent of the habitats impacted directly by hydrographic alterations;
- Length of coastline subject to physical disturbance due to the influence of manmade structures; and
- Land-use change.

Moreover, these meetings were good occasions to discuss with the CPs the progress of their National Integrated Monitoring Assessment Programmes (IMAPs) regarding Coast and Hydrography and to provide PAP/RAC with essential inputs for the completion of the Indicators Guidance Fact Sheets, as well as for the Quality Status Report (QSR).

PAP/RAC also contributed to the EcAp Coordination Group joint meeting on IMAP held in Nice on 27-28 April 2017. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the temporal and geographical scales of monitoring, reporting and assessment for the IMAP indicators, as well as to discuss the draft QSR 2017 report based on the Assessment Fact Sheets. PAP/RAC led the group on coast and hydrography indicators. The inputs from the meeting were used to improve the draft report for the QSR.

The next CORMON meeting for Coast and Hydrography EOs will be held in Rome, Italy, on 21-22 May 2019.

Action 1.3: Adopting National Strategies and Action Plans and Programmes

In the application of Art. 18 of the ICZM Protocol, this Action has fixed as a main objective to have national ICZM strategies adopted by all countries, with the support of PAP/RAC and other MAP components.

Benefiting from the funding offered by the “MedPartnership”, PAP/RAC led the preparation of three national ICZM strategies (in Algeria, Croatia and Montenegro) and three coastal plans (for Réghaïa in Algeria, Buna/Bojana in Albania/Montenegro, and Šibenik-Knin County in Croatia).

Algerian ICZM Strategy and Coastal Plan for Réghaïa

The lessons learned from the CAMP Algeria (2001-2006) called for the development of a National ICZM Strategy in order to keep progressing on the way to sustainability of the Algerian coast. This process started in 2012, when a comprehensive diagnosis of the Algerian coast was prepared and an *Inter-ministerial* Committee formed. Once the diagnostic analysis was finished, it became clear that the good governance would be at the heart of the success of the process and that all stakeholders should be able to take part in debates. To that end, and taking into account that the Algerian coast is particularly wide, with 1,600 km of the coastline, it was decided to organise participatory workshops in the three coastal regions (East, Centre and West) during which the participants discussed the key ICZM themes, namely, the institutional functioning, participation, and support to scientific and technical data in the context of ICZM.

In the next stage, when a consensus on the key issues, especially the institutional and legal ones, was reached, a draft strategy was developed. By the end of 2014, the document with a focus on 10 major strategic orientations was presented at the validation workshops in the three coastal areas. This participatory process in which, directly or indirectly, 1,400 people were involved, was concluded with the organization of a final Conference in Oran, in March 2015, when the Strategy was presented by the Algerian Minister of Land Planning and Environment. The Minister raised hopes that the strategy would allow reframing actions for sustainable coastal development, and improving the efficiency of institutional and legal provisions, as well as that the stakeholders would now be fully engaged in its implementation.

The same participatory principle with relevant stakeholders was applied for the preparation of the coastal plan for the Réghaïa area, which has served as a demonstration project illustrating the implementation of the strategy at a lower level. The plan was adopted on the same occasion as the strategy and it did not remain a dead letter because the area, which includes both a terrestrial and a marine part, was classified as protected area by a special degree of the Wali of Algiers. This decision testifies of the post-project involvement of local actors in the implementation of measures recommended by the plan, and shows once again that Algeria has decided to protect its outstanding coastal natural heritage.

National ICZM Strategy for Montenegro

The process of preparation of the National ICZM Strategy was entirely integrated with the CAMP Montenegro activities (see Objective 2, Action 2.2) in order to enable synergies and avoid duplications.

Having in mind that this process was also carried out hand in hand with the process of preparation of the physical plan for the coastal area of Montenegro (Coastal Area Spatial Plan – CASP), its first half was entirely based on innovative studies and methodological approaches necessary for the ICZM Protocol implementation, to allow for the mainstreaming of ICZM principles into the spatial planning practice. This was a complex process, with a strong capacity building component intended for the

national administration staff and the institutions involved in coastal and planning issues, as well as numerous working meetings with expert institutions, ministries, spatial planning institutions and individual experts.

One of the important elements examined throughout this process was the possibility of using the Steering Committee of the project as a model and transforming it in a permanent institutional structure for the coastal zone management. Based on this experience, the ICZM Strategy recommended the coastal management governance structure including two main levels: the political and the administrative one. The initial step towards that direction has already been achieved when the National Committee for the Sustainable Development and Climate Change has been extended into a National Committee for the Sustainable Development, ICZM and the Climate Change thus becoming an intra-governmental body for ICZM.

In addition to specific management and systemic spatial planning requirements, mainly related to the methodology and the process for the preparation of spatial plans (such as those related to the establishment of a coastal observatory, the access to information, public participation, the co-ordination and integration mechanisms, etc.), specific guidelines related to criteria for the sustainable land-use planning within the Coastal Area Spatial Plan were elaborated within the Strategy. The Guidelines were structured around four main principles for the land-use planning based on the ICZM Protocol requirements contained in the Article 6c (ecosystem approach) and the Article 8 (protection and sustainable use of the coastal zone).

The Strategy was presented at the final CAMP conference in Budva, in December 2014, prior to its submission for adoption. It was formally adopted by the Government of Montenegro on 25 June 2015.

Marine and Coastal Strategy in Croatia

In 2012, Croatia has launched the process of preparation of the Marine Strategy, as requested by the EU's Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Soon after, the country ratified the ICZM Protocol. Knowing that 80% of marine pollution comes from the land-based sources, the Croatian Government decided to integrate these two strategies and to continue with the preparation of a joint Marine and Coastal Strategy for Croatia. In 2014, the inter-ministerial committee established for the Marine Strategy in 2012, has been extended to encompass a wide array of coastal stakeholders, so that today, it counts more than 40 representatives of different Ministries and Agencies dealing with the coast and sea.

Moreover, in 2015, the Croatian Government was finalising two other important strategic documents: the Regional development strategy and the Spatial development strategy. One of the objectives of the PAP/RAC efforts was to create favourable conditions for the integration of these three strategies thus allowing the country to rationalise efforts, time and money and have well-harmonised documents for the future.

Marine and coastal strategy proposed the optimal institutional framework for marine and coastal management, but also the measures for the future sustainability of the Croatian sea and coast. The process of its preparation was highly participatory, through the inter-ministerial committee at the national level and the participatory workshops held in all coastal counties to insure that the local needs and priorities, as well as knowledge and ideas are taken into consideration, but also to build ownership and to increase chances for a successful implementation of the strategy.

On-going Work on Strategies

A series of consultations were done with the countries eligible for GEF MedProgramme to define their priorities for action. Two of them have expressed the need for: a national ICZM strategy to be developed (Lebanon) and the existing strategy to be updated (Egypt). These two requests were included in the project proposal, which will hopefully start by the end of this year.

Moreover, PAP/RAC follows the preparation of the National ICZM Strategy for Tunisia led by the Agency for Coastal Protection and Management (APAL) and supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The first diagnostic report shared with us by APAL addresses all relevant issues and represents a good basis for the continuation of work.

Cyprus is another country in which the process of National ICZM Strategy is in an advanced stage. Information about it has been reaching us through our FP.

Action 1.4: Reporting on Protocol Implementation and Monitoring the State of the Mediterranean Coast

The main objective of this Action is twofold:

- (i) to ensure a regular reporting on the ICZM Protocol implementation within the Barcelona Convention (BC) reporting system; and
- (ii) to periodically report on the state and evolution of the coastal zones.

Reporting Format

The stock-take¹ of ICZM legal, institutional and implementation aspects in all 21 Mediterranean countries carried out within the PEGASO project in 2011 and updated in 2013 has served as a basis for the preparation of the official reporting format for the ICZM Protocol.

