



**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP)
REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)**

Thirteen Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional
Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre
for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)

REMPEC/WG.45/4
Date: 10 May 2019

Malta, 11-13 June 2019

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Agenda Item 4

**PROGRESS REPORT ON REMPEC'S ACTIVITIES SINCE THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE
FOCAL POINTS OF REMPEC**

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document sets out an outline of the activities carried out by the Centre since the last Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC.

Actions to be taken: Paragraph 27

Related documents: UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/10, UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/28,
UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.443/Inf.14, UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.23/23,
UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.23/Inf.9, REMPEC/WG.41/7, REMPEC/WG.41/8,
REMPEC/WG.41/9, REMPEC/WG.41/9/Corr.1, REMPEC/WG.41/16,
REMPEC/WG.41/INF.7, REMPEC/WG.41/INF.8, REMPEC/WG.41/INF.9,
REMPEC/WG.41/INF.11, REMPEC/WG.41/INF.12,
REMPEC/WG.44/8/Rev.1, REMPEC/WG.44/INF.4/Rev.1,
REMPEC/WG.45/5, REMPEC/WG.45/8, REMPEC/WG.45/9/1,
REMPEC/WG.45/9/2, REMPEC/WG.45/10, REMPEC/WG.45/11,
REMPEC/WG.45/12/2, REMPEC/WG.45/13/1, REMPEC/WG.45/13/2,
REMPEC/WG.45/INF.3, REMPEC/WG.45/INF.8, REMPEC/WG.45/INF.9,
REMPEC/WG.45/INF.10, REMPEC/WG.45/INF.13,
REMPEC/WG.45/INF.14, REMPEC/WG.45/INF.18

Introduction

1 This report covers the period May 2017-April 2019, that is to say:

- .1 the activities conducted after the Twelfth Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) (St. Julian's, Malta, 23-25 May 2017), based on the approved Programme of Work and Budget (PoW) of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), for the biennium 2016-2017¹, and before the Twentieth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean ("the Barcelona Convention") and its Protocols (COP 20) (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017); and

¹ UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/28, Decision IG.22/20.

.2 the activities carried out after COP 20, based on the approved UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2018-2019², till 30 April 2019.

2 This report is divided under the following headings:

- I. Report on Institutional Developments;
- II. Report on Administrative and Financial Issues; and
- III. Report on the Implementation of Activities.

² UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.23/23, Decision IG.23/14.

I. REPORT ON INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Ratification of the Protocols

3 Since the last Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, the Depositary has communicated to the Secretariat the deposit of the instrument of accession to:

- .1 the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (“the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol”) to the Barcelona Convention, by Lebanon, on 3 November 2017; and
- .2 the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (“the Offshore Protocol”) to the Barcelona Convention by Croatia, on 8 February 2018.

4 There are seventeen (17) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention which have, up to now, ratified or acceded to the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol, whereas six (6) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention are only Parties to the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency (“the 1976 Emergency Protocol”). So far eight (8) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention have ratified the Offshore Protocol.

5 The status of signatures and ratifications of the 1976 Emergency Protocol, the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol as well as the Offshore Protocol, as of 20 September 2018 (last notification received), is listed in the **Annex I** to the present document.

Decisions adopted by COP related to institutional developments

6 The main decisions directly relevant to the work of REMPEC, as adopted by COP 20, were on the subject of the Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents³ as well as on the Programme of Work and Budget 2018-2019.

7 COP 20 also adopted a number of other important and relevant decisions further detailed in document REMPEC/WG.45/5 on developments within UNEP/MAP related to the objectives and functions of REMPEC.

II. REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL ISSUES

Administrative Issues

8 In consideration of the 2016 restructuring, the Centre retained its reputation, trust and confidence of the countries, subsequently delivering high quality output, however at the current point in time, resource pressures on the Centre to deliver on its mandate is being met by a limited number of staff. New issues continue to emerge, and as new tasks and activities are assigned, the Centre is presented with concrete challenges to its sustainability and efficiency.

9 During the period under review, the Centre experienced further reduction in staffing levels, as a staff member was signed off work duties on a long-term sick leave as of 10 July 2018, and subsequently resigned from the post of the Assistant to the Head of Office as of 30 November 2018. From 10 December 2018, as a temporary measure, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) assigned an Assistant to the Head of Office (Ms Jola Thatcher) to support the Centre from IMO Head Quarter, for a period of three months. Given the scope of work required and in line with the budget available through the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) and, in accordance with IMO rules and regulations, the assignment was further extended until the end of June 2019, whilst at the same time, two locally recruited temporary members of staff (Ms Hunida Busefi and Ms Francesca Borg) joined the Centre to strengthen the structure until the vacancy position of the Assistant to the Head of Office is filled-in.

³ UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.23/23, Decision IG.23/11.

10 To overcome these challenges, the Centre mobilised human resources as described below to assist in implementing its mandate.

11 The Centre benefitted, during the period under review, from the support of a Junior Programme Officer financed by the French Oil Industry through the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs mechanism entitled “*Volontariat International Scientifique*” (VIS). This support has been provided to the Centre since its inception and the Centre wishes to express its gratitude and appreciation to the Government of France and to Total S.A. for this continuous support. Mr Guillaume Poirier was seconded in August 2016 and concluded his appointment with the Centre on 31 July 2018, whilst Mr Christophe Blazy has been seconded to REMPEC since 2 August 2018, for a period of 18 up to 24 months. The responsibilities of the Junior Programme Officer include, amongst others, supporting the Programme Officer (OPRC) and the Head of Office, in the field of preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships as well as IT support (i.e. Centre’s online tools, communication systems, etc).

12 In 2017, following the publication by the IMO of a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) position at REMPEC within the framework of its JPO Programme and, upon completion of the recruitment process, Mr Shi Wentao joined REMPEC as of 20 April 2018. Mr Wentao has been seconded by the the People's Republic of China, so far until 20 April 2020, and for a maximum period of three (3) years. His duties and responsibilities include, amongst others, to support the Programme Officer (Prevention) in his work as well as to assist the Head of Office of REMPEC on policy issues relating to regional activities in the field of marine environment protection and to provide expert legal advice.

13 In line with the practice of previous years, internship opportunities were explored and were undertaken during the period under review. REMPEC and the Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre (MERRAC), established within the framework of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, have been in contact for many years, sharing experience and best practices. In this context, Ms Suhyun Ahn supported the Programme Officer (OPRC) in his work, within the framework of a five-month (1 September 2018 - 27 January 2019) visiting programme managed by the Ministry of Personnel Management and the Korea Coast Guard of the Republic of Korea to further enhance the cooperation and exchange of knowledge between MERRAC and REMPEC.

14 As of March 2019, a Project Assistant, Ms Bianca Ardelean, has been recruited to support the implementation of the 2-year Western Mediterranean Region Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Cooperation (West MOPoCo) Project, whilst at the same time, a Project Coordinator has been hired based in France. The Centre also approached the oil and gas industry to consider a possible secondment to support the implementation of the Offshore Protocol.

Financial Issues

15 In line with the Programme of Work 2018-2019, the Regional Strategy (2016-2021) (i.e. Specific Objectives 17, 19, 20, 21 and 22) and the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021⁴, the project proposal titled the Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Cooperation in the Western Mediterranean Region Project (West MOPoCo Project) and submitted on April 2018 was approved by the **Directorate General European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO)**. The Consortium led by France includes partners from the Mediterranean coastal States (Algeria, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia). The Project was prepared through an inter-regional effort, including participation of REMPEC, the Bonn Agreement and the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM), and with the technical support of expert institutions such as the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation (ITOPF), the French Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution (Cedre) and the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA). The approved budget of € 868,416.39 includes a 75% contribution from the European Commission (€ 651,312.30), out of which **€ 384,458.93** (including REMPEC staff contribution) are allocated to REMPEC. The two-year project commenced on 2 January 2019 and includes the recruitment of required staffing level for the implementation of the project (i.e. one (1) project manager recruited by France and **one (1) administrative assistant** recruited by REMPEC).

⁴ UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/28, Decision IG.22/1.

16 As confirmed by the Italian Government on 30 April 2018, the credit balance remaining from the secondment of Ms Cristina Farchi by the **Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS)** to REMPEC between March 2007 and December 2009, amounting to **€ 8,199.09**, was used to complement the MTF budget to hire consultancy services for the preparation of a technical and feasibility study to examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea, or parts thereof, as sulphur oxides (SOx) emission control area (ECA) under Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) (Activity 2.7.1.1 from PoW 2018-2019).

17 A voluntary contribution from the **French Government** amounting to **€ 8,000** was pledged to co-finance the Regional Workshop on Ratification and Effective Implementation of MARPOL Annex VI (Valletta, Malta, 11-13 December 2018) (Activity 2.7.1.1 from PoW 2018-2019).

