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84th 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

Athens, Greece, 19-20 June 2017

Agenda Item 5: Specific Issues

Report by the Secretariat on Specific Issues

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UN Environment/MAP
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A. Status of Ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

1. Based on the latest communication by Spain as Depository Country, the current status of ratifications is described in Tables 1 and 2 below.

Table 1: Summary of Status of Ratification

21 Contracting Parties have accepted the amendments to the Convention, 1995;
15 Contracting Parties have accepted the amendments to the Dumping Protocol, 1995;
17 Contracting Parties have accepted the amendments to the LBS Protocol, 1996;
7 Contracting Parties have ratified the Offshore Protocol, 1994;
17 Contracting Parties have ratified the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol, 1995;
7 Contracting Parties have ratified the Hazardous Waste Protocol, 1996;
16 Contracting Parties have ratified the new Prevention and Emergency Protocol, 2002;
10 Contracting Parties have ratified ICZM Protocol, 2008.

Table 2: Ratification of Barcelona Convention and Protocols by individual Contracting Parties

Contracting Parties Legal instruments	Albania	Algeria	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia	Cyprus	European Union	Egypt	France	Greece	Israel	Italy	Lebanon	Libya	Malta	Monaco	Montenegro	Morocco	Slovenia	Spain	Syria	Tunisia	Turkey
	Barcelona Convention and Amendments	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
Dumping Protocol and Amendments	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
Emergency Protocol	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
Prevention and Emergency Protocol	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
LBS Protocol and Amendments	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
SPA Protocol	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
SPA and Biodiversity Protocol	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
Offshore Protocol	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
Hazardous Wastes Protocol	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
ICZM Protocol	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue

Instrument of ratification, adhesion approval or accession deposited and Convention or Protocol entered into force	Blue
No instrument of ratification, adhesion, approval or accession deposited	White
Instrument of ratification, adhesion, approval or accession deposited but Protocol has not entered into force yet	Grey

2. Since the last meeting of the Bureau, the Depository has communicated to the Secretariat the deposit of the instrument of ratification of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol by Algeria, dated 14 November 2016. In accordance with Article 33 of the Barcelona Convention, the Prevention and Emergency Protocol entered into

force for Algeria on 14 December 2016. Six more ratifications are required to reach universal ratification of this Protocol.

3. The Secretariat continued its efforts to achieve universal ratification of the amended Convention by the Contracting Parties. Discussions continued with the one country whose ratification has not yet been received (Bosnia and Herzegovina). Follow-up will continue with Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to achieve the universal ratification of the amended Convention. Possible assistance from the Secretariat will be further explored to address key barriers to ratification.

4. The Bureau is also reminded that the amended Dumping Protocol still requires one additional ratification in order to enter into force. Policy direction and involvement of the Bureau to facilitate the ratification of the amended Dumping Protocol in particular and of all other Protocols by the remaining Contracting Parties would be highly desirable. In the short term, and within the context of the revised communication strategy, further development of material on the benefits of ratifying the relevant Protocols can be considered. In addition, bilateral/multilateral diplomacy could be leveraged to promote the benefits of ratifying the relevant Protocols.

5. Proposed Recommendations:

(a) The Bureau takes note of the current status of ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and urges the Contracting Parties which have not yet done so to ratify without further delay the relevant legal instruments.

(b) The Bureau congratulates Algeria for the ratification of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol.

(c) The Bureau encourages the President and the Secretariat to continue their efforts to achieve the full ratification of the revised Barcelona Convention as well as the ratification of its Protocols.

B. Development of Host Country Agreements for RACs

6. The Secretariat reported at the 83rd Bureau meeting on the developments of Host Country Agreements for RACs with particular focus on challenges encountered to progress work mainly towards: harmonization of the diverse and complex legal status of RACs, which makes it difficult the adoption of a common legal HCA across the board; the involvement of different national competent authorities and associated challenges in coordination; and the specific requirements of the domestic legislation across the countries where RACs operate.

7. During the period under the present reporting there has been no substantial change from the situation reported at the 83rd Bureau meeting. As also noted at the 83rd Bureau meeting, work is progressing slower than anticipated, due to the challenges already pointed out. However, there is some progress with regards to REMPEC: work is ongoing with the Maltese Ministry for Foreign Affairs to advance the revision of the current IMO-Malta HCA, signed in 1990, and negotiations are expected to be concluded during the current year.

8. Due to slow progress, the difficulties faced, the specificities of each RAC and related legislation of the host countries regulating RACs' activities, it is proposed to consider revising the decision of COP 17 providing for a full harmonization of HCAs in order to allow for flexibility and to facilitate progress in the negotiation of new or revised HCAs, which are very important especially for the RACs who do not have one in place.

9. Proposed Recommendations:

The Bureau takes note of the current status of development of the Host Country Agreements for RACs as reported by the Secretariat and refers the issue to the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points for further consideration by the 20th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

C. Shift to Thematic Focal Points

10. In order to comply with COP Decisions IG. 21/13 and IG. 22/1, which called for a transition from MAP Components Focal Points system to Thematic Focal Points, and following the recommendation of the Bureau at its 82nd meeting, the Secretariat prepared a preliminary analysis of the current status and options and impacts for a shift to Thematic Focal Points, and presented it for consideration to the 83rd meeting of the Bureau.

11. The Bureau invited the Secretariat to further develop option I, i.e. shift on a trial basis of the PAP/RAC and SPA/RAC Focal Points to ICZM and SPA/BD Focal Points respectively, and to clarify in particular the Terms of Reference for one of the two Thematic Focal Points for consideration at the 84th Bureau meeting.

12. In taking this work forward, the Coordinating Unit consulted the relevant RACs on the Terms of Reference for their Focal Points (Decision IG. 17/5, adopted at COP 15 in Almeria, Spain, January 2018). It was concluded that there were no substantive changes to be introduced in the ToRs, though some changes may be required taking into account that PAP/RAC FP will be responsible for the theme of Land-Sea Interactions (LSI) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). As requested, such changes are reflected in the ToR in Annex I to this document. Bureau members may wish to provide advice from the point of view of their national institutional set-up.

13. Proposed Recommendations:

The Bureau takes note/welcomes the draft revised Terms of Reference for PAP/RAC (LSI/ICZM) and SPA/RAC (SPA/BD) Focal Points, as presented by the Secretariat in Annex I of this document, and

...

D. Reporting and Compliance

14. The paragraphs below update the 84th Meeting of the Bureau on the current status of implementation of Decisions IG.22/16 and IG. 22/15 as regards: (a) submission of national implementation reports by Contracting Parties pursuant to Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention; (b) the draft revised reporting format for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and (c) composition of the Compliance Committee.

- a) Submission of national implementation reports: Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Reporting Questionnaire

15. Following Decision IG.22/16, by letter dated 17 June 2016, the UN Environment / Mediterranean Action Plan (UN Environment/MAP) Coordinator invited MAP Focal Points to submit their outstanding national implementation reports for the reporting period 2014-2015 and previous ones. The reports were to be submitted by October 2016. A new invitation letter dated 25 November 2016 followed, updating MAP Focal Points on the status of submission at that time and encouraging them to submit their pending national implementation reports as a matter of priority. In addition, bilateral contacts with Contracting Parties were pursued to boost the level of reporting, by providing *inter alia* guidance on the BCRS in coordination with INFO/RAC.