Given this thorough exercise, the PAP FPs recommended that the preparation of the reporting format for the ICZM Protocol be split in two phases. Accordingly, the reporting format on legal and institutional aspects was prepared and adopted by COP18 while the reporting format on operational aspects was adopted by COP19 and put on line as a part of the new Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS) under which countries are currently submitting their national reports on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols for the biennium 2016-2017.

For the 2014-2015 reporting period, twelve (12) countries submitted their national implementation reports for the ICZM Protocol. Of these twelve (12) countries, seven (7) were Contracting Parties to the ICZM Protocol.

Concerning the 2016- 2017-reporting period, countries are in the process of submitting their national implementation reports through the new online BCRS. As of 25 March 2019, five (5) countries have submitted their reports on the implementation of the ICZM Protocol. Of these five (5) countries, three (3) are Contracting Parties to the ICZM Protocol.

Periodical reporting on the evolution of coastal zones

The PEGASO project has developed a core set of 15 indicators for measuring the implementation of ICZM policies and programmes. This core set of indicators addresses the specific requirement of Article 27 of the ICZM Protocol to “define coastal management indicators“ and “establish and maintain up-to-date assessments of the use and management of coastal zones“. It was widely built on previous and existing indicator sets developed by different institutions and projects, which are duly acknowledged. For each of the indicators listed below a methodological factsheet was developed:

- Added value per sector
- Area of built-up space
- Bathing water quality
- Commercial fish stocks

¹ http://www.pegasoproject.eu/images/stories/WP2/D2.2A_Final%20global%20results%20of%20the%20stock-taking.pdf

- Coastal and marine litter
- Economic production
- Employment
- Erosion and instability
- Natural capital
- Hypoxia
- Number of enterprises
- Population size and density
- Risk assessment
- Sea level rise

Linkages and priorities to EcAp ecological objectives and indicators were made whenever possible. Moreover, the mapping of urban sprawl and natural capital in the parts of the Mediterranean Basin not covered by the CORINE land cover was prepared within the same project, with the idea to be used for the purpose of the EcAp process.

EcAp Indicators

The ecosystem approach is one of the basic principles of ICZM, as stated in the Protocol itself. Therefore, it was logical to include specific coastal indicators in the EcAp list adopted by COP18, so to fully implement the UNEP/MAP legal obligations. These are: Location and extent of the habitats impacted directly by hydrographic alterations (EO7); and Length of coastline influenced by manmade structures (EO8). Another coastal indicator (on Land-use change) was recommended for further analysis with the aim to be included for monitoring.

For this candidate indicator a pilot project was implemented for testing its feasibility and maturity namely at the Adriatic sub-region namely, "Pilot project in the Adriatic on testing the candidate common indicator 'Land use change' in the Mediterranean". Also, with the cooperation of UNEP GRID a Mediterranean scale report "Evolution of built-up area in coastal zones in the Mediterranean between 1975 and 2015". This is the first analysis of such kind in the Mediterranean.

This indicator will not serve to monitor the state of the coastal ecosystems and landscapes only but it will provide objective and comparable information needed to prepare regular reports on the state and evolution of coastal zones, as required by the ICZM Protocol.

PAP/RAC provides assistance to the CPs in preparing their national IMAPs for coast and hydrography indicators. By participating in the EcAp MED II project, six out of seven eligible countries of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean prepared their IMAPs, which were presented and discussed at the 2nd training workshop in Rome, Italy, on 24-25 April 2017 and finalised by the end of the year.

The preparation of national IMAPs was supported by a series of training workshops:

- On 26 and 27 October 2016, the first training workshop on indicators related to coast and hydrography was organized in Rabat, Morocco ([link to the Report](#));
- The second training workshop took place in Rome, Italy, on 24-25 April 2017 with the main objectives to: review the work done on drafting the national IMAPs; train on the monitoring guidance for the three indicators; discuss links to EO1 on habitats and the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) principles; and provide specific assistance to national consultants drafting IMAPs.

The final draft national IMAPs prepared for the EcAp MED II eligible countries were presented and discussed at the PAP/RAC Sub-regional expert group meeting on Coast and Hydrography indicators, Zagreb, Croatia, on 6-7 December 2017.

State of Environment and Development Report

In the biennium 2018-19, under the overall coordination of Plan Bleu, PAP/RAC has been contributing to the State of Environment and Development Report (SoED). PAP/RAC staff members and their consultants have prepared a large part of the chapter dedicated to coastal zones. Besides describing state of the coastal zones and marine areas, emphasizing the land-sea interactions and issues related to urbanization this chapter proposes responses and priorities for action in the Mediterranean coastal and marine area.

II.2 Objective 2: Strengthen the capacities of CPs to implement the Protocol and use in an effective manner ICZM policies, instruments, tools and processes

Action 2.1: Methodologies and Processes

This Action aims at ensuring an up-to-date methodological guidance for the ICZM implementation.

The requirements of the ICZM Protocol as well as new developments in scientific, technological and societal fields make necessary regular updating of the methods and tools used in ICZM. This is an important part of the PAP/RAC's and its partners' work, in which some innovative proposals have been developed.

ICZM Process

Elaborated in co-operation between two major projects in which PAP/RAC was a partner – PEGASO and “MedPartnership”, detailed orientations for the implementation of ICZM as a gradual, proactive and interactive process were proposed, which are made available both in a hard copy and through the Coastal Wiki, where they were uploaded by the PEGASO team. The process is designed as a “living” tool that can be easily amended by new explanations, good practices, specific tools, etc.

It has been used as a reference by the PEGASO pilot cases and by the two “MedPartnership” pilot projects.

Guidelines for National ICZM Strategies

The ICZM Process has served as a basis for the preparation of the Guidelines to assist the CPs in fulfilling one of the major obligations of the ICZM Protocol, which is the preparation of national ICZM strategies. These Guidelines were already used in Algeria and Montenegro, and have served as a guidance for the Coastal and Marine Strategy in Croatia. They were also capitalised within the SHAPE IPA Adriatic project as the partners from the region considered them as a good tool for the elaboration of their own (national or regional) strategies.

Integrative Methodological Framework

The “Integrative Methodological Framework (IMF) for coastal, river basin and aquifer management: Towards Converging Management Approaches for Mediterranean Coastal Zones” is another methodological document that was developed using the ICZM Process as a starting point. This innovative document is the result of a joint effort of the three “MedPartnership” project partners – PAP/RAC, Global Water Partnership for the Mediterranean (GWP-MED) and UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO-IHP), undertaken to link closely related but in practice still separated management interventions, which take place in the same or adjacent territorial units, i.e. coastal and marine zones, coastal watersheds and coastal aquifers. Feedbacks from the

Réghaïa and Buna/Bojana plans, in which the principles of joint interventions have been tested, were duly taken into account for the finalisation of the document.

Guidelines for Adapting to Climate Variability and Change along the Mediterranean coast

These Guidelines were prepared in the frame of the so-called “ClimVar & ICZM” project. In terms of background material, the document draws on an earlier PAP/RAC report showing how the issue of climate variability and change (CVC) can be included as an integral part of the different steps of ICZM. Building on that report, the Guidelines provide a more detailed understanding of different key CV&C aspects in the Mediterranean coastal zones and aid in interpreting the CVC dimension with regard to the format, content and provisions of the ICZM process. These Guidelines also provide a critical review of CVC adaptation efforts and mitigation measures, paving the way toward the rational application of ICZM Protocol requirements for this specific dimension.

They will serve as a starting point for ADRIADAPT, an EU Interreg CBC Italy-Croatia project in which PAP/RAC, together with 10 more partners and under the leadership of the Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Climate Change (CMCC) in Venice, will build a resilience information platform for Adriatic cities, towns and regions. On this platform they will find knowledge base required to identify suitable climate adaptation and planning options. Platform will be built in Croatian, Italian and English, while its upgrade in terms of contents and of language will be foreseen.

