

Report of the 21st Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP), Rome, Italy, 15-16 December 2014

EXECUTIVE COORDINATION PANEL (ECP)

Twenty-first Meeting

15-16 December 2014,

**INFO/RAC premises - Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA)
Headquarters,**

Rome, Italy

Notes and Action Points

Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda

1. Gaetano Leone, UNEP/MAP Coordinator, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. He briefed the ECP members on recent developments of relevance for the MAP work, on planned activities, on his recent and upcoming missions, and on the preparatory work for the 79th Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, including its agenda. He thanked INFO/RAC for hosting the meeting.
2. The meeting was attended by:
 - Gaetano Leone, Coordinator, UNEP/MAP
 - Habib El Habr, Deputy Coordinator of UNEP/MAP, Officer-in-Charge MED POL
 - Khalil Attia, Director, SPA/RAC
 - Gabino Gonzales, Programme Officer, REMPEC
 - Claudio Maricchiolo, Director, INFO/RAC
 - Hugues Ravenel, Director, PB/RAC
 - Zeljka Scaricic, Director, PAP/RAC
 - Enrique Villamore de Martin, Director, SCP/RAC
 - Tatjana, Hema, Programme Officer, MED POL
 - Atila Uras, Programme Officer, UNEP/MAP
3. The ECP reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECP.21/2.

Agenda item 2. Presentations by Components/RACs – Mandate, History, Achievements, On-going Projects and Future

4. Each ECP member provided a presentation on the mandate, history, achievements, on-going projects and future activities of their Regional Activity Centre as well as of MED POL. Individual presentations were followed by discussion.

#	Action item	Responsible	Deadline
1	All the presentations will be uploaded to Groupware ECP Folder.	Info/RAC	23 January 2015
2	A Knowledge Management Task Force will be established and Claudio Maricchiolo will prepare the draft Terms of Reference	Claudio Maricchiolo	6 February 2015

Agenda item 3. Midterm Strategy Development

5. As per Decision IG.21/13 “Governance”, Annex II, UNEP/MAP Secretariat prepared an issues paper, which includes an overview of the current status of the Mediterranean Sea and coasts, lists the main relevant global and regional strategic references and proposes a framework for the Midterm Strategy for the period 2016-2021.
6. The ECP agreed on the guiding principles and the business areas that will be taken into consideration during the process to further develop the Midterm Strategy.
7. According to ECP, the Midterm Strategy should be:
 - Integrated and coherent across the system
 - Consistent
 - Inclusive
 - Adaptive and flexible
 - Attentive to regional and national needs
 - Collaborative
 - Based on participation and partnerships
 - Knowledge generating and sharing
 - Result-based and resource-based
8. The ECP proposed the following issues that are “business areas” of UNEP/MAP to form the basis of the new Midterm Strategy:
 - Land and Sea Based Pollution
 - Biodiversity and Ecosystems;
 - Climate Change;
 - Natural Resources;
 - Environmental Governance;
 - Mediterranean Environment under Review.
9. The ECP also agreed on a draft list of objectives for each “business area” and on a draft format to be used in structuring the Midterm Strategy.

BUSINESS AREA/THEME	OVERALL OBJECTIVES
Land and Sea Based Pollution	(1) To prevent and control contaminants inputs, oil discharges and spills, as well as human-induced eutrophication. (2) To prevent marine litter generation and reduce its impact on coastal and marine environment
Biodiversity and Ecosystems	(1) To maintain and enhance biological diversity – (the quality and occurrence of coastal and marine habitats and the distribution and abundance of coastal and marine species are in line with prevailing physiographic, hydrographic, geographic, and climatic conditions.) (2) To keep non-indigenous species introduced by human activities at levels that does not adversely alter the ecosystem. (3) Sea-floor integrity is maintained, especially in priority benthic

	habitats.
Climate Change	To enhance the resilience of the Mediterranean Region to impacts of climate change and variability on coastal and marine environment
Natural Resources	(1) To achieve sustainable management of coastal and marine resources (2) To promote resource efficiency in key economic sectors
Environmental Governance	To strengthen the regional and national governance mechanisms for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the adopted Strategies and Action Plans
Mediterranean Environment under Review	To deliver knowledge-based assessments of the Mediterranean environment and scenario development

10. The ECP also agreed on a draft format to be used in structuring the Midterm Strategy as follows:

Business line / Response	Key (relevant/contributing) output	Legislative authority	MAP Components	Synergies with Global / Regional processes / policy frameworks / initiatives

11. The issues paper was amended during the ECP meeting. The ECP members will complete the above format by 23 January 2015.

12. The comments and guidance that the Bureau may provide at its 79th Meeting in February 2015 will be reflected in this work and in the final draft to be submitted to the first meeting of 2015 of the MAP Focal Points.

#	Action item	Responsible	Deadline
2	Submit amended issues paper as a working document to 79 th Meeting of the Bureau.	The Secretariat	As per Bureau preparations calendar
3	Each ECP member will fill the structure as agreed (see paragraph 7 above) and send it to the Coordinating Unit.	ECP members	23 January 2015

Agenda item 4. Overview of the preparation process of the 2016-2017 Programme of Work and Budget

13. The Secretariat also presented the overview of the preparation process of the 2016-2017 Programme of Work and Budget, with the aim of submitting the draft framework to the MAP Focal Points in late March 2015. Work will commence as soon as the main lines of the Midterm Strategy are developed, to ensure the necessary consistency.

Agenda item 5. Reports on the Work of the Information Task Force and Administration and Finance Task Force

14. The MAP Coordinator briefed the ECP members on the work of the Information Task Force and Administration and Finance Task Force.

Agenda item 6. Any Other Matters

15. It was agreed to have an ECP teleconference meeting immediately after the 79th Meeting of the Bureau (3-4 February 2015) and to seek opportunities to have a meeting in person during the MSSD Review Conference (Malta, 17-18 February 2015), where the ECP members will be present.

Agenda item 7. Closure of the Meeting

16. The meeting was closed at 17:30 on 16 December 2014.