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89th 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, 22-23 April 2020

Agenda Item 3: Progress Report for January – March 2020

Progress Report by the Secretariat on the Implementation of COP 21 Decisions

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2020

Barcelona Convention system mandate, based on their expertise and relevance to that mandate;									
7. <i>Approve</i> the membership of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) for the biennium 2020-2021, as set out in Annex IV to the present Decision;	GREEN								
8. <i>Call upon</i> the members of the MCSD, the Secretariat and the MAP Partners to mobilize expressions of interest in membership of the MCSD for the biennium 2022-2023, and request the MCSD Steering Committee, with support from the Secretariat, to identify and implement possible ways to keep the outgoing members of the Commission involved in its work;	YELLOW								
9. <i>Approve</i> the Roadmap for the Evaluation of the 2016-2021 Medium-Term Strategy and the preparation of the 2022-2027 Medium-Term Strategy, as set out in Annex V to the present Decision;	GREEN								
10. <i>Request</i> the Secretariat to prepare the UNEP/MAP 2022-2027 Medium-Term Strategy in close cooperation with MAP components and with the full involvement of the Contracting Parties, under the guidance of the Bureau and through a dedicated steering committee that will be composed by the Bureau complemented by a limited group of interested Contracting Parties (3 additional persons, one nominated by each sub-group, to ensure a balanced geographical representation), and to submit a first draft to an open ended working group, for final submission to the Contracting Parties at their 22 nd Meeting (COP 22);	YELLOW								
11. <i>Take note</i> of the results of the assessment of the meeting of the thematic focal points for Specially Protected Areas/Biological Diversity organized on a trial basis in the biennium 2018– 2019 and the relevant analysis as set out in Annex VI to the present Decision, and request the Secretariat to organize a SPA/Biodiversity Focal Points meeting based on the lessons learnt and considering organization of the back to back focal points meetings;	ORANGE								

	<p>12. <i>Request</i> the Secretariat to continue to identify, promote and strengthen the synergies with other Secretariats in spatial-based protection and management measures for marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean Area, by building on existing work at the relevant levels and foster cooperation with the objectives to ensure the conservation and the sustainable use of the marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean through the application of the Ecosystem Approach;</p>	<p><i>YELLOW</i></p>								
	<p>13. <i>Request</i> the Secretariat to report to the Contracting Parties at their 22nd Meeting (COP 22) on the action undertaken in building synergies and fostering cooperation with other Secretariats in spatial-based protection and management measures for marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean Area;</p>	<p><i>ORANGE</i></p>								
	<p>14. <i>Take note</i> of the “Refined Appendix to the Updated Resource Mobilization Strategy”, as set out in Annex VII to the present Decision;</p>	<p><i>GREEN</i></p>								
	<p>15. <i>Take note</i> of the areas of cooperation with the UNESCO/MAB Programme, as set out in Annex VIII to the present Decision and urge the respective Secretariats to formalize it and ensure the most effective and beneficial partnership in the relevant fields, with a view also to widening the scope of the cooperation with UNESCO in the future;</p>	<p><i>YELLOW</i></p>								
	<p>16. <i>Welcome</i> the agreed set of common provisions for Host Country Agreements as presented in Annex IX of this Decision and urge the Secretariat in collaboration with the Contracting Parties hosting the MAP Regional Activity Centres to finalize the set for presentation of the minimum common provisions to COP 22 for consideration, building on the inputs provided by the Contracting Parties hosting MAP Regional Activity Centres.</p>	<p><i>YELLOW</i></p>								
<p><u>Decision IG.24/3</u> Implementation, Monitoring and Mid-Term Evaluation of</p>	<p>1. <i>Welcome</i> the work done, <i>taking note</i> of the updated List of Indicators of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard for monitoring the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025, set out in Annex I to the present Decision, and <i>request</i> the Secretariat to populate the indicators, using existing sources of information</p>	<p><i>ORANGE</i></p>								

