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90th 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

Teleconference, 12-13 November 2020

Agenda Item 5: Specific Issues

Report by the Secretariat on Specific Issues

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A. Status of Ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

1. Tables 1 and 2 reflect the status of ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as checked on 28 September 2020 against the link provided for this purpose by the Depository (<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Portal/es/PoliticaExteriorCooperacion/Tratados/Nuevo/Paginas/mediterraneo.aspx>).

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;
8 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;
17 Contracting Parties have ratified the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, 2002;
12 Contracting Parties have ratified the ICZM Protocol, 2008.

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

<i>Contracting Parties</i>																							
	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																							
Dumping Protocol																							
and Amendments																							
Emergency Protocol																							
Prevention and Emergency Protocol																							
LBS Protocol																							
and Amendments																							
SPA Protocol																							
SPA and Biodiversity Protocol																							
Offshore Protocol																							
Hazardous Wastes Protocol																							
ICZM Protocol																							

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

2. The latest submission is dated 10 April 2019 and corresponds to the deposit of the instrument of accession by Malta to the ICZM Protocol, which entered into force for Malta on 10 May 2019. In order to increase ratification rates, the Secretariat will continue, in cooperation with MAP components, its efforts in identifying and carrying out the most effective initiatives supporting ratification, where appropriate and taking into account available resources. Online or face-to-face bilateral meetings with

Contracting Parties will be used, seeking national opportunities for outstanding ratifications, to the extent possible taking into account limitations posed due to the measures to contain COVID-19. At planned meetings, in particular MAP Components meetings, opportunities are being explored to enhance the exchange of best practices and experiences of ratifying and implementing the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. The new UNEP/MAP website <https://www.unenvironment.org/unepmap/> exemplifies the effort in raising the profile of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, as an avenue to encourage ratification.

3. 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 liaise with the Secretariat to facilitate coordination towards ratification of the relevant legal instruments;

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

B. Compliance and Reporting

Reporting

4. At COP 21 (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019), Contracting Parties adopted Decision IG.24/1 entitled “Compliance Committee”, making a strong call to Contracting Parties to finalize the submission of their reports for the biennium 2016-2017 as soon as possible but before December 2019 and also to proceed with the submission of their 2018-2019 reports by December 2020.

5. Follow-up action undertaken by the Secretariat with the aim to increase the reporting rate of national implementation reports under Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention included (a) a letter dated 29 May 2020, from the Coordinator to MAP Focal Points on the timely and quality reporting, providing general guidance to support the reporting process and introducing the steps taken to streamline the online Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS) and simplify report completion, (b) follow-up with Contracting Parties on an individual basis to boost reporting, and (c) continued support from the Secretariat and INFO/RAC to Contracting Parties on the use of the on-line BCRS.

6. As of 28 September 2020, the status of reporting can be summarized as follows: (a) as to the 2012-2013 and 2014-2015 biennia, the Secretariat continues working with Libya and Syria for them to submit their outstanding national implementation reports step-by-step and as soon as possible, (b) for the biennium 2016-2017, a total of 17 Contracting Parties have submitted their national implementation reports, and (c) for the biennium 2018-2019, no national implementation reports have been submitted yet.

Compliance

7. The 16th Meeting of the Compliance Committee of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols was held on 16-18 June 2020, by teleconference. The meeting covered a wide range of issues including the testing results of the criteria of submission, timelines, completeness and implementation against a set of 2016-2017 national implementation reports; the follow-up on a previous Communication to the Compliance Committee under Paragraph 23.bis of the Procedures and Mechanisms on Compliance; as well as the effective functioning of the Compliance Committee. The Compliance Committee requested to have a resumed session of the 16th Meeting of the Compliance Committee before the end of 2020. The meeting also agreed to establish a channel of communication with the Bureau and MAP Focal Points for the Compliance Committee to gather feedback on the follow-up of its recommendations.

8. In addition, a representative of the Compliance Committee of the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) participated in the meeting and made a presentation, as part of the exchanges of good practices and dialogues with other Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) compliance procedures and mechanisms.

9. Following-up on the conclusions of the 16th Meeting of the Compliance Committee, the two established sub-groups on Rules of Procedure and on Procedures and Mechanisms of the Compliance Committee have met three times intersessionally, with the support of the Secretariat and under agreed Terms of Reference. Intermediate deliverables are expected to be tabled at the resumed session of the

16th Meeting of the Compliance Committee, where discussion is also expected to take place on how to gather input from the Bureau and MAP Focal Points on the follow-up of the Committee's recommendations to the COP.

10. 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, 2014–2015 and/or 2016-2017 without further delay;

(b) The Bureau encourages Contracting Parties to submit their national implementation reports for the biennium 2018-2019 within the agreed deadline of December 2020, following the general guidance given in order to enhance timeliness and completeness in reporting; and

(c) The Bureau expresses appreciation for the work of the Compliance Committee.

C. Possible Impacts of COVID-19 and Proposed Responses by the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention System

11. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretariat launched in spring 2020 a reflection process on the possible impacts of COVID-19 on the work of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system and on the need for coordinated, consistent and systematic response to the emerging challenges, in coordination with all MAP Components.

12. In line with UNEP's "Working with the environment to protect people: Covid-19 Response" main building blocks, a Blueprint on UNEP/MAP Strategic response to the COVID-19 crisis was prepared focusing on key issues and priorities of relevance to the mandate of UNEP/MAP. The Blueprint, which was shared with the Contracting Parties and MAP Partners in June 2020, explores the ways in which the global pandemic is likely to exacerbate a number of environmental challenges in the Mediterranean, including marine litter and hazardous waste, by adding new issues that the region must be prepared to tackle. This blueprint aims at serving as a basis for collective thinking and action to ensure an agile and adequate response within the thematic framework of the UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention system.

13. Building on the Blueprint findings, an additional document was prepared in coordination with MAP Components, assessing the potential impacts on the implementation of the PoW 2020-2021, due to restrictions in holding physical meetings, delays in recruitment processes, etc., and identifying activities that may need to be slightly redirected in order to address the expected emerging or exacerbated pressures on the marine and coastal environment due to COVID-19 (Information Document UNEP/MED BUR.90/Inf.6). A list of additional activities related to COVID-19 has also been defined that could be potentially implemented using savings that may be generated through travel restrictions and meetings held through virtual means, or through external resources to be mobilized.

14. COVID-19 impacts on the implementation of PoW activities has been set as a standing agenda item in the meetings of the ECP. According to the discussions of the last 43rd ECP meeting (28-29 September 2020), although some delays may occur due to the COVID-19 situation, no major risks are foreseen at the moment for the implementation of PoW activities and budget delivery. An analysis of potential impacts of extension of travel and physical meeting restrictions in two scenarios (January 2021/April 2021) is under preparation. A proposal is under elaboration at this stage, for a possible use of funds allocated for travel purposes. The 2020 savings coming from the Secretariat and MAP Components teams travel may be used to strengthen the MAP internal communication for investing in building the necessary infrastructure for online meetings of the ECP and other small technical meetings which do not require interpretation in other MAP languages. Such an investment would offer an opportunity for sustainable internal communication infrastructure of the entire system.

15. The Secretariat has initiated a series of communication and advocacy activities focusing on "building back greener" in the context of the recovery from COVID-19. The term "green renaissance" was coined as part of this effort and appeared prominently in advocacy products, as described below in section H of this document. The same message has consistently been conveyed in the Ocean Day and Coast Day messages by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator. This effort was accompanied by communications on social media, while a web feature entitled "six ways in which the UNEP/MAP system can support a green renaissance in the Mediterranean" reaffirmed the system's relevance and ability to support

Contracting Parties in building back greener, in addition to other strands linked to the strategic response to COVID-19.

16. Proposed Recommendations:

(a) The Bureau welcomes the work and proactive response by the Secretariat regarding the possible Impacts of COVID-19 and asks the Secretariat to continue working in this direction and to further inform the Bureau at its 91st Meeting;

(b) The Bureau welcomes the proposal of the Secretariat for using the unspent staff travel balance for investing on the necessary infrastructures at the Coordinating Unit and the RACs to improve the internal MAP communication platform.

D. Evaluation of the 2016-2021 Medium-Term Strategy and Preparation of the 2022-2027 Medium-Term Strategy

17. The Secretariat has progressed in the processes of the evaluation of the current MTS and the preparation of the new MTS in line with Decision IG.24/2 (COP 21, Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019) and in close cooperation with the MAP components. More specifically, following the conclusions of the 89th Bureau Meeting (teleconference, 22-23 April 2020), the Secretariat sent on 2 June 2020 a letter to MAP Focal Points inviting them to participate or appoint their representatives to the Open-Ended Working Group on the preparation of the new MTS. With the same letter, the Coordinator disseminated to Contracting Parties a Note with an explanation of the expected roles and relations of the different structures involved in the preparation of the new MTS (i.e. Bureau, Steering Committee, OEWG, and MAP Focal Points) and a revised timeline of actions. Nine Contracting Parties responded to the letter with specific nominations. Furthermore, two consultants were recruited and started working, one for the independent evaluation of the implementation of the UNEP/MAP MTS 2016-2021 (starting May 2020), and one to support the Secretariat with the preparation of the UNEP/MAP MTS 2022-2027 (starting April 2020).

18. On 23 July 2020, the Coordinator informed the MAP Focal Points through a letter on the hiring of a consultant for the independent evaluation of the implementation of the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy 2016-2021, and highlighted the importance of Contracting Parties providing feedback to this process through a written, online, questionnaire and/or through focused interviews. The consultant proceeded with the publication and dissemination of the online questionnaire in August 2020, in both English and French. The deadline of responding to the questionnaire was extended to mid-September 2020, so as to allow for more responses to be received. Eight Contracting Parties and 14 partners responded to the online questionnaire. The questionnaire will be followed by the organization of bilateral interviews with Contracting Parties and key partners, as well as with MAP Components. Based on the questionnaire and the desk review of international / regional evolutions of the last 5 years related to the implementation of the MTS, the consultant has prepared a document on the status of implementation, with the main findings from the consultation and the desk review as well as a very first analysis of these findings, presented in Annex I to this report.

19. In relation to the preparation of the new MTS work has progressed well since the last meeting of the Bureau. Three working meetings of the ECP took place in this period: ECP 41 (teleconference, 19-20 May 2020); ECP 42 (teleconference, 8-9 July 2020), and; ECP 43 (teleconference, 28-29 September 2020). All three ECP meetings had the preparation of the new MTS as a main agenda item. Detailed information is available in the reports of the 41st and 42nd Meetings of the ECP (document UNEP/MED BUR.90/Inf.4), while the Report of 43rd meeting is currently under preparation.

20. ECP 41 discussed the structure and main elements of the new MTS and decided that another round of discussions would be required, as part of an ECP meeting dedicated to the MTS, to work on the initial building blocks of the new MTS. To this end, a Concept Note was prepared in June 2020 by the Secretariat with questions for MAP Components to provide analytical inputs on the main priorities of the new MTS.

21. ECP 42 reviewed the inputs prepared by each MAP Component - including proposed core products of the new MTS- and the mapping exercise regarding regional and global relevant processes (strategic documents of major organizations, including the new UNEP MTS). The meeting included an integrative discussion on the major building blocks under which the core products can be distributed.

The meeting agreed for a template (matrix) with the list of building blocks to be prepared and populated with the core products online by all MAP Components, and then for this matrix to be further elaborated, together with a first draft of the narrative part of the new MTS.

22. During the summer of 2020, the matrix was populated through several iterations, resulting in a document with seven main building blocks/programmes and with the core products proposed by the MAP Components further elaborated and distributed under these seven building blocks. The Secretariat examined structures used by other MEAs and relevant organizations. The concept of the MTS of UNEP to call the building blocks as “programmes” and to identify three categories, i.e. thematic, foundational and enabling programmes, was adopted by the Secretariat and MAP Components as a proposal to be submitted to the Contracting Parties. The proposed structure of the new MTS, the main building blocks and key potential products, as well as a very first draft of objectives and main directions under each building block, were reviewed by ECP 43. Work continued between the Secretariat and MAP Components after ECP 43 for the finalization of the MTS structure, programmes, objectives and key outcomes for submission to the 1st Meeting of the MTS Steering Committee and the 90th Bureau meeting (back-to back, 10-11 and 12-13 November 2020, respectively). This draft populated MTS structure is presented in Annex II to the present document. The document will be complemented by the outcome of the 1st Meeting of the MTS Steering Committee (teleconference, 10-11 November 2020) that will be submitted to the Bureau meeting. The indicative main products are presented in document UNEP/MED BUR.90/Inf.7.

23. Finally, the Secretariat has started the work for preparing TORs for an assignment to support the systemic analysis and assessment of the required capacity and operational costs to deliver the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027, following up to Decisions IG.24/2 and IG.24/14. The TORs were being signed and published in INSPIRA at the period of finalizing the present document.

24. Proposed Recommendations:

- (a) The Bureau notes with appreciation the progress in the preparation of the new MTS and welcomes the draft document presented by the chair of the Steering Committee. The Bureau requests the Steering Committee, with support from the Secretariat, to continue the preparation of the new MTS as per the approved timeline, and taking into account the comments and suggestions received during the 90th Bureau meeting;**
- (b) The Bureau takes note of the progress in the evaluation of the current MTS and asks the Contracting Parties to provide all the necessary information to the consultant undertaking the independent evaluation of the MTS. The Bureau requests the Secretariat to ensure the timely finalization of the draft evaluation report for submission to the first MAP Focal Points Meeting of the 2020-2021 biennium.**

E. Major Processes:

- 2023 MED QSR

25. The Contracting Parties through Decision IG.24/4 (COP 21, Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019), endorsed the 2023 MED QSR roadmap and needs assessment. They requested the Secretariat to further define in 2020, together with the Contracting Parties and CORMONs, concrete requirements and deadlines of output delivery at the level of common indicators per each Contracting Party in order to ensure effective data collection and to address knowledge gaps for the preparation of the 2023 MED QSR. The main focus of work of the Secretariat in 2020 has been to plan and initiate the concrete operationalization of the Roadmap, building on an analysis of requirements and gaps, as well as through the definition of specific timelines for each key 2023 MED QSR process and output, in line with available capacities and resources.

26. In June 2020, through a letter addressed to the ECAP Coordination Group members, the Secretariat requested the nomination of national IMAP users in each country that will be responsible to upload, validate and officially release monitoring data related to IMAP common indicators. This process is ongoing in consultation with the relevant MAP Components. With the same letter, the call for data submission to the IMAP Info System for the supported common indicators, to be completed by September 2020 for available monitoring data and by January 2021 for new 2020 monitoring data was also launched. Most Contracting Parties have nominated their IMAP users. In a number of Contracting

Parties, the users are identified but are pending formal approval, while some have not yet responded to the call. Submission of available data to the IMAP InfoSystem is not yet completed, while for data uploaded in the pilot phase of IMAP InfoSystem, validation from the participating Contracting Parties is required before a formal re-uploading of data. To resolve this issue, testing data will be re-uploaded, with a clear mark to avoid confusion, and validation will be asked from the Contracting Parties which participated to the pilot phase, through a letter.

27. A report on the status of implementation of the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap is under finalization and will be submitted for review by the Integrated CORMON Meeting (1-3 December 2020, TBC), including information on progress in the implementation of the Roadmap's main processes; linkages between the Roadmap's milestones and activities of the UNEP/MAP PoW 2020-2021 and relevant EU-funded Projects, namely IMAP MPA, ECAP MED III and Marine Litter MED II; a gap and needs analysis at the level of IMAP common indicators, including an analysis of the level of maturity and status of common indicators and their support through the IMAP Info System.