18 As in previous years, in addition to the MTF, IMO financially contributed to the implementation of the programme of work of the Centre for the biennia 2016-2017 and 2018-2019, during the period under review, through the allocation of **IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP)** budget.

19 In 2017, after the last Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, **IMO's ITCP provided REMPEC with USD 20,220** for the following activities:

- .1 **USD 5,000** to finance the organisation of the Meeting of the Competent National Authorities in charge of the implementation of the Sub-Regional Contingency Plan between Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia for the Preparation for and the Response to Marine Pollution from Ships for the South-Western Mediterranean (Valletta, Malta, 1-2 November 2017) (Activity 2.6.1.1 from PoW 2016-2017); and
- .2 **USD 15,220** to finance the delivery of a National Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Spill Response Training Course (Cairo, Egypt, 26-30 November 2017) (Activity 2.5.1.4 from PoW 2016-2017).

20 During the year 2018, **IMO's ITCP allocated a budget of USD 91,176** to REMPEC activities, as follows:

- .1 **USD 21,150** to co-finance the preparation of the draft technical and feasibility study to examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea, or parts thereof, as SOx ECA under MARPOL Annex VI (Activity 2.7.1.1 from PoW 2018-2019);
- .2 **USD 18,200** to co-finance the Regional Workshop on Response to Spill Incidents involving Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) (MEDEXPOL 2018) (Valletta, Malta, 20-21 June 2018) (Activity 2.5.1.4 from PoW 2018-2019);
- .3 **USD 11,826** to finance the National IMO training course on response to HNS in the marine environment (Istanbul, Turkey, 13-16 November 2018) (Activity 2.5.1.4 from PoW 2018-2019); and
- .4 **USD 40,000** to co-finance the Regional Workshop on Ratification and Effective Implementation of MARPOL Annex VI (Valletta, Malta, 11-13 December 2018) (Activity 2.7.1.1 from PoW 2018-2019).

21 Additional **funding from IMO's ITCP** amounting to **USD 86,875** has been secured for the following activities to be implemented in 2019:

- .1 **USD 10,000** to finance a national oil spill response training course (IMO OPRC Model Course Levels 2) in Montenegro (Activity 2.5.1.4 from PoW 2018-2019);
- .2 **USD 4,000** to assist Governments to participate at the fourth Adriatic Spill Conference 2019 (ADRIASPILLCONF 2019) (Activity 2.5.1.4 from PoW 2018-2019);
- .3 **USD 30,000** to organise three (3) national workshops on ratification and effective implementation of MARPOL Annex VI in Algeria, Egypt and Lebanon (Activity 2.5.1.4 from PoW 2018-2019); and

- .4 **USD 42,875** to support the organisation of the Regional Workshop on the AFS Convention and the Biofouling Guidelines (Activity 3.2.1.3 from PoW 2018-2019).

22 Within the framework of the European Union (EU)-funded “Marine Litter-Med” Project, coordinated by the UNEP/MAP Secretariat, in cooperation with the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC), the Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC) and REMPEC, the sum of **€ 211,140** was allocated to the Centre for the implementation of the following activities, the beneficiary countries of which are Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia:

- .1 the preparation of a study based on a literature review on existing best practices in the Mediterranean as well as other European regional seas for the application of charges at reasonable costs and of the No-Special-Fee system for the use of port reception facilities (Activity 2.2.1.6 from PoW 2018-2019);
- .2 the drafting of operational guidelines on the provision of reception facilities in ports and the delivery of ship-generated wastes as well as a guidance document to determine the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, application of the No-Special-Fee system (Activity 2.2.1.6 from PoW 2018-2019);
- .3 the carrying out of a field visit by Port Authorities representatives in one reference port (Activity 2.2.1.6 from PoW 2018-2019);
- .4 the organisation of a regional workshop on the better management of sea-based litter in ports (Activity 2.5.1.4 from PoW 2018-2019);
- .5 the implementation of pilots related to the provision of reception facilities in ports and the delivery of ship-generated wastes as well as pilots to determine the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, application of No-Special-Fee system (Activity 2.5.2.3 from PoW 2018-2019); and
- .6 the organisation of national meetings to raise awareness on the need to better manage sea-based litter in ports and to provide ships using their ports with updated information relevant to the obligation arising from MARPOL Annex V and from their legislation applicable in the field (Activity 2.5.1.4 from PoW 2018-2019).

23 A number of activities have been supported through the Cooperation Agreement between IMELS and UNEP, the beneficiary countries of which are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia. These funds amounting to **€ 134,854**, are a discretionary contribution in addition to the MTF ordinary contributions by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. REMPEC activities supported under the Cooperation Agreement between IMELS and UNEP are related to:

- .1 the organisation of regional/sub regional workshops to share best practices on No-Special-Fee systems organised, where the draft Operational Guidelines and draft Guidance Document, referred in the above paragraph 22.2, are reviewed (Activity 2.5.1.4 from PoW 2018-2019);
- .2 the implementation of up to ten pilots related to the provision of reception facilities in ports and the delivery of ship-generated wastes as well as pilots to determine the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, application of No-Special-Fee system (Activity 2.5.2.3 from PoW 2018-2019); and
- .3 the provision of guidance on Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs) identification in relation with Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) (Activity 3.1.1.2 from PoW 2018-2019).

24 Finally, REMPEC contributed to the drafting of a project proposal to support the development of the Adriatic/Ionian Sub Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan (ASOSCoP), within the framework of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR).

III. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES

25 The activities implemented by REMPEC in the field of prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships, in accordance with the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2016-2017, are presented in **Annex II** to the present document. The activities related to the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2018-2019 covered the following specific objectives of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021), as further detailed in **Annex III** to the present document:

- Specific Objective 1: Ratification of relevant international maritime conventions related to the protection of the marine environment;
- Specific Objective 2: To control and manage ships' biofouling to minimise the transfer of invasive aquatic species;
- Specific Objective 3: Ensuring effective maritime administrations;
- Specific Objective 5: Provision of reception facilities in ports;
- Specific Objective 6: Delivery of ship-generated wastes;
- Specific Objective 7: Improved follow-up of pollution events as well as monitoring and surveillance of illicit discharges;
- Specific Objective 8: To improve the level of enforcement and of the prosecution of discharge offenders;
- Specific Objective 9: To reduce the pollution generated by pleasure craft activities;
- Specific Objective 12: Identification of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs);
- Specific Objective 13: Reduction of marine noise caused by ships;
- Specific Objective 15: To examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea or parts thereof as a SOx emission control area, under MARPOL Annex VI and effectively implement the existing energy efficiency measures;
- Specific Objective 17: To enhance the levels of prepositioned spill response equipment under the direct control of Mediterranean coastal States;
- Specific Objective 18: To encourage the participation of the regional scientific and technical institutions in research and development activities and to facilitate transfer of technology;
- Specific Objective 19: To improve the quality, speed and effectiveness of decision-making process in case of marine pollution incidents through the development and introduction of technical and decision support tools;
- Specific Objective 20: To increase as much as practical, the level of knowledge in the field of preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution by oil and other harmful substances;
- Specific Objective 21: To revise the existing recommendations, principles and guidelines, and to develop new ones aimed at facilitating international cooperation and mutual assistance within the framework of 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol; and
- Specific Objective 22: To strengthen the capacity of individual coastal States to respond efficiently to marine pollution incidents through development of sub-regional operational agreements and contingency plans.

26 The activities implemented by the Centre within the context of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan in the framework of the Offshore Protocol, hereinafter referred to as the "Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan, in accordance with the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennia 2016-2017 and 2018-2019, are reported in **Annex IV** to the present document.

Actions requested by the Meeting

27 **The Meeting is invited to:**

- .1 **take note** of the information provided in the present document; and
- .2 **comment**, as appropriate.