Study of banking and insurance practice with regard to climate variability and change

Within the “ClimVar & ICZM” project a study was prepared by PAP/RAC on the role of banking and insurance sector in addressing climate variability and change in the context of the ICZM in the Mediterranean. The study has analysed some national and local practices of banks and insurance companies with concrete examples and good practices. Special attention was paid to the insurance against the weather-related risks and availability of loans for the real estates in the close proximity of the sea. Best practices of major regional banks and insurance companies have been presented, such as: products/services offered as incentives for adaptation; opportunities/solutions for sectors with high climate change risks; spatial diversification of insurance/banking products, identifying the level of risk for location; introduction of suggestions for planning and real estate considerations; etc.

Conceptual Framework for MSP

At COP18 the CPs recommended to strengthen MAP activities in the field of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in order to contribute to Good Environmental Status (GES), investigate in more details connections between land and sea areas and propose coherent and sustainable land and sea-use planning frameworks relating with key economic sectors and activities that may affect the coastal and marine resources.

To that end, a Conceptual Framework (CF) for MSP as an emerging issue in the entire Mediterranean Region was prepared in 2016-17 to be adopted by COP20 (Decision IG. 23/7) together with the General Structure of the CRF for ICZM.

Although MSP is not expressly mentioned in the ICZM Protocol, the geographic scope of the Protocol includes both the land and the sea; it follows that planning should be equally applied to both components of the coastal zone. In this perspective MSP can be considered the main tool/process for the implementation of ICZM in the marine part of the coastal zone and specifically for its sustainable planning and management. Art. 3 of the Protocol also defines the geographic scope of the operational application of MSP that shall focus on the marine area within the territorial sea of a country. Requirement to take land-sea interactions into account is specified in Art. 6.

Also, MSP is considered as one of the tools to implement EcAp as a strategic approach towards sustainable development in the region that integrates all of its three components, i.e. environmental, social and economic. MSP should guarantee that they are in balance.

Therefore, the CF was produced with the main objectives:

- to introduce MSP in the framework of the Barcelona Convention, and in particular link it to ICZM, considering MSP as the main tool/process for the implementation of ICZM in the marine part of the coastal zone and specifically for planning and managing maritime human activities according to EcAp goals);
- to provide a common context to CPs for the implementation of MSP in the Mediterranean Region.

It is a short and easy-to-use document, a sort of guiding reference for the implementation of MSP, based on common principles, contents and steps.

Methodological Framework for Land and Sea Interactions

A conceptual methodology for addressing land-sea interactions (LSI) and its relationship with ICZM was developed in synergy between the EU-funded SIMWESTMED and SUPREME projects related to MSP and implemented in the Western and Eastern Mediterranean EU Member States, respectively. The methodology foresees the compilation of a catalogue of interactions, populated with semi-quantitative and quantitative information. The use of GIS as a mapping tool can support the analysis, particularly its advanced phases. The guidelines propose a step-wise, tiered approach and identify 14 steps. Stakeholder engagement is a key component of the proposed methodological guidelines. LSI analysis should be an integral part of any MSP process, mainly linked to analytical phase of MSP and scenario development.

Methodology for Analysis of the Coherence of the BC-driven Strategic Documents

UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) for 2016-2021 was designed with the idea to ensure more synergy and complementarity among different policy and strategic instruments of the Barcelona Convention (BC) system.

To this end, a methodology was developed for the analysis of the coherence and complementarity of the BC-driven documents prepared at the national level, which was tested in two cases. This test application has shown that in these two cases there is a high level of complementarity with the provisions of the ICZM Protocol as the main integrative tool within the BC system. Recommendations were made for the documents that still have to be prepared according to COP decisions, as well as for some minor adjustments in the existing ones.

Another important document being prepared in this context is the analysis of the coherence between SAP BIO and ICZM Protocol provisions, with the view to contribute to the SAP BIO revision with a set of recommendations. First draft of the methodology for analysis was presented and discussed during the SAP/BIO meeting organised by SPA/RAC in Marseille, France, on 13-14 February 2019. The methodology has been updated in line with the meeting recommendations and the draft analysis will be presented first at the PAP/RAC FPs meeting and then at the SPA/RAC FPs meeting (Portoroz, Slovenia, 18-21 June 2019).

Guidelines for Environmental Assessment in a Transboundary Context

The work on this deliverable has started with some delay due to the work overload of PAP/RAC staff in 2018. However, the delays have been compensated and the first deliverable i.e. an overview of the existing practice with Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in a transboundary context was finalised in early 2019 while Draft Guidelines for Environmental Assessment in a Transboundary Context will be presented and discussed during the FPs meeting.

Action 2.2: Protocol Implementation Projects

In accordance with Art. 27 of the Protocol, under this Action the CPs envisage to carry out demonstration projects of ICZM in order to achieve practical results on the ground and disseminate good practice, with special emphasis on governance and coordination mechanisms.

The co-ordination of CAMP projects continues to be one of the major activities of PAP/RAC. CAMPs have always been a privileged space of co-operation of all UNEP/MAP components and an efficient way of applying their expertise in practice and in an integrated manner. This is even more evident in this third generation of CAMPs, which are entirely focused on the implementation of the ICZM Protocol provisions.

Besides CAMPs as a regular MTF-funded activity, PAP/RAC and CPs use various funding opportunities to implement additional site-specific projects, which are also briefly presented in this chapter.

CAMP Levante de Almeria

After three years of intensive work and activity, the CAMP Levante de Almeria was officially closed at the Final Presentation Conference held in Almeria in February 2013. The conference was attended by high-level political representatives of national, regional and municipal authorities that confirmed dedication to the project results and showed political will to support its continuation.

The numerous activities and their results were presented and the focus was on the Sustainable Development Reference Framework (SDRF) as the major outcome of the project. The project was evaluated as extremely good and innovative at the European level due to the well-structured and functional institutional co-ordination and public participation throughout the project duration on the one side, and very well elaborated technical proposals on the other, which were both linked with the “Imagine“ workshops as a tool for scenarios building and indicators.

Everybody wished that the post-project phase would be equally successful. It is obvious that the success of the CAMP will be judged according to the results achieved in the follow-up phase for which an Action Plan was proposed with a plethora of possibilities for job creation and initiation of new economic activities, as well as for using the institutional co-ordination established for the future management of the Levante de Almeria coastal areas.

Prior to the Final Presentation Conference, the project results were presented and discussed by the Coastal Commission at a meeting held in December 2012 that was concluded with the adoption of the Declaration by which a political statement was expressed about the SDRF and the future implementation of the proposed actions. The Coastal Commission is composed of the mayors of eight municipalities, representatives of the Regional government, the Provincial council, Association of the municipalities and of the Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs. This important body was established as the decision-making and executive body of the three-level governance structure of CAMP providing for institutional co-ordination and social participation, while the other two are: the Coastal Council involving the interested parties, or public stakeholders, that, owing to their knowledge of the problems dealt with (i.e. issues related to water resources, landscape management, natural and cultural heritage, public domain, marine resources and the main productive activities in the area - agriculture, tourism, urban development), represent local associations, environmental organisations, NGOs or business sectors (46 altogether) and the Coastal Forum, a platform that involved all citizens or associations in order to catalyse debate on the issues addressed during the development of the project through its website.

The CAMP Levante de Almeria Final integrated report was prepared and a very informative 25-minute video about the CAMP implementation in Spain was produced.

CAMP Montenegro

CAMP Montenegro was officially launched in March 2012 at the Inception Workshop in Podgorica to be closed at the Final Presentation Conference in Budva, in December 2014. Both meetings were organised by the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, with the support of PAP/RAC. Each meeting was attended by more than 70 participants including representatives of national and local authorities, as well as representatives of national institutions and civil society organisations concerned with the Montenegrin coastal zone.

CAMP Montenegro (integrated with the process of preparation of the ICZM Strategy) was designed in such a way to support the process of preparation of the Coastal Area Spatial Plan of Montenegro, through which the practical application of some of the specific articles of the ICZM Protocol can be secured. Focus was on the aspects of ICZM that can contribute to the rationalisation and modernisation of the public management and spatial planning, such as co-ordination, integration and participation mechanisms, development of a coastal information system (observatory), utilisation of some specific tools and instruments (e.g. vulnerability and suitability analysis, tourism carrying capacity assessment, implementation of the coastal setback). Also, the concept of green economy was promoted and ways of how it can contribute to the sustainable coastal development were examined.