28. In addition to the above, the Secretariat worked to address several recommendations made by the Contracting Parties at the 7th Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group. This included a draft analysis of the status and needs in relation to the implementation of national IMAP-based monitoring programmes for each indicator in a number of countries, which is expected to be completed for all countries through information to be provided during the Integrated CORMON meeting in December 2020; the completion of a comparative analysis between IMAP and MSFD implementation to ensure the compatibility of reporting for Contracting Parties which are EU Member States; the development of an issue paper for the 2023 MED QSR development approach and structure, for review by the Integrated CORMON meeting in December 2020; and provisions to support further work on the scales of assessment and assessment criteria.

29. The implementation of the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap processes and milestones is expected to be significantly supported through the implementation of the EU-funded IMAP MPA project, and the ECAP MED III and Marine Litter II projects, recently approved by the European Commission, while the MedProgramme Child Project 1.1 is also expected to partly contribute to EcAp and IMAP implementation, in particular to the components related to offshore IMAP monitoring and Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis elaboration as well as to knowledge management

30. More detailed information on the status of implementation of the 2023 MED QSR is provided in Annex III, in line with the conclusions of the 89th Bureau meeting.

- MED SO_x ECA

31. The Contracting Parties, with Decision IG.24/8 (COP 21, Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019) "*Adopt[ed] the road map for a proposal for the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an emission control area for sulphur oxides pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI, within the framework of the Barcelona Convention...*" and agreed on concrete steps for "*the development of a mutually agreed joint and coordinated proposal for the possible designation by the IMO of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for sulphur oxides pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI.*".

32. To this end, REMPEC prepared, in consultation with the Secretariat, IMO, Plan Bleu/RAC and MED POL, a plan for the implementation of Decision IG.24/8, defining roles and responsibilities, identifying challenges and opportunities, as well as agreeing on the process related to the drafting of the required knowledge gathering and further studies. REMPEC, MED POL and Plan Bleu/RAC launched a joint Call for Expressions of Interest to provide consultancy services for the implementation of the road map in April 2020, and drafted the necessary Terms of References related to the: (a) draft submission to the IMO (LOT 1); (b) land-based emission control measures of SO_x and PM in the Mediterranean coastal States (LOT 2); (c) additional analyses of fuel supply and alternative compliance methods (LOT 3), and; (d) additional economic impact evaluation (LOT 4).

33. The knowledge gathering and further studies are currently being carried out in accordance with the Terms of Reference that were reviewed by the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) sulfur oxides (SO_x) Emission Control Area (ECA)(s) Technical Committee of Experts, composed of representatives from all 22 Contracting Parties, which is tasked with overseeing the completion of the knowledge gathering and the preparation of the further studies, following the launch of the related tenders by

REMPEC and Plan Bleu/RAC in June/July 2020. The Secretariat has also been in contact with potential donors to mobilize the necessary resources for the full implementation of Decision IG.24/8.

34. REMPEC submitted an information document related to the adoption of Decision IG.24/8 to the IMO Secretariat in view of the 75th session of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC). Considering that MEPC 75 was postponed and will be held remotely in November 2020 due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the document will be updated with the progress made on the implementation of Decision IG.24/8 and published ahead of the 76th session of the IMO's MEPC, to be held in 2021.

35. An ad-hoc inter-ministerial meeting, attended by the Secretariat and REMPEC, was held with the Tunisian competent authorities (Tunis, Tunisia, 11 March 2020) to address Decision IG.24/8. Considering the uncertainty surrounding the travel restrictions and bans applied across the region due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Workshops on Ratification and Effective Implementation of Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) for Lebanon (originally scheduled in Beirut, Lebanon, on 17-18 March 2020), Algeria and Egypt will be held remotely before the end of 2020, subject to the confirmation of the dates and of the participation of relevant stakeholders by the relevant competent authorities.

- Mid-Term Evaluation of the MSSD and of the SCP Action Plan

36. The Contracting Parties, with Decision IG.24/3 (COP 21, Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019), "*Request[ed] the Secretariat to undertake the mid-term evaluation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025;*" and "*Also request the Secretariat to undertake the mid-term evaluation of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean;*". The two processes are conducted in parallel, with the mid-term evaluation of the SCP Regional Action Plan feeding the mid-term evaluation of the MSSD under its Objective 5 "Transition towards a green and blue economy". The outputs of these evaluations are also expected to inform the preparation of the UNEP/MAP MTS 2022-2027. Based on a concept note on the mid-term evaluations of the MSSD and SCP Regional Action Plan, the Secretariat has prepared specific Terms of Reference for the assignment; two consultants were hired, and the work is proceeding according to timeline, through a converging approach, with a common launch, consolidated results, and strong coordination along the way.

37. Within the context of Decision IG.24/3 (COP 21, Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019), Plan Bleu/RAC will also produce in 2021 an updated populated version of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard for monitoring the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025. This version will present more recent and comprehensive data, aligned with the SDG indicators, and integrate SCP Indicators. Mobilization of the Contracting Parties to improve dashboard coverage and population has started during the second semester of 2020. Planned activities include a workshop to exchange good practices on monitoring SDG 14 (initially planned for 14 October 2020, and tentatively postponed to March 2021). The populated dashboard will feed in the mid-term evaluation of the MSSD 2016-2025.

- MedECC Assessment Report (MAR1)

38. The Contracting Parties, with Decision IG.24/4 (COP 21, Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019), "*Approve[d] the elements of the Roadmap for the Consultation of Decision-Makers and Stakeholders on the First Assessment Report on the Current State and Risks of Climate and Environmental Changes in the Mediterranean (MAR 1)....;*". To implement the decision, the consultation of decision-makers and stakeholders on the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) of MAR1 was launched in April 2020, and until 30 June, through a joint letter from the Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the MAP Coordinator. The consultation process was managed by the MedECC Scientific Secretariat, the UfM Secretariat, and Plan Bleu/RAC. The full MAR1 report was also shared as a supporting document. As a result of this consultation, the MedECC Secretariat received completed sheets with comments from 21 governments, decision-makers, stakeholders and partners. In total the MedECC Secretariat received 453 comments on SPM (268 on the substance and 185 editorial comments) and 196 comments on MAR1. The comments from this review were analyzed and the SPM has been modified accordingly.

39. The revised SPM was discussed during the plenary consultation, which was held online, on 22 September 2020. The main aim of the plenary consultation was to ascertain that MAR1 findings, as presented in the SPM, are fully comprehensible and unambiguous and that the remarks from the online consultation were well integrated. This meeting gathered more than 100 participants, including representatives from 15 Contracting Parties. The agreed changes have been implemented in the SPM, which should no longer be changed (except for editorial and technical modifications).

40. The MAR1 full report will be made available by November 2020 (even if minor improvements could still be brought after this date). It will be presented and discussed in a dedicated side event during the science-policy conference organized online (and not in Marseille, France, as initially planned) on 16-18 November 2020. In line with the Activity 1.4.1.2 of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-2021, the summary for policymakers and the MAR1 full report will be submitted to COP 22, where they may also support other decisions by the Contracting Parties, including the UNEP/MAP MTS 2022-2027, whose climate change-related dimensions will be informed and supported by MAR1.

- MED 2050 Foresight Study

41. The Contracting Parties, with Decision IG.24/4 (COP 21, Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019), “*Endorse[ed] the proposed revised roadmap for the MED 2050 foresight study...., and request[ed] the Secretariat to implement the proposed roadmap;*”; moreover, they “*Encourage[d] the Contracting Parties to participate in the phase II of MED 2050 foresight study, organise on a voluntary basis national or sub-regional workshops, and nominate relevant experts or interested national stakeholders including youth representatives to contribute to the study;*”. The second phase of the preparation of the MED 2050 Foresight Study is under implementation as decided at COP 21. As part of the science-policy approach, two partnerships with political science doctoral programmes have been under consideration: the first one is finalized, for a MED 2050 dedicated PhD thesis (September 2020-2022); the second one is under consideration, for a post PhD research position (January 2022 – December 2022).

42. The first foresight group meeting took place on 6 May 2020 through teleconference. The second foresight group meeting is taking place, also virtually, on 13 – 14 October 2020, on the basis of the results of a preliminary questionnaire sent in advance to the participants. The first “comité d’orientation” meeting is tentatively planned for late 2020. An invitation letter is to be sent in advance, inviting volunteer Contracting Parties to nominate representatives to this Committee. Both groups are constituted to be representative and diverse in terms of background and expertise. Following Decision IG.24/4, Plan Bleu/RAC is considering to organize with local institutions, on a voluntary basis, local foresight workshops. A partnership agreement should be concluded by the end 2020 with Région Sud to conduct a pilot exercise in South-East France.

43. Three publications on long term trends are currently finalized: (i) a publication on demographic trends (200 pages; and summary, both published in October 2020); (ii) a publication comparing the projected trends as in the 2005 Plan Bleu/RAC foresight report and the actual trends, published in October 2020, and; (iii) a dashboard of long-term trends, to be published by end 2020. A consultation on trends and weak signals is also under preparation. The first edition of the MED 2050 newsletter, including interviews by interested stakeholders, is being disseminated through the MED 2050 network at the end of October 2020. The dedicated website <http://www.med2050.org> is also being launched at the same period.

- SAP BIO, including Links with the post-2020 CBD Process

44. Regarding the implementation of Decision IG.24/7 (COP 21, Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019) on the preparation of the “*Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region*” (*Post-2020 SAP BIO*), SPA/RAC carries out a bottom-up participatory process at national level in the Mediterranean countries to identify their needs and priorities. Based on the diagnosis made at national level, SPA/RAC will identify the sub-regional priorities and orientations, in order to develop the draft document of the Post-2020 SAP BIO.

45. In this framework, the Advisory Committee established for the first SAP BIO following COP 13 (Catania, Italy, 11-14 November 2003) has been updated in view of the preparation of the Post-2020

SAP BIO, by adding the MAP components as well as relevant Mediterranean bodies, in consultation with the SPA/BD Focal Points.

46. Overall, the activities to be undertaken for the elaboration of the Post-2020 SAP BIO, in accordance with Decision IG.24/7, are being timely implemented, despite some constraints posed by the measures to contain COVID-19. The SAP BIO Advisory Committee has met once through teleconference, the elaboration of national reports has not been much delayed for most of the Contracting Parties, and planned national workshops with stakeholders to exchange on the content of national draft reports are being undertaken through webinars, most of them in September and early October 2020.

47. The timely alignment of the Post-2020 SAP BIO final document with the CBD Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework is being challenged by the delay of the Biodiversity Framework elaboration, including the final version adoption by the CBD COP 15. COP 15, after being postponed twice, has been further postponed *sine die*. The challenge of the alignment of the two processes is followed-up as an evolving situation.

- Update of Annexes to Pollution Protocols

48. The Contracting Parties, through Decision IG.24/10 (COP 21, Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019) “*Request[ed] the Secretariat to launch the formal process for updating the annexes of the LBS and Dumping Protocols for consideration at the 22nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties.*” In line with Decision IG.24/10, two working groups composed of experts designated by the Contracting Parties were established in order to review the corresponding annexes of the LBS and Dumping Protocols, and to subsequently make proposals for consideration at COP 22. To that aim, the Terms of References for the two working groups and the timeline to update the annexes of the LBS and Dumping Protocols were prepared and endorsed by the Bureau. The Secretariat requested the Contracting Parties to nominate experts for addressing each of the LBS and Dumping Protocols. To date, 17 nominations of designated experts have been received from Contracting Parties. Work is under way for reviewing and amending the identified aspects requiring updates in these annexes, as outlined in Document UNEP/MED WG.473/5/Rev.1. Work progress is in accordance with the timeline approved by the Bureau.

49. The First Meeting of the Contracting Parties’ designated working group of experts for updating the annexes of the LBS Protocol will convene virtually on 11 December 2020. The First Meeting of the working group of experts to review the update of the annex of the Dumping Protocol will take place in February 2021. Both meetings will discuss proposed updates and provide feedback for further elaboration prior to submission to the MED POL Focal Points Meeting in May 2021.

- Regional Pollution Plans

50. The Contracting Parties, through Decision IG.24/10 (COP 21, Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019) “*Endorse[d] the main elements and the timeline for the development of six Regional Plans to reduce/prevent marine pollution from land-based sources.*” In line with Decision IG.24/10, two working groups of Contracting Parties’ designated experts are established to review the regional plans on urban wastewater treatment and sewage sludge management; as well as on marine litter management, with the aim to submit final drafts to COP 22. The Terms of References for the two working groups and the timeline to upgrade/develop the three regional plans were prepared and endorsed by the Bureau. The Secretariat asked the Contracting Parties to nominate experts to the two working groups; to date, 17 nominations of designated experts have been received from Contracting Parties. Work is underway for developing the two regional plans on urban wastewater treatment and sewage sludge management and for updating the marine litter regional plan, in order to present initial drafts for further discussions by the respective working groups. Work progress is in accordance with the Bureau approved timeline.

51. The First Meeting of the Contracting Parties’ designated working group of experts for developing the two regional plans on urban wastewater treatment and sewage sludge management is planned to be held online on 9 and 10 December 2020, respectively. The First Meeting of the corresponding working group of experts to review the updates of the marine litter regional plan will take place in early March 2021. Both meetings will discuss proposed updates and provide feedback for further elaboration in the Second Meeting of the two Working Groups Meeting, planned to be held at the end of May 2021, back-to-back with the MED POL Focal Points Meeting.

- Other processes

(a) Data Management Policy

52. In relation to the preparation of the UNEP/MAP Data Management Policy, following Decision IG.24/2 (COP 21, Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019), INFO/RAC has developed a questionnaire to collect basic information on possible existing policies at Contracting Party level. The questionnaire, distributed during September 2020, will also facilitate the bilateral discussions with Contracting Parties planned for the period October 2020 – February 2021. The information collected through the questionnaire will pave the way to draw up a priority list of bilateral meetings. Priority will be given to the Contracting Parties which are not EU Member States, since for Contracting Parties which are EU Member States there is already a general agreement on data policy based on the relevant EU regulation. For this group of Contracting Parties, a common approach will be followed.

53. Due to delays related to the COVID-19 pandemic, most of the bilateral meetings will be organized from October 2020 to December 2020, to fill the first version of the data policy matrix table for each of the official data streams. Elements coming from previous discussions on the common level of aggregation already conducted with some INFO/RAC Focal Points, the preliminary results of the questionnaire, and the outputs of the bilateral meetings with the first group of Contracting Parties, will allow the release of a first draft document by the end of 2020. The draft Data Management Policy will be enriched with the results from the remaining Contracting Parties within the first semester of 2021 and will be presented to the INFO/RAC Focal Points Meeting, planned for 8-9 June 2020. It is important that Contracting Parties actively participate in the data policy definition process, with the overall aim to achieve the essential knowledge basis for the Mediterranean.

(b) Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) and its Action Plan

54. As mandated by Decision IG.24/14 (i.e. “1.1.2.8. Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (post 2021), ecosystem approach based and aligned with relevant SDG prepared for submission to meetings of REMPEC Focal Points, ECAP Coordination Group, MAP Focal Points and COP 22”), REMPEC prepared a comparative analysis of relevant strategies and action plans, National Action Plans, and fiches providing information on projects supporting the implementation of the Regional Strategy 2016-2021.

55. REMPEC submitted the First Draft Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) and its Action Plan for comments to the established Brainstorming Group, Contracting Parties and Partners. A second Draft, taking into account comments provided through the consultation process will be reviewed by the Meeting of National Experts on the Post-2021 Mediterranean Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships. The meeting, originally scheduled for October 2020, has been postponed to 10 March 2021, to allow for a further round of consultations by correspondence, and will be held as a remote event. A third version will be submitted to the REMPEC Focal Points Meeting (May 2021). This process is also contributing to the preparation of the new MTS.