16. As at 19 May 2017, fifteen Contracting Parties have submitted their national implementation reports of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols to the Secretariat via the BCRS for the biennium 2012-2013, while three Contracting Parties have working drafts in the pipeline, their official submission still pending. For the ensuing reporting period, i.e. 2014-2015, as at 19 May 2017, nine Contracting Parties have submitted their national implementation reports and four Contracting Parties have working drafts in the pipeline, with the official submission of the working drafts still pending.

17. As regards the submission of the national implementation reports of the ICZM Protocol through the ICZM Reporting Questionnaire, as at 15 May 2017, five out of ten Contracting Parties to the ICZM Protocol have submitted their implementation reports. In addition, four out of twelve non-Contracting Parties to the Protocol have filled out the ICZM Reporting Questionnaire.

18. Progress has been made since the 19th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties expressed in Decision IG. 22/16 its deep concern over the limited number of Contracting Parties which had fulfilled their reporting requirements pursuant to Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention. However, further effort is needed to continue increasing the submission rate of national implementation reports.

19. In that context, following two previous letters on that subject matter, the Coordinator will address the MAP Focal Points, by (1) highlighting the key value of national implementation reports, as essential tools for keeping the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols under review; (2) bringing to the attention of Contracting Parties the role of the Secretariat as trigger under the established procedures and

mechanisms on compliance under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, (3) reiterating Secretariat's assistance to Contracting Parties to facilitating and concluding the national reporting process; and (4) urging Contracting Parties to submit their outstanding implementation reports and thus contribute in enhancing the credibility of the UN Environment/MAP system.

b) Draft revised reporting format for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

20. Since the last Bureau meeting, the Secretariat advanced with the preparation of the revised reporting format which presents the following key features: (1) provides pre-filled sections, facilitating Contracting Parties to submit updates on changes since the last report; (2) reinforces streamlining with other in-house reporting processes, thus avoiding duplication with datasets held by Regional Activity Centres (RACs); (3) enhances complementarity and harmonization with relevant global and regional reporting, thus reducing the burden on countries to prepare separate reports on implementation on different but related international conventions; and (4) gives Contracting Parties further room to explain the possible difficulties and challenges when reporting, as well as the option to provide detailed information on a voluntary basis by using web links.

21. By a letter dated 3 May 2017, the Coordinator invited MAP Focal Points to test the draft revised reporting format by the deadline of 2 June 2017. Based on the testing, the Secretariat would revisit the draft revised reporting format with a view to submitting it for consultation to MAP Focal Points and then, subject to MAP Focal Points input, to the 20th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties for consideration and adoption.

c) Composition of the Compliance Committee

22. Following Decision IG. 22/15, the Secretariat contacted Contracting Parties concerned and put in place arrangements, including Bureau approval process, when required, in order to complete the membership of the Compliance Committee for the 2016-2017 biennium.

23. As at 15 May 2017, all Members and Alternate Members of the Compliance Committee have been appointed, with the exception of the Alternate Member from Monaco, the nomination of whom is still pending, despite repeating urging by the Secretariat to Monaco to do so.

24. Proposed Recommendations:

(a) The Bureau strongly urges those Contracting Parties who have not yet done so, to submit their national implementation reports for the reporting periods 2012-2013 and 2014-2015 without further delay.

(b) The Bureau expresses its appreciation to those Contracting Parties who volunteered to test the draft revised reporting format and encourages Contracting Parties to participate in this exercise as a means to ensure that the revised reporting format is user-friendly.

(c) The Bureau urges Monaco to nominate an expert as Alternate Member of the Compliance Committee for a term of four years, thus completing the membership of the Compliance Committee as requested by Decision IG.22/15.

E. Assessment of MAP II

25. In view of implementing Decision IG.21/16 on *Assessment of the Mediterranean Action Plan*, the Secretariat submitted to the 83rd Meeting of the Bureau for adoption ToRs for the assessment of MAP II, tasking an Open-ended Working Group "to factually update MAP II in order to reflect the evolution of sustainable development and of the MAP system itself". To that end, a three-step process was laid down, at the end of which the Open-ended working group was instructed to: "update the MAP II text based on the evolutions since its adoption, and especially the parts mostly in need of update, and agree on the updated text for submission at the MAP Focal Points and COP 20".

26. To take work forward, the Open-Ended Working Group on the MAP II Assessment met in Athens, Greece, on 16-17 May 2017. The conclusions of the meeting of the Open-Ended Group on the MAP II Assessment are presented in Annex II of this report, for the Bureau's consideration, following the course of

action requested by the Bureau at its 82nd meeting, which noted, *inter alia*: (a) the Working Group to prepare its conclusions in time for submission to the 84th Meeting of the Bureau; and (b) the Bureau to provide its recommendations to the Meeting of MAP Focal Points in 2017 to be presented at the COP 20 together with the conclusions of the Working Group.

27. Furthermore, at the time of writing, the documentation to be prepared following the conclusions of the meeting is under preparation. As soon as concluded, it will be presented to the Bureau for consideration and formulation of the relevant recommendations to the Meeting of MAP Focal Points.

28. In addressing the question whether the adoption of the updated MAP would require the Contracting Parties to meet at a Diplomatic Conference, the Secretariat is of the view that there is no provision in the Barcelona Convention requesting holding a Diplomatic Conference for purposes other than adoption of additional protocols (Article 21) or of amendment of the Convention or protocols (Article 22). The adoption of the updated MAP Phase II, or of its updated content, would not fall under such categories. To convene a Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of the updated MAP Phase II could only be explained for policy reasons, being MAP Phase II a high-level policy instrument. However, in the Secretariat's views, since the assignment involved a factual update of MAP Phase II rather than a substantial revision, as it was the case in 1995, this modification could be done by a COP Decision.

29. Proposed Recommendations:

(a) The Bureau welcomes the course of action taken by the Secretariat.

(b) The Bureau [...] the conclusions of the Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the MAP II Assessment (Athens, Greece, 16-17 May 2017) as in Annex II of this document) and requests the secretariat to forward to the Bureau the documentation referred to in these conclusions in a timely manner, in order for the Bureau to provide its recommendations to the Meeting of MAP Focal Points in 2017 to be presented at the COP 20 together with the conclusions of the Working Group.

(c) The Bureau expresses [...] with the opinion of the Secretariat that the updated text of MAP II can be adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 20th Ordinary Meeting.

F. Cooperation and Partners

30. Engagement with stakeholders (NGOs, local authorities, civil society, scientific community, etc.) and identification of potential synergies with global and regional organisations in order to increase the effectiveness of work are crucial elements for strengthening UN Environment/MAP governance. This is realised, *inter alia*, through the involvement in relevant international initiatives and the operationalising or conclusion of MOUs. In this context, the initiatives described below play a significant role in implementing COP Decision IG. 19/6 on MAP/Civil society cooperation and partnership. By promoting cooperation and partnership, the UN Environment/MAP responds to the call from UN Environment Headquarters to encourage programmatic cooperation and coordination with other MEAs or international and regional organizations, given the importance of enhancing synergies with other actors.