Like all other CAMPs this CAMP relied on a dynamic governance structure that enabled not only a good progress of the CAMP activities but also dynamic links with all other relevant initiatives related to the Montenegrin coastal area, which will ultimately be reflected in the Coastal Area Spatial Plan and the ICZM National Strategy.

More information on the CAMP Montenegro is available at the [project website](#) administered by the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, and the [PAP/RAC](#) web site.

CAMP Italy

The CAMP Italy Agreement was signed in April 2014. The project's strategic objective was to test the integrated management of the coastal area, implementing both the ICZM Protocol and the EU ICZM Recommendation from 2002. The Inception Workshop took place in Sardinia, in November 2014. Representatives of all the three Italian regions participating in the project, namely: Emilia Romagna, Sardinia and Tuscany, as well as representatives of different authorities and MAP components, attended the meeting.

The project was important not only for solving of the immediate problems of coastal areas of the three involved regions but for its contribution to the national level as well. Moreover, it was meant to enhance networking with other CAMPs and provide an excellent opportunity for all MAP Components to work closely during its implementation. The project was officially closed at its final conference held in Rome on 17 January 2017 under the main theme of "Caring for our Coasts – Mediterranean and Italian Experiences".

The conference was an occasion to present the main results and methodologies of this two and a half-year project, and their integration within the Mediterranean and international contexts. The three project regions developed strategies and procedures for the rational use of coastal and marine resources and the environmental protection, with the objective of identifying and operatively testing methodologies, instruments and best practices for sustainable development of the coast and valorisation of the Italian historical heritage and landscape. These tools and methodologies were developed not only for the purpose of implementation of the CAMP Italy, but are also replicable within the network of CAMPs and useful for the institutions in charge of coastal management. They can be downloaded from the project web site ([link](#)), where it is also possible to find the CAMP Italy project video shared with the conference participants.

CAMP France

The CAMP for the Var County of France was signed in September 2014 following the official request of the President of the General Council of Var to be an extension of the County's Sea and Coastal Scheme and bring, in an international framework, the additional expertise and analysis.

The project meant to support the implementation of an integrated management approach at the local level through pilot approaches and the application of internationally accepted methodologies. Since from the beginning it was designed among the PAP/RAC, the Conservatory of the Coast (PAP/RAC's French Focal Point), the Ministries of Environment and Foreign Affairs, and the associated experts, such as those of the Var General Council and the Rhone-Mediterranean-Corsica Water Agency, their support was ensured throughout the project.

CAMP Var (France) became an important reference point for many coastal issues in France, and in particular with regard to the governance mechanism that the project has created, the "Land & Sea Forum", with the aim to make of it a permanent coastal governance structure. Several meetings of the Forum took place so far:

- The first was organised on 31 March 2016 in Grimaud as a place of dialogue and sharing knowledge and information among the actors of the Var County's coastal and marine areas. It was attended by 150-odd participants representing a large panel of actors, from different national, regional and local authorities, international organisations, research institutions, professional associations, the private sector, tourism and fisheries sectors, NGOs, etc.
- The second edition of the Forum was organised in Saint-Raphaël on 15-16 November 2016 with the focus on coastal governance and sustainable and responsible boating. The Forum included a workshop intended to set several priorities for the management of the sea and the coast in the Var.
- The third meeting of the Forum took place on 12 June 2018 in la Seine-sur-Mer as a follow-up of the efforts made in the framework of the CAMP France (Var) project, aiming at a more effective implementation of the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean, as well as at the integration of local stakeholders and the civil society of the coastal areas in the ICZM process.

The main outputs of the project include: the study on the evaluation of the sea and coastal management policies in the Var County; the "risks" platform; the work of the Port Cros National Park on light pollution; the presentation of the small sustainable island initiative and the ISOS project; and the global analysis of the terrestrial ship storage areas in the Var County.

More information can be found at the CAMP Var web site ([link](#)).

CAMP Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Feasibility Study (FS) for a CAMP project in Bosnia and Herzegovina (CAMP BH) was finalised and discussed with national and local stakeholders at several occasions in Neum, Bosnia and Herzegovina (in February, April and July 2018). The CAMP Agreement was prepared and submitted for signature to the National Ministry in September 2018. Unfortunately, and despite many interventions by PAP/RAC, its FP and the local authorities of Neum, there was no progress and the Agreement has not yet been signed. We hope that this situation will change soon.

Transboundary CAMPs

After several consultations with the Albanian and Italian Ministries in February 2019 it was possible to initiate the preparation of the Feasibility Study (FS) for a transboundary CAMP project for the

Otranto Area. The first quick screening of the area is on-going and the FS is supposed to be finalised this year.

Another possibility for a transboundary CAMP was examined with Cyprus, Greece and Israel during 2018. Due to various reasons (mainly internal shifts within some of the partner Ministries) it was not possible to proceed to the FS on time. Therefore, the alternative option of preparing the FS for a national CAMP project for Israel has been considered.

Coastal Plan for Buna/Bojana in Albania/Montenegro

The Buna/Bojana Transboundary Integrated Management Plan was jointly prepared in the framework of the “MedPartnership” project by PAP/RAC, the Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean (GWP-Med) and the International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO-IHP), in co-operation with a team of experts from the two countries, under the guidance of the Albanian Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Management and the Montenegrin Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism.

The Buna/Bojana Transboundary Integrated Management Plan was the first pilot case testing the integrated implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the ICZM Protocol. It aimed to assist in identifying the key problems and issues in the area related to transboundary management of coastal and water resources including aquifers. It also proposed to the competent authorities of the countries ways of addressing these problems and issues.

It is to be noted that such a complex task was located in an even more complex location, i.e. a transboundary area. Therefore, a number of difficulties were encountered since the beginning of the plan preparation. These were related in the first place to the significant difference in availability and type of data, insufficient local expertise, different legal systems, etc. In spite of all that, the Plan was drafted; nowadays it represents a bundle full of lessons learned, ready to be replicated in other areas in the Mediterranean.

Coastal Plan for the Šibenik-Knin County in Croatia

In the frame of the “MedPartnership” sister project on Climate Variability and Change (CVC) and ICZM, PAP/RAC assisted the authorities of the Croatian County of Šibenik-Knin to include the climate issues in the County spatial plan and the management plan of the protected areas. The project was officially launched in April 2013 during a workshop organised jointly by PAP/RAC and Plan Bleu, which was entrusted with the implementation of “Climagine”, an adaptation of the “Imagine” participatory and scenario building method focused on climate issues.

Through all the stages of the plan preparation, the “Climagine” workshops (four in total) were used to involve in average 50-odd representatives of national, regional and local authorities and institutions, academic community and NGOs whose task was to discuss the various issues relevant to coastal management in view of climate change and identify those of highest priority.

The preparation of the Šibenik-Knin coastal plan was carried out in close relation with the other component of the CVC project led by PAP/RAC, which is the assessment of the socio-economic costs of CVC impacts at the national level in Croatia and Tunisia, by using the renowned DIVA (Dynamic and Interactive Vulnerability Assessment) method. A local assessment of vulnerability to CVC was carried out for the Šibenik-Knin County. Besides the impacts of sea-level rise, this assessment covers the impacts on different economic sectors (i.e., tourism, agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, etc.), water management, health, forest fires and the cultural heritage. The results of the assessment, together with the “Climagine” results, fed into the Coastal Plan of the Šibenik-Knin County.

The Plan defined policies and measures for management, for sustainable spatial and economic development, for water resources management and for building coastal resilience.

In April 2016 it was adopted by the County Council. Upon adoption an Action Plan was prepared as well as the Recommendations for building coastal resilience. County Committee for ICZM created upon the Plan's adoption oversees today its implementation.