Annex I

Status of signatures and ratifications of the 1976 Emergency Protocol, the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol as well as the Offshore Protocol
as of 20 September 2018

Contracting Parties	1976 Emergency Protocol			2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol			Offshore Protocol		
	Signature	Ratification	Entered into force	Signature	Ratification	Entered into force	Signature	Ratification	Entered into force
Albania	-	30.05.90/AC	29.06.90	-	-	-	-	26.07.01	24.03.11
Algeria	-	16.03.81/AC	15.04.81	25.01.02	14.11.16	14.12.16	-	-	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	22.10.94/SUC	01.03.92	-	-	-	-	-	-
Croatia	-	12.06.92/SUC	08.10.91	25.01.02	01.10.03	17.03.04	14.10.94	08.02.18	10.03.18
Cyprus	16.02.76	19.11.79	19.12.79	25.01.02	19.12.07	18.01.08	14.10.94	16.05.06	24.03.11
European Union	13.09.76	12.08.81/AP	11.09.81	25.01.02	26.05.04	25.06.04	17.12.12/AC	29.03.13	29.03.13
Egypt	16.02.76	24.08.78/AC	23.09.78	-	-	-	-	-	-
France	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	10.04.78	25.01.02	02.07.03	17.03.04	-	-	-
Greece	16.02.76	03.01.79	02.02.79	25.01.02	27.11.06	27.12.06	14.10.94	-	-
Israel	16.02.76	03.03.78	02.04.78	22.01.03	10.09.14	10.10.14	14.10.94	-	-
Italy	16.02.76	03.02.79	05.03.79	25.01.02	30.06.16	30.07.16	14.10.94	-	-
Lebanon	-	08.11.77/AC	12.02.78	-	3.11.17/AC	03.12.17	-	-	-
Libya	31.01.77	31.01.79	02.03.79	25.01.02	-	-	-	16.06.05	24.03.11
Malta	16.02.76	30.12.77	12.02.78	25.01.02	18.02.03	17.03.04	14.10.94	-	-
Monaco	16.02.76	20.09.77	12.02.78	25.01.02	03.04.02	17.03.04	14.10.94	-	-
Montenegro	-	-	-	-	19.11.07	19.12.07	-	-	-
Morocco	16.02.76	15.01.80	15.02.80	25.01.02	26.04.11	26.05.11	-	01.07.99	24.03.11
Slovenia	-	16.09.93/AC	15.03.94	25.01.02	16.02.04	17.03.04	10.10.95	-	-
Spain	16.02.76	17.12.76	12.02.78	25.01.02	10.07.07	09.08.07	14.10.94	-	-
Syria	-	26.12.78/AC	25.01.79	25.01.02	11.04.08	11.05.08	20.09.95	22.02.11	24.03.11
Tunisia	25.05.76	30.07.77	12.02.78	25.01.02	-	-	14.10.94	01.06.98	24.03.11
Turkey	16.02.76	06.04.81	06.05.81	-	03.06.03	17.03.04	-	-	-

Accession = AC

Approval = AP

Succession = SUC

Annex II

Activities related to the Regional Strategy (2016-2021) carried out by the Centre in accordance with the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (May 2017-December 2017)

Activity Number	Activity Title	Output	Source of Funding
Governance			
1.1.2.5	Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC	The Twelfth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (St. Julian's, Malta, 23-25 May 2017) was successfully organised. The report is available in document REMPEC/WG.41/16.	MTF
1.3.2.1	Promote Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and MSSD	<p>REMPEC promoted its work at the following events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points (Rome, Italy, 29-31 May 2017); - Seventy-first Session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 71) (London, UK, 3-7 July 2017); - 6th Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) Coordination Group (Athens, Greece, 11 September 2017); - Meeting of the MAP Focal Points (Athens, Greece, 12-15 September 2017); - Second Meeting of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean (Barcelona, Spain, 9-10 November 2017); - First Steering Committee Meeting of the EU-funded "Marine Litter-MED" Project (Barcelona, Spain, 10 November 2017); and - Twentieth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 20) (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017). 	<p>MTF</p> <p>EcAp Med II Project</p> <p>EU-funded "Marine Litter-MED" Project</p>
Specific Objective 1: Ratification of relevant international maritime conventions related to the protection of the marine environment			
3.2.1.11	Assess the level of and support the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management and Action Plan	<p>REMPEC presented the outcome of the assessment of the level of implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management (BWM), including its Action Plan and Timetable (hereinafter referred to as the Mediterranean BWM Strategy) at the Twelfth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC in document REMPEC/WG.41/7. The Meeting supported the specific recommendations listed under each Strategic Priority of the Mediterranean BWM Strategy and each measure identified in the Action Plan as well as the general conclusions presented in the Synthetic Report on the said assessment, as set out in the Appendix to the above-mentioned document.</p> <p>The Centre provided technical assistance to the Government of Malta on the ratification and effective implementation of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM Convention) prior to its entry into force on 8 September 2017.</p>	IMO's ITCP

Activity Number	Activity Title	Output	Source of Funding
		<p>REMPEC also facilitated the dialogue between Italy and Malta in the margins of MEPC 71 with a view to, possibly, mutually granting exemptions under the BWM Convention and making use of the same risk area concept for short sea shipping trade between the two neighbouring countries in specific areas of the Mediterranean Sea.</p> <p>The Centre, as Regional Coordinating Organisation (RCO) for the implementation of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-IMO GloBallast Partnerships Programme in the Mediterranean region in collaboration with SPA/RAC, disseminated a hard copy of the last publication of the said project, namely the GloBallast Story: Reflections from a Global Family (GloBallast Monograph Series No. 25), to all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, in December 2017.</p>	
Specific Objective 2: To control and manage ships' biofouling to minimise the transfer of invasive aquatic species			
3.2.2.4	Disseminate the Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species	<p>REMPEC disseminated the following documents to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention pursuant to the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2016-2017 and presented them during the Twelfth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (St. Julian's, Malta, 23-25 May 2017):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the 2011 Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species ("the 2011 Biofouling Guidelines"), as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.41/INF.7; and - the Guidance for minimizing the transfer of invasive aquatic species as biofouling (hull fouling) for recreational craft, as laid down in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.41/INF.8. <p>The Centre also disseminated IMO Circular Letter No.3768 dated 30 August 2017 to all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention with regard to the Call for Expressions of Interest to become a Lead Partnering Country or a Partnering Country of the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloFouling Partnerships that focuses on building capacity in developing countries for implementing the 2011 Biofouling Guidelines.</p>	N/A
Specific Objective 3: Ensuring effective maritime administrations			
2.3.2.1	Supporting preparation of NAPs common template including national assessment	The Guidance Document for the preparation of National Action Plans for the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021), as amended and agreed upon by the Twelfth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, is submitted to the present meeting as document REMPEC/WG.45/INF.3.	MTF IMO's ITCP

Activity Number	Activity Title	Output	Source of Funding
Specific Objective 5: Provision of reception facilities in ports Specific Objective 6: Delivery of ship-generated wastes Specific Objective 9: To reduce the pollution generated by pleasure craft activities			
2.2.1.7	Prepare the specific guidelines to determine the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, where appropriate, the application of a No-Special-Fee system, in line with the Regional Plan on Marine Litter	<p>Within the framework of the EU-funded "Marine Litter-MED" Project aimed at supporting the beneficiary countries, namely Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, to implement the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean within the framework of Article 15 of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) to the Barcelona Convention, REMPEC attended the following meetings in view of its work to address measures related to the better management of sea-based litter in ports, in particular, the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, application of No-Special-Fee system, as well as the provision of reception facilities and the delivery of ship-generated wastes in selected major ports and marinas in the Mediterranean:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6th Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) Coordination Group (Athens, Greece, 11 September 2017); - Second Meeting of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean (Barcelona, Spain, 9-10 November 2017); and - First Steering Committee Meeting of the EU-funded "Marine Litter-MED" Project (Barcelona, Spain, 10 November 2017). 	<p>EU-funded "Marine Litter-MED" Project</p> <p>EcAp Med II Project</p> <p>EU-funded "Marine Litter-MED" Project</p>
Specific Objective 7: Improved follow-up of pollution events as well as monitoring and surveillance of illicit discharges			
2.4.3.2	Produce maps of illicit discharges and accidental marine pollution from ships and offshore installation	<p>During the period under review the following systems were not only kept operational but were also further developed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Regional Information System (RIS); - the Mediterranean Integrated Geographical Information System on Marine Pollution Risk Assessment and Response (MEDGIS-MAR) with related inventory of pre-positioned spill response equipment, as well as REMPEC's website; - the Maritime Integrated Decision Support Information System on Transport of Chemical Substances (MIDSIS-TROCS); and - the information system of the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS). <p>In line with Decision IG.23/11, the development of a webpage dedicated to the Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents was initiated. The upgrade and update of MEDGIS-MAR was initiated to address comments provided by Contracting Parties to the</p>	MTF

Activity Number	Activity Title	Output	Source of Funding
		Barcelona Convention with a view to improving the operational aspects of the tool and to linking it to MedGIS 2.0, a Geographical Information System (GIS) platform providing environmental data updated by SPA/RAC by the Mediterranean Platform on Biodiversity (MPB).	
Specific Objective 8: To improve the level of enforcement and of the prosecution of discharge offenders			
2.3.1.7	Organize the Meeting of MENELAS	<p>REMPEC, as Secretariat for MENELAS, successfully organised the Second Meeting of MENELAS (Valletta, Malta, 28-29 November 2017). The report of the Meeting is submitted to the present meeting in document REMPEC/WG.45/INF.13.</p> <p>A report on the activities of MENELAS, as requested by Decision IG.21/9, was also submitted to the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points (Athens, Greece, 12-15 September 2017) as well as to COP 20 in documents UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.443/Inf.14 and UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.23/Inf.9, respectively.</p>	MTF
Specific Objective 13: Reduction of marine noise caused by ships			
3.2.2.6	Disseminate the IMO Guidelines for the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping to address adverse impacts on marine life	REMPEC disseminated the Guidelines for the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping to address adverse impacts on marine life to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention pursuant to the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2016-2017, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.41/INF.9, and presented them during the Twelfth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (St. Julian's, Malta, 23-25 May 2017).	N/A
Specific Objective 14: To establish procedures for the designation of places of refuge in order to minimise the risks of widespread pollution Specific Objective 16: To ensure that adequate emergency towing capacity is available throughout the Mediterranean to assist vessels, including tankers, in distress			
5.3.1.2	Assist one country, which so request, to define procedures and draw up plan to deal with ships in distress	REMPEC did not receive any request from Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to provide assistance in defining procedures and drawing up plan to deal with ships in distress.	N/A