31. The Memorandum of Understanding between UNEP, in its capacity as Secretariat of the MAP, and the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfMS) was extended for a further period of 3 years, until the 3rd of December 2019. To follow up work on the implementation of the MoU, a bilateral meeting will take place in the UN Environment/MAP premises, in Athens, Greece, on 22 June 2017.

32. Work is continuing on the implementation of the MoU between UN Environment/MAP and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM). In this respect the annual bilateral meeting was organized in the UN Environment/MAP premises, in Athens, Greece, on 23 March 2017, where the Director of SPA/RAC also participated. GFCM and UN Environment/MAP also had a joint presentation at the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (Seoul, Republic of Korea, 26-29 September 2016). Furthermore, the collaboration between the two organizations was presented as a good example of cross-sectoral cooperation in the UNEP/EC Workshop on Area-based Management and Regional Cooperation for the Implementation of Ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals (Brussels, 9-10 February 2017), while a joint

side event, also involving the European Commission, will take place during the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, that will be convened at United Nations Headquarters, New York, 59- June 2017.

33. A bilateral meeting was organized with the World Wide Fund for Nature – Mediterranean Programme Office (WWF MedPO) – which is both a MAP Partner and an MCSD member -in the UN Environment/MAP premises, in Athens, Greece, on 8 March 2017. In the meeting, where the Director of SPA/RAC also participated through videoconference, further ways to increase cooperation were explored. Inter alia, the implementation of the 2016-2025 MSSD and its Flagship Initiatives was discussed. Areas where a strategic collaboration may bring important results were also identified, such as support to Marine Protected Areas coverage and management, preparation of assessment reports, and marine litter.

34. Following the Inter-Agency Meeting on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance related to Oil and HNS Pollution Incidents in the Mediterranean Region (London, United Kingdom, 25 February 2016), EMSA and REMPEC jointly presented the services/operational capacities that they can provide in case of marine pollution incidents, at the 38th meeting of the Directors-General for Civil Protection of the European Union (Valletta, Malta, 26 - 27 April 2017).

35. A new Memorandum of Understanding between the Permanent Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS) and SPA/RAC for a period of 3 years (2017-2019) was signed in March 2017.

36. The Memorandum of Cooperation between SPA/RAC and WWF MedPO for the period (2018-2021) has been updated and will be signed in the coming months.

37. SPA/RAC is, also, preparing a Memorandum of Cooperation with the *Conservatoire du Littoral* (France) for the period 2018-2021. This Memorandum will be complemented by biennial operational joint work programmes. The first programme is under active discussion with the *Conservatoire du Littoral*.

38. The MedProgramme, developed under the innovative programmatic approach scheme of the GEF-6 strategy, has been approved by the GEF Council on 26 October 2016. It is based on the vision of the MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016 (MTS) and builds on four components, which fully reflect the priorities adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in the MTS and other instruments such as the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 (MSSD) and the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas (RCCAF). These components are: 1) Reduction of Land Based Pollution In Priority Coastal Hotspots, and measuring progress to impacts; 2) Enhancing Sustainability and Climate Resilience in the Coastal Zone; 3) Protecting Marine Biodiversity; and 4) Knowledge Management and Programme Coordination. The MedProgramme resources (indicatively a GEF grant of US\$ 47,390,000) will support interventions at regional as well as at national level. The MedProgramme was endorsed by: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco and Tunisia.

39. The Secretariat has received the applications of “Plastics Europe AISBL” and of “Youth Love Egypt”, for accreditation as UN Environment/MAP Partners.

40. The Secretariat has reviewed the documentation submitted in line with Decision 19/6 on “MAP/Civil society cooperation and partnership” and found that both “Plastics Europe AISBL” and “Youth Love Egypt” meet the criteria for such accreditation. The results of the evaluation of the application are presented in Annex III to the present report for the Bureau’s consideration.

41. The Secretariat recommends that the Bureau approves “Plastics Europe AISBL” and “Youth Love Egypt” to be admitted as MAP partners.

42. Proposed Recommendations:

(a) The Bureau welcomes the progress achieved on issues related to Cooperation and Partners, and especially the extension of the MoU with UfMS and the close collaboration with GFCM and with WWF MedPO, and encourages the Secretariat to continue its work on these issues; furthermore, it requests the

Secretariat to prepare an updated implementation plan of the MOU with UfMS in line with the priorities of the MTS.

(b) The Bureau welcomes action taken by REMPEC to strengthen synergies with relevant international actors, such as EMSA.

(c) The Bureau welcomes the approval of the GEF MedProgramme and requests the Secretariat to continue its good work in attracting external funding in line with the priorities of the MTS and the PoW.

(d) The Bureau endorses the results of the evaluation conducted by the Secretariat of the applications submitted by “Plastics Europe AISBL” and by “Youth Love Egypt” for accreditation as UN Environment/MAP Partners and requests that the Secretariat submits them to the MAP Focal Points and to COP 20 for consideration and endorsement.

G. Outreach, Information and Communication

43. The Secretariat has published in hardcopy form the SCP Action Plan (in English, and French), the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework (in English and French), and the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and related Assessment Criteria – IMAAP (in English, French and Arabic). The Secretariat is widely distributing these publications, in UN Environment/MAP meetings as well as in country trainings, etc., as appropriate, and shares them online on its website, as well as on the UN Environment and RACs’ websites.

44. UN Environment/MAP participated in a number of outreach events during this period. Beyond the occasions discussed at section F above, such events include the following:

- 24 and 28 October 2016: The Coordinating Unit and REMPEC participated in the 70th Session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 70), held at IMO Headquarters in London, UK.
- 11-16 November 2016: During COP 22 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, UN Environment/MAP organized with its Plan Bleu and Priority Actions Programme RACs, a side event around the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework. UN Environment/MAP also participated to the closing session of the "Ocean Day", which focused on action in the Mediterranean.
- 13 November 2016: The Athens Authentic Marathon took place, in which staff members from the Coordinating Unit, including MED POL, and their families run for a Sustainable Mediterranean.
- 21-23 November 2016: UN Environment/MAP participated in the 30th anniversary of the addition of the Marine Environmental Studies Laboratory (MESL) to the International Atomic Energy Agency’s Environment Laboratories, at a ceremony held in Monaco during the 6th meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS.
- 15-16 February 2017: The Coordinator participated in the meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Ocean Conference, in New York. UN Environment/MAP also contributed to the Regional Seas Programme side event “from regional to global: shared seas and shared actions for the sustainability of our oceans”, held on 16 February 2017. It also participated in a side event organized by the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from land-based Activities on “Land and Ocean Interactions in a Changing World”.
- 23 February 2017: UN Environment/MAP participated in the international conference on "Solutions for the Mediterranean" held at the Ministry of Environment of France, on 23 February 2017, at the initiative of Ségolène Royal, Minister of the Environment, Energy and the Sea, in charge of international relations on climate.
- 4 April 2017: UN Environment/MAP, represented by the national focal point and Bureau member from Spain, participated in a side event organized by UN Environment in New York on the margins of the BBNJ PrepCom meeting. The focus was on the Mediterranean experience, and especially on (i) the consultative process leading to the preparation of the MSSD; and (ii) the cooperation between UN Environment/MAP and GFCM.