GEF Adriatic

Another important project is the GEF-funded project "Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in the Adriatic Sea through Marine Spatial Planning" (the so-called GEF Adriatic) launched in 2018 to contribute to the implementation and better understanding of MSP. The project activities have started with the Inception and First Steering Committee Meetings held in Tirana, Albania, on 28-29 May 2018.

The activities of this project have been delayed due to the late signature of the project and the subsequent delay in the allocation of resources. Therefore, a prolongation is envisaged until the end of 2020 and will be proposed on the Second Steering Committee meeting (taking place on 15 May 2019 in Podgorica, Montenegro).

Nevertheless, several trainings based on IMAP indicators' factsheets were organised in Podgorica, Montenegro, for Albania and Montenegro as a part of the GEF Adriatic project:

- IMAP training for EO5, EO9 on 2-3 October 2018;
- IMAP training for EO 10 on 22 November 2018;
- IMAP training for EO1, EO2, and EO7 on 26-27 November 2018;
- Additional hands-on trainings were organised in Podgorica on 28 November 2018 (for Montenegrin experts for contaminants and eutrophication) and in Tirana on 17 and 18 December (for Albanian experts for eutrophication, contaminants and marine litter).

In addition, the Adriatic GEF project supports the organisation of the CORMON meeting for EO5, EO9 and EO10, to take place in Podgorica from 2-5 April, where also Albanian and Montenegrin experts will participate.

Pilot project on Marine Spatial Planning

Following the statement made at COP18 that "marine spatial planning was a significant avenue to be explored for the future of MAP and in particular for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol", PAP/RAC and the University of Thessaly in Greece implemented a pilot project entitled "Paving the Road to Marine Spatial Planning in the Mediterranean".

Based on an interactive work with national and local stakeholders and several exchanges with the PAP/RAC's FPs in other Mediterranean countries, the project succeeded to propose a way forward in the Region with regard to the MSP implementation i.e. the most appropriate methodological tools, possible cooperation/ management schemes, prerequisites and possible ways of dealing with the MSP challenges, keeping in mind the needs and specificities (natural, social, economic and institutional) of the Mediterranean countries at national and regional levels.

The findings of the project were presented and discussed at its final conference held in Athens on 30 November 2015, with the participation of the representatives of all relevant Greek ministries, local authorities and stakeholders from the Ionian islands included in the project, as well as the representatives of UNEP/MAP and PAP/RAC.

Action 2.3: Professional Development, Training and Education

The objective of this Action is to enhance the constituency of the state-of-the-art expertise needed for the implementation of ICZM.

Same as the governance, training and education are two compulsory components of all ICZM projects, which are delivered through workshops and training courses for a variety of national and local stakeholders. Also, practical experience gained by the National CAMP Co-ordinators and other national consultants recruited by PAP/RAC to implement these projects over 2-3 years constitutes a unique opportunity to build ICZM capacities in the countries.

In this chapter we will not enter into detail of these numerous learning opportunities; instead, we would like to focus on the on-line regional training being delivered by PAP/RAC on a yearly basis – the MedOpen Virtual Training Course on ICZM in the Mediterranean targeting decision makers, policy advisors, project managers, staff and experts of international organisations and institutions, academic researchers, students, and all others interested in coastal management.

An updated version of the MedOpen Basic module in English and French has been continuously available to users, open to everyone and completely automated, while yearly runs of the Advanced module have been delivered since 2012. Within the CAMP Italy project, the MedOpen ICZM Basic was translated into Italian and has been constantly running since 2014.

The 4-months Advanced module of MedOpen requires a higher degree of commitment both by trainees and PAP/RAC staff as it includes lecturing by renowned ICZM experts, forum discussions, simulation game and a final essay. Below is a short overview of the runs delivered during the AP period:

- The 2012 MedOpen ICZM Advanced edition was settled in the frame of the PEGASO project with one of its work packages devoted to education and training. However, due to high interest, it also included several other candidates from the Mediterranean region. The training course was attended by 32 candidates. A number of 15 candidates in total successfully completed the course and were awarded the PAP/RAC MedOpen Advanced certificate.
- The 2013 edition was organised for the SHAPE project partners with the aim of getting them acquainted with the ICZM in general and in more detail with the ICZM process being crucial for the implementation of SHAPE pilot projects. A number of 22 applicants registered, more than a half of whom actively participated. In the end of the course, 14 candidates were awarded the PAP/RAC MedOpen Advanced certificate.
- In 2015 was launched a specific module on climate change as a part of the „ClimVar & ICZM“ project. The module was prepared on the basis of the CV&C Guidelines and was moderated by one of the authors, with the participation of 15 trainees from the GEF eligible countries in which the “ClimVar & ICZM” project was implemented.
- Over years the MedOpen has become one of the main instruments for enhancing the constituency of the state-of-the-art expertise needed for the implementation of ICZM. The interest of target users is constantly growing to the extent that PAP/RAC tries to develop additional modules and have more than one run per year, like in 2015 when an additional session on CVC was organised in order to respond to the great interest of the target users.
- In 2016 the MedOpen Advanced was delivered in French; it was attended by 26 students, including six from Algeria, four from France, nine from Morocco and seven from Tunisia.

- In 2017, another session in French was delivered – this time on CVC. This four-week training was attended by 20 students, including 15 from Morocco and 5 from Tunisia.
- After 13 years of successful implementation of the course, the time came to bring the course to a “higher”, university level: a special session of the MedOpen Advanced was delivered in the first half of 2018 for the students of the Algerian High School of Marine Sciences and Coastal Management (ENSSMAL) as a part of their academic curriculum. They made this three-month training exceptional, dynamic and rich in interesting discussions on the ICZM issues. The novelty regarding the practical part (the Simulation Game) of this training was the inclusion of a real pilot site of the Algerian coast, the marine part of the National Park of Gouraya (NPG) - the future Marine Protected Area (MPA).

Preparatory activities for the next run of MedOpen Advanced are on-going in order to be able to deliver it in the second half of this year.

Consultations are on-going with the Moroccan University of Al Hoceima and the Faculty of Sciences in Bizerte, Tunisia, towards the same arrangements for their students. We hope that the relevant agreements will be prepared and signed soon so to be able to deliver the training after the summer holidays.

PAP/RAC will contribute to the Syrian Virtual University (SVU) that will launch a master degree in Integrated Management of Natural Resources. The syllabus is mostly based on UNEP’s Ecosystem-Based Management, and PAP RAC will provide specialized lecturers on ICZM and MSP. Relevant agreement is under preparation and the courses on ICZM and MSP are expected in the second semester of 2019.

II.3 Objective 3: Promote the ICZM Protocol and its implementation within the region, and promote it globally by developing synergies with relevant Conventions and Agreements

Action 3.1: Public Participation and Awareness Raising

This Action aims to ensure a wide societal engagement in ICZM involving the civil society as well as governmental institutions.

Awareness raising of the coastal issues and ICZM is done in many ways and on many occasions: through promotional material, scientific and newspapers’ articles, lecturing, assistance to conferences and other events. In this part we shall focus in particular on the main awareness activity that, since its launching in 2007, has become a tradition – the Mediterranean Coast Day celebration. Its main purpose is to raise awareness of the importance of the coast as both natural and economic resource, as well as to warn of the risks it is exposed to due to natural phenomena and human actions. This is done through a combination of technical workshops and public awareness raising campaigns including video projections, concerts, distribution of promotional material, contests for kids and adults, NGO fora and expositions, etc.

