

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

Rome, Italy, 3-4 November 2011

Conclusions and Recommendations

Progress Report by the Secretariat on activities carried out during the period January 2010-September 2011, including expenditures report

1. The bureau members took note of the progress made in implementing the activities of the Programme of Work and commended the efforts made by the Secretariat to build partnership with relevant partner organisations. However, considering that the next meeting of the MAP focal points (28 November - 1 December 2011) will examine in detail the Progress report, only general comments were made by the Bureau members on the document presented by the Secretariat.
2. The Bureau requested that in engaging consultants, due consideration should be given to establishing the need for the consultant, the qualifications and to reinforcing the involvement of Parties through the national focal points and the use of the expertise available in the Mediterranean countries, by developing specific guidelines. The Bureau requested MAP to develop in the next biennium a policy for the use of consultants by all MAP components.
3. The bureau recommended that the Directors of the MAP components establish regular contacts with their relevant focal points to ensure their full involvement in the implementation of the MAP activities.
4. The Bureau confirmed its deep concern on the impact of over budgeting and the deficit on MAP activities, priority activities and programmes of MAP components. In this context, it recalls the relevant conclusions of the Extended Bureau meeting in Athens last October.

Main Directions of the proposed Programme of Work for 2012-2013

5. Following a substantive discussion on the main directions of the Programme of Work the bureau agreed that the elaboration of the programme of work, while being based on the priorities of the 5-Year Programme of Work adopted by the Parties in Marrakech, it should take into account the recent developments in the region as for the economic and political contexts. It should also take into account the emerging issues of relevance for MAP. In this context, the Bureau recommended the following orientations for the Programme of Work:
 - A. The implications of the progress achieved and the forthcoming steps in the Implementation of the Ecosystems Approach (ECAP) road-map adopted by the Conference of the Parties in 2008 and considered an over-arching principle in the Five-year Programme of Work (2010-2015). This includes developing targets and defining Good Environmental Status for the proposed Ecological Objectives; developing an integrated monitoring system for the selected indicators; ensuring an integrated assessment policy; developing common data-sharing policies and building a supporting information system based on Shared

Environmental Information Systems (SEIS) principles; adopting priority sectoral measures; deepening the understanding of key services delivered by our marine and coastal ecosystems; assessing in-depth the socio-economic drivers affecting the status of our ecosystem; and, ensuring a coordinated and articulated implementation of ECAP activities throughout all MAP components.

- B. The strategic and operational requirements necessary to set up effective Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Off-Shore systems now that the ICZM and Off-Shore Protocols have entered into force on 24 March 2011. For this purposes, the Programme of Work should reflect the requirements to further strengthen development and implementation of ICZM policies.
 - C. With all seven Protocols in force, attention shifts from standard setting to challenges affecting implementation. Renewed attention should therefore be devoted to further progress on MAP's core business such as pollution prevention and control strategies and plans, in particular by focusing on all types of pollution reduction from land and sea and on strengthening the regional preparedness and response in case of accidental oil spills.
 - D. The need to continue improving MAP's governance by further enhancing the coherence, efficiency, accountability and transparency of its operations as required by a context of severe financial and economic constrains. To this end, during the next biennium implementation of the Governance reforms launched by the Contracting Parties in 2008 should be completed while seeking greater engagement of Contracting Parties in all MAP activities and strengthening the services provided to them by MAP's institutional network. For this purposes, the functional review to align the functions of MAP started this biennium should be expanded to the whole of the MAP system in 2012, in appropriate manner accompanied by management by performance assessment; proposals to better focus MCSDD in light of Rio+20 results; the agreements with the countries hosting the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) should be signed; a new results-based methodology building on lessons learned from the current planning process should be employed in preparing the next Strategic and biennial Programmes of Work; the services provided by UNEP as Secretariat of the Convention should be clarified through an MOU; and, special attention should be given to the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy to ensure the financial sustainability of the MAP's activities.
6. Furthermore, with the view of making MAP more coherent with the relevant global frameworks, the Bureau recommended the following general orientations for the Programme of Work:
- E. The need to continue strengthening synergies and cooperation with other global processes for increased protection of the marine and coastal environment as well as pollution prevention and control, such as the UN Regular Process for Global Reporting, and the demands for completing the first integrated assessment by 2014; the IPCC assessment regarding climate change adaptation challenges for marine and coastal areas which will feed the finalisation of the Regional Framework for Climate Change Adaptation; and, UNEP Regional Seas initiatives for ex. the Inter-Governmental Review of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA-3) and the Global Framework for the Prevention and Management of Marine Debris. Synergy and cooperation should also be sought with regard to UN-DOALOS activities related to marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction.