45. The Coordinator attended the EU Council Informal Meeting of Environment Ministers (Valletta, Malta, 25-26 April 2017) and addressed the EU Ministers on behalf of the United Nations Environment and of its Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention Secretariat.
46. The Secretariat, in collaboration with Italy, co-organised the G7 Workshop on Marine Litter, entitled “Mainstreaming the work of the Regional Sea Programmes towards the better implementation of the G7 Action Plan and the achievement of the global commitments on marine litter”, which took place in Rome, Italy, on 20-21 April 2017. The Secretariat was involved in moderating two consecutive sessions of the Workshop, while the Coordinator made a keynote address highlighting the work of MAP in the field of marine litter and the efforts to address this environmental challenge. The workshop acknowledged the importance of the regional dimension of responses to Marine Litter and the necessity to ensure implementation by the G7 Countries of the Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter, in synergy with the Regional Seas Programmes. The outcome of the workshop will provide feedback to the forthcoming meeting of Environment Ministers of the G7 (Bologna, Italy, June 2017) where the MAP Coordinator will be a keynote speaker and input the Communique’ of that meeting.
47. UN Environment/MAP will participate in the UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14 that will be held from 5 to 9 June 2017 in New York. The meeting is to be attended by both the MAP Coordinator and the President of the Bureau, Ms. Christina Baritaki, since it will be an excellent opportunity to showcase the work of UN Environment/MAP and the Barcelona Convention and increase its visibility and impact. Three side events were submitted to the Conference organizers, in which UN Environment/MAP has a co-organizer role: (a) a side-event proposed by European Commission, UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention and GFCM on the Implementation of the ecosystem approach at the regional level for the coordinated achievement of the targets of SDG14, (b) a side-event proposed by MedPAN, UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention, CaMPAM, RAMPAN, NAMPAN, WIOMSA, HELCOM, French Biodiversity Agency, on Regional MPA networks in action, and (c) a side-event proposed by Legambiente Onlus, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) — UN Environment/MAP, European Environment Agency, BioPlastic industry, Environmental Alliance for the Mediterranean, Union for the Mediterranean, on a multi-stakeholders governance for tackling marine litter in the Mediterranean Sea.
48. REMPEC held on 4 October 2016, the celebrations of its 40th Anniversary, with the theme “Cooperation in the Mediterranean to Prevent and Combat Marine Pollution from Ships”. Over one hundred and thirty participants representing Mediterranean coastal States, organisations and institutions, attended the High-level Meeting that aimed primarily at bringing together all relevant stakeholders under one forum and with one clear objective, to collaborate and strive towards the protection of the Mediterranean Sea. The Ministerial Session was chaired by the Honourable Dr. George W. Vella, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta, and included interventions by Ministers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus and Greece and twelve high-level representatives of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. All speakers expressed their satisfaction on REMPEC’s achievements. At the meeting, UN Environment was represented by Jan Dusik, Director and Regional Representative of UN Environment, Regional Office for Europe, who gave a keynote address. Furthermore, UN Environment/MAP Coordinator, Mr. Gaetano Leone, moderated a Panel Discussion with former Directors/Heads of Office of REMPEC, entitled “A review of forty years of work of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)”.
49. Proposed Recommendations:
- (a) The Bureau expresses appreciation for the very good results of the information and communication work and for the successful efforts of the Secretariat for increasing the visibility and impact of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system in spite of the limited resources available to information and communication.**
- (b) The Bureau congratulates REMPEC for the celebration of its 40th Anniversary and acknowledges the work of the Centre and the high commitment of the Government of Malta, as its Host country.**
- H. Preparation for main MAP Meetings (MAP Focal Points, 17th MCSD, COP 20)**
- (a) 17th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development*

50. The 17th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) will take place in Athens, Greece, from 4 to 6 July 2017. As agreed by the 18th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee (Athens, Greece, 18-19 January 2017) and with reference to the main focus of COP 20 as suggested by the Bureau of the Contracting Parties at its 83rd Meeting (Tirana, Albania, 25-26 October 2017), the main topic of the 17th MCSD Meeting will be the implementation of the SDGs, and of SDG14 in particular, looking inter alia at issues such as pollution, Sustainable Consumption and Production and Integrated Coastal Zone Management/Marine Spatial Planning. Currently, the implementation of SDG 14 is very high in the international agenda; the MCSD meeting will follow the UN Conference “Our oceans, our future: partnering for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14” (New York, 5-9 June 2017), while the Conference “Our Ocean: An Ocean for Life” will take place in Malta on 5-6 October 2017. Therefore, the 17th MCSD meeting provides an excellent opportunity to discuss and enhance linkages with the global sustainable development processes, especially in relation to SDG 14.

51. Central in the agenda of the Meeting will be the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 (MSSD) and especially the good practices and challenges faced so far. Emphasis will be given to specific aspects of the implementation, such as the Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER) of National Strategies for Sustainable Development; the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard; flagship initiatives; and national and regional actions. The review of the MSSD implementation is directly relevant to processes at the global level, such as the voluntary national reviews under the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development, which will take place in New York on 10-19 July 2017. The MCSD, as an advisory body to the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention and a forum for debate, can provide substantial contribution on these issues, in view also of COP 20.

(b) Meeting of the MAP Focal Points

52. The Meeting of the MAP Focal Points will take place in Athens, Greece, from 12 to 15 September 2017 and will be preceded on 11 September by the meeting of the EcAp Coordination Group. The List of Documents for the MAP Focal Points Meeting in September is expected to contain the Provisional Agenda, Provisional Annotated Agenda, Progress Report on Activities Carried out during the 2016-2017 Biennium, Provisional Agenda of the 20th Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as well as the draft decisions to be considered for adoption at COP 20.

53. At its 83rd Meeting, the Bureau agreed with the proposal of the Secretariat to focus on a limited number of forward-looking Decisions, guided by the UNEP/MAP Mid Term Strategy 2016-2021 and the Programme of Work 2016-2017 (Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR. 83/7). A preliminary list of possible draft decisions to be considered by the MAP Focal Points meeting is presented below; this list will be further refined following the conclusions of the meetings of Focal Points of the MAP Components:

- Revised Reporting Format for the Implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols
- Outcome of the work of the Compliance Committee
- Governance (Cooperation and Partners, HCA, Shift to Thematic Focal Points, etc.)
- Implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy of Sustainable Development 2016-2025, including SCP Action Plan
- Revised Resource Mobilization Strategy
- Regional Assessments Reports (including: 2017 Quality Status Report Executive Summary and Policy Recommendations, Road Map and Vision for the implementation of MED 2050)
- Regional Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Conceptual Framework for Marine Spatial Planning
- Guidelines on the Protocol for the Prevention and Elimination of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircrafts or Incineration at Sea
- Procedure for Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Case of Pollution Incidents under the Prevention and Emergency Protocol
- Updated Action Plans under the Protocol Concerning Special Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean
- List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs)
- List of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

- MAP Programme of Work and Budget 2018-2019

(c) COP 20

54. The Bureau, in its 83rd Meeting, took note of the possible themes of COP 20 and suggested to focus on the implementation of the SDG 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”, addressing in particular land-sea interaction, including ICZM, marine biodiversity, marine litter/plastics, in relation to specific sectors such as tourism (Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.83/7).