Each year the central Mediterranean celebration is organised in a different country, while other countries organise their own events. After Italy (2007 and 2008), Turkey (2009), Slovenia (2010) and Algeria (2011), the following countries hosted the central celebrations, under the auspices of the high-ranking state officials and with the participation of representatives of Mediterranean countries, institutions and the civil society:

- Croatia: the 2012 central celebration was organised in Split as a part of the EU IPA Adriatic SHAPE project, and in collaboration with UNDP’s “Coast” project. The theme

of the celebration was “The Voice of the Coast” as some of the most famous Croatian singers accepted to give a free concert on that occasion;

- Italy: the 2013 central celebration was hosted by the Italian region of Emilia-Romagna. The event took place in the coastal city of Rimini, famous for its endless sand beaches, which was most appropriate since the focus of that year’s celebration was on the beaches;
- Tunisia: the 2014 central event was celebrated in Gammarth, with focus on climate variability and change, organised in the framework of the “ClimVar & ICZM” project under the motto “A good climate for change” ;
- The 2015 central celebration took place in Antibes, France. Besides promoting the ICZM Protocol, it will be the occasion to celebrate the 40th anniversary of MAP;
- The 216 edition was co-organised by PAP/RAC and SCP/RAC in Barcelona, Spain, within the project “A blue economy for a healthy Mediterranean” financed by the “MAVA Fondation pour la Nature”, which offered substantial financial support to the event;
- The 2017 Mediterranean Coast Day, organised in Tivat, Montenegro, with the main topic “Protect our Sea”, was a glowing success. The main event, under the high patronage of the President of Montenegro, was attended by 150-odd participants, representatives of Mediterranean countries, and a large number of representatives of institutions and other components of the Montenegrin civil society;
- The city of Split, Croatia, hosted the central regional celebration of the Mediterranean Coast Day 2018 attended by 100-odd participants. Since that year PAP/RAC celebrated its 40th anniversary that was the main topic of the event, although the leitmotif was the need to join forces in order to achieve sustainable development and preserve our coasts and sea.

It would be unfair not to mention all local celebrations being organised every year by cities and regions around the Mediterranean for their inhabitants. The list of all events is too long to be included in this report (it has been done at the Coast Day website) and PAP/RAC expresses once again its gratitude to all those who contributed to our joint efforts to reach a number of people which becomes innumerable. However, the effort made by our Slovenian colleagues has to be pointed out as for four years now they have been dedicating an entire week to promote coastal issues (Coast Week).

Finally, it has to be pointed out that the public participation is promoted in all ICZM projects and included as a compulsory activity.

Action 3.2: Excellence on ICZM Issues for the Mediterranean

To maintain and enhance the capacity of MAP components and CPs on the ICZM Protocol-related issues.

The Mediterranean Region, UNEP/MAP and PAP/RAC are undoubtedly at the forefront of ICZM, not only because of the unique legally binding instrument adopted to deal with ICZM issues but also because of the knowledge and expertise accumulated over years of ICZM implementation. That is why PAP/RAC and its collaborators are often consulted and invited to intervene. It would take pages to list all the occasions of the kind; hereafter are some of them for illustration:

- International Conference in Sète, France, on the occasion of the 2012 Marseille World Water Forum held in March 2012 when a local agreement on ICZM was confronted to the ICZM Protocol;

- “MedDays”, a high-level geo-political and socio-economic forum organised in Tangiers, Morocco, in November 2012, by the Amadeus Institute during which the PAP/RAC was invited to intervene within a panel chaired by the Moroccan Minister of Tourism;
- International conference “Littoral 2012” in Oostende, Belgium, in November 2012, where PAP/RAC delivered two key note speeches;
- Study visits to PAP/RAC by the members of the South Korean Maritime Institute (October 2012) and the Jordanian UNDP project “Mainstreaming Marine Biodiversity into ICZM Practice” (June 2013) to learn about ICZM in general and its specific topics;
- Meeting at the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium (September 2013) to present the ICZM Protocol prior to the first reading of the Draft MSP Directive;
- UN DESA workshop in Dubrovnik, Croatia (October 2013) to contribute to the preparation of the Global Report on Sustainable Development, when the role of ICZM with regard to coastal sustainability was presented and MSSD promoted;
- Meeting in Brussels (November 2013) to start the work on the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region strategy, within which PAP/RAC intervened in a panel on the environmental pillar of the strategy to promote the ICZM Protocol and the other BC legal instruments and on-going processes;
- UNEP/DTIE webinar where PAP/RAC was a guest speaker with the theme “Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Strategic Tourism Development Planning” (May 2014);
- EU and UfM meetings in Amman, Jordan (March 2014), on three main themes of concern for the UfM (Horizon 2020, Sustainable Consumption and Production and Climate Change) when the PAP/RAC was given the opportunity to present the climate change related work within the “ClimVar & ICZM” project;
- First Inter-parliamentary Conference on the Challenges of Sustainable Tourism, in Zagreb, Croatia (September 2014) to speak about the pressures made by tourism on the Mediterranean coastal and marine environment and to propose the ICZM approach to the strategic planning of sustainable tourism development;
- Third European Ports & Shipping Conference in Amsterdam, The Netherlands (September 2014) to present the ICZM policy framework that could play a role in strategic planning for ports and shipping industry;
- Conference “EuroMED Co-operation: Inland and Marine Water Challenges” under the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (November 2014) to deliver the key note speech at one of the four parallel thematic workshops held during this two-day Conference: the one on a Mediterranean integrated ocean observing system to support sustainable coastal and marine tourism;
- 2014 Think Forward Film Festival as a part of the International Centre for Climate Governance, a joint initiative of Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei and Fondazione Giorgio Cini, during which a short animated movie “A good climate for change” prepared for the 2014 Mediterranean Coast Day was presented;
- European-Mediterranean Conference (Parmenides II) of the association of ten academic institutions in Africa and southern Europe promoting one of the UN’s Millennium Development Goals (Bridging the Gap Between the Scientific Output and the Needs of the Stakeholders) to deliver speech about PAP/RAC’s and UNEP/MAP’s efforts in the field of coastal zone management;
- PAP/RAC membership in the Joint EU Member State Expert Group on MSP and ICZM that meets annually to deliberate of the land-sea interaction and their management;

- PAP/RAC acted as the External Quality Advisor of the EU COASTGAP project by orienting the project activities and providing an Audit Report;
- More than 600 participants attended the 1st Forum of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR), jointly organised by the EC and the Government of Croatia in Dubrovnik (Croatia) in May 2016. PAP/RAC Director was invited to present the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the EcAp process as an adequate legal and strategic framework for the implementation of EUSAIR, and in particular its environmental pillar;
- PAP/RAC Director was a panellist of the 6th Worldwide MSP Conference organised by DG MARE in June 2016 in Ponta Delgada, Portugal. The conference elaborated on the benefits and challenges resulting from MSP implementation and was an occasion to present MSP challenges in the Mediterranean Sea basin and the way in which the Barcelona Convention system addresses this new and still emerging issue in this region of the world;
- PAP/RAC representatives took part in two side events of the COP22 in Marrakech, both held on 11 November 2016: the UNEP/MAP side event to present the instruments developed within the Barcelona Convention and concrete solutions to support the CPs in their practical implementation of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework and the ICZM Protocol; and the side event organised by the Tunisian Coastal Agency (APAL) and UNDP in the Tunisian pavilion with the view to strengthen national and local capacities of the country to adapt to climate change in coastal areas.
- In March 2017, in collaboration with the WWF North Africa - Living Planet Tunisia, PAP/RAC organised an exchange visit in Croatia for high level partners coming from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. This event fits in the context of the implementation of the activities of the project "Effective Integration of an ICZM approach in the countries of North Africa (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia)" funded by CEPF Med;
- At the occasion of the Adriatic Trilateral Initiative, inaugurated in Split on 10 February 2017, PAP/RAC received a visit of a delegation headed by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Albania, Croatia and Montenegro. This first meeting of the Adriatic Trilateral Initiative was an excellent opportunity for the delegation to get acquainted with PAP/RAC as the institution that successfully operates in the three countries in environmental protection and sustainable development of the Adriatic region;
- On invitation of DG MARE and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) PAP/RAC facilitated one of the round tables of the Joint IOC-UNESCO and DG MARE International Forum for MSP held in Brussels, Belgium, in May 2018.
- Several meetings involving PAP/RAC contribution were held in parallel in October 2018 in Bizerte, Tunisia, including the Conference on the Degradation of Coastal Ecosystems facing Climate Change organised within the Franco-Tunisian Cooperation.
- In February 2019, PAP/RAC hosted 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.

