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**Mediterranean  
Action Plan**  
Barcelona  
Convention

18 June 2021  
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91<sup>st</sup> 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, 7-8 July 2021

**Agenda Item 3: Progress Report for October 2020 – May 2021**

**Reports of the 43<sup>rd</sup>, 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the Executive Coordination Panel**

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UNEP/MED ECP.43/2



UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

30 November 2020  
Original: English

43<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Teleconference, 28-29 September 2020

### Report of the Meeting

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UNEP/MAP  
Athens, 2020

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## **I. Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work**

1. The 43<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 28-29 September 2020, through teleconference. The meeting was chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Coordinator and attended by the Heads of MAP Components, the MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues and the Policy and Programming Expert. The consultant that supports the MAP Secretariat with the preparation of the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027 (MTS) also participated during Agenda Items 1 and 2. The list of participants is presented in Annex I to this report.

2. Mr. Gaetano Leone, UNEP/MAP Coordinator opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. (Athens time) on 28 September 2020. He welcomed the participants and referred to the new Africa Centre for Climate and Sustainable Development (ACSD) of UNDP hosted by Italy. He noted the possibilities for cooperation with UNEP/MAP, since the Mediterranean is one of the focuses of the Centre's work. He then highlighted some recent advances in the work of MAP, including the launch of the GEF MedProgramme and the approval of two EC-funded projects that will support the implementation of the PoW. He also referred to the celebration of the Mediterranean Coast Day, the progress in the main processes mandated by COP 21, the meeting of the General Assembly of MedECC, the bilateral meeting with the European Environment Agency and the meeting of the Working Group on Blue Economy of UfM. He also referred to the unpredictability of the months to come due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat, as in document UNEP/MED ECP.43/1.

## **II. Agenda Item 2: New Medium-Term Strategy:**

### **a) Building Blocks, Major Regional Products and Elements of the Narrative**

### **b) Main Elements for a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the MTS**

### **c) Main Elements of a MAP Systemic Analysis to Deliver the MTS**

4. Ms. Tatjana Hema, MAP Deputy Coordinator thanked the members of the ECP for their inputs in relation to the preparation of the new MTS and the bilateral discussions held, and referred to the progress since the previous ECP meeting. She noted that an important step forward has been taken, noting the promising list of the main products developed, and stressed that some more aggregation is now needed in the proposed products, as well as some further finetuning of the text of the draft MTS. She also referred to the links with the new MTS of UNEP.

5. Ms. Virginie Hart, the consultant that supports the MAP Secretariat with the preparation of the new MTS, presented the draft of the new MTS, noting that it includes approximately 100 products structured around seven programmes. The Deputy Coordinator noted that the meeting should focus on the review of the substance of the document, while its final structure could be discussed at a later stage. Discussion on substance should include the vision, programmes, objectives, outcomes, main directions, and - to the extent possible - products. With regard to the latter, MAP Components were asked to update or add new products for new outcomes to be integrated as well as for existing outcomes that required to be further populated with meaningful products. She added that recent work focused on including main project deliverables as products of the new MTS, in an aggregated form. The consultant added that the list of products will need further revision, once the other parts of the document are agreed.

6. The Plan Bleu/RAC Director, Mr. François Guerquin, presented a proposal on the preparation of the new MTS, which was based on a slightly different concept. The meeting welcomed the proposal and agreed that some of its elements could be incorporated in the draft text of the MTS prepared by the Secretariat.

7. In the ensuing discussion it was noted that issues of capacity building can be embedded in the thematic programmes, and - if systemic - especially in the one on governance; the titles of programmes should be action-oriented, especially the thematic ones (e.g. by starting with “Towards/For”); monitoring and assessment issues should better be included in one programme, that on the shared vision; the list of products could be better presented as an annex or a separate information document at this stage, since they are still very indicative; the proposed vision was good and inclusive, while the alternative proposal should be also kept; objectives should be concrete, limited in number and results-based; overall objectives are not required under each programme, only strategic objectives; considerations on circular economy are to also be included in programme 1 on pollution (beyond programme 4); products should be aggregated, detailed and preferably not more than 10 per programme; products under each outcome could not appear under other outcomes; the targets and indicators will be discussed at a later stage, considering also the relevant work on the UNEP MTS/PoW.