55. To finalize the Bureau’s recommendation, the Secretariat, after consultations between the Coordinating Unit and the MAP Components, and taking into account the focus of major international events on oceans in the context of sustainable development and the theme of UNEA-3, has prepared two proposals for the main theme of COP 20 which are presented in Annex IV of this report.

56. Proposed Recommendations:

(a) The Bureau welcomes the main topics and progress in the preparation of the MCSDD;

(b) The Bureau takes note of the list of decisions for consideration by the MAP Focal Points and requests the Secretariat to finalize their preparation in a timely manner for submission to the meeting of the MAP Focal Points;

(c) The Bureau welcome the proposals of the Secretariat regarding the theme of COP 20, and decides to....

I. Preparation of the draft Programme of Work and Budget 2018-2019

57. Decision IG 22/20 on PoW and Budget 2016-2017 mandated the Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, to prepare for consideration and approval by COP 20 a results-based PoW and budget for 2018-2019, explaining the key principles and assumptions on which it is based and taking into account the progress achieved during the implementation of 2016-2017 PoW, and in full alignment with the MTS.

58. Designing and implementing a results-based PoW and budget is a challenging task due to the decentralized location and management of several MAP Components, which are jointly responsible for delivering in an integrated manner a considerable number of outputs. Therefore, in order to implement the above decision, the Secretariat started the work for preparing the new PoW and budget in late autumn 2016, in a coordinated manner with the MAP components.

59. In line with the above COP Decision, the 2018-2019 PoW and budget has been designed to ensure coherence and continuity with the results achieved during the current biennium to effectively and timely deliver the MTS by 2021. Thanks to recent successful resource mobilization efforts, large external funding from GEF and EU and bilateral cooperation have been or in a process to be secured. This has played an instrumental role in creating momentum and sound premises for preparing a realistic result- based budget and its implementation.

60. Lessons learnt from the implementation of UMOJA were also taken into account while preparing the PoW and budget 2018-2019 and in particular the effectiveness of collaboration with third parties, partners and/or Contracting Parties.

Overall Principles:

61. The preparation of 2018-2019 PoW has followed a process inspired from the following main principles:

(a) Strong ownership by the Contracting Parties through regular consultation and better reflection of country needs and priorities;

(b) Internal transparency, consultation, communication, efficiency and flexibility; in close cooperation with the ECP / MAP Components

(c) Learning from the lessons of PoW and budget of the current biennium (design and implementation);

(d) Deliver as one, as MAP system and in an integrated manner;

- (e) Setting activity priorities and related funding, based on common and consistent sound criteria;
- (f) Total MTF amount is fixed at MAP level, flexibility to keep the right balance between activities and operational costs at MAP level and per each component;
- (g) Partnership and outreach to boost implementation and efficiency;
- (h) Wise and balanced use of core and external resources to fund both activities and operational costs.

62. During its preparation the Secretariat has paid particular attention to (a) better cluster the proposed main activities and ensure a full coherence between the activities and their respective outputs listed in the MTS; taking into account the results of the current biennium PoW against the agreed (indicators/expected results); (b) reflect key global recent developments/emerging issues of relevance to the MAP mandate; (c) set priorities based on key mandates and activities that make a difference and can be measured in the medium and long term; (d) define where appropriate a geographical balance of locations for activities at sub regional and national level; (e) better explain the implementation means as inputs to the main activities; and to clarify the expected deliverables

Budget preparation: Main directions

63. The total budget for 2018-2019 is proposed to remain at the same level as the one approved for 2016-2017. Budget allocations from MTF will be/are provided to all core posts approved by the COP. An effort will be made to allocate more funding for working towards the delivery of new mandates given to the Secretariat over the last decade, with the adoption of a number of Protocols, strategies and Action Plans and possibly increasing the administrative support costs of the RACs from the 2016-2017 level, in order to increase stability and sustainability in their operations;

64. The proposed budget includes provisions for maintaining the working capital reserve at 15% of the annual expenditures as decided in the Decision IG.21/17; it also includes an increase of 3% to the MAP International Staff costs as per the UN practice.

65. The Secretariat will propose to use the savings accrued during this biennium coming from posts vacancies to fund the post of the Information and Communication Officer in 2018-2019. Subject to additional savings amounts available pending the formal closure of 2017 accounts, consideration should be also given to fund MTS priority activities related to new mandates given to the Secretariat by COP 19.

66. The Secretariat recommends to initiate a discussion at the 84th Bureau meeting and as appropriate during the meeting of the MAP Focal Points in September 2017, on a possible increase of the ordinary contributions for the biennium 2020-2021 of at least 5%. This would enable the MAP system to deliver the new mandates decided by the Contracting Parties over the last decade such as the implementation of the Offshore Action Plan, SCP Action Plan and INFO/MAP and IMAF information system, and to meet the increasing operation costs of all its components. This would take into account the conclusions of the Resource Mobilization Strategy that will be submitted to COP 20.

67. Proposed Recommendations:

The Bureau takes note of the proposal by the Secretariat on the outline, principles and assumptions for the PoW 2018-2019 and encourages the Secretariat to finalize the work along these lines for submission to the MAP Focal Points.

J. Other Issues

68. The Bureau at its 83rd Meeting, agreed with the process and timetable for the preparation of the 2017 QSR as proposed by the Secretariat in the table below:

Date	Action
November – December 2016	Initial mapping of data and information sources (by the Secretariat) Establishment of the online CORMON and thematic expert groups through InfoMap Groupware (by the Contracting Parties and the Secretariat) Lead countries per chapter/Common indicators defined, as appropriate (by the Contracting Parties) Case studies proposed on a voluntary basis (by the Contracting Parties)
January – February 2017	First draft of the 2017 QSR delivered with inputs of and for review by the CORMON (online consultation and physical meetings) (CORMON Litter, Biodiversity, Coast, Pollution with separate and joint sessions, as appropriate) (the initial draft to be prepared by the Secretariat)
March – May 2017	Second draft of the 2017 QSR delivered with inputs by the CORMONs and EcAp Coordination Group (through on line consultation), the Component Focal Point Meetings and pending budget availability by the EcAp Coordination Group Meeting
June – September 2017	Final draft for review by the EcAp Coordination Group and MAP Focal Points (by the Secretariat)
October – December 2017	Submission to COP 20
2018	QSR Online Publication Publication of the QSR Executive Summary

69. The Secretariat has ensured the implementation of the process and timetable agreed by the Bureau, and the draft QSR was discussed during several meeting including the CORMONs and a Science Policy Interface and EcAp Coordination Group Joint Meeting on IMAP Scale of Assessment and QSR (Sophia Antipolis, France, 27-28 April 2017). Based on the discussions during these meetings and the inputs received by the Contracting Parties, the Secretariat is preparing the final draft of the 2017 QSR for review by the EcAp Coordination Group and the MAP Focal Points

70. Proposed Recommendations:

The Bureau welcomes the progress achieved in the preparation of the 2017 QSR and requests the Secretariat to make every effort in order to finalize the report in a timely manner for the ECAP Coordination Group and the MAP Focal Points.

Annex I

Draft revised Terms of Reference for LSI/ICZM and SPA/BD Focal Points

A. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR LSI AND ICZM THEMATIC FOCAL POINTS **(FORMER PAP/RAC FOCAL POINTS)**

These Terms of Reference have been designed for the Thematic Focal Points (hereinafter Focal Points) on Land-Sea Interactions (LSI) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), following COP Decisions IG. 21/13 and IG. 22/1.

Designation

The ~~PAP/RAC~~ Focal Point shall be designated by the competent authority (Ministry/body) of the Contracting Party, in consultation with the MAP Focal Point.

The ~~PAP/RAC~~ Focal Point shall be an appropriately empowered person appointed by the governmental/administrative body responsible for coastal zone management policies.

The name and functions of the designated Focal Point shall be communicated by the MAP Focal Point to the MAPUN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan - Barcelona Convention Secretariat and PAP/RAC Director, as well as to concerned ~~bodies~~ Ministry(ies)/body(ies) in the Contracting Party.

Tasks

~~PAP/RAC~~ Focal Points shall be responsible for:

Reception and dissemination of information and consultation

1. Maintaining the relationship between PAP/RAC and Contracting ~~Party~~Parties bodies;
2. Disseminating PAP/RAC technical and information documents, guidelines, studies, etc., to concerned Contracting Party bodies;
3. Transmitting to their MAP Focal Points all information and documents needed for the execution of their tasks, including reports on implementation of and compliance with the ICZM Protocol as appropriate, and communicating and coordinating with them to facilitate the implementation of the Protocol ;

Preparations for meetings and follow-up of implementation

- ~~3.4.~~ Contributing to the preparation of ~~PAP/RAC~~ Focal Point meetings through comments and proposals either made on their own initiative or relating to documents prepared by PAP/RAC, after consultation with Contracting Party bodies as necessary;
- ~~4.5.~~ Attending ~~meetings of the~~ Focal Points meetings and reporting on their conclusions ~~to~~and recommendations to relevant national governmental/administrative bodies and their MAP Focal Points;
- ~~5.6.~~ Disseminating PAP/RAC technical and information documents, guidelines, studies, etc., to concerned Contracting Party bodies;
- ~~6.7.~~ Following-up, in consultation with their MAP Focal Points, the implementation of relevant decisions and recommendations of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties, Programme of Work and activities related to ICZM and LSI;
8. Following-up on the implementation of the Coastal Areas Management Programme (CAMP) and maintaining links with the responsible institutions and other stakeholders for the implementation of CAMP recommendations;
9. Following-up of on the implementation of Barcelona Convention instruments and obligations related to

ICZM and LSI:

~~7.10.~~ Assisting PAP/RAC in the identification of relevant experts for specific initiatives or consultations;

Cooperation with other relevant bodies

~~8.11.~~ Liaising with non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the academic and scientific community and socioeconomic actors concerned with PAP/RAC activities;

~~Communicating to MAP Focal Points all information and documents needed for the execution of out their tasks, including reports on coastal zone management;~~

~~9.12.~~ Liaising with local representatives of international financial facilities, institutions and programmes for the support of projects related to the implementation of PAP/RAC activities;

~~Following activities related to the follow-up of the Coastal Areas Management Programme (CAMP) and maintaining links with the responsible institutions and other stakeholders in the implementation of CAMP recommendations;~~

~~10.13.~~ Assisting PAP/RAC in the identification of relevant experts for specific initiatives or consultations;

~~Following activities in relation to the implementation of Barcelona Convention instruments and obligations related to ICZM.~~

Support measures

In order to fulfil their tasks, it is ~~advisable~~recommended for ~~PAP/RAC~~ Focal Points to receive the following support, as appropriate:

Contracting Party bodies shall:

~~11.14.~~ Associate ~~PAP/RAC~~ Focal Points with the formulation and implementation of national policies, strategies and projects on coastal zone management;

~~12.15.~~ Transmit to ~~PAP/RAC~~ Focal Points all necessary information, in particular for following up recommendations of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties ~~addressed to countries~~related to the ICZM Protocol and related activities of the Programme of Work;

~~13.16.~~ Provide ~~PAP/RAC~~ Focal Points with adequate resources as required for the execution of their tasks within the context of broader fiscal and staffing policies and priorities in the Contracting Party.

PAP/RAC shall:

~~14.17.~~ Provide Focal Points with all information needed for the execution of their tasks, including technical details considered useful for proper understanding and evaluation;

18. Provide support, including appropriate training, to ~~PAP/RAC~~ Focal Points to enable them to carry out their tasks.

B. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SPA/~~RAC~~BD FOCAL POINTS (FORMER SPA/RAC FOCAL POINTS)

These Terms of Reference have been designed for the Thematic Focal Points (hereinafter Focal Points) on Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (SPA/BD), which will assist their Parties with the implementation of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, 1996 (SPA/BD Protocol).

Designation

The SPA/RAC Focal Point shall be designated by the competent authority (Ministry/body) of the Contracting Party, in consultation with the MAP Focal Point.

The SPA/RAC Focal Point shall be an appropriately empowered person appointed by the governmental/administrative body responsible for Contracting Party policy on marine and coastal biodiversity and protected areas.

The name and functions of the designated Focal Point shall be communicated by the MAP Focal Point to the MAPUN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan - Barcelona Convention Secretariat and SPA/RAC Director, as well as to concerned ~~bodies~~ Ministry(ies)/body(ies) in the Contracting Party.

Tasks

SPA/RAC Focal Points shall be responsible for:

Reception and dissemination of information and consultation

1. Maintaining the relationship between SPA/RAC and governmental/administrative bodies;
- ~~15. Contributing to the preparation of SPA/RAC Focal Point meetings through comments and proposals either made on their own initiative or relating to documents prepared by SPA/RAC, after consultation with Contracting Party bodies as necessary;
Attending Focal Point meetings and reporting on their conclusions to governmental/administrative bodies and MAP Focal Points;~~
2. Disseminating SPA/RAC technical and information documents, guidelines, studies, etc., to concerned bodies;
3. Transmitting to their MAP Focal Points all information and documents needed for the execution of their tasks, including reports on implementation of and compliance with the SPA/BD Protocol as appropriate, and communicating and coordinating with them to facilitate the implementation of the Protocol;
4. Communicating to SPA/RAC all information on implementation of and compliance with the SPA/BD Protocol;
5. Disseminating SPA/RAC questionnaires, enquiries, etc., on specific issues relevant to the SPA/BD Protocol;
6. Disseminating announcements, invitations, programmes, etc., of various events organized by SPA/RAC to appropriate bodies, organizations, resource persons, etc.;

Preparations for meetings and follow-up of implementation

7. Contributing to the preparation of Focal Point meetings, and any others related to the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol, by submitting, prior to meetings, proposals for decisions and recommendations or other relevant meeting documents or by responding, within the deadline, to requests for input to the meeting

documents prepared by SPA/RAC, after consultation and coordination with relevant national governmental/administrative bodies as necessary;

8. Attending Focal Point meetings and reporting on their conclusions and recommendations to relevant national governmental/administrative bodies and their MAP Focal Points;

~~3-9.~~ Following-up, in consultation with their MAP Focal Points, the implementation of relevant decisions and recommendations of Meetings of the Contracting Parties related to the SPA/BD Protocol, including the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SAP BIO) and its related National Action Plans (NAPs); as well as Regional Action Plans;

~~16. Liaising with NGOs, the academic and scientific community and socioeconomic actors concerned with SPA/RAC activities;~~