	<p>8. <i>Encourage</i> the Contracting Parties, in particular those which are Members of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development Steering Committee and those that have gone through the Voluntary National Review Process at the United Nations High-level Political Forum, to participate in the third edition of Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER);</p>	<p>ORANGE</p>								
	<p>9. <i>Urge</i> further intensified efforts towards the full implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025 and its flagship initiatives, in accordance with Decision IG.22/2;</p>	<p>YELLOW</p>								
	<p>10. <i>Request</i> the Secretariat to launch the first edition of the Mediterranean Green Business Award, as a flagship initiative of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025, in line with the concept note set out in Annex IV to the present Decision.</p>	<p>YELLOW</p>								
<p><u>Decision IG.24/4</u> Assessment Studies</p>	<p>1. <i>Approve</i> the summary for decision makers and key messages of the 2019 Report on the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (Annexes I and II) as important input for the definition of the 2022-2027 United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) Medium-Term Strategy and other relevant policy and strategy developments of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system;</p>	<p>GREEN</p>								
	<p>2. <i>Invite</i> the Contracting Parties to take concrete steps to incorporate the concerns raised in Annexes I and II to the present Decision in their environmental policies with the support of the Secretariat;</p>	<p>YELLOW</p>								
	<p>3. <i>Encourage</i> the Contracting Parties and the Secretariat to make all possible efforts to overcome the knowledge gaps that are identified in the 2019 Report on the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean;</p>	<p>YELLOW</p>								
	<p>4. <i>Endorse</i> the 2023 MED QSR roadmap and needs assessment as contained in Annex V of this Decision and <i>request</i> the Secretariat to further</p>	<p>YELLOW</p>								

<p>building; (iv) best practices and experience sharing; and (v) twinning and other appropriate means;</p>									
<p>8. <i>Request</i> the Secretariat to draft the concepts in order to set up the Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance Day and Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance Certificate (Mediterranean Diploma for Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance), and submit them for consideration by the Contracting Parties at their 22nd Meeting (COP 22);</p>	ORANGE								
<p>9. <i>Decide</i> to include the five Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance listed below in a period of provisional nature of a maximum of six years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Palm Islands Nature Reserve (Lebanon), - Tyre Coast Nature Reserve (Lebanon), - Kneiss Islands (Tunisia), - La Galite Archipelago (Tunisia), and - Zembra and Zembretta National Park (Tunisia); 	GREEN								
<p>10. <i>Request</i> the Secretariat to support as a matter of priority Lebanon and Tunisia in identifying and launching a set of adequate corrective measures and informing the 15th Meeting of the SPA/BD Focal Points of the progress made, and encourage other Parties, other SPAMIs and appropriate funding mechanisms to contribute to their implementation;</p>	YELLOW								
<p>11. <i>Request</i> Lebanon and Tunisia to inform the 15th Meeting of the SPA/BD Focal Points about the identification and launching of the adequate corrective measures for these areas;</p>	YELLOW								
<p>12. <i>Welcome</i> the willingness of the Environmental Fund for Mediterranean marine protected areas (The MedFund) to support the Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance in general, and in particular those included in a period of provisional nature, and encourage support and sponsorship from any other relevant donors;</p>	GREEN								

	13. <i>Adopt</i> the updated format for the periodic review of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance, as set out in the Annex to this Decision, and <i>request</i> the Secretariat to reflect it accordingly in the online evaluation system of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance;	YELLOW								
	14. <i>Request</i> the Secretariat to work with the relevant designated national authorities in Cyprus, France, Italy, Morocco and Spain to carry out the ordinary periodic review for the 11 Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance listed below, in accordance with the procedure established in Decision IG.17/12, adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 15 th Meeting (COP 15) (Almeria, Spain, 15-18 January 2008), and bring the outcome of that review process to the attention of the Contracting Parties at their 22 nd Meeting (COP 22);	ORANGE								
	15. The following five Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance are to be reviewed in 2020: - Lara-Toxeftra Turtle Reserve (Cyprus), - Marine Protected Area of Tavolara-Punta Coda Cavallo (Italy), - Marine Protected Area and Natural Reserve of Torre Guaceto (Italy), - Miramare Marine Protected Area (Italy), and - Plemmirio Marine Protected Area (Italy);	ORANGE								
	16. The following six Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance are to be reviewed in 2021: - Bouches de Bonifacio Nature Reserve (France), - Marine Protected Area of Capo Caccia-Isola Piana (Italy), - Punta Campanella Marine Protected Area (Italy), - Al-Hoceima National Park (Morocco), - Archipelago of Cabrera National Park (Spain), and - Maro-Cerro Gordo Cliffs (Spain).	ORANGE								
<u>Decision IG.24/7</u>	1. <i>Request</i> the Secretariat to prepare in 2020-2021 the “Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable	YELLOW								

	7. <i>Adopt</i> the Updated Classification of benthic marine habitat types for the Mediterranean region and the Updated Reference List of Marine Habitat Types for the Selection of Sites to be included in National Inventories of Natural Sites of Conservation Interest in the Mediterranean, as set out in annexes VI and VII to the present Decision;	GREEN								
	8. <i>Encourage</i> the Contracting Parties to use the Reference List of Marine Habitat Types for the Selection of Sites to be included in National Inventories of Natural Sites of Conservation Interest in the Mediterranean, where necessary, as a basis for identifying reference habitats to be monitored at the national level under the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria.	GREEN								
Decision IG.24/8 Road Map for a Proposal for the Possible Designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides Pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI, within the Framework of the Barcelona Convention	1. <i>Adopt</i> the road map for a proposal for the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an emission control area for sulphur oxides pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI, within the framework of the Barcelona Convention, set out in the Annex to the present Decision and with the view of formally submitting the proposal to the 78 th Session of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC78) scheduled for 2022;	GREEN								
	2. <i>Agree</i> to finalize, based on the outcome of the further studies and the preparatory work, the development of a mutually agreed joint and coordinated proposal for the possible designation by the IMO of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for sulphur oxides pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI;	YELLOW								
	3. <i>Request</i> the Secretariat to provide the necessary technical and financial support to Contracting Parties and to address any needs identified with the studies before the designation of the proposed Mediterranean Emission Control Area (Med SOx ECA);	YELLOW								
	4. <i>Agree</i> to extend the mandate of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) sulfur oxides (SOx) Emission Control Area (ECA)(s) Technical Committee	YELLOW								

	<p>of Experts, until 30 April 2021, to oversee the completion of the knowledge gathering and the preparations of further studies, notably socio-economic impacts on individual Contracting Parties <i>inter alia</i> as indicated in the Annex to the present Decision, including the development of their respective terms of reference, through correspondence coordinated by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), when examining the possibility of designating the proposed Mediterranean Emission Control Area (Med SOx ECA);</p>									
	<p>5. <i>Request</i> the Secretariat to update the initial draft submission to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for a proposal for the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for sulfur oxides pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI, under the guidance of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) sulfur oxides (SOx) Emission Control Area (ECA)(s) Technical Committee of Experts referred to in paragraph 4 above in line with the agreed road map;</p>	<p>YELLOW</p>								
	<p>6. <i>Call upon</i> the Contracting Parties to provide full support, both technically, in terms of expertise, and financially, in terms of voluntary contributions, where appropriate, to the further work of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) sulfur oxides (SOx) Emission Control Area (ECA)(s) Technical Committee of Experts in order to ensure that the above-mentioned knowledge gathering is completed and the above-mentioned further studies are carried out in a coordinated, timely and effective manner;</p>	<p>YELLOW</p>								
	<p>7. <i>Encourage</i> the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to ratify and effectively implement MARPOL Annex VI, if they have not yet done so, as soon as possible;</p>	<p>YELLOW</p>								
	<p>8. <i>Underline</i> the need to ensure the necessary synergy in supporting these efforts, through the technical cooperation and capacity-building activities carried out by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea</p>	<p>YELLOW</p>								

	consideration of the 22 nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 22), on the basis of Terms of Reference and timeline prepared by the Secretariat and endorsed by the Bureau at its first meeting of the biennium 2020-2021;									
	5. <i>Request</i> the Contracting Parties and Partners to contribute to this process through the timely nomination of experts with adequate competencies for the working groups by this Decision.	YELLOW								
Decision IG.24/11 Guidelines: Adopt-a-Beach; Phase-out of Single Use Plastic Bags; Provision of Reception Facilities in Ports and the Delivery of Ship-Generated Wastes; Application of Charges at Reasonable Costs for the Use of Port Reception Facilities	1. <i>Adopt</i> the “Guidelines for the Implementation of the Adopt-a-Beach Measures in the Mediterranean” in accordance with Article 10(d) of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, set out in Annex I to the present Decision;	GREEN								
	2. <i>Adopt</i> the “Guidelines to Phase out Single Use Plastic Bags in the Mediterranean” in accordance with Article 9(2) of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, set out in Annex II to the present Decision;	GREEN								
	3. <i>Adopt</i> the “Operational Guidelines on the Provision of Reception Facilities in Ports and the Delivery of Ship-Generated Wastes in the Mediterranean” in accordance with Articles 9(5) and 10(f) of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, set out in Annex III to the present Decision;	GREEN								
	4. <i>Adopt</i> the “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” in accordance with Articles 9(5) and 10(f) of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, set out in Annex IV to the present Decision;	GREEN								
	5. <i>Urge</i> the Contracting Parties to take the necessary actions to implement the relevant measures provided for in the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean in line with the timetables, using the	YELLOW								

	<p>4. <i>Request</i> the Secretariat to facilitate the work of the Contracting Parties for the implementation of the Updated Guidelines, by further strengthening cooperation and synergies in this area with the London Convention and its Protocol and other relevant International Maritime Organization instruments; and by sharing information with global and regional agreements and programmes on the achievements and progress of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system in this area.</p>	ORANGE									
<p>Decision IG.24/13 Development of a Set of Regional Measures to Support the Development of Green and Circular Businesses and to Strengthen the Demand for more Sustainable Products</p>	<p>1. <i>Request</i> the Secretariat to prepare a set of regional measures to support the development of green and circular businesses and strengthen the demand for more sustainable products, according to the timeline set out in Annex I to the present Decision, as a way to support the shift to green and circular economy from traditional linear business models to innovative green and circular business models;</p>	YELLOW									
	<p>2. <i>Also request</i> the Secretariat to ensure that regional measures target those economic sectors which are identified by the relevant Protocols to the Barcelona Convention and have a particular impact on the marine and coastal environment, and address related cross-cutting issues;</p>	YELLOW									
	<p>3. <i>Further request</i> the Secretariat to develop specific criteria for the definition of green and circular businesses in the Mediterranean, based on existing initiatives at global, regional and national levels for consideration by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols at the 22nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 22);</p>	YELLOW									
	<p>4. <i>Require</i> the Secretariat to make every effort to ensure that the preparation of the set of regional measures and the development of criteria is in synergy with existing regional and national policy frameworks supporting the development of green and circular businesses.</p>	YELLOW									
<p>Decision IG.24/14 Programme of Work and</p>	<p>1. <i>Request</i> the Executive Director of UNEP and the Coordinator of MAP to execute the Budget taking into consideration Decision IG.21/15 on the Financial Regulations and Rules and Procedures for the Contracting Parties, in particular the provisions under Annex II, Procedure 2, paragraph 4,</p>	GREEN									

	8. <i>Take note</i> of the staffing of REMPEC for 2020–2021 as indicated in Table 4b, “Details of Salaries and Administrative Costs of REMPEC” in the Annex to this Decision;	GREEN								
	9. <i>Urge</i> the Contracting Parties to strictly adhere to Procedure 4.2 of the Financial Rules and Procedures and pay their contributions to the MTF in the first quarter of each year to allow for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Work;	YELLOW								
	10. <i>Request</i> the Secretariat to keep up to date information on the status of Contracting Parties’ contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund and to continue to post it in a publicly available place on the UNEP/MAP website and report to the Bureau of the Contracting Parties in their periodical meetings on the status of unutilized resources;	YELLOW								
	11. <i>Urge</i> the Contracting Parties to adhere to nomination deadlines of their representatives in meetings of the MAP system and to avoid modifications and cancellation of their travel in order to minimize losses arising from the increase of airfare and cancellation fees and inefficiencies;	YELLOW								
	12. <i>Invite</i> the Contracting Parties to consider increasing their voluntary contributions in cash and/or in kind in support of the implementation of the 2020-2021 Programme of Work;	YELLOW								
	13. <i>Urge</i> the Contracting Parties and other partners including industry to contribute adequate human and financial resources to meet the external funding requirements for priorities still unfunded under the 2020-2021 Programme of Work and Budget and to support the resource mobilization activities of the Secretariat;	YELLOW								
	14. <i>Urge</i> the Government of the Hellenic Republic to undertake all the required steps in order to ensure that fully adequate premises are made available to the Coordinating Unit within the shortest delay and in line with its commitments under the Host Country Agreement, and request the	YELLOW								

	Secretariat to report to the Contracting Parties and to the Bureau on the progress made;									
	15. <i>Agree</i> on the need to retain a net cash balance when conditions allow it, to ensure, as a temporary measure, the timely implementation of the Programme of Work, and to report to the Bureau of the Contracting Parties in their regular meetings on its utilisation;	YELLOW								
	16. <i>Request</i> the Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, to prepare for consideration and approval by COP 22 a result-based Programme of Work and Budget for 2022-2023, explaining the key principles and assumptions on which it is based and taking into account the progress achieved during the implementation of the 2020-2021 Programme of Work, and in full alignment with the MTS;	ORANGE								
	17. <i>Also request</i> the Secretariat to submit a budget for 2022-2023, sufficient to cover the implementation of the mandate deriving from the 2022-2027 Medium-Term Strategy and the required capacity and operational costs of the entire Secretariat including MAP Components, considering also the need for adequate MTF allocation required to effectively execute their mandates and operations.	ORANGE								
	18. To this aim, they <i>also request</i> the Secretariat to closely link the preparation of the 2022-2023 PoW and Budget with the process of the preparation of the new MTS 2022-2027 taking fully into consideration the three main pillars of its process mainly contents, priorities, outcomes; and to assess the adequacy of the entire MAP Barcelona Convention system to achieve new MTS objective and its financial sustainability. This may include the identification of methodologies for the calculation of the share of contributions among Parties.	ORANGE								