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38<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Marseille, France, 7-8 March 2019

**Report of the Meeting**

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UNEP/MAP  
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## **I. Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting**

1. The 38<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 7-8 March 2019, in the premises of Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre (RAC), in Marseille, France. The meeting was chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Coordinator and attended by the Deputy Coordinator, the Heads of MAP Components and the Programme Officer responsible for governance issues. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.
2. Mr. Gaetano Leone, UNEP/MAP Coordinator opened the meeting at 09:30 on 7 March 2019.

## **II. Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work**

3. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat, as in document UNEP/MED ECP.38/1. Further to the issues already included in the Provisional Agenda, it was decided that the meeting would also address, under Any other Matters, the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020, and the Cooperation with the Black Sea Commission. It was also noted that under the Agenda Item on the preparations of COP 21, specific reference will be made to the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea or parts thereof as SOx emission control area. The Agenda is presented in Annex II of the present document.
4. Following the adoption of the Agenda, the Coordinator presented the main activities of the current period, highlighting the increased interest in the work of UNEP/MAP within UNEP and beyond and noting the prominent role of MAP-Barcelona Convention amongst the Regional Seas, especially the ones administered by UNEP. He noted the recent visit by the Coordinating Unit and PAP/RAC to the Secretariat of the Benguela Current Convention aiming at sharing the experience of MAP with this new Convention. Furthermore, he referred to the invitation to MAP to participate in the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (N. York, USA, 25 March - 5 April 2019) and to the very successful event “Kick-off Meeting of the Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Interest (SPAMI) Twinning Programme: Develop and Strengthen an Effective SPAMI Management” (Torre del Cerrano, Italy, 26 February 2019). He also noted the participation of MAP in side events of the forthcoming UNEA-4 (Nairobi, Kenya, 11-15 March 2019).
5. The Coordinator presented the progress in relation to projects and resource mobilization, and especially the preparation of the MedProgramme Child Projects, the third phase of the MPA action with a complementary action on IMAP implementation (supported under the GreenMedIII Strategy), the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the SwitchMed Project and the preparation of a joint submission with FAO/GFCM to GEF 7. He informed the meeting that Italy expressed the interest to continue its discretionary contribution in the framework of the Cooperation Agreement between UNEP and the Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS), possibly at a slightly different form than through biennial agreements. Finally, he referred to the preparations of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 21, Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019), stressing the importance of the involvement and contribution of all MAP Components. He also noted that the MAP Components should contribute to the preparation of the new UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) through providing visible and “marketable” ideas going beyond business as usual.
6. The members of the ECP provided further information on activities and events. SCP/RAC referred to the approval of a new EU-funded ENI CBCMED project (GIMED – Green Impact MED Project – Positive Investments for Positive Impacts) of 2.6 million Euros with a duration of 36 months with SCP/RAC as lead partner and involving Spain, Lebanon, Palestine, Tunisia, Egypt and Italy. SPA/RAC and PAP/RAC referred to the importance of updating the list of MAP and MAP Component Focal Points and of sharing the updated lists between MAP Components. Finally, the meeting also referred to the Ocean Dialogues 2019, an event prepared with the involvement of the European Parliament, which will take place in Brussels, Belgium (18-20 March 2019).

### III. Agenda item 3: Follow-up to the 37<sup>th</sup> ECP meeting and to the 87<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Bureau

7. The meeting discussed the follow-up to the 37<sup>th</sup> ECP meeting and to the action items included in the 37<sup>th</sup> ECP meeting report. On the issue of finding appropriate ways to address the need for strengthening the structures of the RACs, the Deputy Coordinator, Ms. Tatjana Hema, and the MAP Programme Officer, Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis, presented a brief overview of the received inputs. They noted that INFO/RAC has not yet shared information on its structure and needs since there are currently changes in this MAP Component, and they stressed that the inputs received by the other MAP Components did not have adequate information on their current situation/structure and their exact needs to substantiate future requests. This discussion was continued under Agenda Item 5, due to its relevance to the PoW and Budget for the next biennium.

8. In relation to the complementarities and synergies among databases within the MAP system, the Director of INFO/RAC, Ms. Ms. Giuseppina Monacelli, informed the meeting that bilateral consultations are held with all other MAP Components and that INFO/RAC is supporting their relevant work.