~~Communicating to MAP Focal Points all information and documents needed for the execution of their tasks, including reports on implementation of and compliance with the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol as appropriate;~~

~~17. Liaising with other Focal Points for relevant environmental conventions on marine and coastal biodiversity issues;~~

~~4-10.~~ Liaising with local representatives of international financial facilities, institutions and programmes for the support of projects related to implementation of SPA/RAC activities and NAPs;

~~Communicating to SPA/RAC all information on implementation of and compliance with the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA and Biodiversity Protocol);~~

~~Disseminating SPA/RAC questionnaires, enquiries, etc., on specific issues relevant to the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol;~~

~~Disseminating announcements, invitations, programmes, etc., of various events organized by SPA/RAC to appropriate bodies, organizations, resource persons, etc.;~~

~~5-11.~~ Consulting with relevant national governmental bodies on the nomination of Contracting Party experts to participate in SPA/RAC meetings and activities, thus assisting to identify suitable participants based on available expertise;

~~6-12.~~ Coordinating and helping, as appropriate, in the organization of events/missions relevant to the SPA and Biodiversity/BD Protocol in the Contracting Party;

~~7-13.~~ Assisting SPA/RAC in the identification of relevant experts for specific initiatives or consultations;

Cooperation with other relevant bodies

14. Liaising with non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the academic and scientific community and socioeconomic actors concerned with SPA/BD activities;

15. Liaising with Focal Points from other marine and coastal biodiversity related Conventions.

Support measures

In order to fulfil their tasks, it is ~~advisable~~ recommended for SPA/RAC Focal Points to receive the following support, as appropriate:

Contracting Party bodies shall:

8-16. Associate SPA/RAC Focal Points with the formulation and implementation of Contracting Party policies, strategies and projects on marine and coastal biodiversity, including monitoring and scientific research;

9-17. Transmit to SPA/RAC Focal Points all necessary information, in particular for following up those recommendations of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties ~~addressed to Contracting Parties~~ related to the

SPA/BD Protocol and related activities of the Programme of Work;

~~10.18.~~ Provide ~~SPA/RAC~~ Focal Points with adequate resources as required for the execution of their tasks, within the context of broader fiscal and staffing policies and priorities in the Contracting Party.

SPA/RAC shall:

~~18.19.~~ Provide ~~SPA/RAC~~ Focal Points with all information needed for the execution of their tasks, including technical details considered useful for proper understanding and evaluation;

~~19.20.~~ Provide support, including appropriate training, to ~~SPA/RAC~~ Focal Points to enable them to carry out their tasks.

Annex II

**Conclusions of the meeting of the Open-Ended Group on the MAP II Assessment
(Athens, Greece, 16-17 May 2017)**

Conclusions:

- 1) The meeting took note of the documentation prepared by the Secretariat on text to be updated.
- 2) The meeting went through the document and made suggestions for updating the document.
- 3) Some concerns were expressed about the feasibility of the exercise and the need was also expressed to seek legal advice on the nature of the document and mandate of the WG.
- 4) During the meeting it was difficult to separate a discussion on updates as mandated by the COP from a discussion on issues / gaps, including on the structure and substance of the document as well as on legal issues. A non-exhaustive list was identified in this regard.
- 5) The meeting agreed on the following way forward:
 - The Secretariat will send to the working group by the 2nd of June the MAP II document with updates, together with the list on issues / gaps raised at the meeting, as well as the legal advice.
 - The members of the WG will provide comments within the following two weeks.
 - The consolidated version reflecting the comments received, and diverging views if any, will be prepared by the Secretariat.
 - The Secretariat will send to the Bureau the three documents for further guidance.

Annex III

MAP Partner Applications Evaluation Table

INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANTS

ACRONYM	FULL NAME	Country	Aims
PlasticsEurope	PlasticsEurope AISBL	Belgium	PlasticsEurope promotes the positive contributions of plastics by highlighting the material's beneficial properties and its positive contributions to society throughout its life cycle; Liaising with European and national institutions in policy matters to secure decisions based on accurate information; Communicating plastics contribution to sustainable development, innovation and quality of life; Initiating in depth studies and sharing experiences.

EVALUATION**General conditions for accreditation****Two categories of NGOs are eligible for observer status**

	PlasticsEurope
International and regional NGOs	√
National and local NGOs from Mediterranean riparian states.	√

Both categories of NGOs should satisfy the following general conditions:

	PlasticsEurope
be representative in the field(s) of their competence and fields of action by the Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;	√
be able, through their work, to support the achievement of the objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;	√
be able to make known the work of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in the region and/or their respective countries;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific project or programme, to the implementation of MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols programme of activities;	√

be able to contribute, through a specific event or manifestation linked to a Mediterranean Action Plan field of activity, to public awareness-raising;	√
be able to provide, through their specific activity or experience, expert advice on the definition of Mediterranean Action Plan policies, programmes and actions;	√
be able regularly to disseminate information to their members, where applicable, on the standards, activities and achievements of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention in their own field(s) of competence;	√
be able to furnish, either spontaneously or at the request of the Mediterranean Action Plan's different bodies, information, documents or opinions relating to their own field(s) of competence.	√

Part II: Specific accreditation criteria and procedures

Accreditation

The following criteria apply to international and national/local NGOs:

	PlasticsEurope
to have legal status; terms of reference, objectives and scope of activities related to one or more of MAP's areas of activity and to the scope of the Convention and its Protocols;	√
to have existed for at least 4 years;	√
to submit financial and activity reports from the last two years;	√
to operate democratically;	√
to have their regional office or headquarters in a Mediterranean country;	√
to demonstrate proof of general or specialised, technical or scientific competence on issues related to the activities of MAP, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;	√
to demonstrate what contributions the NGO could make to MAP and the Convention and Protocols.	√

The following specific criteria apply to national/local NGOs:

	PlasticsEurope
NGO objectives genuinely related to the marine environment and coastal zones;	√
NGOs participating or wishing to participate in specific national or local programmes or projects on the implementation of the objectives of the MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.	√

INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANTS

ACRONYM	FULL NAME	Country	Aims
Youth Love Egypt	Youth Love Egypt	Egypt	The goals of the organization are spreading environmental awareness programs; Tourism Promotion; Support the friendship between the peoples; Awareness of biodiversity; Support instruction, cultural and social activities; Training and rehabilitation of youth for the job market

EVALUATION

General conditions for accreditation

Two categories of NGOs are eligible for observer status

	Youth Love Egypt
International and regional NGOs	√
National and local NGOs from Mediterranean riparian states.	√

Both categories of NGOs should satisfy the following general conditions:

	Youth Love Egypt
be representative in the field(s) of their competence and fields of action by the Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;	√
be able, through their work, to support the achievement of the objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;	√
be able to make known the work of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in the region and/or their respective countries;	√

be able to contribute, through a specific project or programme, to the implementation of MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols programme of activities;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific event or manifestation linked to a Mediterranean Action Plan field of activity, to public awareness-raising;	√
be able to provide, through their specific activity or experience, expert advice on the definition of Mediterranean Action Plan policies, programmes and actions;	√
be able regularly to disseminate information to their members, where applicable, on the standards, activities and achievements of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention in their own field(s) of competence;	√
be able to furnish, either spontaneously or at the request of the Mediterranean Action Plan's different bodies, information, documents or opinions relating to their own field(s) of competence.	√