Activity Number	Activity Title	Output	Source of Funding
Specific Objective 15: To examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea or parts thereof as a SOx emission control area, under MARPOL Annex VI and effectively implement the existing energy efficiency measures			
2.7.1.3	Assess the feasibility of designation as a SOx Emission Control Area (ECA) certain areas of the Mediterranean Sea or the whole of the Mediterranean Sea	<p>Further to the establishment of the SOx ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts, the Centre encouraged Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention that had not nominated their representatives to serve on the said committee to do so as soon as possible and, by the end of 2017, it received nominations from seventeen (17) Mediterranean coastal States and the European Union.</p> <p>REMPEC, in consultation with the SOx ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts, finalised the terms of reference for the provision of consultancy services for the preparation of a technical and feasibility study to examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea, or parts thereof, as SOx ECA(s) under MARPOL Annex VI, hereinafter referred to as the Technical and Feasibility Study. A formal call for quotations was launched in December 2017 and, in the absence of response, was concluded as unsuccessful. This activity was integrated in the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2018-2019 with additional funding from MTF and complementary funds from the IMO's ITCP.</p>	MTF
2.7.1.4	Assist the Mediterranean coastal States, which so request, to prepare a submission to IMO proposing the designation as a SOx ECA of the area or areas of the Mediterranean Sea.	<p>REMPEC did not receive any request from Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to provide assistance to prepare a submission to IMO proposing the designation as a SOx ECA of the area or areas of the Mediterranean Sea.</p> <p>Also refer to the output of activity 2.7.1.3 under the same Specific Objective.</p>	N/A
Specific Objective 17: To enhance the levels of prepositioned spill response equipment under the direct control of Mediterranean coastal States			
1.5.1.4	Maintain and update the regional information system and keep updated the related inventory of pre-positioned spill response equipment	Refer to the output of activity 2.4.3.2 under Specific Objective 7.	MTF
Specific Objective 19: To improve the quality, speed and effectiveness of decision-making process in case of marine pollution incidents through the development and introduction of technical and decision support tools			
1.5.1.5	Maintain and update relevant information systems and related data including REMPEC's website, RIS, MIDSISTROCS and MENELAS information system	Refer to the output of activity 2.4.3.2 under Specific Objective 7.	MTF

Activity Number	Activity Title	Output	Source of Funding
1.5.2.4	Streamline and rationalize the reporting obligations of the Contracting Parties, taking into consideration current reporting mechanisms, such as REMPEC's Country Profile, MEDGIS-MAR, MENELAS, BCRS and EcAp	Further to the submission of the draft revised reporting format for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, as reproduced in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.41/INF.11, to the Twelfth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, and following the consideration of the submission by the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points (Athens, Greece, 12-15 September 2017), the Decision IG.23/1 on the Revised reporting format for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols was adopted by COP 20.	N/A
2.4.1.4	Support the development of a quality assurance programme for oil and HNS pollution from ships and offshore data reporting and collection in line with the EcAp Monitoring Programme	<p>REMPEC provided information on the development of a quality assurance programme for data reporting and collection, in accordance with Article 5 of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol, as well as the development of the 2017 Quality Status Report for the Mediterranean (2017 MED QSR), at the Twelfth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, as set out in documents REMPEC/WG.41/9 and REMPEC/WG.41/9/Corr.1. In particular, the Centre presented the Indicator Guidance Factsheet for Common Indicator 19: Occurrence, origin (where possible), extent of acute pollution events (e.g. slicks from oil, oil products and hazardous substances), and their impact on biota affected by this pollution, hereinafter referred to as EO9 CI19, developed within the framework of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP), as well as the related 2017 MED QSR Assessment Factsheet. REMPEC also presented the report reproduced in document REMPEC/WG.41/INF.12 that provided insights on a gap analysis as well as conclusions and recommendations for the development of the quality assurance programme.</p> <p>Conclusions, key messages and knowledge gaps related to EO9 CI19 were integrated in Decision IG.23/6 on the 2017 MED QSR adopted by COP 20.</p>	EcAp MED II Project
Specific Objective 20: To increase as much as practical, the level of knowledge in the field of preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution by oil and other harmful substances			
2.5.1.4	Assist in the development and implementation of national training programme on response to oil and HNS spills	In collaboration with the Egyptian Environment Affairs Agency (EEAA), REMPEC organised a National Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Spill Response Training Course (Cairo, Egypt, 26-30 November 2017).	IMO's ITCP
2.5.1.5	Implement the project for Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline clean-up and Oiled Wildlife interventions – POSOW	The two-year project for Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline clean-up and Oiled Wildlife interventions – POSOW ⁵ was completed in 31 December 2016, whilst the final disbursement was completed in July 2017.	DG ECHO

⁵ <http://www.posow.org/>

Activity Number	Activity Title	Output	Source of Funding
Specific Objective 21: To revise the existing recommendations, principles and guidelines, and to develop new ones aimed at facilitating international cooperation and mutual assistance within the framework of 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol			
2.2.1.9	Update Principles and Guidelines on cooperation and mutual assistance	Further to the submission to the Twelfth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC of document REMPEC/WG.41/8 on the Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents, the related Decision IG.23/11 was adopted by COP 20. As indicated under Specific Objective 7 above, an electronic version of the Guide was being developed.	MTF IMO's ITCP IPIECA
2.2.1.8	Update Guidelines on risk of gaseous release after marine incident	In December 2017, REMPEC initiated, the revision of the Guide for risks of gaseous releases resulting from maritime accidents, 1996, within the framework of the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG).	
Specific Objective 22: To strengthen the capacity of individual coastal States to respond efficiently to marine pollution incidents through development of sub-regional operational agreements and contingency plans			
2.3.1.8	Provide expertise for the development and implementation of national preparedness and response systems and/or for the identification of the minimum required level of pre-positioned State-controlled spill response equipment	REMPEC have either participated in or contributed to the following exercises during the period under review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Table top Exercise, testing the Sub-Regional Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel, (23-24 October 2017). - Fuel leakage following a collision of two ships. Off Eilat Port, (Israel 4, December 2017). - Nemesis 2017 Exercise (Cyprus, 16 October 2017). - Exercise "Jadran-17", Oil Pollution Response at Kastel Bay Spilt, (Croatia, 5 October 2017). - Aljurf Offshore – Oil slick next to the export hose during the loading of the tanker, (Libya, 12 September 2017). 	N/A
2.6.1.1	Support the organization of sub-regional joint activities and meetings	<p>The Third and last Meeting of the Competent National Authorities for the Preparation of the Sub- Regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (SCP) between Cyprus, Greece and Israel (Nicosia, Cyprus, 11-12 July 2017) reviewed and agreed upon the final draft of the SCP as well as the draft of the Agreement for its implementation</p> <p>Under the leadership of Israel, REMPEC contributed to the organisation and implementation of a table-top exercise (23-24 October 2017), simulating a marine oil pollution incident where Cyprus, Greece and Israel tested the first phases of activation of the SCP CGI.</p> <p>On 15 December 2017, REMPEC disseminated the final version of the documents agreed upon by the competent national authorities of the three countries concerned namely i) the Sub-Regional Marine Oil Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel; ii) the Implementation Agreement on the</p>	MTF MTF MTF

Activity Number	Activity Title	Output	Source of Funding
		<p>SCP; and the Draft Ministerial Resolution.</p> <p>An extraordinary meeting of the national competent authorities in charge of the implementation of the Sub-Regional Contingency Plan for the South-Western Mediterranean took place on 1 and 2 November 2017 in Valletta, Malta. The general objective of the Meeting was to set up the necessary bases to ensure the relaunch of the Annual Meetings of the Competent National Authorities in charge of the implementation of the Sub-Regional Contingency Plan was met. The Meeting reviewed the Conclusions and Recommendations of the previous Meeting and discussed a draft 2018-2019 Programme of Sub-Regional Activities and the relevant topics under the agreement.</p> <p>On request of Joint Research Centre (JRC), REMPEC hosted a bilateral meeting on 3 November 2017 to discuss JRC's role and the project on External Emergency Response Planning (EERP) for offshore oil and gas operations and the way forward for further cooperation in this field.</p> <p>REMPEC contributed to the implementation of the OPENRISK Project coordinated by the Secretariat of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) with the support of the Secretariats of the BONN Agreement (North Sea), the Copenhagen Agreement (Nordic seas), REMPEC (Mediterranean), as well as the Norwegian Coastal Administration. The OpenRisk Project, a two-year project (2017-18) co-financed by the European Commission DG ECHO, developed a joint and fully open method toolbox for risk assessments of spills resulting from maritime accidents⁶.</p> <p>In this context, REMPEC, participated in the First OpenRisk Workshop (Helsinki, Finland, 13-14 June 2017) and the Second OpenRisk workshop (Lisbon, Portugal, 12 October 2017) and also initiated the preparation of the Third Workshop to be hosted, in April 2018, by the Centre.</p>	<p>IMO's ITCP</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>DG ECHO</p>

⁶ <http://www.helcom.fi/Lists/Publications/OpenRisk-Guideline-for-pollution-response-at-sea.pdf>

Activity Number	Activity Title	Output	Source of Funding
2.6.1.5	Maintain the level of preparedness of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU), for assisting the CPs in case of emergency	<p>The oil tanker "AGIA ZONI II" CS: SVAD4 - Greek flag – IMO No: 7126152 sank off Piraeus, Greece, on 10 September 2017, with 2.195 M/T fuel oil, 340 M/T marine gas oil as cargo, 15 M/T marine gas oil as bunkers and 300 L lubricants on board. Further to the request for assistance published by the Hellenic Coast Guard on the Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS) and the acceptance of REMPEC's offer, two (2) experts were mobilised for a mission in Athens, Greece, from 8 to 14 October 2017, within the framework of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU). The experts from the Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution (Cedre) based in Brest, France, and from the Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) based in Rome, Italy, both members of the MAU, provided technical support on sunken oil assessment and removal techniques, and efficient oil removal from sandy beaches. As detailed in the document REMPEC/WG.45/10 (Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU) and related activities) submitted to the present meeting, as of 31 December 2017, the balance of the MAU special revolving funds was USD 31,407.55, after deducing the cost of the mission.</p> <p>The renewal of REMPEC's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) within the framework of the MAU and ISPRA was still pending validation from ISPRA. The MoUs between REMPEC and Sea Alarm, REMPEC and Cedre, REMPEC and Federazione Nazionale dell'Industria Chimica (FEDERCHIMICA) and REMPEC and the Mediterranean Operational Network for the Global Ocean Observing System (MONGOOS) have already been renewed.</p>	MAU special revolving funds
2.6.1.6	Prepare 2 project documents and implement the Marine Oil & HNS Pollution in the Western Mediterranean Region (West MOPoCo and West MOPoEx)	At a meeting held on 11 October 2017 in Paris, France, the Secretariat Général de la Mer (SG Mer), Cedre and REMPEC agreed in principle to submit the Marine Oil & HNS Pollution in the Western Mediterranean Region (West MOPoCo) project proposal under the 2018 call for proposal (EU Civil Protection Funding Mechanism), to lead the WestMoPoCo Project consortium through a Steering Committee Group composed of representatives and beneficiaries of the Project.	N/A

Annex III

Activities related to the Regional Strategy (2016-2021) carried out by the Centre in accordance with the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (January 2018-April 2019)

Activity Number	Activity Title	Output	Source of Funding
Governance			
1.1.2.3	Organize the Meeting of MAP Focal Points preceded by the EcAp CG Meeting and supported by the MAP Component/Thematic FP meetings	Initial draft Programme of Work for 2020-2021 submitted for comments to REMPEC Focal Points. Draft Programme of Work for 2020-2021 and documents relating to REMPEC mandate submitted to the Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC. Preparatory work was carried out for the present meeting.	MTF
1.3.2	Promote Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the MSSD 2016-2025 with a particular focus on pollution control and prevention, biodiversity and ICZM	<p>REMPEC promoted its work at the following events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fifth session of the Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR 5) (London, United Kingdom, 5-9 February 2018); - Thirty fourth Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) (Sophia Antipolis, France, 5-7 February 2018); - Third Meeting of the Steering Committee for the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement between IMELS and UNEP (Sophia Antipolis, France, 7 February 2018); - Fourteenth Inter-Secretariat Meeting between the Regional Agreements Secretariats, DG ECHO and EMSA (Copenhagen, Denmark, 21 February 2018); - European Environment Agency (EEA) – UNEP/MAP Joint Seminar on Regional Assessments (Copenhagen, Denmark, 26-28 February 2018); - Seventy-second Session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 72) (London, UK, 9-13 April 2018); - PolyTalk 2018 – Zero Plastics to The Oceans (St. Julian's, Malta, 26-27 April 2018); - Common Emergency Communication and Information Systems (CECIS) training for Marine Pollution users (Brussels, Belgium, 29-30 May 2018); - Conference "Environment and development in the Mediterranean yesterday, today and tomorrow" on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Plan Bleu (Paris, France, 5 June 2018); - Plenary Conference of the 2018 Mediterranean Coast Guard Functions Forum (MCGFF) (Marseille, France, 27-28 June 2018); - Intersessional meeting on consistent implementation of regulation 14.1.3 of MARPOL Annex VI (ISWG-AP 1) (London, United Kingdom, 9-13 July 2018); - International technical workshop "Data, trends, impacts and benefits associated with the creation of 	<p>MTF</p> <p>EMSA</p> <p>DG ECHO</p> <p>France</p>

		<p>an emission control area by vessels in the Mediterranean" (Marseille, France, 6-7 September 2018);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices (Izmir, Turkey, 9-10 October 2018); - Third Meeting of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean (Izmir, Turkey, 11-12 October 2018); - Second Steering Committee Meeting of the EU-funded "Marine Litter-MED" Project (Izmir, Turkey, 12 October 2018); - Second Steering Committee for the SAFEMED IV Project (Aqaba, Jordan, 9-10 October 2018); - Seventy-third Session of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 73) (London, UK, 22-26 October 2018); - EMSA Workshop on ship-source pollution (Implementation of Directive 2005/35/EC) (Lisbon, Portugal, 13 November 2018); - Workshop on "Sulphur Regulation: awareness raising for the upcoming 0.50% Sulphur requirement and consistent implementation as of 2020" for Mediterranean Countries (Lisbon, Portugal, 13-14 February 2019); - Sixth session of the Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR6) (London, UK, 18-22 February 2019); and - Second Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices, jointly organised with the MARLICE 2019 International Forum on Marine Litter and Circular Economy (Seville, Spain, 8-10 April 2019). <p>The Centre also prepared the progress report on REMPEC activities and submitted it for presentation at the Seventy-fourth Session of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 74) (London, UK, 13-17 May 2019).</p>	
Specific Objective 1: Ratification of relevant international maritime conventions related to the protection of the marine environment			
3.2.1.3	Support the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management and Action Plan and provide assistance to control and manage ships' biofouling to minimise the transfer of invasive aquatic species.	<p>Further to the informal discussions held in the margins of MEPC 71 and MEPC 72, REMPEC contacted the interested parties for the implementation of a pilot on mutually granted exemptions under the BWM Convention, making use of the same risk area concept for short sea shipping trade between two neighbouring countries in specific areas of the Mediterranean Sea, with a view to specifying the type of assistance and timeframe to support the process.</p> <p>Following the Call for Expressions of Interest to become a Lead Partnering Country or a Partnering Country of the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloFouling Partnerships submitted by REMPEC to all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in September 2017, the Centre was informed by IMO that, due to lack of interest expressed by Mediterranean coastal States, the Mediterranean region would not be one of the regions directly benefiting from the said programme. However, as experience is gained, and tools developed through the project, REMPEC and the Mediterranean region will be associated to some of the awareness-raising activities to be carried out at a later stage. Also refer to the output of activity 2.5.1.4 under Specific Objective 2.</p>	MTF

Specific Objective 2: To control and manage ships' biofouling to minimise the transfer of invasive aquatic species			
2.5.1.4	Increase as much as practical, the level of knowledge in the field of prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution by oil and other harmful substances	REMPEC secured additional funding from IMO's ITCP to complement the funds available under MTF and initiated the necessary coordination with IMO to organise the Regional Workshop on the AFS Convention and the Biofouling Guidelines to be held in Valletta, Malta, from 12 to 14 November 2019.	IMO's ITCP/MTF
Specific Objective 3: Ensuring effective maritime administrations			
2.3.2.	Promote the ratification and implementation of relevant international maritime conventions related to the protection of the marine environment as well as enhance the effectiveness of maritime administrations.	A call for expressions of interest to Mediterranean coastal States for the preparation of National Action Plans (NAPs) for the implementation of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021) was disseminated on 24 April 2018 to select the Mediterranean coastal States that would benefit from the technical support, through the provision of national consultancy services. Upon evaluation of the national submissions, Albania, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey were selected. National consultants proposed by Albania, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey recruited by REMPEC have supported the respective governments in the preparation, by May 2019, of the NAPs, including a national assessment.	MTF
Specific Objective 5: Provision of reception facilities in ports			
Specific Objective 6: Delivery of ship-generated wastes			
Specific Objective 9: To reduce the pollution generated by pleasure craft activities			
2.2.1.6	Revise the existing recommendations, principles and guidelines, and develop new ones aimed at facilitating international cooperation and mutual assistance within the framework of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol	Within the framework of the EU-funded "Marine Litter-MED" Project as well as the Cooperation Agreement between IMELS and UNEP, REMPEC i) prepared a Study based on a literature review on existing best practices in the Mediterranean as well as other European regional seas for the application of charges at reasonable costs and of the No-Special-Fee system for the use of port reception facilities, which is submitted to the present meeting as document REMPEC/WG.45/INF.8, ii) prepared draft Operational Guidelines on the provision of reception facilities in ports and the delivery of ship-generated wastes in the Mediterranean as well as a draft Guidance Document to determine the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, application of the No-Special-Fee system, in the Mediterranean, which are submitted to the present meeting as documents REMPEC/WG.45/9/1 and REMPEC/WG.45/9/2, respectively; and iii) carried out a field visit for Port Authority representatives to the Port of Antwerp (Antwerp, Belgium, 30-31 October 2018), in collaboration with the Antwerp Port Authority.	EU-funded "Marine Litter-MED" Project Cooperation Agreement between IMELS and UNEP

2.5.1.4	Increase as much as practical, the level of knowledge in the field of prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution by oil and other harmful substances	<p>Within the framework of the EU-funded “Marine Litter-MED” Project as well as the Cooperation Agreement between IMELS and UNEP, REMPEC co-organised the Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices (Izmir, Turkey, 9-10 October 2018) as well as the Second Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices, jointly organised with the MARLICE 2019 International Forum on Marine Litter and Circular Economy (Seville, Spain, 8-10 April 2019). The draft Operational Guidelines and draft Guidance Document referred to in the output of activity 2.2.1.6 under the same Specific Objective were presented during the Second Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices (Seville, Spain, 8-10 April 2019 - WG.466/7) and discussed in a specific break-out group held on 8 April 2019 in the margins of the said meeting.</p> <p>Also refer to the output of activity 2.5.2.3 under the same Specific Objective.</p>	<p>EU-funded “Marine Litter-MED” Project</p> <p>Cooperation Agreement between IMELS and UNEP</p>
2.5.2.3	Enhance the provision of reception facilities in ports, delivery of ship-generated wastes and reduction of the pollution generated by pleasure craft activities	<p>Within the framework of the EU-funded “Marine Litter-MED” Project as well as the Cooperation Agreement between IMELS and UNEP, REMPEC launched two separate calls for formal tenders for the provisions of consultancy services for the implementation of pilots related to the better management of sea-based litter in ports and marinas, through IMO, in September 2018, which were successfully concluded and were followed by the recruitment of the selected consultants. The main objectives of the consultancy services are to facilitate the implementation, in consultation with REMPEC, of: up to 13 national pilots to determine the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, application of No-Special-Fee system in one major port selected per target country in collaboration with national authorities; ii) up to 13 national pilots related to the provision of reception facilities in ports and the delivery of ship-generated wastes in one marina selected per target country in collaboration with national authorities. As part of the national pilots, national meetings will be organised with relevant stakeholders to raise awareness on the need to better manage sea-based litter in ports and to provide ships using their ports with updated information relevant to the obligation arising from MARPOL Annex V and from their legislation applicable in the field.</p> <p>With a view to ensuring the timely and effective implementation of the said pilots in 2019, REMPEC facilitated the first contact between its consultants and the beneficiary countries to enable the former to carry out the literature-based review and to prepare the field visits in the selected major ports and marinas as well as the national meetings, which all form part of the targeted diagnosis of the pilots related to the better management of sea-based litter in ports and marinas. Beneficiary countries have been invited in several occasions to select the major ports and marinas that would participate in the pilots as well as to identify the contact persons for the organisation of the national meetings.</p>	<p>EU-funded “Marine Litter-MED” Project</p> <p>Cooperation Agreement between IMELS and UNEP</p>

Specific Objective 7: Improved follow-up of pollution events as well as monitoring and surveillance of illicit discharges			
Specific Objective 8: To improve the level of enforcement and of the prosecution of discharge offenders			
2.1.1.6	Improve follow-up of pollution events, monitoring and surveillance of illicit discharges, as well as improve the level of enforcement and the prosecution of discharge offenders.	<p>The Conclusions and Recommendations of the Second Meeting of MENELAS (Valletta, Malta, 28-29 November 2017), were sent to all participants in April 2018. Developments within MENELAS were presented at the EMSA Workshop on ship-source pollution (Implementation of Directive 2005/35/EC) (Lisbon, Portugal, 13 November 2018). The Third Meeting of MENELAS is tentatively planned to be held at REMPEC offices in Valletta, Malta from 8 to 9 October 2019.</p> <p>A coordinated aerial surveillance operation for illicit ship pollution discharges in the Mediterranean entitled "OSCAR-MED 2018" was held on 15 and 16 May 2018, however, the participation of other Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to the said operation was not possible. The Centre addressed the possibility to organise a coordinated aerial surveillance operation for illicit ship pollution discharges, with the participation of coastal States from the Southern Mediterranean, in the margins of the Conference "Environment and development in the Mediterranean yesterday, today and tomorrow" on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of Plan Bleu (Paris, France, 5 June 2018) and the Plenary Conference of the 2018 MCGFF (Marseille, France, 27-28 June 2018). REMPEC also established contact with INTERPOL and EUROPOL to enhance cooperation, as a follow-up to the operation "30 Days at Sea", the report of which is submitted to the present meeting as document REMPEC/WG.45/INF.18.</p>	MTF
Specific Objective 12: Identification of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs)			
3.1.1.2	Develop and strengthen an effective SPAMI management	Within the framework of the Cooperation Agreement between IMELS and UNEP, REMPEC and SPA/RAC have been cooperating on the preparation of their respective terms of reference on the provision of guidance on Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs) identification in relation with Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) and the strengthening of the capacity building in enhancing scientific description of Ecologically/Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) or PSSAs.	Cooperation Agreement between IMELS and UNEP
Specific Objective 13: Reduction of marine noise caused by ships			
2.7.1.2	Reduce marine noise caused by ships.	REMPEC did not receive any request from Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to provide technical support to raise awareness on the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping to address adverse impact on marine life.	N/A

Specific Objective 15: To examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea or parts thereof as a SOx emission control area, under MARPOL Annex VI and effectively implement the existing energy efficiency measures			
2.7.1.1	Examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea or parts thereof as SOx emission control area under MARPOL Annex VI and effectively implement the existing energy efficiency measures.	<p>The Centre managed to secure additional funds from IMO's ITCP to complement the funds available under the MTF, enabling it to launch a new Call for Formal Tenders for the provision of consultancy services for the preparation of a technical and feasibility study to examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea, or parts thereof, as SOx ECA(s) under MARPOL Annex VI, in March 2018. In parallel to the recruitment of the selected consultant in June 2018, the Centre consulted the SOx ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts on a draft generic questionnaire in support of the Technical and Feasibility Study. In October 2018, REMPEC submitted the draft Technical and Feasibility Study to the SOx ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts, for review and comments. The draft Technical and Feasibility Study and the compilation of comments received from the SOx ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts, as set out, respectively, in documents REMPEC/WG.44/8/Rev.1 and REMPEC/WG.44/INF.4/Rev.1, were presented and discussed at the Regional Workshop on Ratification and Effective Implementation of MARPOL Annex VI (Valletta, Malta, 11-13 December 2018) organised by REMPEC. In April 2019, the Centre submitted the revised draft Technical and Feasibility Study as well as the draft recommendations, including a draft road map, and an initial draft submission to the IMO, to the SOx ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts, for review and comments. The final draft Technical and Feasibility Study as well as the revised draft recommendations, including a revised draft road map, and an initial revised draft submission to the IMO are submitted to the present meeting as documents REMPEC/WG.45/INF.9, REMPEC/WG.45/11 and REMPEC/WG.45/INF.10, respectively.</p> <p>REMPEC attended the Intersessional meeting on consistent implementation of regulation 14.1.3 of MARPOL Annex VI (ISWG-AP 1) (London, United Kingdom, 9-13 July 2018) and held an informal regional meeting, in cooperation with IMO, in the margins of ISWG-AP 1 with a view to updating each other on the on-going activities in the Mediterranean relevant to the implementation of MARPOL Annex VI. The Centre also participated in the international technical workshop "Data, trends, impacts and benefits associated with the creation of an emission control area by vessels in the Mediterranean", co-organised by the French Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition as well as Plan Bleu (Marseille, France, 6-7 September 2018), and presented the progress made with regard to the preparation of the draft Technical and Feasibility Study. REMPEC delivered a presentation during the side-event entitled "Assessment of impacts of air pollution in the Mediterranean" organised by France on 23 October 2018, in the margins of MEPC 73, and participated in the Workshop on "Sulphur Regulation: awareness raising for the upcoming 0.50% Sulphur requirement and consistent implementation as of 2020" for Mediterranean Countries (Lisbon, Portugal, 13-14 February 2019). The Centre was consulted on the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea, or parts thereof, as SOx ECA(s) under MARPOL Annex VI, for the preparation of a side event and a meeting organised in the margins of MEPC74 (London, UK, 13-17 May 2019) as well as the "Sommet des deux rives" (Marseille, France, June 2019) to be attended by the Head of States of the countries of the 5+5 Dialogue.</p>	<p>IMO's ITCP/MTF</p> <p>Voluntary contributions from the Governments of France and Italy</p>

Specific Objective 17: To enhance the levels of prepositioned spill response equipment under the direct control of Mediterranean coastal States			
2.1.1.5	Strengthen the capacity of individual coastal States to respond efficiently to marine pollution incidents through the development of sub-regional operational agreements and contingency plans, as well as enhance the levels of pre-positioned spill response equipment under the direct control of Mediterranean coastal States.	<p>Within the approved EU Funded 2019-2020 West MOPoCo Project, the identification and development of national mechanisms for the mobilisation of response equipment and experts in case of emergency has been integrated and has been addressed by the Steering Committee of the Project.</p> <p>Refer to the upgrade of MEDGIS-MAR under activity 1.5.1.5 / Specific Objective 19.</p>	West MOPoCo Project
Specific Objective 18: To encourage the participation of the regional scientific and technical institutions in research and development activities and to facilitate transfer of technology			
1.4.4.2	Promote the participation of regional scientific and technical institutions in research and development activities and facilitate transfer of technology.	<p>In coordination with HELCOM (Project lead Partner), REMPEC organised the Third OpenRisk Inter-Regional Workshop on Risk Assessment Methods for Pollution Prevention and Response (Valletta, Malta, 24-25 April 2018) to test the “OpenRisk Guideline for Regional Risk Management to Improve European Preparedness and Response at Sea” in view of its finalisation and approval (Malmo, Sweden, 30 October 2018)</p> <p>REMPEC contributed as moderator to the EMSA/DG ECHO Joint Workshop on Risk Assessment and Response Planning in Europe (14 March 2018, London, UK)</p>	<p>DG ECHO</p> <p>EMSA/MTF</p>
Specific Objective 19: To improve the quality, speed and effectiveness of decision making process in case of marine pollution incidents through the development and introduction of technical and decision support tools			
1.5.1.5	Maintain REMPEC's information system and improve the quality, speed and effectiveness of decision-making process in case of marine pollution incidents through the development and	<p>REMPEC progressed on the development of its website by the Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication (INFO/RAC), based on SPA/RAC's and UNEP graphic chart. REMPEC's new website prototype and structure was discussed with IMO, UNEP/MAP and SPA/RAC information officer. REMPEC maintained regular contact with INFO/RAC for the hosting and transfer of REMPEC's tool into INFO-RAC's server as well as for the development of REMPEC website. Within the approved EU Funded 2019-2020 West MOPoCo Project, a company was hired to develop of the project website (March 2019)</p> <p>The Mediterranean Integrated Geographical Information System on Marine Pollution Risk Assessment and</p>	MTF

	introduction of technical and decision support tools.	<p>Response (MEDGIS-MAR) was upgraded and complemented with fifteen (15) new features, including a layer related to illicit discharges, a responsive interface with additional filters, customised access and update by Mediterranean coastal States, running of oil forecasting simulations, etc.</p> <p>The Beta version of the electronic version of the Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incident has been developed. An upgrade of the said electronic version has been integrated within the EU Funded 2019-2020 West MOPoCo Project.</p>	
2.4.3.3	Update thematic assessments to contribute to the SoED with new data where applicable (Pollution and Marine Litter)	Further to the call for formal quotation published on 18 June 2018 for the provision of consultancy services for the preparation of the section on maritime transport of the State of the environment and development (SoED) report, the related contract was awarded on 24 July 2018. The contribution on the section related to "Maritime transport", prepared by REMPEC with Plan Bleu and the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (SCP/RAC) support was updated and is submitted to the present meeting as document REMPEC/WG.45/8. The relevant parts of the contribution were integrated in SoED Chapter 9.	MTF
Specific Objective 20: To increase as much as practical, the level of knowledge in the field of preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution by oil and other harmful substances			
2.1.1.5	Strengthen the capacity of individual coastal States to respond efficiently to marine pollution incidents through the development of sub-regional operational agreements and contingency plans, as well as enhance the levels of pre-positioned spill response equipment under the direct control of Mediterranean coastal States.	REMPEC contributed to the following national exercises: ADRIATIC 2018 (Croatia, May 2018), SIMULEX 2018 (Morocco, June 2018). MALTEX 2018 (Malta, October, 2018), TOMMASSOS (Israel, November 2018), NEMESIS 2018 (Cyprus, September 2018) and the regional exercise RAMOGEPOL 2018 (France, Italy and Monaco, September 2018)	N/A
2.5.1.4	Assist in the development and implementation of national training programme on response to oil and HNS spills	<p>IMO in consultation with REMPEC sponsored the participation of a representative from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon and Morocco, who attended INTERSPILL 2018 Conference and Exhibition (12-15 March 2018, London, UK).</p> <p>Within the framework of the Implementation Agreement between Cyprus, Greece and Israel on the Sub-regional marine pollution contingency plan, REMPEC, with the assistance of the Cyprus Maritime Authority organised the Sub-Regional Seminar on Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage (4-5 December 2018, Larnaca, Cyprus).</p>	<p>IMO's ITCP</p> <p>MTF</p>

		<p>REMPEC in collaboration with IMO organised a National IMO training course on response to HNS in the marine environment, based on the newly developed IMO model course (13 - 16 November 2018, Istanbul, Turkey). REMPEC in collaboration with IMO and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) scheduled in the first week of December 2019, a new session of the National IMO training course on response to HNS in the marine environment (Istanbul, Turkey).</p> <p>The preparation for the organisation of the National oil spill response training course (IMO OPRC Model Course Levels 2, Montenegro, 19-21 June 2019), was initiated.</p>	<p>IMO's ITCP</p> <p>IMO's ITCP</p>
<p>Specific Objective 21: To revise the existing recommendations, principles and guidelines, and to develop new ones aimed at facilitating international cooperation and mutual assistance within the framework of 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol</p>			
2.5.1.4	Increase as much as practical, the level of knowledge in the field of prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution by oil and other harmful substances	<p>REMPEC organised the Regional Workshop on Response to Spill Incidents involving Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) (MEDEXPOL 2018) (Valletta, Malta, 20-21 June 2018), which agreed upon the revised "Guide for risks of gaseous releases resulting from maritime accidents" as amended by the Workshop, submitted to the present meeting as document REMPEC/WG.45/12/2, for approval. MEDEXPOL endorsed a set of recommendations for future developments on HNS response guidelines and tools, including the production of a Joint Inter-Regional HNS Response Manual between the Bonn Agreement, HELCOM and REMPEC. MEDEXPOL 2018 Report, reproduced in document REMPEC/WG.45/INF.14, was disseminated to participants and OPRC Focal Points, and the outcome were submitted to IMO PPR6 under document PPR6/15/2.</p>	<p>IMO's ITCP/MTF</p>
<p>Specific Objective 22: To strengthen the capacity of individual coastal States to respond efficiently to marine pollution incidents through development of sub-regional operational agreements and contingency plans</p>			
2.1.1.5	Strengthen the capacity of individual coastal States to respond efficiently to marine pollution incidents through the development of sub-regional operational agreements and contingency plans, as well as enhance the levels of pre-positioned spill response equipment under the direct control of Mediterranean coastal States.	<p>Following an official request of assistance from Bosnia & Herzegovina to prepare its national contingency plans (NCP), a Work Plan to develop and test the said NCP was agreed with the competent authorities and was integrated in the CAMP Project for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Further to a call for formal quotation, published on 30 August 2018, REMPEC hired, on 12 September 2018, a consultant for the provision of consultancy services for the development of the NCP of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who prepared a draft NCP outline and two questionnaires as well as the programme and content of the national training course on emergency response (managerial level), which was disseminated to the competent authorities, in December 2018. This activity is on hold pending signature of the CAMP Bosnia and Herzegovina by the competent authorities.</p> <p>REMPEC supported the organisation of Fifth Meeting of the Competent National Authorities in charge of the implementation of the Sub-Regional Contingency Plan between Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia (Algiers, Algeria, 27-28 November 2018) and subsequently prepared and submitted eleven (11) revised annexes to the Plan for completion by the Parties for the 6th Meeting of the operational authorities (Morocco, end</p>	<p>MTF</p> <p>IMO's ITCP</p>