Action 3.3: Promoting the Protocol

To promote the ICZM Protocol across and beyond the Mediterranean Region.

It would take pages to list all the occasions (many of them actually being the same as in the previous Action) and ways in which the ICZM Protocol has been promoted in the Mediterranean: through promotional material such as the ICZM Timeline exposed on several occasions, brochures, leaflets and videos, participation to conferences and other events.

Therefore, we shall mention here only some far-reaching echoes of the Protocol, such as:

- The co-operation with the Black Sea Commission that has started within the PEGASO project to explore the possibility of adopting a similar legal instrument for the Black Sea region and continues through several initiatives including the one on ICZM indicators and trainings on MSP;
- The participation of a PAP/RAC representative in a meeting of the West Indian Ocean for which a regional legal instrument is being prepared following the model of the Mediterranean ICZM Protocol;
- Presentation made by the IFREMER delegate in Martinique on behalf of PAP/RAC on the ICZM Protocol at the yearly BODLANME Forum of the French Antilles region;
- The participation of a PAP/RAC representative in the delegation that paid visit to Iran in September 2017 in the framework of the partnership between the Islamic Republic of Iran and France to present the ICZM Protocol and its implementation. A large panel of the Iranian administrations were represented during the workshops that were organised under the patronage of the Iranian Department of Environment; or
- PAP/RAC representatives joining the UNEP/MAP Coordinator for a visit to Namibia in February 2019 in the context of the GEF-funded Inter-project Collaboration Opportunity (ICO) between the Benguela Current Convention (BCC) and the MAP-Barcelona Convention in order to discuss the implementation of ICZM and MSP in the two regions.

Action 3.4: Networks

To collaborate with existing networks and establish a Mediterranean coastal zone network to promote best practices.

Even if the responsibility for the co-ordination of the implementation of the ICZM Protocol and its Action Plan is on the PAP/RAC and UNEP/MAP, this complex and demanding task would be impossible without the input and co-operation of a diversity of other actors and their networks. Over the past years, these are being generated at the regional (Mediterranean), national and sub-national level, and their initiatives and efforts are extremely important for the creation of the critical mass that will allow for the change of the unsustainable development and coastal management patterns. It would be unrealistic, and in a way presumptuous, to expect that the UNEP/MAP system and the initiatives it can promote with the CPs can be enough to cover all the important coastal issues and to provide all the knowledge needed for their modern management.

Therefore, the wise approach has always been followed to benefit from the other existing networks, such as the networks of institutions and organisations with which UNEP/MAP has signed memoranda of co-operation (Union for the Mediterranean - UfM, General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean - GFCM, International Union for Conservation of Nature - IUCN, Association of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas - MedPAN, etc.) or networks born within and among projects in which PAP/RAC has participated as a partner (PEGASO platform; network of European regions

promoted by the Bologna Charter; FaceCoast network of coastal initiatives, etc.) or the ever growing number of projects under the ICZM-related funding instruments of the European Union and UNEP/GEF.

Of course, equally important are the networks established within the UNEP/MAP and PAP/RAC led projects, in the first place CAMPs and other ICZM Protocol implementation projects. Besides the internal ICZM networks created in these projects, the need is growing over the last years to strengthen the links among them. Even if the exchange and passing of experiences and lessons learned has always existed, it was necessary to think to a more formal network that would allow to these projects to grow together, to become a hub attracting the other similar projects to co-operate and the place where one can find solid information and help. The initiative to have such a Network first started with the CAMP Italy and CAMP Var (France).

Already in the biennium 2015-16 PAP/RAC has started discussing with INFO/RAC the design and implementation of the ICZM Platform as a major tool to support the implementation of ICZM in the Mediterranean, with the following specific objectives:

- Facilitate communication, dialogue and networking between PAP/RAC and its partners, and among the partners, including scientific institutions and international organisations, project end-users and local stakeholders involved in collaborative application sites, in particular the CAMP projects;
- Provide a forum for developing knowledge and capacities by: (i) learning directly from Mediterranean stakeholders about their needs and priorities with regard to sustainable development, (ii) ensuring a common understanding of coastal and marine tools and methods (ICZM, MSP, IMF, etc.), (iii) facilitating data and information sharing and building a shared knowledge base (e.g. MedOpen virtual training course);
- Promote the Mediterranean Coast Day as a key event to effectively raise awareness of the importance of the coast (see: Coast Day website & Facebook page).
- In late 2018 a new version of the PAP/RAC web site was launched, which includes the ICZM Platform as a hub for all ICZM-related information. The process of populating the Platform is on-going as it takes time to re-organise the rich bulk of information, publications and other outputs accumulated over 40 year of PAP/RAC existence in order to make it easier to access and use. Once fully operational the Platform will offer several interactive tools to facilitate exchanges including the Network of CAMP and other ICZM projects.

Besides the work on this general governance platform, PAP/RAC has been providing support to the CPs with the creation and functioning of national and sub-national coordination mechanisms which are of utmost importance for the implementation of ICZM. These mechanisms are a crucial element of every CAMP project and are also created for other purposes, such as:

- the Inter-sectoral Committee for ICZM of the Šibenik-Knin County of Croatia, established with the adoption of the ICZM Plan by the County Council on 27 April 2016, and chaired by the County Prefect. The importance of this body lies in the involvement of numerous regional institutions, in particular those responsible for environmental affairs, spatial and regional development. This is the best guarantee for a successful implementation of this innovative plan that should lead to improved resilience of the coast and its sustainable development;
- the Montenegrin National Council for sustainable development, climate change and ICZM, chaired by the President of Montenegro, that has 27 members from various institutions, ministries, organisations, NGOs and experts. It has the role of providing recommendations and suggestions to the Government in implementing policies related to sustainable development, climate change and ICZM. Its main task is to contribute to better co-ordination of sectoral policies in all these fields;

- the Inter-ministerial Commission established for the preparation and implementation of the Croatian “Marine and coastal strategy” responding to the requirements of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the ICZM Protocol;
- several coordination bodies have been established within the projects in which PAP/RAC is a partner, such as the projects implemented with the MAVVA support for Buna Delta (Albania), Oristano (Italy) and Gar E Melh (Tunisia), as well as the pilot project for the Kaštela Bay (Croatia) within the InterregMed project Co-Evolve.

III. WRAP-UP

Despite the difficulties that the entire Mediterranean region and UNEP/MAP system went through in the first half of the Action Plan implementation, a high level of ICZM activity has been kept and some good quality results have been delivered. Scaling up ICZM as a strategic policy instrument at the national level, proposing innovative methodological approaches, strengthening governance mechanisms, acting “on the ground” through concrete territorial projects – these have been the fields in which major progress was made. Based on the achievements described in the previous chapter, the Table 1 below gives a very general estimate of the state of progress within each Action.

Table 1: PAP/RAC’s estimate of the progress in implementing the Action Plan

Objective 1: Support the effective implementation of the ICZM Protocol at regional, national and local levels including through a Common Regional Framework for ICZM.	
Action 1.1 Ratification and transposition	++
Action 1.2 Strengthening and supporting governance	++++
Action 1.3 Adopting National Strategies and Action Plans and Programmes	+++
Action 1.4 Reporting on Protocol Implementation and Monitoring the State of the Mediterranean Coast	+++
Objective 2: Strengthen the capacities of CPs to implement the Protocol and use in an effective manner ICZM policies, instruments, tools and processes.	
Action 2.1 Methodologies and Processes	++++
Action 2.2 Protocol Implementation Projects	++++
Action 2.3 Professional Development, Training and Education	++++
Objective 3: Promote the ICZM Protocol and its implementation within the Region, and promote it globally by developing synergies with relevant Conventions and Agreements.	
Action 3.1 Public Participation and Awareness Raising	++++
Action 3.2 Excellence on ICZM Issues for the Mediterranean	++++
Action 3.3 Promoting the Protocol	+++
Action 3.4 Networks	+++

Poor (+); Moderate (++); Good (+++); Very good (++++); Excellent (+++++)

The scarcity of financial resources during a couple of years, sometimes coupled with difficult working and travelling conditions, made progress difficult in some of the fields.