(c) Update of the Mediterranean Strategy on ballast water management and invasive species

56. In accordance to Decision IG.24/14 (i.e. “3.2.1.3 (a) Mediterranean Strategy and Action Plan on Ships' Ballast Water Management updated to achieve GES”), REMPEC, in cooperation with SPA/RAC, has developed the Terms of Reference for the update of the said strategy and recruited a consultant to provide technical support to this work. A kick-off meeting was held in August, and the first batch of proposals regarding the areas of update/revision in the strategy has been identified. A webinar co-financed by the IMO Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme was conducted by REMPEC on 23 September 2020 and has contributed to the process of the update of the Strategy. REMPEC, in coordination with SPA/RAC, will start the process of the consultation among Contracting Parties on the first draft of the updated strategy at the end of October. The consultation will last five weeks and the feedback will be sought from the Focal Points of REMPEC and SPA/RAC. The second (final) draft of the updated strategy is planned to be submitted on 11 December 2020 to REMPEC and SPA/RAC for review and will eventually be submitted to the Meetings of Focal Points of REMPEC and SPA/RAC in 2021, for further consideration.

(d) Regional Measures on Green and Circular Businesses and Sustainable Products

57. With regards to Decision IG.24/13 (COP 21, Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019) on the Development of a Set of Regional Measures to Support the Development of Green and Circular Businesses and to Strengthen the Demand for more Sustainable Products, SCP/RAC prepared detailed ToRs for the recruitment of one international and three regional experts. The identification of global best practices with respect to enabling environments of policies, legal frameworks, financial mechanisms and other factors that promote green and circular economy businesses has been prepared. Baseline assessments have also been prepared for the different sub-regions with respect to enabling environments for green and circular economy businesses, and consumer demand for sustainable products. All results are being analyzed and a summary of the findings is being prepared.

58. SCP/RAC sent an official communication to the SCP/RAC Focal Points in order to request the nomination of national experts that will contribute and provide guidance for the implementation of the Decision. 19 Contracting Parties nominated experts and two Webinars (one in French and one in English) were organized to present to the experts the process for the development of the measures and their expected involvement. National experts have been working actively with the regional experts to provide them with relevant information on the situation in their countries and review the information prepared. Based on the findings of the analysis, an initial list of measures is being prepared.

59. The preparation of the set of measures is progressing according to the agreed roadmap. Small adjustments have been necessary to adapt to the current situation and working conditions during the COVID-19 Pandemic: the consultation meeting with the nominated national experts and SwitchMed Focal Points (planned for the 19th of November in Barcelona) will be replaced by an online event. For the same reason, the stakeholder's consultation meeting planned to take place in the framework of the SwitchMed Connect event (Rimini, Italy, 3-4 November 2020), back-to-back with ECOMONDO, was cancelled and will be replaced by an online consultation through the Policy Hub of the SCP/RAC Switchers Platform. A concept note is being prepared for the consultation process.

60. Proposed Recommendations:

(a) The Bureau expresses appreciation for the progress regarding the major processes implementing the relevant COP 21 Decisions, requests the Secretariat to progress in this direction, and calls upon the Contracting Parties to provide their full guidance and inputs to these important processes and effectively contribute to their successful delivery;

(b) The Bureau takes note of the progress in the designation of national IMAP users and data submission in the IMAP Info System and asks the Contracting Parties that have not yet done so to formally nominate IMAP users and submit their available data. The Bureau requests the Secretariat to re-upload data from the pilot phase of IMAP Info System, marked as testing data, and inform the concerned Contracting Parties, asking them to validate the data for formal re-uploading.

F. Host Country Agreements of RACs

61. Through Decision IG.24/2 (COP 21, Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019), Contracting Parties *“Welcome[d] the agreed set of common provisions for Host Country Agreements as presented in Annex IX of this Decision and urge the Secretariat in collaboration with the Contracting Parties hosting the MAP Regional Activity Centres to finalize the set for presentation of the minimum common provisions to COP 22 for consideration, building on the inputs provided by the Contracting Parties hosting MAP Regional Activity Centres”*. As a follow-up, a letter dated 6 April 2020 was sent to the MAP Focal Points of the Host Countries of Regional Activity Centres (RACs) of UNEP/MAP, proposing to hold a consultation meeting by teleconference to reshape and enhance the set of minimum common provisions as presented in Annex IX to Decision IG.24/2, focusing on identifying those common operational principles necessary for the UNEP/MAP RACs to continue to deliver their regional mandate effectively.

62. The meeting was held on 5 June 2020 through teleconference and was attended by the MAP Focal Points of the Host Countries of RACs, i.e. Croatia, France, Italy, Malta, Spain and Tunisia, and the Secretariat. The meeting revisited the common principles which operationalized the minimum common provisions agreed at COP 21, resulting in a revised version of the common operational principles. Furthermore, the meeting invited Host Country Governments in a position to do so, to explore the possibility to grant exemption from taxation, including VAT, in respect of property, funds

and assets acquired through the MTF and in respect of salaries paid to RACs personnel by the MTF, and report back to the next meeting.

63. Following this meeting, the revised version of the common operational principles, has undergone two rounds of comments and is currently subject to an agreement by all Host Countries of RACs. The agreed text will serve as a basis for a new online consultation meeting in autumn 2020, with the chief objective of MAP Focal Points of the Host Countries of RACs to finalize the common operational principles for submission to COP 22.

64. Proposed Recommendation:

(a) The Bureau welcomes the progress regarding the preparation of the set of minimum common provisions, and requests the Secretariat, in cooperation with the Host Countries of RACs, to finalize them for submission to COP 22.

G. Cooperation and Partners

65. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) development and submission processes of the “Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security” have been concluded. The GEF CEO endorsed the last Child project in September 2020 and now all seven Child Projects to be executed by UNEP/MAP are ready for execution. The kick-off meeting of the MedProgramme took place online, on 20 to 22 July 2020. This ambitious programme has mobilized approximately 37 million USD for the MAP-Barcelona Convention system, its partners and the GEF eligible countries in the Mediterranean (Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey). The Secretariat has developed, and is in the process of signature of all legal instruments with HQ and Partners in order to start concrete activities on the ground before the end of 2020.

66. In relation to the request to the Secretariat to continue to identify, promote and strengthen the synergies with other Secretariats in spatial-based protection and management measures for marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean Area, (Decision IG.24/2, COP 21, Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019), the UNEP/MAP Secretariat, together with SPA/RAC, organized a teleconference in June 2020 with the Secretariats of the partner organizations FAO/GFCM, ACCOBAMS and IUCN-Med. The partners agreed on the need to refine what the aim of the cooperation will be and define the common role and the scope within the next months. It was agreed that SPA/RAC would revise the draft note on the possible focus of inter-institutional collaboration, based on the discussions held during the meeting, and send it to all partners for inputs and proposals, as a basis for further work. It was also agreed that UNEP/MAP will continue facilitating the process, at least until the next meeting to take place in autumn 2020. Following the meeting, UNEP/MAP send a request to all partners to provide information on their main mandates, strategic priorities, and key activities of relevance to the process, including protection measures. The enhanced exchange of information will help understanding what each partner is doing on the spatial-based protection and management topic. Then, discussions can take place on the possibility to invite other partners, e.g. IMO, and to consider the option to involve some Contracting Parties/Member States that could be interested in leading, and/or supporting initiatives. A far-reaching goal is the possible submission of joint proposals for funding; it was noted that the joint proposal by GFCM and UNEP/MAP, recently approved by the GEF Council, is a good example. Finally, the next meeting to take place in late autumn 2020 will agree on concrete next steps and establish regular (possibly annual or biannual) meetings/exchanges with the other Secretariats.

67. Synergies and complementarities between the European Union’s Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) implementation have witnessed marked improvements, including through the close collaboration of the Secretariat with the MSFD Working Groups, and especially the Working Group on Good Environmental Status as well as the Working Group on Data, Information and Knowledge Exchange, in addition to the Technical Groups on NIS, Marine Litter, Chemicals and Noise.

68. The European Environment Agency (EEA) and UNEP/MAP concluded the final draft of the EEA-UNEP/MAP 2nd Horizon 2020 indicator-based assessment report and its Executive Summary “Horizon 2020 Synthesis.”, as a key outcome of the joint efforts by the EEA-UNEP/MAP to review and monitor progress toward a cleaner Mediterranean based on countries’ inputs and key findings of various regional projects. This process is carried out in the framework of the Union for the Mediterranean

Horizon 2020 Review and Monitoring Group and the support mechanism of the ENI SEIS II South EU funded Project. In the framework of the EEA-UNEP/MAP Joint Work Plan 2016-2021, a review of its status of implementation was completed in cooperation with EEA, showing a very satisfactory progress in key areas of the Joint Work Plan, and highlighting some actions where there is room for further cooperation. A bilateral meeting between the EEA Executive Director and UNEP/MAP Coordinator was held on 18 September 2020, reaffirming the important results from the Joint Work Plan implementation, and the willingness of both Organizations to continue their well-established cooperation, taking into account the core elements of the upcoming strategic documents under development in EEA and UNEP/MAP.

69. As follow up to the Regional Workshop “The Mediterranean Sea We Need for the Future We Want” (Venice, Italy, 21-23 January 2020) in the framework of the preparations for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030 (Decade), the strategic orientations and related initial set of actions are prepared for consideration of the Integrated Meeting of the CORMONs that will be organized from 1 to 3 December 2020. These integrated CORMONs confirm the commitment of UNEP/MAP to the objectives of the Implementation Plan of the Decade, by expanding cooperation at national, regional and/or international scales, and thus facilitating the interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary and/or cross-sectoral partnerships required for undertaking science to explore, observe, assess and deliver solutions for decision-making under the umbrella of UNEP/MAP.

70. In Spring 2020, the Secretariat was invited to provide feedback on the draft Strategy for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) and its Communication Strategy, coordinated jointly by UNEP and FAO. Inputs were provided by the Secretariat, including all MAP Components, and submitted to the UN Decade team. On 15 September 2020, the Secretariat attended the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration Webinar “Strategy Reveal and Engagement Kickstarter”, which introduced the strategy and its partner engagement opportunities. UNEP/MAP is also in contact with the Best Practices Task Force, set up by FAO, and will follow-up to discuss possible collaboration, and in particular on how UNEP/MAP best practices could be disseminated further as part of the Decade. Discussions will be organized with UNEP and FAO to identify further opportunities for collaboration.

71. UNEP/MAP is collaborating with the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Partnership (PWP) aiming to mobilize business, government, academic and civil society resources, interests and expertise to improve and promote the environmentally sound management of plastic waste at the global, regional and national levels and to prevent and minimize its generation. UNEP/MAP, through MED POL and SCP RAC, is currently actively participating in three working groups emanating from this initiative focusing on prevention, collection and transboundary movement of plastic waste and is leading the work of the PWP-PG2-Subgroup 2 concerned with plastic waste collection, recycling and other recovery, including financing and related markets. UNEP/MAP will manage the delivery of the final report for this Subgroup to be further considered in the Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Basel Convention scheduled to take place in July 2021.

72. The Secretariat is working together with the Secretariat of the Union of the Mediterranean for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) between the two Organizations, which was signed in 2013. A bilateral meeting took place on 28 May 2020 through teleconference, chaired by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator which was attended also by the Secretary General of UfMS, Mr. Nasser Kamel. The meeting reconfirmed the commitment of the two organizations to strengthen their collaboration and included specific exchanges on current activities and on the implementation of the MoU, as well as a discussion on the update of the Appendix of the MoU in order to better reflect the recent regional and global evolutions related to the environmental and sustainable development, in line with the mandates of the two organizations and in order to make use of their complementarities most effectively.

73. The Secretariat is also working together with FAO/GFCM for the update of the MoU that was signed between the two organizations, to better reflect ongoing activities and to incorporate new ones that will emanate from the joint proposal “Fisheries and Ecosystem Based Management for the Blue Economy of the Mediterranean - (FishEBM MED)” approved in May 2020 by the GEF Council. The project will mobilize an additional 2.3 million USD for the MAP-Barcelona Convention system.

74. UNEP/MAP, through MEDPOL, is implementing activities under the bilateral cooperation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) - London Convention /London Protocol (Letter of Agreement, signed on 9 October 2019) in order to develop assessment procedures for permitting dumping activities of dredged material; provide guidance to the Contracting Parties on compliance monitoring programmes under Dumping Protocol; and identify best practices with regard to national implementation of the Protocol mainstreaming regional and global good practices under the London Convention /London Protocol, HELCOM and OSPAR.

75. UNEP/ MAP is collaborating with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on the subject of Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) and related issues regarding Best Available Techniques (BAT) in industrial sectors. More specifically, UNEP/MAP is coordinating with OECD on determination techniques and best practices for estimating non-point sources; in this respect, OECD amended the mandate of its Working Group on PRTR to provide the basis on which this working group can collaborate with UNEP/MAP on these issues.

76. UNEP/MAP is in the advisory board of the Water and Environment Support (WES), a regional project designed to contribute to the implementation of an integrated approach to “pollution reduction and prevention”. The project aims to increase capacity of stakeholders in formulating and implementing the environmental and water policies. WES also supports the shift to a more sustainable consumption and production model, combats plastic pollution and marine litter, and addresses appropriate treatment of wastewater to allow for its use/reuse. WES is covering Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Libya, Palestine and Tunisia. The project governance structure includes in particular the UfM Secretariat, UNEP/MAP, the EEA and the League of Arab States.

77. UNEP/MAP is participating in the International Ocean Governance process, a stakeholder platform to support the follow-up and further development of the International Ocean Governance agenda of the EU for the future of the oceans. UNEP/MAP is currently participating in the online multi-stakeholder consultation, to enhance synergies and complementarities between the work under the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system and the work of the EU on ocean governance.

78. Following the call for new MAP Partners issued by the Secretariat during the previous biennium, and its promotion through a news item appearing in the UNEP/MAP website as well as through the email signatures of UNEP/MAP staff in summer 2020, the Secretariat has received two new applications from non-governmental organizations for accreditation as MAP Partners, namely the “Association de Recherche Environnement et Bio Innovation” (AREBI), a national NGO operating in Tunisia since 2012, and the “Mediterranean Conservation Society”, a national NGO operating in Turkey since 2012.

79. The Secretariat has reviewed the documentation submitted in line with Decision IG.19/6 on “MAP/Civil Society cooperation and partnership” and found that the organizations “Association de Recherche Environnement et Bio Innovation” (AREBI), and “Mediterranean Conservation Society” meet the criteria for such accreditation. The results of the evaluation of the applications are presented in Annex IV to the present report for the Bureau’s consideration.

80. The Secretariat recommends that the Bureau approves “Association de Recherche Environnement et Bio Innovation” (AREBI) and “Mediterranean Conservation Society” to be admitted as MAP Partners.

81. In relation to the renewal of accreditation of existing MAP Partners, a letter was sent to MAP Partners endorsed at COP 19 on 23 July 2020, reminding these organizations that they need to renew their accreditation in line with Decision IG.19/6 “Every 6 years, NGO observers ask the Secretariat to renew their accreditation”.

82. Following this letter, the Secretariat has received three applications from MAP Partners for renewal of their accreditation, as follows:

- Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (MEDASSET)
- The Association of Continuity of Generations (ACG)
- Morigenos – Slovenian Marine Mammal Society (Morigenos)

83. The Secretariat has reviewed the applications for renewal of accreditation and recommends that the Bureau approves the three organizations to be renewed as MAP partners.

84. Proposed Recommendations:

(a) The Bureau welcomes the work of the Secretariat on enhancing ocean governance and on strengthening cooperation and partnerships with global and regional organizations for joint impact on the ground;

(b) The Bureau welcomes the progress in relation to synergies with other Secretariats in spatial-based protection and management measures for marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean Area, and encourages the Secretariat to further work with the partners in the way agreed at their first meeting on an informal multilateral dialogue and collaborative work;

(c) The Bureau endorses the results of the evaluation conducted by the Secretariat of the new applications submitted by “Association de Recherche Environnement et Bio Innovation” (AREBI) and “Mediterranean Conservation Society” for accreditation as MAP Partners and requests that the Secretariat submits them to the MAP Focal Points and to COP 22 for consideration and endorsement;

(d) The Bureau endorses the proposal by the Secretariat to renew the accreditation as MAP Partners of “Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles” (MEDASSET), “The Association of Continuity of Generations” (ACG), and “Morigenos – Slovenian Marine Mammal Society” (Morigenos) following the applications submitted by these organizations, and requests that the Secretariat submits them to the MAP Focal Points and to COP 22 for consideration and endorsement.

H. Outreach, Information and Communication, including MAP visibility in major global events

85. The UNEP/MAP revamped website, including a new layout, a revised structure and new content, is online since June 2020. Incremental improvements have been made since, including the creation of web pages dedicated to “COP outcome documents”, offering visitors a handy alternative to searching decisions one by one in the main “Meeting documents” directory, which is still available. The “news” section of the website offers information and updates on the main UNEP/MAP activities, including articles prepared jointly with MAP Components. Revised pages include a comprehensive inventory of the “monitoring and assessment” products to reflect a core part of the UNEP/MAP mandate. The Secretariat is formally notifying the Contracting Parties on the launch of the revamped website in October 2020.

86. As part of the UNEP/MAP Strategic response to COVID-19, the Secretariat has initiated a series of advocacy activities focusing on the theme of “building back greener” in the context of the economic recovery from COVID-19. The phrase “green renaissance” was coined as part of this effort and appeared in advocacy products, including two op-eds signed by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator that appeared in *El País* (in the context of the 25th anniversary of the Barcelona Process) and *Euractiv* (to mark the first edition of International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies). The message on the need to invest into a more sustainable and resilient future in the Mediterranean has consistently been conveyed in UNEP/MAP messaging, including the Ocean Day message (8 June), the Coast Day message (25 September) and several other statements made by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator at regional events, including the Plenary Consultation on the draft Summary for Policymakers of the First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1) elaborated by MedECC. A web feature titled “six ways in which the UNEP/MAP system can support a green renaissance in the Mediterranean” reaffirmed the system’s relevance and ability to support Contracting Parties in building back greener.

87. Under travel restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretariat organized a digital media campaign for the celebration of Mediterranean Coast Day (25 September). With the slogan “The Mediterranean needs you. If you put a seashell to your ear, you will hear it calling” and the hashtag “#Act4Med”. The Secretariat supported the development of a campaign web page (www.info-rac.org/coastday) by PAP/RAC and INFO/RAC. The page offers a wealth of information on the state of the Med coasts and on what the public can do to help reduce the pressures being exerted on them. It also features MAP statements and other information and communication assets aimed at the public. The campaign started on 7 September with a focus on air quality in the coastal region through the celebration of the first edition of International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies. The Secretariat provided support to REMPEC and INFO/RAC in the development of a special feature web page explaining the rationale, the benefits and the timeline pertaining to the “Roadmap for a Proposal for the Possible Designation of the

Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides Pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI, within the Framework of the Barcelona Convention”. On this occasion, an op-ed signed by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator was published in Euractiv on 24 August 2020.

88. The production of the communication and media kit pertaining the State of the Environment and Development Report (SoED) by Plan Bleu/RAC is nearing completion. The assets will be ready for the launch set to take place around mid-October, when the full set of SoED publications (namely the Full report, the Summary for decision-makers and Key messages) will be ready for release. The Secretariat developed a system-wide communication plan identifying the main audience groups and optimal ways of engaging them, either through the UNEP/MAP system’s own communication channels or by harnessing the dissemination capabilities of the media and other multipliers. The Secretariat liaised with the UNEP Publications Manager and obtained the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) as per standard procedure for reports approved by UNEP’s Publishing Board.

89. The Twitter account @UNEPMPANews (followers obtained from October 2019 to 24 September 2020: 687, consisting mainly of environment and development researchers, practitioners and institutional accounts) has enabled UNEP/MAP to secure a presence in this platform where other institutions operating in the region are active. This has given a voice to UNEP/MAP and enabled consistent communication, including messages on key events and priorities. The Secretariat has produced digital content ranging from videos to digital cards carrying quotes and facts and figures with the participation of the MAP Communication Taskforce (example: <https://twitter.com/UNEPMAPNews/status/1272803386077872128>).

90. In the framework of the ENI SEIS II South Support Mechanism Project, and on the occasion of closure of the project on 21 September 2020, UNEP/MAP and the European Environment Agency (EEA) launched a communication event and press release announcing the publication of the joint EEA and UNEP/MAP report titled “Towards a cleaner Mediterranean Sea: a decade of progress.” The report provides an overview of the second H2020 assessment, complementing other Mediterranean assessments studies, notably the Plan Bleu “State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean” report (UNEP/MAP –Plan Bleu SoED, 2019/2020) and the "Mediterranean Quality Status Reports (UNEP/MAP, 2017 and forthcoming in 2023).

91. Further details on outreach, information and communication are provided in the Progress Report by the Secretariat on the Activities Carried Out for the Period April-September 2020 (document UNEP/MED BUR.90/3).

92. Proposed Recommendations:

(a) The Bureau acknowledges the marked improvement in communication, expresses appreciation for the efforts and results of the work on information and outreach, and requests the Secretariat to further progress in this direction based on the objectives of the Communication Strategy.

I. Promotion of and participation to the “30by30 Initiative” of the Global Ocean Alliance

93. The 30by30 initiative of the Global Ocean Alliance is an initiative championing an international commitment for a minimum 30% of the global ocean to be protected through Marine Protected Areas by 2030. This initiative, which was presented at the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly by the UK, has up to now gathered 30 countries as members, which include four Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Croatia, Italy, Monaco and Spain). The initiative is also expected to call for the 30by30 ambition to be adopted at the next Convention on Biological Diversity conference in China.

94. The representative of Italy, which is member of the Alliance, will present the “30by30” initiative and will refer to possible synergies with the work of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system and the possibility of joint action.

Annex I

Initial Findings of the Evaluation of the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) 2016-2021

INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNEP/MAP MEDIUM- TERM STRATEGY 2016-2021

Interim Report: Initial Findings

**Prepared by:
Ivica Trumbić, Consultant**

October 2020

1. Introduction

The main objective of the Independent Evaluation (IE) is to assess the relevance and success of implementation of the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy 2016-2021 (MTS). Having in mind the fact that MTS is a policy document, this evaluation necessarily falls in the category of “process” evaluations. A process evaluation, generally, focuses on the implementation process and attempts to determine how successfully a certain initiative/program (in this case the MTS) followed its implementation logic and determines whether program activities have been implemented as intended and resulted in predetermined outputs. This type of evaluation is opposed to “outcome” or “impact” evaluations, where the focus of evaluation is to establish the real change, physical or social or both, that has taken place in a certain area (ecosystem) as a result of the implementation of a project/programmatic initiative. The process evaluation focuses on inputs, activities, and outputs and how they work together. The IE will also look for signs of potential impact and sustainability of results, but that will depend on the type of information that will be made available to the European Commission (EC).

The MTS IE is a relatively long (14 months, according to the Term of Reference (ToR)) and participatory exercise. It is anchored in a series of MAP meetings, which will discuss the IE findings as well as approve respective reports before the final IE report will be submitted.

This report will present the initial findings of the IE, based on the results of the questionnaire and an initial analysis by the evaluator of the MTS itself. The discussion during the Bureau and the Steering Committee will provide valuable inputs to the evaluator to continue the evaluation process and prepare the first draft of the evaluation report.

2. The approach to the Independent evaluation

The IE will focus on the following three major aspects of the MTS development and implementation:

- The MTS strategic approach, concept and design;
- The MTS implementation, i.e. progress towards results; and
- The MTS outputs, outcomes and, eventually, impact of the measures taken as a result of the MTS implementation.

The purpose of the IE is to provide an impartial review of MTS in terms of its relevance, effectiveness, overall performance and achievements. The information, findings, lessons learned, conclusions and recommendations generated by the evaluation will be used by UNEP/MAP for the preparation of the next MTS covering the period 2022-2027. The IE will assess the extent to which planned results have been achieved since the beginning of the MTS implementation in 2016 and the likelihood of their full achievement by the end of its validity in 2021.

The IE will cover the entire scope of the MTS with all its components, and in particular by assessing the success of implementation of the strategic themes, the core and the cross-cutting ones. Particular attention will be given to the degree of implementation of the Expected Accomplishments as well as seven Objectives. Then, an evaluation of the six Strategic Outcomes and corresponding Indicative Key Outputs will be made. The results achieved will then be compared to the initial workplan as presented in the MTS Document. The IE will also analyse, to the extent possible, the funds spent during the period of its implementation set against the total amount initially allocated. It will not, however, be an audit report, but an assessment of the rate of expenditure of funds, which will provide an indication of the commitment of Contracting Parties to the implementation of MTS. Finally, the target groups to be

consulted during the IE will be: representatives of the relevant authorities of the Contracting Parties, other major national stakeholders, and the MAP Coordinating Unit and Regional Activity Centres (RACs). Their perspectives on the major issues covered by the MTS will be examined.

While the ToR envisages that the evaluator undertakes three missions (visit to CU in Athens; attend the Bureau Meeting in 2020 and MAP Focal Points Meeting in 2021), it is not certain that due to the current pandemics, any of these missions will take place. In the absence of the missions, the EC will rely heavily on other means of communication, in particular video conferencing. The EC will make every effort to contact maximum number of the stakeholders in the Mediterranean countries as well in the MAP System. As the first step in the IE process, the questionnaire was prepared and sent to a number of persons that have been involved in the development and implementation of the MTS. The purpose of the questionnaire was to get in the initial stage of the evaluation an indication of the success, problems and issues related to MTS. The results of the survey will be presented in this report.

3. The initial findings

The initial findings of the evaluation are the result of two analytical steps: the survey and the analysis of the MTS structure. These findings should not be considered as a complete analysis as the detailed analysis of the relevant documentation as well as the in-depth interviews of a representative group of stakeholders still have to be undertaken.

3.1 The survey

The questionnaire had 34 questions grouped in 5 sections, namely:

- General;
- Design of the MTS (aims at finding out how the MTS as designed in its final format that was sent for adoption);
- MTS implementation (aims at identifying how the process of MTS implementation was carried out and how the stakeholders were involved in its implementation);
- Achievement of outcomes and outputs (aims at identifying which and how specific outputs have been delivered) and
- Recommendations for the future MTS (aims at getting the views on recommendations for the future MTS).

The questionnaire was prepared in the Google Form format and sent to around 220 addresses, which included all groups of stakeholders that have participated in the development and implementation of the MTS. The MAP Coordinating Unit and RACs were not included in the exercise. The deadline for the answers was 15 September 2020, and it was extended after the original cut-off date because of the summer holidays and, probably the COVID-19 situation. The total of 22 responses were received. It has to be stated that a number of emails have bounced off, which means that the original sampling group was smaller than 220. The response rate could, thus, be estimated at around 15%. This is considered to be a relatively low rate of response. However, this survey is only an indicative one and it serves the purpose of indicating the major issues related to development and implementation of MTS, while the in-depth interviews that will follow will identify the real issues. Out of 22 responses, 8 national focal points have responded.

Design of the MTS

This set of questions was focused on two major issues: the thematic design of the MTS and the design of the implementation structure of the MTS.

The respondents were quite satisfied with the **coverage of issues and definition of the priorities** in the MTS. They think that almost all the MAP priorities were emphasized and that the strategy itself is responding well to the MAP/Barcelona Convention mandate. This response was not a surprise considering that the Programme of Work of MAP and the respective priorities were almost by default transposed into the MTS. However, the respondents felt that the level of alignment of MTS to the international priorities and commitments in transboundary marine governance were somewhat less satisfactory. This is certainly an issue that will have to be analyzed in more depth during the evaluation process. The National focal Points that responded were largely satisfied with the extent the MTS is consistent with national and local policies and priorities and the needs of intended beneficiaries in their countries.

Participants were somewhat less satisfied with the **level of participation of relevant stakeholders during the MTS design phase**. This may be understandable considering the fact that this was the first strategy prepared and, consequently, hence not enough experience in developing such a complex document was present. Also, there was a relatively short time available to prepare and adopt it. They also felt that the **budget for MTS implementation** should be clearly stated. This is an issue to discuss further, i.e. whether a separate budget is needed specifically for the MTS or whether it is integrated in the MAP budget. Finally, they think that the MTS implementation structure in the strategy and at the national level was not adequately designed in the MTS itself.

MTS implementation

The majority of respondents felt that **MTS was only partially implemented**. During the next phase of evaluation, the evaluator will try to find whether this partial satisfaction is the consequence of the fact that the strategy is still being implemented (ending in 2021) or that this view is caused by other reasons, such as the MTS design flaws, for example. There were a number of problems that have probably resulted in this partial satisfaction, in particular the lack of data, lack of financing, lack of political will to implement the strategy, lack of interest among stakeholders, and delay in delivery of outputs. They also mentioned that the following:

- measures to be implemented at local level were not specifically identified neither monitored;
- new and innovative financing mechanisms (at national or local level) have not been enough developed and/or supported;
- there was also a problem of transversal work at national level between the ministry in charge of environment and the other sectorial ministries to reach an agreement and an effective implementation of measures.

The respondents were not informed of the availability of the resources for the implementation of the MTS, as only a minority had an answer (mostly not enough resources). This may be caused by the inadequate explanation in the section of the MTS where resources for its implementation were discussed.

They were generally satisfied with the level of **communication with the MAP Coordinating Unit (CU)** during the implementation of the strategy, but a significant number stated that it could be better. However, the response to question on the frequency of their communication with the CU was somewhat contradictory because the majority had communicated once a year or not at all. This aspect

will have to be analyzed further taking in consideration what type of actor gave a specific answer, as not all actors are supposed to communicate with the CU with the same frequency. Also, the quality of that communication will be analyzed.

The respondents felt, by a large majority, that **MTS outputs and outcomes have only partially been delivered as planned**. This is one of the most critical issues in the implementation of MTS and, by consequence, one that the evaluation has to dig deeply into. This will include an analysis of clear relationship between the MTS and the Programme of Work (PoW), i.e. how much is one dependent upon the other, as well as what should be the real thematic extent of the strategy compared to the one in PoW. Another question is whether the strategy has to be the repetition of the PoW, or it has to focus on the priorities and provide tools and instruments to implement those priorities.

Among the **factors critical to achieving the intended objectives, outcomes and outputs** the following were considered as the most important:

- the role played by the Coordinating Unit and MAP regional Activity Centres,
- MAP Focal Points regularly monitoring the implementation of MTS,
- the implementation structure established at national level,
- the adaptive management tools, which allowed changes in case of lagging delivery of outputs.

Majority of the respondents felt that implementation of the MTS has brought improvement of environmental indicators of the Mediterranean Region, better biodiversity protection, better environmental governance, and better coastal and marine management. The further evaluation steps will analyse more deeply these responses in order to assess their real value, i.e. make a clear distinction between benefits accrued by implementation of MTS and the PoW. Again, the respondent felt that the resources available for the implementation of MTS were not enough. However, this is also an issue that has to be looked upon by taking in consideration the entire MAP budget and whether it is sufficient for the implementation of the PoW. Consequently, almost all respondents thought that the MTS objectives have been achieved only partially. During the further evaluation steps, the evaluator will try to assess whether these objectives could be achieved during the remaining period of the MTS implementation.

The respondents were asked to identify the **activities that worked well** in the hitherto period of the MTS implementation. They gave plenty of responses but one could note that these responses were grouped within the same thematic area (namely, ICZM, pollution, biodiversity, SCP, etc.), and there was very little evidence of cross-sectoral groups of answers. Hence it would be difficult to assign the real significance to these answers without the further in-depth analysis. However, it is worth to mention the following positive activities: MSSD assessment studies, EcAp process, marine litter management, climate change adaptation, MSP, ICZM, SCP, adopted NAPs, national pollution and litter monitoring programs, IMAP, regional action plans for the conservation of Mediterranean endangered and threatened species, etc.

Among **activities that did not work well, or need strengthening**, the following was mentioned:

- comprehensive and coherent network of well managed MPAs, including SPAMIs, to achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean set up and implemented;
- guidelines and other tools for non-indigenous species control and prevention;
- management of marine and coastal protected areas developed/updated and disseminated (NAPs for invasive species developed/updated.);
- Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) applied in selected areas at a pilot level linking coastal and open sea areas subject to major pressures;

- businesses, entrepreneurs and civil society need to be encouraged to use networks to disseminate SCP solutions contributing to biodiversity and ecosystems conservation;
- BCRS and Info MAP Platform (slow update and operationalization);
- ratification of Barcelona Convention and its protocols; and
- visibility of MSSD implementation and its relation with global processes.

Respondents felt that **MTS has positively influenced the stakeholders** and that they have become more engaged in its implementation, or have expressed readiness to implement it. This is definitely a positive sign but it will have to be further corroborated during the interview phase with representative stakeholders.

Recommendations for the future MTS

Overwhelmingly, the respondents thought that the **current institutional structure, led by the CU and RACs, should be kept and strengthened to support and monitor MTS implementation**. They were definite in answering that other institutions will not be needed. This response may have been expected, but it will have to be analyzed further to see whether eventual shortcomings in the MTS implementation were the result of inadequate institutional structure and available resources.

The respondents felt that the **future MTS should have clearer budgetary considerations, and have clear targets and indicators for each output and outcome**. Also, they thought greater emphasis should be placed on the **alignment of MTS with the global agenda**, that the structure of the document should be changed accordingly including the **reduction of the number of priorities**. These major recommendations also point to the shortcomings of the current MTS and these aspects of its design will be analyzed further during the evaluation process.

Among specific suggestions they thought that:

- MTS should be more targeted, because the subjects are too broad and cover all ecosystems;
- enforcement should become the top priority of the next MTS;
- there should be more emphasis on climate change vulnerability and adaptation, consider global processes and emerging issues;
- new MTS needs to include an analysis of MAP system functioning, including SWOT analysis of current institutional setup, technical and financial means that are needed to ensure new MTS to respond to ever growing challenges in Mediterranean region;
- new MTS needs to be fully driven with national needs;
- UNEP needs to explore maximal possible flexibility of administrative rules and procedure to run UNEP/MAP as its oldest Regional seas Programme in order to maximize its efficiency in delivering UNEP/MAP mandate in the period of new MTS implementation;
- new MTS has to be better aligned with the climate and Sustainable Blue Economy themes;
- Barcelona Convention does not have the capacity to take on too many priorities and should integrate those without necessarily taking the lead on these issues;
- there should be more integration among thematic subjects;
- Land-Sea Interactions priority is not as clear as the other priorities and seems to overlap with the others;
- logical framework analysis should be prepared;
- Theory of Change approach integrated based on achieving measurable impacts;
- implementation structure should be better defined;
- an assessment of the financial and human resource required for the implementation of the new MTS prepared in order to be more realistic;

- the modalities of implementation are unclear and the communication of progress (status check) in a meaningful way is lacking;
- more explicit role of NFPs and national authorities and institutions presented; core and cross cutting themes need to be designed again.

Among the current MTS elements, they would like to retain the following: Vision, The Ultimate Objective, The Strategic Themes, The Core Themes, The Cross-Cutting Themes, Strategic Objectives, Strategic Outcomes and Key Indicative Outputs. In a nutshell, it seems that they would like to retain the current MTS structure.

Among the main **challenges** to achieving a “healthy Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems” that should be given particular importance in the new MTS, the respondents mentioned the following:

- higher engagement and accountability by the countries, in particular from non-EU members States;
- the decision process of the Barcelona Convention has been driven by the EU countries “block” with sporadic and uncoordinated input from the other countries;
- as the enforcement of the legal provision remain a weak point of the system, it should be reinforced in the next MTS to become the top priority;
- land-based pollution including pollution by marine litter, biodiversity conservation, resilience of coastal area from climate change and development, implementation of MSP, reducing air pollution from ships by implementing available tools should also be a priority;
- regulatory process on the decisions to be binding and its enforcement would be a key process leading towards achievement of the MTS goals;
- address increased risks and instability in the region.

Among **specific implementation tools**, respondents overwhelmingly supported development of the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan to become a constitutive element of the strategy. The strategy should be made more adaptable and responsive to unforeseen emerging issues and priorities. The respective adaptive mechanisms should be, among other:

- establish the contact/focal point of UNEP/MAP when a contracting party or stakeholder identifies an emergency and wants to share it with the UNEP/MAP community;
- MTS should cover a longer period of time till 2030 to allow long-term processes to contribute to achieving SDGs under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- a mid-term assessment, in 2026, could allow adaptation/flexibility, while the new MTS should not be as detailed as the previous version, with higher objectives/building block, leaving details to the level of the biannual Programme of Work, which could also be adapted to address new emerging challenges;
- allow more proactive role of the Bureau of Contracting Parties and specially Coordinating Unit;
- contingency planning allowing revision of the Action Plan; emergency funds to be allocated to new and urgent challenges and the possibility that they enter as part of "an emergency action plan" within the Strategy to be implemented, monitored and evaluated.

3.2. Other findings

In addition to the above comments and suggestions collected via the survey of stakeholders, the evaluator has several comments that could be considered as initial findings at this stage of the evaluation. It should be noted that these findings are by no means exhaustive and that more in-depth analysis and evaluation will certainly bring new findings. The evaluator would also like to point the fact that the evaluation will not question the validity of the thematic subjects mentioned in the MTS as it is in the mandate of the Contracting Parties and other stakeholders to decide what goes into the MTS. However, the evaluation is mostly concerned with the structure of the document, its eventual missing elements as well as implementation modalities.

As a general comment, the **MTS looks like a very complex document**, which is sometimes difficult to follow and the user/reader may lose track of its main objectives. The MTS has the total of 42 outcomes and 84 key outputs. One can only imagine what a complex task would be to develop an appropriate tracking system to monitor all the indicators for all the outcomes and outputs. The impression is that during the development of MTS, a “Christmas tree” approach was taken, intended to accommodate all actors. The strategy cannot be “all the things to all the people”, which means that clear priorities have to be established. In the document there is only 20 odd mentions of priority/priorities, albeit not in a systematic but in a very haphazard manner. Therefore, a clear list of priorities should be established early on during the strategy development process.

In the view of the evaluator, the **elaboration of the principal strategy components is unbalanced**. While the main headings in the introductory strategy context are mentioned, the international context dwells on only two initiatives: MSSD and SDG. This is something to be expanded and the strategy should be more firmly anchored within the dominant international context and take in consideration many more of those initiatives and show how the strategy intends to respond to them. The elaboration of the thematic subjects is quite extensive, which may be justifiable, but the important elements are elaborated in a superficial manner. This is particularly important for the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan as well as the Implementation Plan. It should have been much better elaborated. The timeline for the implementation of the strategy is missing, as well as the action plan for the implementation of the strategy, which would clearly state when, who, how and where strategic elements will be implemented. The standard strategy development approach requires that the document contains the strategy itself and an action plan for its implementation. The latter is missing in this document. It is true, though, that the implementation of the 6-year strategy is divided in 2-year biennial programmes, but the implementation modalities should be better developed and present in the respective action plan.

It is true that the funding aspect of the MTS is quite specific, as it is clearly stated that it is embedded in the implementation of the MAP PoW. However, **there are a few calls on the need to attract additional financing for the implementation of the proposed programme**. That should be one of the critical elements of the strategy, because it should not be only the transposition of the MAP PoW into the 2-year implementation blocks but the strategy should contain actions how the challenges, funding included, should be met and what actions need to be taken to achieve these objectives. In this context, there is a mention of the private sector and the need to attract these resources. The intention is valid, as this is something that all the current strategies are calling upon. However, the strategy that covers a relatively short period of time (6 years is really a minimal time-span for any strategy) should be much more specific in proposing concrete actions to attract additional financial resources, public or private.

4. The next steps

The next steps in the evaluation process will be the following:

- In-depth interviews with a selected representative group of stakeholders to further analyse issues that have come up in the survey;
- Assess the extent of achievement of targets (at the level of strategic outcome) based on the analysis of the implementation of the biannual PoWs;
- Assess financial implementation of the MTS;
- Prepare the first draft evaluation report, including financial implementation and inputs from initial online consultation.

Upon completion of the first draft, the comments will be collected and the second (final) draft of the evaluation report will be prepared to be presented at the MAP Focal Points Meeting.

Annex II

Draft Structure and Main Elements of the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027

Note by the Secretariat

The Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols (Barcelona Convention), with Decision IG.24/2 (COP 21, Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019) “*Request[ed] the Secretariat to prepare the UNEP/MAP 2022-2027 Medium-Term Strategy in close cooperation with MAP components and with the full involvement of the Contracting Parties, under the guidance of the Bureau and through a dedicated steering committee that will be composed by the Bureau complemented by a limited group of interested Contracting Parties (3 additional persons, one nominated by each sub-group, to ensure a balanced geographical representation), and to submit a first draft to an open ended working group, for final submission to the Contracting Parties at their 22nd Meeting (COP 22).*”

In implementing the above mentioned COP Decision, the process and timeline for the preparation of the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027 were presented to the 89th Meeting of the Bureau (Rome, Italy, 22-23 April 2020) and were disseminated to all Contracting Parties following approval by the Bureau. In line with this timeline the 40th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP-Rome, Italy, 30-31 January 2020), discussed the development of the new MTS, its format, structure and related timeline, followed by the completion of a questionnaire regarding the MTS structure by all ECP members. The 41st Meeting of the ECP (Teleconference, 19-20 May 2020) agreed on a bottom up approach with the mapping of main products and grouping them under key building blocks of priorities, with a focus on a more flexible, integrated and innovative approach. The 42nd Meeting of the ECP (Teleconference, 8-9 July 2020) presented and reviewed the main products and deliverables prepared and their initial grouping into a number of main building blocks. This exercise, with the mapping of strategies of relevant organizations at the regional and global level, giving special emphasis to the process of preparation of the draft UNEP Global Medium-Term Strategy 2021- 2025 and good examples of similar strategies, provided the information towards the development of a draft MTS 2022-2027 structure, which was reviewed and discussing during the 43rd Meeting of the ECP (Teleconference, 28-29 September 2020). The process followed for its preparation was inclusive and its outcome a result of a collective effort of the entire Secretariat and MAP component teams.

This document presents a proposed draft structure of the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027, The text of the background and rationale are initial drafts for further development. The programmes and main areas of work proposed build upon those of the current MTS 2016-2021 and are inspired by the structure of the draft UNEP MTS 2021- 2025, the latter taking into account the specificities of the Mediterranean and the mandate of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention. Efforts were made to complement recent or under development strategies such as the European Green Deal, the post 2020 FAO/GFCM Mid-Term Strategy and the post 2020 IUCN Mediterranean Programme, the priorities of the UfM on Environment and Climate Change as well as on Blue Economy, etc. Under each programme/main area of work, an initial proposal on objectives and outcomes is presented that is related to key draft products/deliverables. The list of main products/deliverables is of an indicative nature at this stage and is therefore presented in an information document.

Following the meetings of the MTS Steering Committee and the Bureau in November 2020, that are expected to provide inputs and guidance on the proposed main structure and elements, further work will be conducted to refine the structure, building blocks/programmes, objectives, outcomes as well as the key deliverables/main products with the view to submitting to the next Steering Committee and MAP Focal Points meetings a more refined and advanced version for their consideration.

UNEP/MAP MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY

2022-2027

DRAFT STRUCTURE

September 2020

A Medium-Term Strategy contributing to the Decade of Action for the SDGs

To be developed. To include text on the MTS's contribution to the UN Decade of Action and SDGs

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Introduction

UNEP/MAP and the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols – 21 Mediterranean countries and the European Union – have progressively erected a uniquely comprehensive institutional, legal, and implementing framework integrating essential building blocks for sustainability in the Mediterranean. With the Barcelona Convention and its seven Protocols, its administrative structure encompassing the Secretariat, MEDPOL and six Regional Activity Centres and most importantly its twenty-two Contracting Parties, this UN Regional Sea Programme builds on a meaningful experience to define its future goals and work in an impactful and integrated way.

As indicated by COP21, the timing of the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027 presents a unique opportunity to align with global processes, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and actions towards the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the UN Decade of Ocean Science. It is also an opportunity to align with UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy 2021- 2025, to be approved at UNEA-5 in February 2021. Critical consideration for the development of the MTS is also given to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework currently under negotiation, the Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), relevant UNEA resolutions, the implementation of global Multilateral Environmental Agreements of relevance to the Mediterranean region, and several key global initiatives.

The design of the new MTS 2022-2027 integrates key recommendations from the evaluation of MTS 2016-2021; the MSSD 2016-2025 mid-term evaluation; and the SCP Action Plan mid-term evaluation, as well as the main results and recommendations of the 2017 MED QSR and 2019 SoED. The Naples Ministerial Declaration, adopted at COP 21 (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019) brought a broader political impetus in support of UNEP/MAP, and showcased the political commitment for specific action in achieving good environmental status and shoring up sustainable development in the Mediterranean region. The MTS design integrates the consultation process to evaluate the implementation of the current SAP BIO, as well as the processes for the elaboration of the Post-2020 SAP BIO and of the Strategy to combat Pollution from Ships 2022-2030.

The implementation of the MTS will be based on partnerships and coordination with national, regional and global actors, including *in primis* the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as IMO, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions, CBD, FAO/GFCM, IMO, WHO, UNESCO, UfM, ACCOBAMS, EEA, OECD, and UNEP/MAP non-governmental Partners and external donors.

At the European level, of great importance in the Mediterranean context is the “European Green Deal” which provides a roadmap with actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy and to restore biodiversity and cut pollution. The European Commission has 6 priorities for 2019-2024, which include “A European Green Deal - Striving to be the first climate-neutral continent”.

Furthermore, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) adopted on 17 June 2008 and its implementation framework remains extremely important for the implementation of the UNEP/MAP Ecosystem Approach Roadmap, the Regional Plan for the Management of Marine Litter in the Mediterranean and Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria. The work of the European Environment Agency in providing sound, independent information on the environment, such as in the 2020 *Joint Report EEA-UNEP/MAP*, is of relevance to the future work of UNEP/MAP, especially regarding the knowledge base.

During the last two years, UNEP/MAP has negotiated and benefited a major Programme funded by GEF (MEDProgramme 42 million USD) and three projects funded from the EC (8 million USD) which have been instrumental for taking up ambitious objectives in several areas of MAP mandate and will be reflected in the MTS. These will provide valuable contribution to the implementation of the MTS and achievement of its objectives.

Background

UNEP/MAP and the Barcelona Convention

The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, Barcelona Convention (signed in 1976 and amended in 1995), with its related seven Protocols is the only regional multilateral legal framework setting the obligations “to prevent, abate, combat and to the fullest extent possible eliminate pollution of the Mediterranean Sea Area” and “to protect and enhance the marine environment in that area so as to contribute towards its sustainable development”. The MAP regulatory framework was subject to continuous update and expansion, remaining unique and fully relevant. The seven Protocols to the Barcelona Convention have expanded its application to coastal area and river watershed; strengthen the commitments of the region to more ambitious objectives for ensuring integrated coastal zone management; phasing out pollution from land and based sources; ensuring litter free Mediterranean sea and coast and sustainable offshore activities; promote specially protected areas; and take measures to conserve marine biodiversity, enhancing the alignment with global targets.

The 21st Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention held in Naples, Italy on 2-5 December 2019 provided the political commitment through its Naples Ministerial Declaration and outlined the principles and timeline for the new MTS 2022-2027. The Contracting Parties, through the Naples Ministerial Declaration agreed “on the four priority areas for actions and commitments identified at COP 21 to be part of the 2022- 2027 Medium-Term Strategy of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system, and to foster its governance and enforcement mechanisms”.

Extract from the COP 21 Report (UNEP/MED IG.24/22)

The new MTS is based on the following principles and requirements:

- The new MTS needs to be aligned with the global context of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the CBD post-2020 Biodiversity Framework, the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the relevant UNEA resolutions and the implementation of global Multilateral Environmental Agreements in the Mediterranean region;
- The new MTS will build on the following elements, among others:
- the uniqueness of the MAP system's mandate in the region;
 - the comparative advantages that the MAP-Barcelona Convention system has in its three dimensions (institutional, regulatory, implementation);
 - the experience, achievements, major processes and lessons learned of the past four decades and in particular of the most recent biennia;
 - the needs, policies and commitments of the Contracting Parties, at national, sub- regional and regional level;
 - the vision, key considerations, evaluation of the current MTS as well as lessons learned from its implementation;
 - the increasingly more accurate assessment work being undertaken on the Mediterranean;
 - the analysis of significant environmental challenges that the Mediterranean region will face in the coming years;
 - the analysis of emerging issues that are of particular relevance to the region;
 - the new paradigm required to achieve Agenda 2030, in which work on environment and sustainable development issues is not conducted in silos, but is intrinsically linked;
 - the implementation and enforcement of the comprehensive body of instruments of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system;
 - the increasing interest demonstrated by actors in the Mediterranean and beyond in partnering with the MAP-Barcelona Convention system;
 - the opportunities presented in the region in terms of access to financial resources, to knowledge, and to stakeholders' involvement; and
 - the advantages provided by being part of a global inter-governmental mechanism such as UNEP and the UN.
- Focus, integration and diversification of responses and approaches will drive the development of the MTS in order to reflect the diversity of the region
 - The evaluation of the current MTS and the preparation of the next MTS need to take into account the relevant evaluation and assessment processes within the MAP-Barcelona Convention system (including the MSSD 2016-2025 mid-term evaluation, the SCP Action Plan mid-term evaluation, the 2017 MED QSR, the 2019 SoED and the MED 2050 foresight study preparation);
 - The process needs to be conducted under the leadership of the Bureau; preparation of the new MTS needs to be Contracting Party-driven, to involve the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP), and to ensure stakeholder participation to the widest extent possible.”

International Context

To be developed including:

- *United Nations Environment Assembly*
- *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals*
- *Convention on Biodiversity and Post 2020 framework*
- *UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement*
- *International Maritime Organization*
- *BRS Convention (in particular Basel and Stockholm)*
- *AHEG on Marine Litter (UNEA)*
- *UNEP post-COVID19 Strategy*
- *GEF*
- *Other key global strategies, MEAs and processes*

Regional Context

UNEP/MAP works and delivers in a region characterised by a variety of multilateral and bilateral collaboration platforms and partnerships. Being the most comprehensive and longest-standing one for the Mediterranean on matters related to environmental sustainability, UNEP/MAP has inspired strong cooperation within the region, with important regional actors and initiatives through its official partnership policies. This outreach experience is a great asset with potential for replication for the effective implementation of the MTS 2022-2027 for maximizing synergies, efficient use of resources and enhancing impacts on the ground for the benefit of Mediterranean people for achieving the SDGs, which is a common platform for all actors in the region. Key developments and strategic documents relevant to the region include:

- The first **UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change** which was adopted in Athens on 13 May 2014, and has since been implemented and evaluated. Work is ongoing towards a 2nd UfM Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change, in 2020/2021. An online stakeholder's consultation was conducted in this respect in 2020, entitled "Towards a Sustainable Blue Economy for the Mediterranean Sea basin".
- **FAO/GFCM.** The current Mid-term strategy (2017–2020) towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries will be followed by a new strategy, which is in the process of development. UNEP/MAP and GFCM work in close partnership towards bringing together biodiversity, pollution and fisheries in terms of shared data and information and joint reporting and assessments, in particular, for the implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria and the publication of the first Quality Assessment Report (2017 MED QSR). The overall objective of the mid-term strategy is to improve, by 2020, the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries, by achieving five targets and related outputs and activities.
- **ACCOBAMS.** The ACCOBAMS Strategy (Period 2014 - 2025) with the overall objective to "Improve conservation status of cetaceans and their habitats in the ACCOBAMS area by 2023"
- **The IUCN Mediterranean Programme** 2017-2020 was developed in line with the global IUCN Program and to compliment the UNEP/MAP 2016-2021 MTS. Three programme areas are elaborated with results, 2020 Targets, indicators and contribution to IUCN global results, SDGs and MSSD targets and Aichi targets: 1) Valuing and conserving nature; 2) Promoting and Supporting Effective and Equitable Governance of Natural Resources and 3) Deploying nature-based solutions to address societal challenges including climate change, food security and economic and social development.

- **The MedPAN network** 2019-2023 strategy outlines MedPAN's Theory of Change including vision, mission and results chain with the vision of "A healthy marine and coastal ecosystem, under decreasing threats and with an appropriate protection, both in the Mediterranean and in the Global Seas that provides sustainable goods and services for the well-being of the present and future societies."
- **The WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative's** Conservation Strategy 2018-2022 with the vision "By 2030, the Mediterranean has healthy marine and coastal ecosystems of 'Good Environmental Status' that produce streams of benefits, maintain vibrant economies and which are recognized by the region's communities as highly valuable for human wellbeing."

This list is not exhaustive, and other regional processes will also be considered, including the Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC), the MedFund and the work of UN Regional Commissions (ECA, ECE and ESCWA), other Regional Seas, such as OSPAR and the Black Sea, and several NGOs and professional associations/organisations which are very active in the Mediterranean.

Situation Analysis or State of the Mediterranean Environment

To be developed based on main findings and recommendations of most recent reports:

- 2019 SoED, 2017 MED QSR and 2020 Joint Report EEA-UNEP/MAP, MAR1
- *The 2016 Status of MPAs in the Mediterranean (2019)*
- Others

Rationale and Vision

The vision of the MTS 2022-2027 is the following:

A healthy, clean, sustainable and [climate] resilient Mediterranean Sea and Coast with productive and biologically diverse marine and coastal ecosystems, where the 2030 Agenda/SDGs are achieved through the effective implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development

This vision considers:

- The previous 2016-2021 MTS Vision “A healthy Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems that are productive and biologically diverse contributing to sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations”;
- The Vision of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap “A healthy Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems that are productive and biologically diverse for the benefit of present and future generations”;
- The 2016-2025 MSSD Vision: “A prosperous and peaceful Mediterranean region in which people enjoy a high quality of life and where sustainable development takes place within the carrying capacity of healthy ecosystems”; and
- Vision on SCP Regional Plan adopted by COP 19 (Athens 2016): “By 2027 a prosperous Mediterranean region is established, with non-pollutant, circular, socially inclusive economies based on sustainable consumption and production patterns, preserving natural resources and energy, ensuring the well-being of societies and contributing to clean environment and healthy ecosystems that provide goods and services for present and future generations.”

This also considers

- (a) The UNEP 2050 vision of: “Planetary sustainability for people, prosperity and equity, where, Net zero carbon emissions and resilience towards climate change are achieved, humanity prospers in harmony with nature and pollution is prevented and controlled, while ensuring good environmental quality and improved health and well-being for all”;
- (b) The CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework vision // The 2050 Vision for Biodiversity “Living in harmony with nature” (CBD); and
- (c) The European Green Deal Vision.

[Alternative proposal for the Vision, built on UNEP’s 2050 vision: “A sustainable Mediterranean for people, prosperity and equity, where resilience towards climate change is achieved, humanity prospers in harmony with nature, and pollution is prevented and controlled, while ensuring good environmental quality for the marine and coastal environment and improved health and well-being for all.”]

Goals and Objectives

The MTS 2022-2027 aims at contributing to the long-term goals and objectives of the Barcelona Convention including Article 4, General Obligations:

- “(1)... to prevent, abate, combat and to the fullest possible extent eliminate pollution of the Mediterranean Sea Area and to protect and enhance the marine environment in that Area so as to contribute towards its sustainable development” and
- “(2)... to pursue the protection of the marine environment and the natural resources of the Mediterranean Sea Area as an integral part of the development process, meeting the needs of present and future generations in an equitable manner”.

The **Long-Term Goals** to which the MTS 2022-2027 is contributing are *the achievement and maintenance of Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast, sustainable development through the SDGs, and living in harmony with nature.*

The MTS 2022-2027 **Overall Objectives** are:

- Drive transformational change in enhancing the impact of the delivery as one of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system, and its contribution to the region;
- Ensure that the relevant SDGs and their targets, the post-2020 global biodiversity goals and targets, and the Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast are achieved, through concrete actions to effectively manage and reduce threats and enhance marine and coastal resources; [and living in harmony with the nature];
- Contribute to strengthening Mediterranean Solidarity and Peoples’ Prosperity; and
- Contribute to the Building Back Better approach of the “UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19” by supporting new, sustainable, business models, enabling a just transition to a nature-based and circular economy.

MTS 2022-2027 Concept and Principles

The MTS 2022-2027 has been structured in a way to be: ***integrated and coherent across the system; consistent; inclusive; adaptive and flexible; attentive to regional and national needs; collaborative, based on participation and partnerships; knowledge generating and sharing; result-based, and resource-efficient.***

Inspired by the UNEP 2022-2025 MTS, the concept of the MTS 2022-2027 is structured through Programmes. In developing the main areas of work, the MTS 2022-2027 builds on the mandate of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system, obligations and commitments under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, needs of the Contracting Parties, the best practices gathered during over 40 years of working in the Mediterranean with Contracting Parties, as well as the need to maximize synergies for working together with partners and contributing to the achievement of the global agenda and targets.

To be further developed once structure is agreed.

Main Areas of Work

The MTS 2022-2027 contains 7 Programmes - 4 of which are Thematic, 1 Foundational, and 2 Enabling - which in their entirety would allow the MAP-Barcelona Convention system and the Contracting Parties to commit to ambitious priorities and move forward for the full and effective implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

Programme: 1. [Towards/For] a pollution and litter free Mediterranean [Sea and Coast] embracing circular economy

General introduction and overall objectives

To be further developed.

Programme 1 includes the following strategic objectives linked to the Pollution control related Protocols of the Barcelona Convention:

1. To eliminate to the extent possible, prevent, reduce, monitor and control selected/regulated pollutant inputs, oil discharges and spills;
2. To prevent, reduce, monitor and control marine litter generation and its impact on the coastal and marine environment;
3. To effectively implement the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031); Regional Plans adopted in the framework of LBS Protocol of the Barcelona Convention; Offshore Action Plan; and
4. To consolidate the development and implementation of national programmes for circular economy businesses, addressing main sources of pollution, including plastics and promote SCP in key economic sectors and lifestyles which are upstream drivers of chemicals and plastic pollution

These in turn also contribute to the following Ecological Objectives adopted by COP 17:

1. Human-induced eutrophication is prevented, especially adverse effects thereof, such as losses in biodiversity, ecosystem degradation, harmful algal blooms, and oxygen deficiency in bottom waters;
2. Contaminants cause no significant impact on coastal and marine ecosystems and human health;
3. Marine and coastal litter does not adversely affect coastal and marine environments;
4. Noise from human activities causes no significant impact on marine and coastal ecosystems; and
5. New and emerging land-based pollution related problems are identified and tackled, as appropriate.

Outcomes

- A holistic and response/measures to phase out pollution and stop degradation (litter, chemicals, contaminants, eutrophication, noise, oil and emerging pollution) implemented at national and regional level for a sustainable Mediterranean coastal and marine ecosystem;
- Systemic approaches for Circular Economy as well as Sustainable Consumption and Production incorporated into key sectors of activity which are main sources of pollution; and
- One Health approach developed, including the link between human health and pollution, and lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Indicators and Targets

To be developed

Programme 2: [Towards/For] Healthy [Mediterranean] Ecosystems and Enhanced Biodiversity

General introduction

To be further developed.

Objectives

Programme 2 includes the following strategic objectives linked to the SPA and Biodiversity, and ICZM Protocols:

1. To protect, preserve and manage in a sustainable and environmentally sound way areas of particular natural or cultural value notably by the establishment of specially protected areas;
2. To protect, preserve and manage threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna; and
3. To ensure preservation of the integrity of coastal ecosystems, landscapes and geomorphology.

These in turn also contribute to the following Ecological Objectives adopted by COP 17:

1. Biological diversity is maintained or enhanced: the quality and occurrence of coastal and marine habitats and the distribution and abundance of coastal and marine species are in line with prevailing physiographic, hydrographic, geographic, and climatic conditions;
2. Non-indigenous species introduced by human activities are at levels that do not adversely alter the ecosystem;
3. Populations of selected commercially exploited fish and shellfish are within biologically safe limits, exhibiting a population age and size distribution that is indicative of a healthy stock;
4. Alterations to components of marine food webs caused by resource extraction or human induced environmental changes do not have long-term adverse effects on food web dynamics and related viability; and
5. The natural dynamics of coastal areas are maintained and coastal ecosystems and landscapes are preserved;

Outcomes

- Ecosystem resilience improved through restoration of those with best regeneration potential;
- Comprehensive, coherent Mediterranean network of well managed MPAs and OECMs in place, expanded and effective;
- Mediterranean endangered and threatened species and key habitats in favourable status of conservation; and
- Non-indigenous species introduction minimized and introduction pathways under control.

Indicators and Targets

To be developed

Programme 3: [Towards/For] a Climate Resilient Mediterranean

General introduction and overall objectives

To be further developed.

Programme 3 includes the following strategic objectives linked to the ICZM Protocol and the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas endorsed by COP 19:

1. To strengthen the resilience of the Mediterranean natural and socioeconomic systems to climate change by promoting integrated adaptation approaches and better understanding of impacts; and
2. To reduce anthropogenic pressure on coastal and marine ecosystems to maintain their contribution to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.

These in turn also contribute to the following Ecological Objectives adopted by COP 17:

1. Alteration of hydrographic conditions does not adversely affect coastal and marine ecosystems; and
2. New and emerging land and sea interactions and processes related problems are identified and tackled, as appropriate.

Outcomes

- Nature-based solutions implemented to prevent or reduce the impact of climate change on coastal and marine ecosystems;
- Technical solutions implemented as a prevention of or a response to the degradation caused by climate change, adapted to different types of coastal and marine ecosystems;
- Legal, policy and institutional framework strengthened at the regional and national level to efficiently address climate change related challenges (flooding, erosion, land degradation, pollution, disasters etc.);
- Better understanding and knowledge of climate change and its impacts on environment and development;
- Impact of Circular Economy on Climate Change Mitigation is analysed and demonstrated;
- [Increased resilience to climatic variability and change, and enhanced water security of coastal populations through improved sustainability of services provided by coastal aquifers and by groundwater related coastal habitats].

Indicators and Targets

To be developed

Programme 4: Option 1: Promoting Circular and Blue Economy [for Sustainable Use of Marine Resources]

Alternative title/Option 2: Programme: 4. Sustainable [and Efficient] Use of Coastal and Marine Resources

General introduction and overall objectives

To be further developed.

Programme 4 includes the following strategic objectives linked to the objectives of the ICZM Protocol and its Common Regional Framework adopted by COP 21, and the objectives of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean adopted by COP 19:

1. To facilitate the sustainable development of coastal zones by ensuring that the environment and landscapes are taken into account in harmony with economic, social and cultural development;
4. To ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, particularly with regard to water use;
5. To achieve coherence between public and private initiatives and between all decisions by the public authorities, at the national, regional and local levels, which affect the use of the coastal zone;
6. Implementation of SCP tools in order to prevent or reduce anthropogenic pressure on coastal and marine areas; and
7. To provide innovative services and products and strengthen technical capacities of businesses, entrepreneurs, financing agents, and civil society organisations, contributing to the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems;

These in turn also contribute to the following Ecological Objectives adopted by COP 17:

1. Alteration of hydrographic conditions does not adversely affect coastal and marine ecosystems;
1. The natural dynamics of coastal areas are maintained and coastal ecosystems and landscapes are preserved; and
2. Sea-floor integrity is maintained, especially in priority benthic habitats;

Outcomes

- Sustainability of coastal and marine resources achieved through the synergetic implementation of planning and management approaches, including the adequate consideration of LSI;
- Sustainable Blue and Green Economy Tools and approaches in the context of SD and MSSD streamlined in key economic sectors for the region (Marine Renewable Energy, Aquaculture, Tourism, Offshore Activities Textile, Food, Construction);
- Innovative environmental management [economic] instruments implemented for the protection and efficient use of coastal and marine resources;
- To develop a circular economy within global value chains enabling a more conducive policy framework for sustainable economic development; and
- Measures defined within the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan applied at regional level and by each Contracting Party within their jurisdiction to ensure the safety of offshore activities and reduce their potential impact on the marine environment and its ecosystem.

Indicators and Targets

To be developed

Foundational Programme 5: Governance

General introduction and overall objectives

To be further developed.

Programme 5 includes the following strategic objectives:

1. To ensure and strengthen appropriate governance schemes, in particular cross-sectorial and multi-level institutional coordination, and enhance participation and engagement of all stakeholders in a transparent decision-making process;
2. To strengthen the application of the ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities with the view to achieving or maintaining good environmental status of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal region;
3. To strengthen the capacity of Contracting Parties for the implementation of and compliance with the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the adopted Strategies and Action Plans;
4. To strengthen synergies, complementarities, and collaboration among international and regional partners and organizations active in the Mediterranean region;
5. To mobilize external resources for efficient delivery of the MTS; and
6. To promote effective science policy interface mechanisms at regional and national level.

Outcomes

- Effective Implementation and Enforcement by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, MAP Policies, the MSSD and Programmes of Measures achieved at regional and national levels;
- Systemic strengthening and effective functioning and delivery of MAP decision-making and advisory bodies ensured, and efficiency enhanced with new digital approaches;
- Policy coherence and complementarity ensured among relevant work at global, regional and national levels and among MAP-Barcelona Convention system's policy and regulatory instruments;
- Enhanced partnerships and multi-stakeholder engagement, including with the private sector and science policy interface; and
- Coordinated approaches implemented to strengthen public institution capacities for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

Indicators and Targets

To be developed

Enabling Programme 6: [Together] For a shared vision of the Mediterranean [sea and coast]

General introduction and overall objectives

To be further developed.

Programme 6 includes the following strategic objectives linked to the IMAP Decision adopted by COP 19 and the Assessment Studies Decision adopted by COP 21:

1. Strengthened and harmonized implementation of marine and coastal monitoring (and assessments) in line with Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention and relevant provisions of its Protocols and the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria;
2. Achieve and/or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea and coast through science-based IMAP, foresight and other assessments; and
3. A fully operational data management Info System based on consolidated and quality-control assured monitoring datasets to support integrated assessments.

Outcomes

- Environment and Development Observation and IMAP monitoring provide updated and quality assured data in support of decision-making by Contracting Parties and assessment of GES;
- Science-based IMAP, foresight and other assessments and assessment tools for strengthened science-policy interface and decision making; and
- Inclusive and participatory foresight activities conducted at regional and national levels, with associated capacity-building.

Indicators and Targets

To be developed

Enabling Programme 7: Strengthened action for advocacy, [education,] awareness and communication

Alternative title: Boosting impact: advocacy, communication, [Med] [ocean] literacy and digital transformation

General introduction and overall objectives

To be further developed.

Programme 7 includes the following strategic objectives linked to the MAP Communication Strategy (2018-2023) and the Operational Communication Strategy 2020-2021:

1. Strengthen MAP's status as an authoritative voice on the environment in the Mediterranean and Advocate the MTS vision to policymakers, including through a regular flow of information about existing and emerging environmental issues pertaining to the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast;
2. Secure the commitment of key stakeholders in support of MAP priorities, including by promoting citizen science and through communication campaigns, and encourage them to act as advocates, directly and indirectly;
3. Strengthen MAP system communication and dissemination capabilities, including through a stronger brand and enhanced digital platforms, and Improve the quality and dissemination of information materials. Encourage participation among researchers or partner bodies; and

4. Adopt Communicating as One and embark on digital transformation (guided by UNEP digital transformation policy) permeating the delivery of the Medium-Term Strategy across the MAP-Barcelona Convention system.

Programme Outcomes

- Stakeholders and policy makers properly informed about the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast and aware of the environmental priority issues;
- Citizen and general public awareness and outreach raised through citizen science and digital campaigns; and
- Towards a digital transformation: use of digital technologies to improve networking and MAP visibility.

Indicators and Targets

To be developed

Implementation

Implementation Modalities

To be developed.

Partnerships and Funding

To be developed.

Monitoring and Evaluation

To be developed.

Annex III

Report on the Progress of the Implementation of the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap

Report on the progress of the implementation of the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap

Requested Action:

The Bureau welcomes the ongoing work of the Secretariat on identifying gaps, concrete requirements and deadlines for the development of the 2023 MED QSR and **invites the Secretariat to present a report on the progress of the implementation of the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap at the 90th Bureau meeting including information on the technical teams established for this purpose.**

Relevant part from the 89th Bureau Meeting report:

41. [...] The EU observer welcomed the work that the Secretariat is doing in view of implementing Ecosystem Approach and highlighted the importance of presenting concrete proposals for output delivery as a part of the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap at the level of common indicators, including an analysis of related gaps, concrete requirements and deadlines for consideration by the Contracting Parties to be submitted at the 90th meeting of the Bureau for its review and guidance (as per Para 35. of Specific Issues document: *In line with Decision IG.24/4, during the first semester of 2020, the Secretariat, working with the support of the MAP components, is developing further concrete proposals for output delivery as part of the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap at the level of common indicators, including an analysis of related gaps, concrete requirements and deadlines for consideration by the Contracting Parties, which will be subsequently submitted to the Bureau at its next, 90th meeting for its review and guidance*). This analysis with deadlines, together with the information on the UNEP/MAP system's technical teams supporting the development of data-based QSR 2023, is very important to address the Contracting Parties' decision at COP 20 in Tirana related to the delivery of data-based Mediterranean Quality Status Report 2023. The Bureau welcomed this proposal and suggested to have a specific recommendation to that effect. More detailed information will be provided by the Secretariat at the next Bureau meeting.

The Secretariat has focused its efforts during the first months of 2020 on initiating the implementation of the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap working in different streams, in coordination with all relevant MAP Components.

- **National IMAP users and data submission**

An important step towards this direction has been the formal request for designation of national IMAP users and data submission, through the Coordinator's letter sent to the ECAP Coordination Group Members. With this letter, the Contracting Parties were invited to nominate official IMAP users who will be responsible to upload, validate and officially release monitoring data related to IMAP Common Indicators. They were also urged to upload to the IMAP Info System all available and compatible data for the supported Common Indicators, preferably by September 2020 at the latest, and the expected new 2020 monitoring data by 31 January 2021. This work is ongoing and MAP Components have been in bilateral discussions with their respective Focal Points of CPs that have not yet nominated IMAP users, to make sure that this is completed the soonest possible. A database with IMAP users is stored in the INFO-RAC platform and kept up to date.

- **Integrated CORMON Meeting (December 2020)**

A key milestone for IMAP implementation in the current biennium is the organization of the Integrated CORMON Meeting on Biodiversity and Fisheries, Pollution and Marine Litter, and Coast and

Hydrography, that will be held virtually, on 1-3 December 2020. The meeting is expected to review a number of important documents related to key aspects of the IMAP implementation including among others monitoring guidelines/protocols for a number of common indicators, revised Guidance Factsheets and DS/DD for specific indicators, comparative analyses between IMAP and the European Commission GES Decision 2017/848/EU for biodiversity and marine litter etc.

A report on the status of implementation of the 2023 MED QSR is under preparation for submission to the Integrated CORMON Meeting, providing progress updates on the Roadmap's main processes and milestones. An analysis of activities under the UNEP/MAP PoW 2020-2021 and relevant EU-funded Projects, namely IMAP MPA, ECAP MED III and ML MED II, linking them with 2023 MED QSR outputs/milestones is prepared and included also in the report to be reviewed by the Integrated CORMON Meeting.

Following is a list and tentative timeline for key meetings relevant to the implementation of the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap:

Meeting	Date
Integrated CORMON meeting	December 2020 (videoconference)
Thematic/cluster CORMON meetings and back to back sub-regional meetings	March/April 2021
8 th Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group Meeting	September 2021
22 nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	December 2021
Thematic/cluster CORMON meetings and back to back sub-regional meetings	April 2022
Integrated CORMON meeting and back to back sub-regional/SPI meetings	March 2023
9 th Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group Meeting	September 2023
23 rd Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	December 2023

- **IMAP Common Indicators gaps and needs**

Regarding the gaps and needs analysis, the 7th Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group Meeting in Athens, Greece in September 2019 highlighted several important challenges in relation to achieving a full data-based 2023 MED QSR, particularly given the different levels of maturity of Common Indicators, and the different timelines and frequency of IMAP Common Indicators monitoring among the Contracting Parties, at times incompatible with the proposed 2023 MED QSR timelines.

12 mandatory Common Indicators (CI 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 18, 19, 20) are not yet included in the IMAP Pilot Info System. CI 3, 4, 5, 18, 19, 20 will be added to the IMAP Pilot Info System as part of the EcAp MED III project and activities undertaken under the 2020-2021 UNEP/MAP Programme of Work. Discussions with the GFCM are underway to agree on collaboration modalities for data sharing for CI 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 (EO3), in line with the proposal for a Roadmap and TORs for INFO/RAC-GFCM collaboration presented at the 7th Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group Meeting.

Two Ecological Objectives (EO4: Marine Food Webs and EO6: Sea-Floor Integrity) have yet to be developed as part of the second phase of IMAP development and implementation, and the elaboration

of related Common Indicators is planned in 2021-2022 through regional consultations, in particular through the CORMON.

Work on several candidate common indicators (CCI 24, 25, 26 and 27) is ongoing to evaluate their maturity for inclusion in the IMAP as mandatory indicators

To facilitate Integrated CORMON Meeting's review and discussion, the table attached as **Annex I** will be presented as part of the report on the implementation of the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap, providing a review of the status and level of maturity of different IMAP Common Indicators.

The Secretariat has also initiated a country-level analysis of the status of implementation of IMAP, starting with a limited number of countries. It is planned to complete this review during the Integrated CORMON Meeting, with inputs to be provided by all meeting participants on the spot.

- **IMAP data reporting timeline**

A tentative timeline for data reporting and assessment for the 2023 MED QSR is formulated as follows:

Requirements	Deadlines
Reporting in the IMAP Pilot Info System of data sets for CI 1, 2, 6, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22 and 23 monitored prior to 2020 by the CPs	30 September 2020
Reporting in the IMAP Pilot Info System of data sets for CI 1, 2, 13, 14, 17, 21, 22 and 23 monitored in 2020 by the CPs	31 January 2021
Reporting in the IMAP Pilot Info System of 2 nd data sets for all available CI, as appropriate (EO1, EO5, EO9, EO10)	30 September 2021
First draft national assessment factsheets prepared for all available CI	31 October 2021
First draft assessment factsheets for EO3 common indicators prepared by GFCM	31 October 2021
Baseline sub-regional assessment conducted for CI15	February 2022
Reporting in the IMAP Pilot Info System of CI 6 data	30 June 2022
Reporting in the IMAP Pilot Info System of CI 16 data	31 August 2022
Reporting in the IMAP Pilot Info System of 3 rd data sets for all available CI, as appropriate (EO1, EO5, EO9, EO10)	30 September 2022
Data collection from complementary sources finalized for non-mandatory indicators and those not included in the IMAP Pilot Info System (EO4, EO6, CCI 24, 26, 27 as applicable)	30 September 2022
National assessment factsheets updated for all available CI	October-December 2022
Assessment factsheets updated for EO3 by GFCM	October-December 2022

- **2023 MED QSR approach and structure**

An Issue Paper for 2023 MED QSR Development Approach and Structure is under preparation for submission to the Integrated CORMON Meeting. The Meeting is expected to review and discuss on key issues including data sources and methodological approaches for the assessment, the QSR preparation process and governance/coordination aspects, the way of presenting the report's results, and tentative timeline. The Meeting is also expected to review and agree on a draft annotated Table of Contents.

- **New EU-funded Projects to boost IMAP implementation**

Two new EU-funded projects, namely ECAP MED III and Marine Litter MED II, which are expected to significantly support the implementation of IMAP and the 2023 MED QSR, were recently approved by the European Commission. The process for the operationalization of projects has been initiated with the first step being the creation of Umoja Budget Structure for the release of funds. A dedicated agenda item is included in the Integrated CORMON Meeting aiming at informing the Contracting Parties on the activities and expected results under these projects.

- **ECAP Task Force and online expert groups**

UNEP/MAP internal coordination for the implementation of IMAP and the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap continues to be supported through the Ecosystem Approach Task Force, composed of CU and all relevant MAP Components, which meets regularly once every month and at ad hoc basis if need be. A shared folder has been created in the INFO/RAC platform to facilitate interaction among the Task Force Members.

Regarding the issue of re-establishment of Online Working Groups, it has been decided to focus on the results of the ongoing regional consultancies for the time being, and discuss the reestablishment of OWG with the CPs at the next Integrated CORMON meeting on the basis of these results.