- F. The demands associated with the achievement in the Mediterranean of the strategic objectives (2011-2020) adopted by the Conference of the parties (COP 10) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Nagoya (Japan) regarding marine and coastal biodiversity;
- G. Evolving global and regional reflections such as those in preparation to the Rio+20 Summit (2012) with the aim to accelerate the path to the sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

Organization of MAP Focal Points Meeting (Athens, 28 November – 01 December 2011)

- 7. The Bureau meeting reviewed a list of Decisions to be submitted for consideration by the MAP Focal points. After discussion the Bureau invited the secretariat to prepare these Decisions with the recommendations agreed by the Bureau and provide the MAP Focal Points by the next week.
- 8. Considering the particular importance of the Decisions on Governance and on Programme of Work and Budget, the bureau invited the secretariat to adapt the agenda and timetable in order to ensure enough time to these decisions in the timetable of the Meeting.
- 9. The Decision on Governance should include among others: adopt the MAP Communication Strategy; mandate to reform MCSD considering as appropriate its 14th meeting conclusions and recommendations and taking into account Rio+20 results; adopt the resource mobilization strategy; mandate the Bureau to negotiate agreement with UNEP regarding the administrative support services it provides to the Barcelona Convention; find useful and endorse the functional review of UNEP/MAP system and request that it be extended to the rest of the MAP system; encourage RAC host countries to ratify agreements as soon as possible, as appropriate.
- 10. The Decision on Programme of Work and Budget should make reference to the budget constraints regionally and the deficit recovery in the MTF. Its drafting should rely on the conclusions and recommendations agreed at the Extended Bureau Meeting, including welcoming and adopting the new budget format, collection of arrears, CAL account, etc.

Amendments proposed by the Compliance Committee

- 11. The Bureau took note of the proposals from the Compliance Committee regarding the amendments to its Rules of procedures and Membership and recommended that these proposals be submitted for consideration by the Contracting Parties as part of the relevant Decision proposed by the Secretariat.

MCSD

- 12. The Bureau stressed the need of reforming the MCSD and better defining its role in the chain of decision making and the mechanisms of the Barcelona Convention.

MAP Contribution to Rio+20

- 13. The Bureau considers that the Rio+20 Conference is an opportunity for the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to share the Mediterranean experience through Ministers, the President of the Bureau of the Barcelona Convention and the UNEP

Regional Seas Programme. In this context, it recommended that the MAP Focal Points discuss about the messages to be delivered in Rio+20 and related modalities of delivery.

14. The bureau considers entry into force of the ICZM Protocol as an important contribution of the Mediterranean to delivery of the Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation objectives. In addition, the key role of Regional Seas Programme of UNEP and Barcelona Convention in particular needs to be highlighted in the context of integrated ecosystem based marine and coastal governance at global, regional, national and local levels.

Cooperation with other Organizations

15. The bureau welcomed steps taken and stressed the importance of establishing formal collaboration with GFCM, CBD, the Union for The Mediterranean and other relevant organizations. The Bureau also encouraged the Secretariat to pursue its contacts to link the MAP reporting system to the InforMEA initiative. In this context, the Bureau members recommended to ensure coherence, consistency and complementarity between ongoing relevant initiatives and programmes and supported cooperation in the region in this regard.

Status of implementation of Decision IG19/6 on "MAP/Civil society cooperation and partnership"

16. Following the explanation provided by the Secretariat, the Bureau agreed to finalise, through Email exchange, its decision concerning the applications received from three NGOs to become MAP observers and requested the Secretariat to provide information on these candidate NGOs.
17. The bureau recalled that one of the main objectives of the review decided in Marrakech (Decision IG19/6) was to provide assistance to NGOs from southern countries to become partners to MAP and looks forward to complete the review of MAP civil society partners during next biennium.

Administrative arrangements governing UNEP's action as Administrator of the Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention

18. The Bureau members welcomed the suggestion by the Secretariat to use as model the MOU signed between UNEP and CITES Parties and recommended that the Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, work during the next biennium on the finalisation of a similar MOU that would outline the Administrative arrangements between UNEP and MAP.

Preparation of the 17th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

19. The Bureau members were informed by the Secretariat and the French delegation on the preparation of the COP including the main messages to be delivered. The Bureau was informed that the French authorities, concerned with continuing lack of clarity on how to address the MAP financial deficit issue properly, were not planning to have a Ministerial segment in the COP. The Bureau stressed the importance of the ministerial segment in the COP and expressed its concern as for the negative message that might emanate from having the COP without a ministerial segment. It was agreed to re-discuss the issue among the Bureau members in the Bureau meeting to be held on the margin of the next MAP Focal Points Meeting.

20. Concerning the COP Declaration, Bureau members suggested to group the topics for the Ministerial discussion under the following two topics: (i) Biodiversity and the ecosystems approach for a healthy and productive Mediterranean and (ii) Measures to accelerate the integrated management of the Mediterranean coastal zones.