8. The meeting agreed that ECP Members would work in groups that have mandate relevant to a specific programme, in order to finetune the objectives, outcomes and main directions of each programme, and only if necessary, the main products. It was agreed that they will liaise with the consultant for clarifications and they will send their consolidated inputs to the consultant, who would then work to prepare a revised version for final review by the Secretariat. In parallel, the consultant and the Secretariat will work on the narrative text of the report. Then, the report will be finalized by the Secretariat for submission to the MTS Steering Committee and the 90<sup>th</sup> Bureau meetings (10-11 and 12-13 November 2020, respectively).

9. The issue of a MAP Systemic Analysis to deliver the new MTS was also discussed. The Deputy Coordinator informed the ECP that the ToRs to engage a consultant to support the Secretariat with this task are being prepared, with the aim to examine the resources needed for the Secretariat and MAP Components to deliver the new MTS and its biannual PoWs. This exercise is to consider also what happens in other Multilateral Environmental Agreements and to assist the MAP-Barcelona Convention system to increase its impact. The main tasks of this work were presented to the meeting by the Secretariat.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Secretariat to send revised version of draft MTS to MAP Components	Coordinating Unit	Until Thursday 1 October
2.	MAP Components to work on the text and provide feedback	All MAP Components	Until Monday 5 October
3.	Finalization of document for submission to CPs	Coordinating Unit	Until Monday 12 October

### **III. Agenda Item 3: Impacts of COVID-19 and Proposed Responses by the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention System, including Possible Adjustment of the UNEP/MAP POW 2020-2021**

10. The meeting discussed the impacts of COVID-19 and the possible responses of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system. It was noted that no activity seems to be in a major implementation risk due to COVID-19 and that savings are anticipated from the cancelling of travel and from holding meetings virtually. All MAP Components were asked to provide to the Secretariat before the 90<sup>th</sup> Bureau Meeting an assessment of anticipated savings from travel and meeting costs, together with a proposal on their potential use, under two scenarios: (a) Physical meetings are allowed as of January 2021, and (b) Physical meetings are allowed as of April/May 2021.

11. During the ensuing discussion, ECP Members presented possible impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and proposed responses. The main challenges faced are in relation to meetings with national authorities and stakeholders. Some specific repercussions are: delays in transboundary CAMPs; delays in progress of work between Morocco and SPA/RAC; difficulties in preparation of foresight studies, where face-to-face meetings are needed; difficulties in national consultation meetings for the Data Management Policy, which are better held face-to-face.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
4.	Assessment of anticipated savings from travel and meeting costs with a proposal on their potential use, under two scenarios	All MAP Components	End of October 2020

#### IV. Agenda item 4: Possible Collaboration with the Africa Centre for Climate and Sustainable Development (ACSD) of UNDP

12. The Director *ad interim* of ACSD and Senior Advisor at UNDP, Ms. Theresa Panuccio, briefly presented the work of the Centre. During the ensuing discussion, the relevance of the Centre with the work of UNEP/MAP was highlighted, while ways to increase links between ACSD and UNEP, and especially UNEP/MAP, were also discussed. It was noted that the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) also wants to increase these links, as well as to include the Mediterranean region as one of the focuses of the Centre's work. Possible links with the overall UNDP's work on climate change were also discussed.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
5.	Follow-up on possible collaboration with ACSD	Coordinating Unit	Continuous

#### V. Agenda item 5: Date and Venue of the 44<sup>th</sup> ECP Meeting

13. The meeting discussed the possible dates for the next ECP meeting. The period 19-20 January 2021 was identified as appropriate.

#### VI. Agenda item 6: Any Other Matters

##### a) Focal Points Meetings of MAP Components

14. The meeting briefly discussed the dates of the MAP Components Focal Points meeting to be reflected in the calendar of meetings and events to be submitted to the 90<sup>th</sup> Bureau meeting as an information document. Dates not identified during the meeting would be communicated to the Secretariat.

##### b) Update on the Status of Projects

15. The Deputy Coordinator presented an update on the status of recently approved projects. Regarding the GEF MedProgramme it was noted that all Child Projects were approved and that the legal instruments would be ready within the next two weeks for signature by the relevant MAP Components. In relation to the EcAp MED III Project it was noted that it has been approved by the European Commission and that necessary steps are being taken internally for the release of funds and then for the preparation of the legal agreements. Before the finalization of the legal agreements, bilateral meetings of the Deputy Coordinator will take place with relevant MAP Component Directors to discuss activities and budget. The launch of the EcAp Med III Project has been planned for the beginning of December. A similar process is being followed for the Marine Litter MED II Project.

**c) Branding of RACs, including RAC Names**

16. The Director of SCP/RAC, Mr. Enrique de Villamore Martin, noted that SCP/RAC is preparing a strategic communication plan to attract new donors. For this purpose and to secure funding for the RAC to continue its mandate and to be operative beyond 2023, the name to be used for branding towards potential donors is very important.

17. The Deputy Coordinator noted that the names of RACs are in some cases set in the Protocols of the Barcelona Convention, while in other cases they are set through COP Decisions. She also noted that it is different if the name is to be changed for all purposes, or if a shorter name is to be used only for branding/communication purposes. She also asked for clarifications whether the mandate of the Centre will remain the same.

18. In the ensuing discussion, the Director of SCP/RAC clarified that the mandate will remain the same and that a new, more “attractive” name is needed only for external/donor communication, while the official name will be used in all official documents and for communication within the MAP-Barcelona Convention system. It was agreed that SCP/RAC will provide further information and a concrete proposal and that no other steps will be taken before this issue, which is of interest to other RACs as well, is further discussed and agreed within the MAP-Barcelona Convention system.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
6.	Concrete proposal on changing the name of SCP/RAC for branding purposes	SCP/RAC	No deadline set

19. The meeting was closed by the Coordinator at 17:30 on 29 September 2020.

**Annex I**  
**List of participants**



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**Annex II**  
**Agenda**

## **Agenda**

- Agenda Item 1** Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work
- Agenda Item 2** New Medium-Term Strategy:  
a) Building Blocks, Major Regional Products and Elements of the Narrative  
b) Main Elements for a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the MTS  
c) Main Elements of a MAP Systemic Analysis to Deliver the MTS
- Agenda Item 3** Impacts of COVID-19 and Proposed Responses by the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention System, including Possible Adjustment of the UNEP/MAP POW 2020-2021
- Agenda Item 4** Possible Collaboration with the Africa Centre for Climate and Sustainable Development (ACSD) of UNDP
- Agenda Item 5** Date and Venue of the 44<sup>th</sup> ECP Meeting
- Agenda Item 6** Any Other Matters  
a) Focal Points Meetings of MAP Components  
b) Update on the Status of Projects  
c) Branding of RACs, including RAC Names



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**EP**

UNEP/MED ECP.44/2



**UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

**UNEP**

16 March 2021  
Original: English

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

Teleconference, 19-20 January 2021

**Report of the Meeting**

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UNEP/MAP  
Athens, 2021

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2. Mr. Gaetano Leone, UNEP/MAP Coordinator opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. (Athens time) on 19 January 2021. He welcomed the participants and noted that this is a “COP year” and therefore entering a demanding period. He added that it is also a special year for the Coordinating Unit, due to the change in Coordinator. He highlighted that work is progressing well and that he is optimistic for the way to COP22 and the successful completion of the relevant processes. He reported on his recent meeting with Prof. Birpınar, Deputy Minister of Environment and Urbanization of Turkey, in view of the preparations of COP22, as well as on the new French initiative on the “Plan d’ Action pour la Méditerranée Exemplaire”. Finally, he noted that, overall, there is a big delay in the achievement of the SDGs, while he stressed that the MAP-Barcelona Convention system has produced very good assessment reports during this last period (SoED, MAR1).

3. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat, as in document UNEP/MED ECP.44/1, with the addition under Agenda Item 7 of an update on the process of recruitment of the new Coordinator.

## **II. Agenda Item 2: UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2020-2021**

### **a) Status of Implementation**

### **b) Possible Impacts of COVID-19 and Proposed Responses**

4. A “tour de table” was initiated on the major achievements and major concerns in relation to the implementation of the PoW, on the possible impacts of Covid-19 (activities partly/not implemented and working arrangements) and on potential savings and their possible reallocation. The main points are highlighted below:

- a) *INFO/RAC*: Staff is partly present in the office, with rotation. No major challenges or delays due to Covid-19 so far. Meetings take place online, while there are some delays in internal administrative processes, including Human Resource issues (some savings due to delays in procurement and recruitments, are planned to be used in 2021 for similar purposes). The testing phase of the IMAP InfoSystem has been completed, work on data standards and data dictionaries progresses well, while support is provided to Contracting Parties. The implementation of the Operational Communication Strategy progresses well in collaboration with the Task Force.
- b) *REMPEC*: Currently there is minimum presence at the office. Possible presence with rotation in the future, but only when things improve. On offshore issues, temporary staff to be recruited in February; JPO will be leaving in March and there will be an announcement on JPO opening. Progress ongoing with Regional Strategy and with the MED SECA proposal. Preparation of Project Document with IMO on Marine Litter is ongoing, while the West MOPoCo project was extended. Discussions are ongoing with Bosnia and Herzegovina on the contingency plan. Since face-to-face meetings will not be possible at least until July, savings of approximately 120,000 Euros are expected. There are certain ideas on how these will be used. It was noted that albeit the strict timelines, offshore activities will be fully implemented and that REMPEC resources will be used for the relevant meetings.

- c) *Plan Bleu/RAC*: Mostly working from home. Presence at office is based on individual personnel decisions, but keeping rotation. MED2050 preparation is progressing, although with delays, with new personnel being recruited for this purpose. Three meetings took place in 2020 and the fourth will take place in February 2021. The SoED dissemination/visibility continues, in collaboration with partners such as PAM and OSCE. Visibility of the MAR1 report is also promoted. Very good collaboration with REMPEC on SECA. Approximately 100,000 Euros savings from travel are expected, from which a part (about 15,000 Euros) will be used for MED2050 while the rest will be used for the same outputs as originally planned. Following a question by the Coordinator, it was clarified that the MED2050 may not be fully ready for adoption at COP22. The Coordinator highlighted the importance of following the formal process if a COP Decision is not to be met, which involves bringing the issue to the attention of the Bureau at its next meeting and providing a revised roadmap with justifications for the delay. The Plan/Bleu Director stressed that the MED2050 would greatly benefit by the support of the ECP, giving as an example the very good collaboration with all MAP components for the preparation of the SoED report.
- d) *SCP/RAC*: Flexible working arrangements are in place during the last 4 months, based on local measures. The work of the centre has not been much affected, except from the fact that meetings and trainings are held virtually. There are approximately 30% savings from the budget which are to be moved to 2021. Some delays to provision of support to Turkey on SCP, due to administrative issues, are expected to be resolved soon. The work on a Set of Regional Measures to Support the Development of Green and Circular Businesses and to Strengthen the Demand for more Sustainable Products proceeds according to the roadmap adopted at COP21. An experts' meeting will take place on 23-24 February. Work is also proceeding in cooperation with Plan Bleu/RAC on the MSSD and SCP Action Plan mid-term evaluations. Other activities also proceed well. A new activity will take place funded by MAVA on Covid-19 impacts on green economy.
- e) *PAP/RAC*: Staff continues to work from office; only in April staff was working from home. New staff member will be recruited on MedProgramme. PoW implementation proceeds well, except CAMPs, in which delays are observed. The Mediterranean Coast Day celebration went very well, through virtual events with the support of INFO/RAC. Many local events took place in seven Contracting Parties, and this may be the way for the future. Work and ongoing projects on Marine Spatial Planning and Land-Sea Interaction proceed well. The MedOpen online course is very successful and has become an official part of academic curricula (in two universities in Morocco and Tunisia). CAMP Bosnia and Herzegovina also proceeds well, including the contingency plan where there is a very good collaboration with REMPEC. For transboundary CAMPs there is a need to use existing savings, which are limited, especially since the new agreement with Italy/IMELS may be delayed.
- f) *SPA/RAC*: Since November 2020, all staff members were requested to work from home. Work proceeds smoothly as the RAC provided all members with good tools in terms of software and hardware as well as internet connection. However, the situation in Tunisia with Covid-19 is not good and is now reaching the peak. Work agenda is very heavy but work proceeds well. Due to the early start in the preparation of SAP BIO work is on schedule. Already 21 Contracting Parties achieved good process, while internal consensus has not yet been achieved in one Party. Subregional meetings were successful, with the presence of the Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator. A main challenge is the alignment with the global process due to the delays in the CBD process/COP. SPA/RAC will follow the online SBSTTA meetings and is waiting to see the exact dates of the CBD COP15. Work on the Regional Strategy on MPAs and OECMs is also proceeding well; this process is less demanding than the SAP BIO one. SPA/RAC is redesigning the SPAMI evaluation system so that it is done online. The AGEM group was launched and work proceeds well. The process for the MPA Med Forum was launched but the Forum has been postponed to the end of 2021-beginning of 2022. The SPAMI evaluation is delayed due to the travel restrictions that do not allow to meet at the SPAMIs. On the issues of the alignment with global processes and the SPAMI evaluation,



considering the respective challenges due to Covid-19, the advice of the Coordinator was sought. The Coordinator responded that in relation to SAP BIO, the best way forward would be to advance the work to the extent possible and prepare the draft Decision so that the Contracting Parties can commit through the COP22 decision, leaving however a provision that will allow review after the COP (with the Bureau and/or the Contracting Parties) if necessary to align with the global commitments (in case the latter are finalized at a later stage). On the SPAMI evaluation, work should proceed to the extent possible online and a discussion should take place with the Focal Points on the best way forward, including the option of a possible postponement of the evaluation. A preliminary, desk-based, evaluation can be made and presented to the COP, with a note that this preliminary evaluation will be completed in 2022 with any further information from field visits.

- g) *MED POL*: Work is progressing on three major streams of work, on (a) Regional Plans and Annexes to the Pollution-related Protocols, (b) NBB capacity building, and (c) Monitoring and Assessment linked to IMAP. Any delays are not attributed to Covid-19. Savings of up to 135,000 USD are expected, half attributed to travel of consultants and the rest to meetings and related travel. The Deputy Coordinator, Ms. Tatjana Hema, noted that if delays occur that might influence adoption, then these will need to be discussed with the Bureau, as is the case for the MED2050 foresight study. Furthermore, she added that online meetings in 2021 may cost more than expected, due to platform/interpretation costs, so that overall savings may be significantly reduced.
- h) *Coordinating Unit*: Since 1 November, the office has opened with 40% physical presence (rotation, with individual presence twice per week). Work is progressing on major strategic documents and processes, including the preparation of the new MTS. There is cooperation with Contracting Parties which are also EU Member States on supporting commitments related both to EcAp/IMAP and to the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Discussions are ongoing with Italy on a possible new agreement between UNEP/MAP and IMELS. Implementation of the GEF MedProgramme is continuing, despite some difficulties due to the departure of the Programme Officer and administrative issues. The Steering Committee meetings are organized in early March. The preparation of the 2023 MED QSR, the MSSD and SCP Action Plan mid-term evaluations are progressing. There is a need to be realistic and forward looking. Reference was made to the One Planet Summit and the relevant French initiative, as well as to the IUCN congress at which this initiative will be discussed.

5. The Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator stressed the importance to have a clear idea of the amount of potential savings, of where they originate from, and on their proposed reallocation from all MAP components, so that this information can be shared with the Bureau, in order to seek the Bureau's advice during its next meeting.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Assessment of savings with a proposal on their reallocation	All MAP Components	Early February 2021
2.	Prepare and submit to 91 <sup>st</sup> Bureau meeting revised MED2050 roadmap and justification for delays of process	Plan Bleu/RAC (in coordination with CU)	Mid-May 2021
3.	Prepare provision (for 91 <sup>st</sup> Bureau meeting) to allow review of SAP BIO, if necessary, to align with global process	SPA/RAC (in coordination with CU)	Mid-May 2021

### III. Agenda Item 3: Preparation of the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027

6. The Deputy Coordinator highlighted the need for the participants to jointly review the draft text of the new MTS during the meeting and proposed to structure the discussion as follows: (a) general

discussion and questions, (b) discussion of the text section by section, and (c) discussion of next steps. The meeting agreed with this proposal. Following a brief presentation of the calendar of milestones related to the current MTS evaluation and the new MTS preparation, participants noted the importance of ensuring that the recommendations of the evaluation of the current MTS will be taken into account in the new MTS.

7. Following this general introduction, the meeting proceeded to reviewing the text of the draft MTS section by section. Specific comments were incorporated in the text, while in parallel some smaller groups were designated to work overnight in preparing specific paragraphs, especially in relation to a narrative part to explain how each outcome of the MTS will be achieved. In relation to targets and indicators, it was decided that these will be elaborated at a next stage and that they need to be aggregated and strategic. They could be included under monitoring and evaluation, or as an Annex in tabular form. During the two days of the meeting the narrative text of the outcomes was prepared, while further inputs on the text, including on targets and indicators, were agreed to be provided by the end of the week of the meeting.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
4.	ECP to provide inputs on first Draft MTS, and especially on targets/indicators	All MAP Components	22 January 2021
5.	Prepare text on timeline/links of Programme 2 with CBD Post-2020 global process	SPA/RAC	25 January 2021
6.	Finalization of first draft MTS for submission to OEWG	CU	Early February 2021

#### IV. Agenda item 4: Preparation of the 2022-2023 UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget

8. The meeting discussed the preparation of the 2022-2023 UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget (PoW). It was highlighted that full consistency should be ensured between the new MTS and the PoW for the next biennium and that reference should be made to the MTS within the PoW. The Deputy Coordinator highlighted the importance of focusing on deliverables and on providing links with the list of products of the MTS and with the relevant resources for the delivery of the PoW. She added that bilateral meetings with MAP components will be organized for providing specific feedback and clarifications and that there is room of further aggregation in the proposed activities under the PoW. The Coordinator highlighted the extent of work that the MAP-Barcelona Convention system delivers and the need to make it more visible. He added that working together in preparing a reasonable and concrete PoW are the keys to success.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
7.	Feedback to be provided to PoW proposals of MAP Components	CU	End January 2021
8.	Submission of the PoW to the MAP components Focal Points (only the relevant PoW items for each MAP component)	All MAP components	10 February 2021

#### V. Agenda item 5: Preparation of the main MAP Meetings of 2021:

##### a) 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD

9. The Coordinator highlighted that the discussion on the host of the next MCSD meeting has up to now been inconclusive. Slovenia is one candidate with which discussion have progressed well, but no final response had been yet received. The MCSD meeting will be held online, so there will be no obligations of hosting a face-to-face meeting; however, the host will hold the presidency of the MCSD for the next biennium. It was noted that if agreement with Slovenia has not been reached shortly, the

ECP members will be asked to liaise with their respective host countries to explore the possibility of hosting the meeting.

**b) Meetings of the Focal Points of the MAP Components and of MAP**

10. The dates of the MAP components Focal Points meeting were discussed in order to finalize the calendar of meetings and to secure that no substantive overlaps between meetings will take place. The Coordinator clarified that, also following the relevant feedback from UNON, the current assumption is that all meetings in the first semester of 2021 will take place remotely.

**c) COP 22**

11. The Coordinator informed the meeting that he would have an appointment the day after the meeting with the Deputy Minister of Environment and Urbanization of Turkey, Mr. Birpinar, to discuss the preparations of COP22. He noted to the ECP that there is a need to have the first inputs on the possible theme, the list of documents and the list of decisions of COP22, stressing that it is important to have as few decisions as possible, especially due to the insecurity caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, and that decisions do not need to repeat what is already in the PoW. Regarding the theme of COP22 he noted that the new MTS should have a central role and that the experience for building back better from the Covid-19 pandemic is also a very timely issue. The theme of the COP is also relevant to the Ministerial declaration and the COP decisions.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
9.	Inputs by all MAP Components on COP 22: a) possible theme b) list of draft decisions c) list of documents (working and information, as appropriate)	All MAP Components	Mid-February 2021

**VI. Agenda item 6: Date and Venue of the 45<sup>th</sup> ECP Meeting**

12. The meeting discussed the possible dates for the next ECP meeting. The second half of March 2021 was identified as appropriate, while it was agreed that the exact dates will be decided at a later stage.

**VII. Agenda item 7: Any Other Matters**

**a) Presentation of the Knowledge Management module of the MedProgramme**

13. The consultant supporting the secretariat with the Knowledge Management module of the MedProgramme, Ms. Lucilla Minelli, made a presentation of the module with emphasis on how this can benefit the whole MAP-Barcelona Convention system. She mentioned the importance of linking knowledge management with monitoring and evaluation, while she also noted the links between knowledge management and the proposed Programme 7 of the new MTS. The meeting agreed on the importance of knowledge management and on the need to capitalize on the experience to be gained on this issue through the MedProgramme.

**b) Branding of RACs, including RAC Names**

14. The Director of SCP/RAC, Mr. Enrique de Villamore Martin, noted, as a follow-up to the relevant discussion in the previous ECP meeting, that SCP/RAC is considering changing its name in an informal manner, i.e. for branding purposes only, without any change in the centre's mandate nor in the official name that will be used for communication in the MAP-Barcelona Convention system. He

added that the centre has not yet done any actions in this direction, since they waited for the relevant discussion in the ECP. The Director of SPA/RAC, Mr. Khalil Attia, noted that SPA/RAC has not changed its official name but is also using a title/name specifying what the centre actually does. The Director of PAP/RAC, Ms. Zeljka Skaricic, added that PAP/RAC would not change its name, since it is a brand, but is using an explanation together with the official name to showcase what the center is doing.

15. The Director of SCP/RAC clarified that the centre does not have a specific name in mind and that they want a name for purposes of visibility towards donors. The Deputy Coordinator noted that the understanding is that SCP/RAC wants to move in a similar direction to the one noted by SPA/RAC and PAP/RAC and that it is important to make clear that there will be no institutional change. If the change is of an informal, explanatory, name to be used towards donors, this sounds viable; SCP/RAC can proceed with making a proposal, which will need to be checked with the Secretariat.

#### **c) Information Technology Tools to Support Collaborative Work of the ECP**

16. The meeting briefly discussed the online tools used for collaborative work. It was noted that the platform of INFO/RAC has in general a good performance, but other tools such as MS Teams can also be considered and tested.

#### **d) Update on the Process of Recruitment of the new Coordinator**

17. The Coordinator provided information on this issue to the meeting, noting that his last day in office is 31 May 2021, while he will also have to take by then his accrued leave. He informed the meeting that the job opening was issued in October 2020; however, it was cancelled the week of the ECP meeting. The main reason was that the Executive Director wished for an as wide as possible pool of candidates, taking into account both gender and geographical perspectives. He clarified that the re-issuing of the job opening was in no way related to a lack of satisfaction with the level of applicants. He added that this will mean a delay of the recruitment process and asked the ECP to disseminate the job opening to their networks. Finally, he mentioned the need to prepare a short briefing on the work of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system, with inputs from all MAP components, to be handed to the new Coordinator.

18. The meeting was closed by the Coordinator at 17:30 on 20 January 2021.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
10.	Short briefing for new Coordinator based on template to be provided by CU	All MAP Components	End March 2021

**Annex I**

**List of participants**

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**Annex II**  
**Agenda**



## Agenda

- Agenda item 1** Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work
- Agenda item 2** UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2020-2021
- a) Status of Implementation
  - b) Possible Impacts of COVID-19 and Proposed Responses
- Agenda item 3** Preparation of the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027
- Agenda item 4** Preparation of the 2022-2023 UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget
- Agenda item 5** Preparation of the main MAP Meetings of 2021:
- a) 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD
  - b) Meetings of the Focal Points of the MAP Components and of MAP
  - c) COP 22
- Agenda item 6** Date and Venue of the 45<sup>th</sup> ECP Meeting
- Agenda item 7** Any Other Matters
- a) Presentation of the Knowledge Management module of the MedProgramme
  - b) Branding of RACs, including RAC Names
  - c) Information Technology Tools to Support Collaborative Work of the ECP
  - d) Update on the Process of Recruitment of the new Coordinator



**UNITED  
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UNEP/MED ECP.45/2



**UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

10 May 2021  
Original: English

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

Teleconference, 29-30 March 2021

**Report of the Meeting**

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UNEP/MAP  
Athens, 2021

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## **I. Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work**

1. The 45<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 29-30 March 2021, through teleconference. The meeting was chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Coordinator and attended by the Deputy Coordinator, the Heads of MAP Components, the MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues and the Policy and Programming Expert. The consultant that supports the MAP Secretariat with the preparation of the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027 (MTS) participated during Agenda Item 4. The list of participants is presented in Annex I to this report.
2. Mr. Gaetano Leone, UNEP/MAP Coordinator opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. (Athens time) on 29 March 2021. He welcomed the participants and referred to the recent developments, progress and MAP related events of the period since the previous ECP meeting. He noted that this is a demanding period, leading to COP 22, and this will need efficient cooperation, understanding and support.
3. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat, as in document UNEP/MED ECP.45/1.

## **II. Agenda Item 2: UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2020-2021**

### **a) Status of Implementation**

### **b) Possible Impacts of COVID-19 and Proposed Responses**

4. Ms. Tatjana Hema, UNEP/MAP Deputy Coordinator presented the main findings from the review of the Planning and Priorities Table as completed by MAP Components, which showed a positive overall picture on progress and achievements. She highlighted specific cells on the tables where information was missing, especially on the population of the worksheet on Indicators and Targets, on the columns relating to the assessment of activity progress (as satisfactory or not), as well as on the change of original plans and budget delivery rate. She also pointed out a number of activities for which additional information or clarifications in the reported progress would be needed.
5. The MAP Components' Directors and Heads provided clarifications on the relevant points raised by the Deputy Coordinator during a tour-de-table. The meeting noted that in general activities did not face a significant implementation risk, while there was some departure from the original planning, especially for the MED2050 which cannot be ready for endorsement at COP 22 and the SAP BIO which will need to allow for including any final amendments of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework after COP 22. The ECP agreed that the clarifications provided orally during the meeting would be inserted by the ECP members in the Planning and Priorities Table at the time of the next reporting exercise, i.e. in July 2021, when updates on the period January-June 2021 are to be provided.
6. The Deputy Coordinator informed the meeting about the status of budget revision requests regarding the use of savings generated due to travel restrictions imposed by COVID-19 and the process for the way forward including, as appropriate, providing information to the Bureau of the Contracting Parties and amending the Legal Instruments. She presented three aggregated budget revision tables which contained information required for the management to take an informed decision about the proposed revisions, in accordance with the UN Rules and Regulations, in addition to the standard detailed budget revision template. The aggregated tables were shared with ECP members; it was agreed that all Components in need of a budget revision would fill and submit them to the Secretariat within 10 days.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Provide clarifications in the Planning and Priorities Table	All MAP Components	By July 2021

2.	Submit the aggregated budget revision tables	All MAP Components	10 days after the meeting
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### III. Agenda Item 3: Preparation of the 2022-2023 UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget

7. The Coordinator expressed his appreciation to the ECP Members for their inputs and progress achieved and highlighted the difficulties of preparing the PoW for the next biennium without having the MTS for the next 6 years yet finalized. He noted that the proposed way to proceed during the meeting was to go through the PoW, Programme by Programme, with the participants providing their comments and suggestions; more work would then be done after the meeting, with MAP Components providing consolidated comments in written form.

8. The Deputy Coordinator guided participants through the document and highlighted that it is very important to be more concrete and to ensure that the activities are put under the correct outcome where they belong. It was also noted that the PoW needs to be brief and to the point with activities aggregated to the extent possible, while deliverables should have enough information on what is to be achieved. