

Implementation Plan of the Mid Term Evaluation of the UNEP GEF Project:

Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem – Regional Component:

**Implementation of Agreed Actions for the Protection of the Environmental Resources of the Mediterranean Sea and its Coastal Areas
("MedPartnership")**

RECOMMENDATION	ACCE PTED (YES/ NO)	WHAT WILL BE DONE?	MEASURES TAKEN	EXPECT ED COMPL ETION DATE	REPO NSI BLE OFFICER/ UNIT/ DIVISION/ AGENCY
<p>Recommendation 1</p> <p>The PMU should develop a fully-justified proposal for a project extension of 6 to 8 months based on a i) realistic estimates from each of the co-executing partners on project completion dates including a) technical and field activities and b) administrative closure and ii) its own requirements for administrative closure, and documentation and dissemination activities. The PMU and partners closure periods can be expected to have a partial overlap. Co-executing partners should report on revised timing within one month after the project Coordination Group (CG) meeting in March 2013, and the PMU should present its proposal for discussion and approval at the May</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>A proposal is under development for a project extension until the end of 2015, with all on the ground activities completed six months earlier (by June 2015), and the final six months for reporting, dissemination at the regional and national level. The goal of the extension is to ensure completion and dissemination of all activities, completion of replication activities, and time for the adoption of regional and national plans and policy reforms.</p> <p>The proposal will be discussed with the co-executing partners during the next coordination group meeting which will be held in Athens the 26 and 27 of November 2013.</p> <p>The proposal will be structured according to the outcomes from the following key discussion issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Actual implementation status of each project's components and budget status ▪ Development of three month deliverable + 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consultation with all the co-executing partners about the implementation level of their activities and about a realistic estimation of the time required to conclude them. ▪ Call for the Coordination Group meeting (CG) for the 26-27 of November 2013. 	<p>End of February 2014</p>	<p>Project Manager and PMU. (UNEP- MAP)</p> <p>Co-executing partners</p>

<p>2013 Steering Committee (SC) and Mid-Term Stocktaking Meeting.</p>		<p>expenditure targets for 2014 and 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Both the above targets to be discussed at the CG meeting and agreed, then integrated into the 2014 work plan and budget for adoption at the 2014 SC meeting. <p>The proposal will be presented at the next Steering Committee which will be at the beginning of February 2014.</p>			
<p>Recommendation 2</p> <p>It is recommended that the PMU undertake a comprehensive budget revision working with the co-executing agencies and MAP senior management, with the guidance of the Task Manager in UNEP, in order to accommodate a project extension and ensure adequate administrative support to the project during the remaining years of the project.</p> <p>This recommendation has four sub-recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ i) To undertake review of prospects for mobilising cash with a view to providing a revised budget including a summary of implications, ▪ ii) That each of the co-executing agencies (including MEDPOL and the PMU) undertakes an internal review 	<p>YES</p>	<p>Revision of all the budget lines in the PMU and MED-POL budget in order to ensure a rational and efficient allocation of the resources.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Co-executing partners are reviewing their budgets (in collaboration with the PMU) and will make proposals of resources allocation to support their activities. On the basis of these assessments, the co-executing partners will also have to make a proposal for a realistic and feasible date for concluding their activities on the ground and to prepare the administrative closure plus documentation (<i>internal review process as explained in the recommendation 1</i>). <i>The expected data to conclude the activities will not be later than June 2015 (see recommendation 1).</i> II. Approval of three -month expenditure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PMU consulting with all the co-executing partners. Request for a detailed review of their budgets made. ▪ PMU cross checking the budgets of all co-executing partners and assess their level of expenditure. These indicators will be presented at the CG meeting in November. The goal is to agree a reference for each component to implement the six-month expenditure targets mechanism and eventually “clawing back” funds if partners are under-spending. ▪ Tracking of the co-financing rate of the UNEP-MAP in order to decide how many MTF funds to be allocate on MedPartnership to cover staff costs. 	<p>End of February 2014</p>	<p>Project Manager and PMU. (UNEP-MAP)</p>

<p>as to whether there are any areas where it is likely to under-spend its GEF budget including as a result of difficulties in planning or completion of project activities caused by changes in the project operating context.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ iii) That the development and revision of budgets associated with the climate variability project and the extension of the MPAs project take full account of the supervision and support costs of the PMU. ▪ That the PMU presents a one or more options for a consolidated budget to the SC for consideration at its September meeting based on information and options generated through recommendations 1, 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3, and that the SC adopts and approves a consolidated budget that will provide the PMU with clear guidance and certainty regarding available funds for the remaining project period. 		<p>targets for each component of the project in order to avoid under-spending of their GEF resources. Failure to meet the agreed targets at the end of 2014 would result in the PMU “clawing back” funds that could be reallocated to other activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> III. Additional scenario will be presented where some partners will not meet a target as mentioned above. Remaining funds will be utilized for other activities identified in these scenarios. IV. Revision of the budget of the climate Variability and Change sister project will take into account costs related to the full support and supervision of the PMU and the activities of the project. Project manager (P4) and P3 expert manage and support the Climate Variability and Change project with the support of a consultant based at the UNEP-MAP premises. V. PMU to present to the SC one budget with activities target and alternatives proposals of activities to be implemented if resources are made available by the application of the “clawing back” mechanism. In this case a new (and final) budget will be presented at the last SG meeting of the project with a detailed work plan reporting on the allocation of these 			
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<p>Recommendation 3.1.</p> <p>The incoming Project Manager and MAP Senior Administrative Officer should undertake a forward looking review of staffing needs for the project spanning the current operational phase, reporting and closure period, and needs of supplementary projects such as the climate variability project.</p> <p>Recommendation 3.2.</p> <p>MAP should recruit an Administrative Assistant as a high priority for the project. If it is not possible to fill this post using MTF funds, the post will need to be funded using GEF funding.</p>	YES	<p>The PMU supports equally the MedPartnership and the Climate Variability projects, with the plan for both projects to be completed at the same time.</p> <p>The Project Manager (PM) entered on duty the 4th of September 2013. The PMU is now complete since, in addition to the existing staff and the PM recruitment, an information officer joined the team in January 2013, as well as an administrative assistant at the end of September 2013. This structure is functional to the management of the current operational phase of both the MedPartnership and the Climate Variability project. The MedPartnership Project Manager (P4), with the support of the Marine and Coastal Expert (P3) will also manage the Climate Variability project with the support of a consultant based at UNEP/MAP premises for the projects duration.</p>	<p>Project Manager in place – September 2013 (GEF funds)</p> <p>Administrative assistant in place - September 2013 (MTF funds)</p> <p>Information Officer in place - January 2013 (50% MTF and 50% MedPartnership)</p> <p>CV consultant in place until October 2013 – contract to be renewed</p>	-	Project Manager and PMU. (UNEP-MAP)

<p>Recommendation 4</p> <p>Delivery of project sub-components 2.1 (industrial pollution) and 2.3 (PCBs) has been affected by a range of factors including weaknesses in project design and preparedness and disruption of activities as a result of the Arab Spring and other political events. Annex 6 details the background and cost implications of a set of twelve recommendations (4.1 – 4.12) related to these sub-components that are summarised in the report conclusions.</p>					
<p>4.1 The national authorities (Ministry of Environment / ANPE) should lead the phosphogypsum stakeholder group and facilitate procedures so as to implement the remaining activities without further delay, in particular: the development of proposals for policy reforms for the proper management of phosphogypsum wastes, and feasibility and economic studies for the construction of a landfill.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>During 2014 it is planned to support Tunisia in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ developing best practices guidance on management of phosphogypsum, ▪ enhance public awareness to support sound disposal options for the phosphogypsum sludge, ▪ Include in the national monitoring programme follow up of quality of marine waters in the project area for heavy metals. <p>The Tunisian experience is planned to be shared with the other countries through a regional workshop to be held in early 2015</p>	<p>National steering committee established in November 2012 to support project implementation.</p> <p>Negotiation and a meeting with the general director of the Ministry of Environment going on during October 2013.</p> <p>SSFA to implement the remaining activity expected to be signed in November 2013.</p>	<p>Work in Tunisia to be carried out in 2014.</p> <p>Regional workshop in early 2015.</p>	<p>UNEP/MAP MEDPOL and MedPartnership</p>

<p>4.2 It is recommended that actions are taken so that the agreement between UNEP/MAP and Algerian authorities is signed by 31 March 2013 in order not to delay further the implementation of remaining activities for this pilot project. In case of non-signature within the set deadline, this activity should be cancelled and funds reallocated to other activities.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>A range of activities defined and agreed with Algeria to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ develop a national action plan on management of lube oil, ▪ to undertake a economic analysis of possible options for lube oil management through recycling on situ or abroad 	<p>SSFA signed with Algeria the 05/06/2013. Project activities ongoing</p>	<p>End of 2014</p>	<p>UNEP/MAP MEDPOL</p>
<p>4.3 Given that the implementation of activities has stopped in Syria due to political situation, to take advantage of results already achieved, it is recommended that practical guidelines for the ESM of used lead batteries be developed, based on the Syria experience and on the Basel Convention guidelines, and disseminated to the other countries of the project through a regional workshop.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>The work done in Syria will be further validated and consolidated through the preparation of best practices and guidelines on lead batteries management based also on the Basel convention guidelines. This work will be undertaken by the Bratislava Center of the Basel Convention.</p>	<p>SSFA signed with Basel Convention center (05/06/2013) in Bratislava for the elaboration of the guidelines and regional workshop in March 2014</p>	<p>Regional workshop in early 2015</p>	<p>UNEP/MAP MEDPOL</p>
<p>4.4 To ensure impact of this pilot project, It is recommended that the capacity of the relevant end-users (inspectors, authorities that deliver permits, etc,) be built to be able to use this software adequately.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>It is planned to hold workshops to train the countries in using the up to date ELV/EQO models for a range of pollutants. The workshops will be undertake by MedPol in cooperation with the Basel Convention. This activity will be combined with the national and regional workshops to be held in 2014 which aims to transfer knowledge and strengthening the national environmental inspectorate bodies.</p>		<p>2014- early 2015</p>	<p>UNEP/MAP MEDPOL</p>

<p>4.5 To facilitate coordination activities at national level it is recommended that the NTA recruited in the context of Activity 2.3.4 also acts as national coordinator for the whole sub component 2.3. The task manager together with CP/RAC will decide on the duration of this agreement. Funds, saved on PCB destruction can be used for this purpose</p>	<p>YES</p>		<p>Task executed. The national coordinators recruited by CP/RAC follow up all activities related to PCB in the related countries. In addition a very close cooperation MEDPOL/CP RAC is ensured at regional levels for the PCB related activities</p>	<p>2014</p>	<p>UNEP/MAP MEDPOL and MedPartnership</p>
<p>4.6 To facilitate the implementation of activities, in particular for PCB inventory, it is also recommended to constitute a national task team. The task team will be constituted by the National Coordinator, representatives of utilities, and representatives of relevant ministries.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>For Egypt and Albania the team will be completed with representatives of utilities when it will start the inventory of PCB in November/December 2013</p>	<p>Fully implemented in Turkey, Bosnia Herzegovina and partly Albania and Egypt. Work is ongoing</p>	<p>End of 2013</p>	<p>UNEP/MAP MEDPOL</p>
<p>4.7 Given the delays that this sub-component has suffered and the severe time constraint, it is recommended that these reviews (activity 2.3.1) are cancelled. However, it is strongly recommended that practical guidelines for lifecycle ESM of PCBs to be developed and put into practice in utilities. It is recommended that customs are also aware of these guidelines</p>	<p>NO</p>	<p>At this stage it is planned to continue this activity and adjust it according to the quantity (Tons) of PCB available. Countries will be supported to prepare and/or update their PCB phase out plans. Training activities for capacity building have been postponed with the view to better link and coordinate them with other MEDPOL related issues (inventory, phasing out, storage and disposal). Agendas for the 4 national workshops defined together with the countries</p>		<p>End of 2014</p>	<p>UNEP/MAP MEDPOL and MedPartnership</p>
<p>4.8 It is recommended that realistic target values for PCB destruction for all the countries including the new ones be discussed and agreed upon. It is not likely that this new figure be more than 500 tons as compared to the 870 tons planned in project document.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Funds allocated for the disposal of the PCB constitute an important and relevant part of the total project budget; therefore the need to finalize the inventories of the PCB is of critical importance to the remaining duration of the project. By the end of December 2013 inventories and amount of PCB to be destroyed finalized and defined (developed by countries following their analysis</p>		<p>February 2014</p>	<p>UNEP/MAP MEDPOL and MedPartnership</p>

		<p>performed using the PCB analyzer provided by the project)</p> <p>If final inventory will be really low, additional consultation with countries will be going on in after January to see if there are requests for additional PCB disposal.</p> <p>If in March 2014 (first revision under the clawing back mechanism), the total quantity of PCB will be lower than the original target, remaining allocated funds for this activity will be reallocated based on the scenarios analysis provided to the SG (recommendations 1 and 2).</p>			
<p>4.9 Given the severe time constraint, in countries where PCB inventories have not started 12 months before closure of the project, it is recommended inventories in those countries be cancelled. For these countries, only the amount of PCBs already identified will be exported for destruction. In the other countries, inventory activities should stop 12 months before closing date of the project even if PCB target values have not been reached.</p>	PARTLY	<p>Inventory is very important especially after that the countries realized the importance of such activities. The countries showed the intention to undertake a very precise inventory.</p> <p>The inventory for PCB disposal purposes will be finalized in January 2014, more than 12 months before project closure and before the next SG meeting in order to be presented.</p> <p>This inventory will define the exact quantity of PCB to be dispose within the framework of the project</p> <p>This strategy does not prevent the countries to further elaborate PCB inventories for their future planning and disposal beyond the project.</p>		<p>March 2014</p>	<p>UNEP/MAP MEDPOL</p>

<p>4.10 Recycling of obsolete transformers and capacitors is common practice in many parts of the world, which is also the case in the countries where the PCB project is being run. It is therefore recommended that utilities ensure that only non PCB contaminated obsolete equipment is sold to metal recyclers. It is also recommended that identified PCB equipment should be adequately safeguarded.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Planned to be inventoried. Inventory ongoing in Turkey and Bosnia Herzegovina. Inventory to start soon in Egypt. Recent contact with these countries shows that we have around 500 tons of PCB ready to be disposed.</p>	<p>Negotiations and awareness campaigns in the Countries</p>	<p>2014</p>	<p>UNEP/MAP MEDPOL</p>
<p>4.11 A significant amount work remains to be undertaken for this component that include: ESM practical guidelines development and its implementation, capacity building for ESM, PCB inventories, development of phase out plans, identification of temporary storage site, inventory exercise, phase out, transport and storage of PCBs, procedures to export PCBs for destruction, etc. It is recommended that an extension of one year be granted to this sub-component to allow for completion activities.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Draft guidelines under preparation by CP/RAC and MEDPOL to be delivered in 2014</p> <p>All the work under this component will be developed in 2014 and 2015 using the three months revision and “clawing back” mechanism as a tool to track the implementation rate of the activities (and eventually reallocating resources if the components is not meeting the defined targets).</p> <p>Coherently with the MTE recommendation, the proposal to extend the MedPartnership until the end of 2015 is partially related with this point. There are other activities under the project (such as the replication strategy), which will require the co-executing partners working on ground until the first half 2015</p>		<p>2014</p>	<p>UNEP/MAP MEDPOL and MedPartnership</p>

<p>4.12 Besides cross-contamination, importation is the other source by which the load of PCBs in a given country can be increased, as PCBs have never been produced in the participating countries. It is recommended that the capacity of customs be built for ESM of PCBs for adequate control on importation of products and thus preventing importation of PCB.</p>	<p>YES?</p>	<p>It is planned to organize a workshop with custom authorities and environmental inspectors to address not only PCB but other HW coherently with the Basel and Barcelona Convention HW protocol.</p> <p>The workshop will be co- funded by MTF and will be organized in cooperation with Basel Convention</p>		<p>early 2015</p>	<p>UNEP/MAP MEDPOL</p>
<p>Recommendation 5 The PMU should organize and prepare a discussion session on national coordination mechanisms at the May 2013 SC and Mid-Term Stocktaking Meeting. The aims of the session should be two-fold i) to agree on how best to use the funding for country support programmes to promote project coherence, lesson sharing, ownership and scaling up at national level and ii) to agree on ground rules for informing or consulting national focal points in all project activities conducted within their countries. In addition the focal points should take responsibility for consulting and communicating with national stakeholders and project actors before and after the annual SC meetings. The PMU should aim to complete agreements with national focal point institutions by the end of June 2013.</p>	<p>PARTLY</p>	<p>Whilst the establishment of interministerial committees has been discussed during the 1st and 2nd SC meetings with countries, and funds were allocated to support this, there has been a slow response from participating countries to request these funds and establish their committees (only Montenegro and Croatia so far). It is clear that additional support and guidance needs to be provided to ensure both strong national coordination, and to provide a platform whereby recommendations can be provided to the key ministries to ensure sustainable management of the marine and coast and integration of reforms to national planning. The issue of interministerial committees and national level coordination will be high on the agenda of the Steering Committee to be held in February 2014. A number of actions will be taken between Dec 2013 and March 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Develop ToRs/guidance for all Focal Points, to ensure that regular coordination meetings are held, and 		<p>March 2014</p>	

		<p>day to day communication is held with all national experts working on the project. This will be presented and adopted at the next SC meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> II. Develop a common database of all national experts involved in the project III. National reports on the status of interministerial coordination for marine and coastal planning to be undertaken in 2014, including gaps and recommendations; IV. PMU to participate in majority of national coordination/interministerial committee meetings in 2014. V. Agreements to be signed with all countries for interministerial coordination by mid 2014. If some agreement will not be sign by this deadline available funds will be reallocated to other activities according to the scenarios presented to the SG (see recommendations 1 and 2) 			
<p>Recommendation 6 It is recommended that each of the co-executing partners should produce a full annual report in the first quarter of each calendar year based on the standard GEF template for annual and half yearly reports, as input for the published annual report</p>	<p>PARTLY</p>	<p>The partners will bring their contribution for the 2013 project report at the CG meeting (Athens, 26-27 of November 2013). This will allow the PMU to have a complete and detailed picture of the implementing status of each activity.</p>	<p>Negotiations started with the co-executing partners in light o the Cg meeting with the goal to approve the six-month target expenditure tracking mechanism.</p>	<p>End of 2013</p>	<p>Project Manager and PMU. (UNEP-MAP) Co-executing</p>

<p>and annual CG meeting. Where there are specific concerns about progress the co-executing agency should provide brief quarterly updates on steps being taken to resolve the situation until such a time as the issue is considered resolved. In addition all outputs such as meeting and technical reports that are attributable to the project should be shared with the PMU in a timely manner.</p>		<p>After the CG group, with the three-months target for the activities/expenditure rate operative, the co-executing partners will have to report on their activities every three months having the first two important milestones in march and June 2014.</p> <p>This reporting mechanism will allows the PMU to have a complete and detailed control on the progress made by the co-executing partners.</p>			<p>partners</p>
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