Annex I

Level of maturity and status of IMAP Common Indicators

Common Indicator	Overall status	Supported by IMAP Pilot Info System
EO1 Biodiversity <i>Biological diversity is maintained or enhanced. The quality and occurrence of coastal and marine habitats and the distribution and abundance of coastal and marine species are in line with prevailing physiographic, hydrographic, geographic and climatic conditions.</i>		
CI 1: Habitat distributional range (EO1) to also consider habitat extent as a relevant attribute	Fully developed, guidance, DS and DD available, supported by IMAP Pilot Info System	Yes
CI 2: Condition of the habitat's typical species and communities (EO1)	Fully developed, guidance, DS and DD available, supported by IMAP Pilot Info System	Yes
CI 3: Species distributional range (EO1 related to marine mammals, seabirds, marine reptiles)	Guidance factsheets available, DS and DD to be developed in 2021	No
CI 4: Population abundance of selected species (EO1 related to marine mammals, seabirds, marine reptiles)	Guidance factsheets available, DS and DD to be developed in 2021	No

CI 5: Population demographic characteristics (E01 e.g. body size or age class structure, sex ratio, fecundity rates, survival/mortality rates related to marine mammals, seabirds, marine reptiles)	Guidance factsheets available, DS and DD to be developed in 2021	No
E02 Non-indigenous species <i>Non-indigenous species introduced by human activities are at levels that do not adversely alter the ecosystem</i>		
CI 6: Trends in abundance, temporal occurrence, and spatial distribution of non-indigenous species, particularly invasive, non-indigenous species, notably in risk areas (E02, in relation to the main vectors and pathways of spreading of such species)	Fully developed, guidance, DS and DD available, supported by IMAP Pilot Info System	Yes
E03 Harvest of commercially exploited fish and shellfish <i>Populations of selected commercially exploited fish and shellfish are within biologically safe limits, exhibiting a population age and size distribution that is indicative of a healthy stock</i>		
CI 7: Spawning stock Biomass (E03)	Guidance factsheets available, reported through GFCM	No
CI 8: Total landings (E03)	Guidance factsheets available, reported through GFCM	No
CI 9: Fishing Mortality (E03)	Guidance factsheets available, reported through GFCM	No
CI 10: Fishing effort (E03)	Guidance factsheets available, reported through GFCM	No
CI 11: Catch per unit of effort (CPUE) or Landing per unit of effort (LPUE) as a proxy (E03)	Guidance factsheets available, reported through GFCM	No
CI 12: Bycatch of vulnerable and non target species (E01 and E03)	Guidance factsheets available, reported through GFCM	No
E04 Marine food webs <i>Alterations to components of marine food webs caused by resource extraction or human-induced environmental changes do not have long-term adverse effects on food web dynamics and related viability</i>		
NA	Not yet developed, to be developed in 2021-2023	NA
E05 Eutrophication <i>Human-induced eutrophication is prevented, especially adverse effects thereof, such as losses in biodiversity, ecosystem degradation, harmful algal blooms and oxygen deficiency in bottom waters.</i>		

CI 13: Concentration of key nutrients in water column (E05)	Fully developed, guidance, DS and DD available, supported by IMAP Pilot Info System	Yes
CI 14: Chlorophyll-a concentration in water column (E05)	Fully developed, guidance, DS and DD available, supported by IMAP Pilot Info System	Yes
E06 Sea-floor integrity <i>Sea-floor integrity is maintained, especially in priority benthic habitats</i>		
NA	Not yet developed, to be developed in 2021-2023	NA
E07 Hydrography <i>Alteration of hydrographic conditions does not adversely affect coastal and marine ecosystems.</i>		
CI 15: Location and extent of the habitats impacted directly by hydrographic alterations (E07) to also feed the assessment of E01 on habitat extent	Fully developed, guidance, DS and DD available, supported by IMAP Pilot Info System	Yes
E08 Coastal ecosystems and landscapes <i>The natural dynamics of coastal areas are maintained and coastal ecosystems and landscapes are preserved</i>		
CI 16: Length of coastline subject to physical disturbance due to the influence of man made structures (E08)	Fully developed, guidance, DS and DD available, supported by IMAP Pilot Info System	Yes
CCI 25: Land use change (E08)	Considered for inclusion into CI at COP22	No
E09 Pollution <i>Contaminants cause no significant impact on coastal and marine ecosystems and human health</i>		
CI 17: Concentration of key harmful contaminants measured in the relevant matrix (E09, related to biota, sediment, seawater)	Fully developed, guidance, DS and DD available, supported by IMAP Pilot Info System	Yes
CI 18: Level of pollution effects of key contaminants where a cause and effect relationship has been established (E09)	Guidance factsheets available, DS and DD to be developed in 2021	No
CI 19: Occurrence, origin (where possible), extent of acute pollution events (e.g. slicks from oil, oil products and hazardous substances) and their impact on biota affected by this pollution (E09)	Guidance factsheets available, DS and DD to be developed in 2021	No

CI 20: Actual levels of contaminants that have been detected and number of contaminants which have exceeded maximum regulatory levels in community consumed seafood (E09)	Guidance factsheets available, DS and DD to be developed in 2021	No
CI 21: Percentage of intestinal enterococci concentration measurements within established standards (E09)	Fully developed, guidance, DS and DD available, supported by IMAP Pilot Info System	Yes
EO10 Marine Litter <i>Marine and coastal litter do not adversely affect coastal and marine environment</i>		
CI 22: Trends in the amount of litter washed ashore and/or deposited on coastlines (E010)	Fully developed, guidance, DS and DD available, supported by IMAP Pilot Info System	Yes
CI 23: Trends in the amount of litter in the water column including microplastics and on the seafloor (E010)	Fully developed, guidance, DS and DD available, supported by IMAP Pilot Info System	Yes
CCI 24: Trends in the amount of litter ingested by or entangling marine organisms focusing on selected mammals, marine birds, and marine turtles (E010)	Agreed as CCI; most representative species being defined; implementation approach to be defined further in 2020-2021	No
EO11 Energy including underwater noise <i>Noise from human activities cause no significant impact on marine and coastal ecosystems</i>		
CCI 26: Proportion of days and geographical distribution where loud, low and mid-frequency impulsive sounds exceeds levels that are likely to entail significant impact on marine animal	Agreed as CCI; more knowledge needed before integrating as CI	No
CCI 27: Levels of continuous low frequency sounds with the use of models as appropriate	Agreed as CCI; more knowledge needed before integrating as CI	No

Annex IV

MAP Partner Applications Evaluation Table

INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANTS / INFORMATIONS SUR LES CANDIDATS

ACRONYM/ ACRONYME	FULL NAME/NOM COMPLET	COUNTRY/ PAYS	AIMS/OBJECTIFS
AREBI	Association de Recherche Environnement et Bio Innovation	Tunisia	AREBI is a nonprofit organization that supports research in the fields of Environment, innovation, and Entrepreneurship. The main objectives of AREBI are to develop environmental Education and training activities; promote entrepreneurship among young students and researchers; Environmental Studies/Project management; Pollution effects and Marine wildlife (outreach conferences); Establish networks and University business partnership. Creation of a regional museum of marine biodiversity.
AREBI	Association de Recherche Environnement et Bio Innovation	Tunisie	AREBI est une organisation à but non lucratif qui soutient la recherche dans les domaines de l'environnement, l'innovation et l'entrepreneuriat. Les principaux objectifs d'AREBI sont de développer des activités d'éducation et de formation à l'environnement ; promouvoir l'esprit d'entreprise chez les jeunes étudiants et chercheurs ; Etudes environnementales / Gestion de projets ; Effets de la pollution et faune marine (conférences de sensibilisation) ; Établir des réseaux et des partenariats professionnels universitaires. Création d'un musée régional de la biodiversité marine.

EVALUATION / ÉVALUATION

Part I: General conditions for accreditation / Partie I : Conditions générales pour l'accréditation

Two categories of NGOs are eligible for observer status / Deux catégories d'ONG sont éligibles pour le statut d'observateur

AREBI	
International and regional NGOs / ONG internationales et régionales	
National and local NGOs from Mediterranean riparian states / ONG nationales et locales des États riverains de la Méditerranée	√

Both categories of NGOs should satisfy the following general conditions:

AREBI	
be representative in the field(s) of their competence and fields of action by the Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / être représentatives dans leur(s) domaine(s) de compétence et leurs champs d'action dans le cadre du Plan d'action pour la Méditerranée (PAM) / Convention de Barcelone et de ses Protocoles ;	√
be able, through their work, to support the achievement of the objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / être capables, au travers de son travail, d'appuyer la réalisation des objectifs du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
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 / être capables de faire connaître le travail du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles dans la région et / ou dans leurs pays respectifs ;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific project or programme, to the implementation of MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols programme of activities / être capables de contribuer, au travers d'un projet ou d'un programme spécifique, à la mise en œuvre du programme d'activités du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√

be able to contribute, through a specific event or manifestation linked to a Mediterranean Action Plan field of activity, to public awareness-raising / être capables de contribuer, au travers d'un événement ou d'une manifestation spécifique associée à un champ d'activité du PAM, à la sensibilisation du public ;	√
be able to provide, through their specific activity or experience, expert advice on the definition of Mediterranean Action Plan policies, programmes and actions / être capables de fournir, au travers de leur activité spécifique ou de leur expérience, un avis d'expert sur la définition de politiques, programmes et actions pour le PAM ;	√
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 / être capables de diffuser régulièrement des informations à leurs membres, le cas échéant, sur les normes, activités et réalisations du PAM / Convention de Barcelone dans leur(s) propre(s) domaine(s) de compétence ;	√
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 / être capables de fournir, spontanément ou à la demande des différents organes du PAM, des informations, documents ou opinions relatifs à leur(s) propre(s) domaine(s) de compétence.	√

Part II: Specific accreditation criteria and procedures / Partie II : Critères et procédures d'accréditation spécifiques

Accreditation / Accréditation

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

Les critères suivants s'appliquent aux ONG internationales et nationales / locales :

AREBI	
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 / disposer d'un statut légal ; le mandat, les objectifs et le champ d'application des activités du candidat doivent être en rapport avec un ou plusieurs domaines d'activité du PAM et avec le champ d'application de la Convention et ses Protocoles ;	√
to have existed for at least 4 years / exister depuis au moins 4 ans;	√
to submit financial and activity reports from the last two years / soumettre les états financiers et rapports d'activité des deux dernières années ;	√
to operate democratically / avoir un fonctionnement démocratique ;	√
to have their regional office or headquarters in a Mediterranean country / disposer d'un bureau ou d'un siège régional dans un pays méditerranéen ;	√
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 / justifier sa compétence générale ou spécialisée, technique ou scientifique sur des questions associées aux activités du PAM, de la Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
to demonstrate what contributions the NGO could make to MAP and the Convention and its Protocols / démontrer quelles contributions serait à même d'apporter l'ONG au PAM ainsi qu'à la Convention et ses Protocoles.	√

The following specific criteria apply to national/local NGOs:

Les critères suivants s'appliquent aux ONG nationales / locales :

AREBI	
NGO objectives genuinely related to the marine environment and coastal zones / Les objectifs de l'ONG sont véritablement associés à l'environnement marin et aux zones côtières ;	√
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 / ONG participant ou souhaitant participer à des programmes ou projets nationaux ou locaux sur la mise en œuvre des objectifs du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles.	√

INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANTS / INFORMATIONS SUR LES CANDIDATS

ACRONYM/ ACRONYME	FULL NAME/NOM COMPLET	COUNTRY/ PAYS	AIMS/OBJECTIFS
MCS	MEDITERRANEAN CONSERVATION SOCIETY	Turkey	MCS's mission is to conserve the Mediterranean ecosystem and to support communities to develop sustainable livelihoods, through projects that are locally appropriate, based on good science and tradition. MCS is involved in a range of projects encompassing several key challenges facing the Turkish coastline including developing No Fishing Zones and systems of community rangers, tackling the issue of invasive species, developing sustainable alternatives to fishing through eco-tourism projects and organising marine clean-up activities. Existing activities focus on patrolling no-take zones, protecting biodiversity hotspots and maintaining fish stocks. Local activities with local fishing cooperatives to build the knowledge and capacity are also undertaken.
MCS	MEDITERRANEAN CONSERVATION SOCIETY	Turquie	La mission de MCS est de conserver l'écosystème méditerranéen et d'aider les communautés à développer des moyens de subsistance durables, à travers des projets qui sont localement appropriés, basés sur une bonne science et tradition. MCS est impliqué dans une gamme de projets englobant plusieurs défis clés auxquels le littoral turc est confronté, notamment le développement de zones interdites de pêche et de systèmes de gardes communautaires, de s'attaquer au problème des espèces envahissantes, de développer des alternatives durables à la pêche à travers des projets d'écotourisme et organisation de nettoyages marins. Les activités existantes se concentrent sur la patrouille des zones interdites, la protection des points chauds de la biodiversité et le maintien des stocks de poissons. Un certain nombre d'activités locales sont entreprises avec des coopératives de pêche locales pour renforcer les connaissances et les capacités.

EVALUATION / ÉVALUATION

Part I: General conditions for accreditation / Partie I : Conditions générales pour l'accréditation

Two categories of NGOs are eligible for observer status / Deux catégories d'ONG sont éligibles pour le statut d'observateur

MCS	
International and regional NGOs / ONG internationales et régionales	
National and local NGOs from Mediterranean riparian states / ONG nationales et locales des États riverains de la Méditerranée	√

Both categories of NGOs should satisfy the following general conditions:

MCS	
be representative in the field(s) of their competence and fields of action by the Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / être représentatives dans leur(s) domaine(s) de compétence et leurs champs d'action dans le cadre du Plan d'action pour la Méditerranée (PAM) / Convention de Barcelone et de ses Protocoles ;	√
be able, through their work, to support the achievement of the objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / être capables, au travers de son travail, d'appuyer la réalisation des objectifs du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
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 / être capables de faire connaître le travail du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles dans la région et / ou dans leurs pays respectifs ;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific project or programme, to the implementation of MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols programme of activities / être capables de contribuer, au travers d'un projet ou d'un programme spécifique, à la mise en œuvre du programme d'activités du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific event or manifestation linked to a Mediterranean Action Plan field of activity, to public awareness-raising / être capables de contribuer, au travers d'un événement ou d'une manifestation spécifique associée à un champ d'activité du PAM, à la sensibilisation du public ;	√
be able to provide, through their specific activity or experience, expert advice on the definition of Mediterranean Action Plan policies, programmes and actions / être capables de fournir, au travers de leur activité spécifique ou de leur expérience, un avis d'expert sur la définition de politiques, programmes et actions pour le PAM ;	√
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 / être capables de diffuser régulièrement des informations à leurs membres, le cas échéant, sur les normes, activités et réalisations du PAM / Convention de Barcelone dans leur(s) propre(s) domaine(s) de compétence ;	√
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 / être capables de fournir, spontanément ou à la demande des différents organes du PAM, des informations, documents ou opinions relatifs à leur(s) propre(s) domaine(s) de compétence.	√

Part II: Specific accreditation criteria and procedures / Partie II : Critères et procédures d'accréditation spécifiques

Accreditation / Accréditation

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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 / disposer d'un statut légal ; le mandat, les objectifs et le champ d'application des activités du candidat doivent être en rapport avec un ou plusieurs domaines d'activité du PAM et avec le champ d'application de la Convention et ses Protocoles ;	√
to have existed for at least 4 years / exister depuis au moins 4 ans;	√
to submit financial and activity reports from the last two years / soumettre les états financiers et rapports d'activité des deux dernières années ;	√
to operate democratically / avoir un fonctionnement démocratique ;	√

to have their regional office or headquarters in a Mediterranean country / disposer d'un bureau ou d'un siège régional dans un pays méditerranéen ;	√
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 / justifier sa compétence générale ou spécialisée, technique ou scientifique sur des questions associées aux activités du PAM, de la Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
to demonstrate what contributions the NGO could make to MAP and the Convention and its Protocols / démontrer quelles contributions serait à même d'apporter l'ONG au PAM ainsi qu'à la Convention et ses Protocoles.	√

The following specific criteria apply to national/local NGOs:

Les critères suivants s'appliquent aux ONG nationales / locales :

MCS	
NGO objectives genuinely related to the marine environment and coastal zones / Les objectifs de l'ONG sont véritablement associés à l'environnement marin et aux zones côtières ;	√
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 / ONG participant ou souhaitant participer à des programmes ou projets nationaux ou locaux sur la mise en œuvre des objectifs du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles.	√