On the other hand, some other opportunities have been seized, like working on land-use changes in the Southern Mediterranean, deepening the work on the coastal indicators within the EcAp process,

implementing pilot projects on MSP, opening MedOpen runs for external projects' needs and by using their funding, etc.

As shown in the Figure 1 below, the progress with the implementation of the Action Plan has depended a lot on the external funding secured. This has also to some extent conditioned the type of activity and their geographical distribution, although we can say that a combination of EU and GEF funds with different eligibilities contributed to make balance in both terms, as shown in Fig. 1 below.

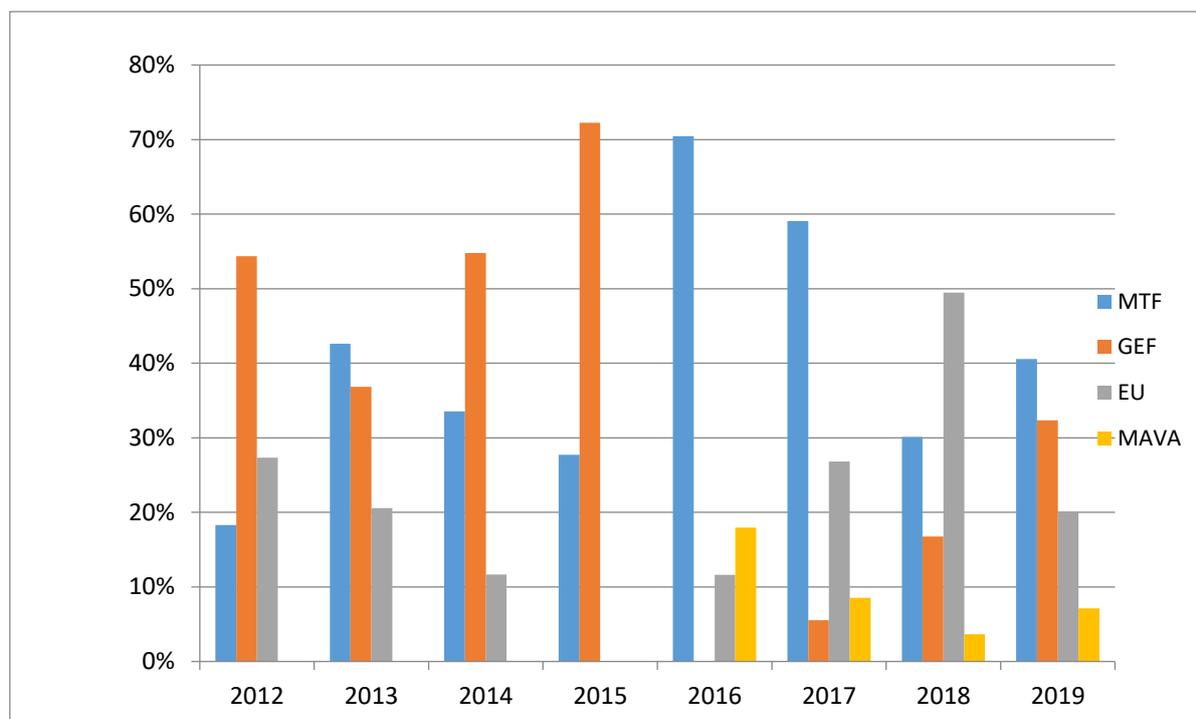


Figure 1: Funding of PAP/RAC-led activities during the Action Plan implementation

Similarly to the key characteristic of ICZM, the approach in implementing the Action Plan has been highly adaptive to the prevailing conditions and capacities. Actually, that was the message sent by the CPs when deciding to adopt an Action Plan that is not too prescriptive and that will allow each CP to implement it at its own pace and UNEP/MAP to act in conformity to its human and financial capacities.

IV. CONCLUSION

The implementation of the Action Plan has been quite a challenge for all: CPs, PAP/RAC and the entire UNEP/MAP. In order to advance with it, PAP/RAC had to invest a lot of effort to mobilise external resources due to the scarcity of the MTF funds that all UNEP/MAP components have to cope with and the economic crisis that almost all CPs have been facing over years. Without these external resources and without efficient partnership forged with other Mediterranean actors, these results could not have been possible. Not to forget the crucial role of FPs – the more they are dynamic and responsive, the more PAP/RAC can be successful not only in their countries but in the regional endeavours as well.

As shown in the previous chapters, good progress has been made. What could not be done will remain a challenge for the future. To fill the gaps and to keep alive its actual activities PAP/RAC will continue to closely collaborate with the CPs and to assist them in mobilising external resources for the implementation of ICZM. Besides the projects already presented in the overview, two more have started in this last year of the Action Plan, funded by the EU: PORTODIMARE aiming at creating a

common platform (Geoportal) for data, information and decision support tools focused on coastal and marine areas of the Adriatic-Ionian Region (AIR); and ADRIADAPT approved within the Interreg CBC Italy-Croatia call aims at ensuring timely and spatially integrated planning for climate resilience that will support future development and reduce negative impacts from changing climate conditions to people and their livelihoods in the programme area (Croatian coastal counties and Italian coastal provinces as well as cities and towns in the two countries).

The GEF funding has played a crucial role for the implementation of the Action Plan through the MedPartnership portfolio. A new package has been prepared and submitted to GEF i.e. the so-called Child Project 2.1 on ICZM within a wide MedProgramme portfolio. The Child Project 2.1 includes a set of regional activities aiming at supporting the ICZM Protocol ratification or implementation (including educational and awareness-raising activities), individual activities to be performed in Egypt and Lebanon (National ICZM Strategies), as well as in Montenegro, Morocco and Lebanon (ICZM Plans).

In parallel with the preparatory process for MedProgramme, the Project Document was finalized for a complementary project focusing on adaptation measures to be mainstreamed into local ICZM Plans in Morocco and Montenegro.

Let's also hope that new opportunities will continue appearing in the years to come. To be fully prepared for these opportunities and to be able to react quickly, we invite you to share with us your priorities and preferences for action with regard to ICZM.

We hope that this document can be a source of inspiration for the CPs while considering the activities they would like to implement in the future. However, according to our experience and feedbacks from the Action Plan implementation period, we can already make some suggestions:

1. An additional effort would be needed by the CPs to reach the objective of the full ratification of the ICZM Protocol. In this, we invite them to ask for assistance with technical explanations, or to simply use the documents already produced. This practice has already yielded results in some countries.
2. In this document, only the activities led within UNEP/MAP are reported. Regular reporting on the ICZM Protocol is crucial to know the progress made with regard to its implementation but it is also a valuable source of information for PAP/RAC and UNEP/MAP on the gaps to be filled-in and the needs of the CPs.
3. 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 the implementation of the ICZM Protocol, i.e. the mainstreaming of the ICZM principles and the improvement of the coastal management practice.
4. 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 including in terms of uses.
5. Owing to the projects implemented at the local level, the ICZM has reached its maturity and it is time now to systematically scale it up as the strategic option. Therefore, the CPs are invited to deplore additional efforts in order to adopt national strategies for ICZM reflecting the provisions of the Protocol. PAP/RAC will continue mobilising resources to accompany them in this endeavour if the interest and political will are ensured and clearly stated.
6. 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. The responsibility for both lies on the CPs but

PAP/RAC and UNEP/MAP are aware of their important role in providing the support needed.

7. ICZM has an important role in 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.
8. 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 IT platform, governance mechanisms developed in previous or on-going projects (such as CAMPs, PEGASO, “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.

We are optimistic that even in the future the positive trend with ICZM will continue, in particular through the expected adoption and the implementation of the Common Regional Framework for ICZM and the Action Plan contained in it. The critical mass of people, knowledge and experience is constantly growing and, if economic and political situation is to improve, we believe that the CPs will have more resources and energy to dedicate to the enhancement of the management of the precious coastal and marine space.