9. The ECP members also discussed the progress in relation to the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the 87<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Bureau, as well as the inputs needed in preparation of the documents to be submitted to the forthcoming, 88<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Bureau (Rome, Italy, 21-22 May 2019). The meeting was reminded that an email was sent by the Coordinating Unit to all MAP Components, providing concrete information on the inputs needed by 25 March 2019.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Inputs for documents of 88 <sup>th</sup> Bureau meeting to be sent to the CU	All MAP Components	25 March 2019

### IV. Agenda item 4: Review of the Planning and Priorities Table, with a focus on 2019

10. The Deputy Coordinator presented the current situation of the Table, based on the inputs received by all MAP Components. She noted that the 2018 Table will be finished in mid-March to be shared with the MAP Component Focal Points. The compilation of the 2019 Table is currently under finalisation, while it was noted that INFO/RAC provided information only for 2018 and not for 2019. The importance of the Table as a management and monitoring tool was highlighted, as well as for reporting on the different strands of work including under the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS.

11. The meeting discussed the possibility to change the format of the Table, to make it more user friendly and to allow each MAP Component to have its own “space” within the table. The possibility to create a common space/collaboration platform that will allow MAP Components to work online on the same version of the document was also proposed. This could be used not only for the Planning and Priority Table but also for any other collaborative work on MAP documents. For the time being, INFO/RAC can put the current Planning and Priorities Table online, using INFO/RAC’s platform. The meeting decided to keep the format as it is for the current biennium and to look at creating a more consolidated and user-friendly version at the next biennium. This would include the development – possibly with the support of a consultant - of an overall tool that may be used effectively for all reporting obligations. The possibility of changing the table from a word format to an excel format was also discussed for the future.

12. The discussion on planning and priorities provided also the opportunity to address specific challenges faced in implementation. These included the lack of progress in the finalization of the agreement with Bosnia and Herzegovina on the Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP), the contacts with Greece and Cyprus in preparing a feasibility study on the transboundary collaboration for CAMPs, the implementation of the Sub-regional Maritime Oil Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel, and the possible participation of Egypt in the SIMPEER process. Furthermore, the Deputy Coordinator brought to the attention of the ECP Members the need to achieve the planned level of budget expenditure for the biennium, including on the funding under the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS, as well as for the projects that will close within 2019, such as EcAp-MED II, Marine Litter MED, and SEIS II.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
2.	Revision of the format of the Planning and Priorities Tables/development of an overall reporting tool	CU, in collaboration with MAP Components	Beginning of 2020
3.	Development of a common space/collaboration platform that will allow MAP Components to work online	INFO/RAC	April 2019
4.	Draft letter to Bosnia and Herzegovina on the CAMP	PAP/RAC	March 2019

**V. Agenda item 5: Preparation of the 2020-2021 UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget**

13. The Deputy Coordinator introduced this agenda item, highlighting that the first phase of the consultation on the Programme of Work (PoW) has been successful and that now all themes are integrated in the same consolidated table. On the way forward, she noted that the consolidated PoW will be further reviewed by the Coordinating Unit by 18 March and that MAP Components will need to check and clear the revised PoW by 25 March. This will allow the integrated draft PoW, including the narrative part, to be distributed in the first week of April to the MAP Focal Points. The MAP Component Focal Points will have approximately one week to provide comments and then a revised draft will be prepared by the Secretariat within approximately two weeks. In parallel, starting at the end of March, work will proceed for the preparation of the Budget, with the aim to have a fully developed draft PoW (including Budget estimates) by mid-May. The Budget has then to be sent to the UNEP Headquarters for clearance, while the Bureau will also be informed on the progress at its next, 88<sup>th</sup>, meeting (Rome, Italy, 21-22 May 2019).

14. The Coordinating Unit was invited to provide clarification on the budget distribution after the working capital reserve was refilled and after the recovery from the deficit, since the MAP Components did not recover the shares which were reduced from their respective budget to support the recovery process. Following this request, the Deputy Coordinator responded that funding from the MTF respected both a traditional historic share, as well as PoW priorities. On this basis, several MAP Components were funded for activities more than in the previous biennia.

15. It was also noted that the PoW for the next biennium will be important for the preparation of the next MTS, also since some activities in this biennium will be leading to specific components of the next MTS. Global discussions and commitments, such as those taken at UNEA-4 (Nairobi, Kenya, 11-14 March 2019) will also be relevant for the preparation of the MTS. The possibility of having a dedicated meeting on the preparation of the next MTS was also discussed, including with the possible participation of all professional staff of the CU and MAP Components.

16. On the budget, it was noted that COP 20 requested the preparation of two alternatives, one with an increase of up to 4% and one with no increase from the 2018-2019 biennium. The meeting discussed how this would affect the budget allocated to individual MAP Components, linking it with the relevant discussion initiated under Agenda Item 3. The need to increase the operational costs of RACs was raised by a number of MAP Components. The Coordinator stressed that concrete information is needed in order to have a clear picture of the situation (including the organigramme of RACs) and of the exact needs for new resources (including on how these resources will be used). Based on such information, a first discussion can take place with the Bureau at its next meeting. It was decided that Plan Bleu/RAC will coordinate the collection of the relevant information from RACs, including an analysis of their current structure and staffing and of their concrete needs.

17. The Coordinating Unit will provide to MAP Components, as soon as possible, the total budget as per both alternative scenarios, at each MAP Component level for both activities cost and operational cost.

18. The discussions under this agenda item then focused on the preparation of targets and indicators for the PoW for 2020-2021. Each MAP Component worked individually on the outputs relevant to its mandate and prepared draft indicators and targets. Then, the meeting discussed the

individual inputs and prepared a very first integration. MAP Components were asked to provide any further comments/inputs within one week, so that the table with targets and indicators can then be further revised and integrated by the Coordinating Unit, for inclusion in the draft PoW.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
5.	Preparation of PoW and Budget as per (a) the document on the guiding elements for the preparation of 2020-2021 UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget, and (b) the agreed points of paragraph 13 above	Coordinating Unit / all MAP Components	As per agreed timeline
6.	Note with analysis of current structure and staffing and of concrete needs for strengthening RAC structures	Plan Bleu/RAC, coordinating inputs by all MAP Components	25 March 2019
7.	Final inputs on the indicators and targets for the PoW	All MAP Components	15 March 2019

## **VI. Agenda item 6: Preparation of COP 21**

### **a) List of Potential Decisions**

19. The Coordinator referred to the preparations for COP 21 and the relevant conclusions of the 87<sup>th</sup> Bureau meeting, noting that the Bureau expressed its agreement with the general indications by the Secretariat on the draft COP 21 Decisions and asked the Secretariat to further work on this issue and prepare, taking into account the comments made by the Bureau members, the list of draft COP 21 Decisions for its 88<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

20. The ECP discussed the possibility to develop a draft Decision on Sustainable Tourism, as a standalone draft Decision or as part of a more general draft decision on Blue Economy. The aim of such a draft decision would be to provide the mandate to work on this issue at the next biennium with a concrete deliverable for COP 22. Furthermore, the meeting noted the importance of having a draft decision in relation to examining the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea or parts thereof as SO<sub>x</sub> emission control area under MARPOL Annex VI, since scientific studies suggest that an emission control area will reduce health risks from air pollution.

21. SCP/RAC will provide the justification and the legal mandate for the proposed draft decision on the “Set of regional measures to acknowledge and to support the development of green and circular businesses and to strengthen the demand for more sustainable products”.

### **b) Progress in the Preparation of Key Documents**

22. Reference was made to the draft Concept Note on the UNEP/MAP Data Policy recently prepared by INFO/RAC. The INFO/RAC Director informed the meeting that the document presents a framework, focusing mainly on three types of data: a) the Barcelona Convention Reporting System data, b) the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) data, and c) other data related to assessment reports and specific work mandated to MAP Components.

23. The meeting also briefly discussed the preparation of the Common Regional Framework on Integrated Coastal Zone Management. The Deputy Coordinator reminded the MAP Components of the need to receive their inputs for the French version of the annex compiling the official provisions and content of MAP policy and regulatory instruments. PAP/RAC will provide the relevant document to INFO/RAC, which will upload the document on the groupware, so that MAP Components can provide their inputs for the French version by the end of March 2019.

**c) Theme and Format of the Ministerial Session**

24. The Coordinator referred to the preparations for COP 21 noting the relevant conclusions of the 87<sup>th</sup> Bureau meeting and the bilateral meeting with the Minister of Environment of Italy, as Host Country of COP 21, Mr. Costa. In relation to the theme of the Ministerial Session and the preparation of the Ministerial Declaration, a Concept Note will be prepared for discussion at the 88<sup>th</sup> Bureau meeting. Following the comments of the Bureau, this concept note will then be revised and used for further consultations with the Contracting Parties and stakeholders. The Coordinator highlighted that the Ministerial Declaration will be also linked to the draft COP decisions, the new MTS and the biggest recent achievements of the MAP system. He noted the importance of stakeholder involvement and the need to timely decide on the structure and organization of the Ministerial Session. He asked MAP Components to provide inputs for the Concept Note on the Ministerial Session/Ministerial Declaration as well as to identify and contact resource persons/speakers and propose possible side events.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
8.	MAP Components to provide inputs to the CU for the Concept Note on the Ministerial Session of COP 21	All MAP Components	28 March 2019
9.	MAP Components to suggest and/or contact resource persons/speakers for COP 21	All MAP Components	15 April 2019
10.	MAP Components to provide inputs for the French version of the annex of the CRF on ICZM	All MAP Components (on the groupware prepared by INFO/RAC)	End of March 2019

**VII. Agenda item 7: Date and Venue of the 39<sup>th</sup> ECP meeting**

25. The next ECP meeting is planned to be held in Athens, Greece, on 8 September 2019, in view of the MAP Focal points Meeting (Athens, Greece, 10-13 September 2019). However, if it is deemed absolutely necessary in relation to the finalization of the 2020-2021 PoW and Budget, there is the possibility to convene a one-day ECP meeting in the first week of June.

**VIII. Agenda item 8: Any Other Matters**

**a) Update on the “Sommet des Deux Rives”**

26. Mr. Daniel Schlosser, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, presented to the ECP meeting information on the "Sommet des deux rives". The summit will be held in Marseille, France, on 24 June 2019, hosted by the President of the French Republic, Mr. Emmanuel Macron. The Summit will consist of both a meeting of Heads of State and Government, and a regional dialogue with prominent civil society representatives. This initiative seeks to foster a pragmatic regional socio-political exchange in order to showcase and launch specific projects in the area of the western Mediterranean. The ECP was informed that neither UNEP nor MAP will be invited to attend the Summit, as priority was given to funding agencies. Possibilities exist for MAP to attend the thematic forum on environment and sustainable development organized by Italy, that will take place on 15-17 May, and/or the thematic forum on culture-tourism-media to be held in Montpellier on 2-3 May.

**b) Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework**

27. The director of SPA/RAC, Mr. Khalil Attia, referred to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) document “Submissions from Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities on the preparations for the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework”. The CBD Secretariat asked for inputs from stakeholders/actors, with a deadline of 15 April 2019, and it was stressed that this provides a very good opportunity for the contribution of MAP to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Mr. Attia informed the meeting that SPA/RAC participates in Regional Meetings for the preparation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, noting that COP 21 of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its

Protocols can contribute with an input to the CBD COP. Based on such input, the regional contribution to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework can be put in motion in the Mediterranean. It was agreed to create a task force led by SPA/RAC, where all Components will designate a representative (as soon as possible), to draft a document that will be shared with the MAP Secretariat before its submission to the CBD Secretariat.

**c) IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020**

28. The Director of Plan Bleu/RAC, Ms. Elen Lemaitre-Curri, informed the meeting that the next IUCN World Conservation Congress will take place in Marseille, France, from 11 to 19 June 2020. It was noted that this will be a good opportunity to highlight the work of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system, for example through side events on climate change and biodiversity as well as on Nature Based Solutions. There could be an opportunity to partner with other Mediterranean institution to organize a visible event, or a series of Mediterranean events clearly identified as a set of coherent events. Plan Bleu/RAC could contribute under the leadership of SPA/RAC. SPA/RAC will contact UIUCN in this respect.

**d) Cooperation with Black Sea Commission**

29. The Deputy Coordinator referred to the very good collaboration between UNEP/MAP and the Black Sea Commission, highlighting that the Black Sea Commission will be invited in relevant meetings of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system, such as the CORMON meetings.

30. The meeting was closed by the Coordinator at 17:00 on 8 March 2019.



**Annex I**

**List of participants**

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**Annex II**  
**Agenda**

## Agenda

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- Agenda item 3**            Follow-up to the 37<sup>th</sup> ECP meeting and to the 87<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Bureau
- Agenda item 4**            Review of the Planning and Priorities Table, with a focus on 2019
- Agenda item 5**            Preparation of the 2020-2021 UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget
- Agenda item 6**            Preparation of COP 21
- a) List of Potential Decisions
  - b) Progress in the Preparation of Key Documents
  - c) Theme and Format of the Ministerial Session
- Agenda item 7**            Date and Venue of the 39<sup>th</sup> ECP meeting
- Agenda item 8**            Any Other Matters
- a) Update on the “Sommet des Deux Rives”
  - b) Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework
  - c) IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020
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