Part II: Specific accreditation criteria and procedures

Accreditation

The following criteria apply to international and national/local NGOs:

	Youth Love Egypt
to have legal status; terms of reference, objectives and scope of activities related to one or more of MAP's areas of activity and to the scope of the Convention and its Protocols;	√
to have existed for at least 4 years;	√
to submit financial and activity reports from the last two years;	√
to operate democratically;	√
to have their regional office or headquarters in a Mediterranean country;	√
to demonstrate proof of general or specialised, technical or scientific competence on issues related to the activities of MAP, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;	√

to demonstrate what contributions the NGO could make to MAP and the Convention and Protocols.	√
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The following specific criteria apply to national/local NGOs:

	Youth Love Egypt
NGO objectives genuinely related to the marine environment and coastal zones;	√
NGOs participating or wishing to participate in specific national or local programmes or projects on the implementation of the objectives of the MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.	√

Annex IV

Proposed theme for COP 20

Proposed Theme 1 for COP 20

Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with Focus on SDG14: Towards a Pollution-Free Mediterranean

1. Background

The MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, as well as specific additional measures adopted by the Contracting Parties, such as Regional Plans, aim at controlling and preventing marine pollution. As such the MAP system specifically contributes to achieving SDG 14 in a regionally coherent manner.

Through its components, the MAP system provides direct support and guidance to the Contracting Parties to take effective and adequate measures to implement the relevant Protocols, meet the pollution and litter related Ecological Objectives adopted in 2012, and achieve Good Environment Status of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast.

Over the years, the Contracting Parties have committed to key programmes of measures addressing pollution prevention from land- and sea-based sources and reduction from several sectors. UNEP/MAP has adopted 10 Regional Plans addressing issues such as Waste Water treatment, Marine Litter, Mercury, Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and Bathing Water Quality. The Marine Litter Regional Plan addresses the complex challenges posed in the Mediterranean region to minimize marine litter presence and its impacts.

The Contracting Parties have also agreed on the use of new approaches and systemic changes aiming at reducing pollution at source. In this respect, the Contracting Parties recently adopted the Action Plan on SCP, promoting a shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns in sector impacting marine and coastal environment.

2. Rationale for selecting this theme

At the global level, a number of major events in 2017 are focusing on ocean issues and including on pollution, namely: (i) the UN “Ocean Conference” on the implementation of SDG-14; (ii) UNEA-3 in December 2017 on the implementation of SDG-14 with focus on marine pollution (Target 14.1); (iii) the “Our Oceans” conference in October 2017; and (iv) the Fourth Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in October 2017.

Dedicating COP 20 to this topic will target the attention to the Mediterranean reality. It will give the Mediterranean Ministers the opportunity to review the regional specificity of the implementation needs of international commitments, and to set priorities and make commitments in support of the implementation of the Barcelona Convention instruments towards achieving SDG Target 14.1 (“by 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution”).

3. Envisioned outcome of the discussion

- Enhanced commitment to the Barcelona Convention and its instruments, including through ratification and entry into force of its Protocols;
- Enhanced regional cooperation in relation to pollution and marine litter and in the framework of the MSSD implementation;
- Voluntary commitments to implement SDG-14;
- Showcasing regional achievements on pollution and marine litter reduction;

- Development of a Mediterranean narrative and political messages, as inputs for future international and regional processes;
- Renewal of commitment to strengthened national implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs), including coordination at the national level and with national instruments implementing relevant global Conventions;
- Enhanced inclusion of civil society in NAP and IMAP implementation;
- Welcoming the GEF-funded MedProgramme and recognizing its importance for the Mediterranean to reduce pollution at the national level and strengthen regional governance and cooperation.
- Coherent implementation in the Mediterranean of global and regional commitments in the field of marine pollution reduction and prevention.

4. Possible speakers/moderator:

- Juwang Zhu, Director of the Division for Sustainable Development/DESA
- Speakers or a panel on pollution, including high-level representatives from the 4 chemical conventions, the IMO, the scientific community, UN Environment Headquarters (on UNEA-3 outcome).
- Eminent industry and private sector representatives.

Proposed Theme 1 for COP 20

Implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development with Focus on SDG14: Regional Commitment to Global Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism

1. Background

The MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, as well as specific additional measures adopted by the Contracting Parties, aim at protecting marine and coastal ecosystems and ensuring the integrated management of the coastal zone. As such the MAP system specifically contributes to achieving SDG 14 in a regionally coherent manner.

Through its components, the MAP system provides direct support and guidance to the Contracting Parties to take effective and adequate measures to implement the relevant Protocols, meet the biodiversity and coastal hydrography and litter related Ecological Objectives adopted in 2012, and achieve Good Environment Status of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast.

The Mediterranean basin supports some of the richest fauna and flora in the world. The Mediterranean area receives 31% of international tourism, with 275 million visitors per year. Tourism is, therefore, one of the main drivers affecting the economic development of the Mediterranean region, as well as the marine and coastal environment and resources.

2. Rationale for selecting this theme

Despite its positive socio-economic value, tourism can also have a number of negative impacts (for example, it is a significant and growing contributor to carbon dioxide emissions, a growing cause of pollution of land and sea and a major user of non-renewable resources, while it has temporal and spatial variation and peaks).

Over the decades, tourism has been addressed by MAP instruments and components, without, however, coalescing into a specific instrument that addresses the ever growing socio-economic and environmental impact in the region.

Sustainable tourism relies on healthy marine ecosystems and directly contributes to the protection of the marine and coastal ecosystems and the implementation of SGD 14. To do so, sustainable tourism needs to develop in line with ICZM principles and approaches.

Tourism is closely linked to other SDGs, e.g.:

- SDG-12 “Ensure Sustainable Production and Consumption Patterns”: The tourism sector that adopts sustainable consumption and production practices can play a significant role in accelerating the global shift towards sustainability;
- SDG 13 “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”: Tourism is called to play a leading role in the global response to climate change.

Dedicating COP 20 to this topic will target the attention to a crucial sector in the Mediterranean reality. This discussion will feed into the global debate on the contribution of sustainable tourism to 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

It will also be directly linked to the *2017 International Year of Sustainable Tourism* and help engage with UN World Tourism Organization through its partnership programme.

3. Envisioned outcome of a Ministerial Discussion

- Renew commitment to sustainable tourism policies in the Mediterranean area, in particular to prevent deterioration of, and enhance Good Environmental Status in particular in vulnerable ecosystems, and in the framework of the MSSD implementation;

- Create momentum for further work in the area of sustainable tourism and blue economy, especially in relation to the implementation of the SPA/BD and ICZM Protocols, and Marine Litter and SCP Action Plans;
- Support Contracting Parties in developing sustainable tourism management and monitoring tools (e.g. labels, guidelines for Sustainable Tourism in vulnerable ecosystems in the Mediterranean: MPAs and SPAMIs);
- Share best practices and promote solutions, communication, education and public awareness on sustainable tourism and biodiversity, as a framework for cooperation with stakeholders;
- Renew call for further ratification of the ICZM Protocol and other relevant instruments.

4. Possible speakers/moderator:

- World Tourism Organization representatives.
- Private sector/tourism industry representatives.
- Local authorities from renowned location with sustainable tourism.