		<p>2019). The meeting enhanced the collaboration and exchange of experience between the South-Western Mediterranean Contingency Plan, and the RAMOGE Agreement.</p> <p>REMPEC contributed to the discussion held at the RAMOGE Working Group Meeting (15 November 2018, Monaco) to explore synergies on areas of common interest.</p> <p>Following the signature of the “Implementation Agreement on the Sub-Regional Marine Oil Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel” (Nicosia, Cyprus, 8 May 2018), REMPEC facilitated the preparation of the working documents and the organisation of the First Meeting of national Operational Authorities responsible for the implementation of the Sub-regional Marine Oil Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel (Nicosia, Cyprus 4-6 December 2018).</p> <p>The assistance of REMPEC was formally requested to elaborate a Trilateral Agreement (Sub-regional Marine Oil Pollution Contingency Plan) between Cyprus, Egypt and Greece and was officially acknowledge and approved by UNEP/MAP. REMPEC will assist Cyprus, Egypt and Greece, on the basis of the experience gained over the last 23 years in supporting the preparation of sub-regional contingency plans. In accordance with the Governance Paper⁷, REMPEC is preparing a work plan for the development of the SCP and on the related schedule to be agreed with the competent authorities for its implementation in 2019.</p> <p>A request from Lebanon was submitted to the Centre to prepare an SCP with Cyprus dealing with preparedness for and response to oil and HNS spills from ships, sea ports, oil handling facilities and offshore installations. Discussion are ongoing with the competent authorities.</p> <p>REMPEC contributed to the drafting of a project proposal to support the development of the Adriatic/Ionian Sub regional Oil spill contingency Plan (ASOSCoP), within the framework of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) during a coordinating Meeting between REMPEC and EUSAIR (Valletta, Malta, 12 February 2019).</p> <p>Within the approved EU Funded 2019-2020 West MOPoCo Project, a consultant was selected for the preparation and the delivery of the Sub regional training on the use of the Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spills RETOS™. The workshop was successfully organised at REMPEC premises (Malta 24-26 April 2019). The eighteen (18) representatives of the beneficiary countries acquired the necessary technical knowledge to self-assess their respective national oil spill contingency plans and to produce the related assessment reports including gap analysis and performance analysis to be further discussed during</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>MTF</p> <p>MTF</p> <p>MTF</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>West MOPoCo Project</p>
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⁷ UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/10, Decision IG 17/5.

		<p>national workshops leading to the development of an improvement programme .</p> <p>REMPEC's MoU within the framework of the MAU with Cedre has been renewed. The MoU with Sea Alarm, FEDERCHIMICA, as well as MONGOOS are in force. The MoU with ISPRA is still under discussion. Following the deployment of two experts from the MAU from 8 to 14 October 2017, to provide technical support to the Greek authorities in the aftermath of the sinking of the oil tanker "AGIA ZONI II", off Piraeus, Greece, in September 2017, REMPEC submitted a claim, in March 2018, to recover the expenses related to this deployment which was financed through the established MAU special revolving fund managed by REMPEC. The claim was approved and paid in accordance with the international system of Compensation established by the Civil Liability Convention 1992. The MAU (MONGOOS) was activated during the ULYSSE/VIRGINIA collision (France, October) with regular submission of oil spill forecasting models to the French Authorities and upon request of Tunisia, from 6 March to 14 March 2019, to predict the movement of a lost offloading hose from an offshore field, eventually retrieved on 14 March 2019. The activation of the MAU was tested during the TOMMASSOS and MALTEX 2018 exercise. On 15 October 2018, the MAU celebrated its 25th anniversary.</p>	MAU special revolving fund
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Annex IV

Activities related to the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan carried out by the Centre in accordance with the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennia 2016-2017 and 2018-2019 (May 2017-April 2019)

Develop the common offshore standards on the disposal of oil and oily mixtures, the use and disposal of drilling fluids and cutting and analytical measurements (UNEP/MAP MTS Activity Number 2.2.1.3 from PoW 2016-2017)

Prepare EIA guidelines from Offshore activities (UNEP/MAP MTS Activity Number 2.2.1.10 from PoW 2016-2017)

Develop the offshore common standards and guidelines for Special restrictions or conditions for specially protected areas (UNEP/MAP MTS Activity Number 3.2.2.7 from PoW 2016-2017)

Support the development of a quality assurance programme for oil and HNS pollution from ships and offshore data reporting and collection in line with the EcAp Monitoring Programme (UNEP/MAP MTS Activity Number 2.4.1.4 from PoW 2016-2017)

As a result of a second call for proposals for the development of the common offshore standards and guidelines on i) the disposal of oil and oily mixtures, the use and disposal of drilling fluids and cutting and analytical measurements, ii) Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) from offshore activities, and iii) Special restrictions or conditions for Specially Protected Areas (SPAs), published on 8 May 2017 a company was hired by REMPEC. A consultation process with Contracting Parties and Stakeholder was launched in September 2017 with a view to gather comments on the initial drafts of offshore common standards and guidelines. Considering the level of response, limited to the contribution of SPA/RAC and only four (4) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, the consultation process was extended to May 2018.

REMPEC contributed to both, the preparation of ToRs and selection of a consultant/regional expert to assist the UNEP/MAP Secretariat in identifying gaps and needs regarding the integration of Good Environmental Status (GES) and targets and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) processes in the Offshore Action Plan implementation. In this context, the draft common standards and guidelines to harmonise regional practices in the Mediterranean region will be reviewed, considering comments received through the consultation processes. The Mediterranean Offshore Guidelines for the Conduct of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the Mediterranean Offshore Common Standards and Guidance on the Disposal of Oil and Oily Mixtures, and the Use and Disposal of Drilling Fluids and Cuttings are submitted for review to the present meeting, as documents REMPEC/WG.45/13/1 and REMPEC/WG.45/13/2, respectively.

Simultaneously, the 14th Meeting of Specially Protected Areas/Biological Diversity Focal Points (Portorož, Slovenia, 18-21 June 2019) is invited to review the Mediterranean Offshore Guidelines for the Conduct of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the Mediterranean Offshore Standards and Guidelines on Special restrictions or conditions for Specially Protected Areas (SPAs). The 2nd Meeting of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG) planned in collaboration with REMPEC to take place in Athens, Greece, from 22 to 28 June 2019, will be invited to agree upon the revised draft for onward submission to the MAP Focal Point Meeting for final review prior to their submission to COP21 for adoption.

The Consultant will also review accordingly the documents submitted to the First Meeting of the Barcelona Convention OFOG Sub-Group on Environmental Impact of Offshore Monitoring Programmes (Loutraki, Greece, 3-4 April 2017) and prepare recommendations for updating the annexes to the Offshore Protocol.

Assess funding opportunities for the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (UNEP/MAP MTS Activity Number 2.1.1.5. from PoW 2016-2017)

At COP 20, one of the representatives raised an issue of responsibility for overseeing the implementation of Mediterranean Action Plan. He mentioned that, six years since the adoption of the Offshore Protocol, there was still no staff member in the Mediterranean Action Plan system with specific responsibility for overseeing its implementation and subsequently he suggested for a staff member be recruited either at REMPEC, or within another appropriate body. Given that it remained impossible to reach agreement on the inclusion of any mention of strengthening the capacity of REMPEC to facilitate implementation of the Offshore Protocol in the budget decision, the representative of Israel submitted the following statement for inclusion in the present report:

“Israel pointed out that there are substantial ongoing offshore activities taking place in the Mediterranean. The Offshore Protocol has been in force since 2011 and a series of decisions (IG.20/12, IG.21/8 and IG.22/3) gave effect to the Protocol including one in which REMPEC was given the responsibility for the preparation of the “Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan in the framework of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil” (decision IG.22/3). Paragraph 4 of that decision states: “Requests the Secretariat to provide technical support to the Contracting Parties [...] in carrying out the obligations arising from the Offshore Protocol”. Israel expressed its concern that for a number of years inadequate personnel and other resources have been allocated so that implementation of the above decisions has not been effective. Israel therefore asks that during the next biennium, the Secretariat undertakes an analysis of how to strengthen the ability of REMPEC to facilitate the implementation of the Offshore Protocol and Roadmap and the necessary resources required and provide this information so that the topic may be considered at COP 21.”

During the period under review, REMPEC met with IOGP - The global oil and gas industry trade association, in the margins of MEPC 72 and MEPC 73, to explore opportunities to mobilise resources for the implementation of the Offshore Action Plan, possibly through a model similar to the Global Initiative (G.I.)⁸, established between IMO and IPIECA - The global oil and gas industry association for advancing environmental and social performance, since 1996. In the meantime, IOGP contributed to the consultation process above mentioned for the drafting of the three offshore common standards and guidelines prepared by REMPEC and expressed its interest in participating, as required, in the relevant meetings which will discuss, approve and adopt these guidelines. IOGP also submitted an application to become official MAP Partner.

⁸ <http://www.ipieca.org/our-work/oil-spill/the-global-initiative/>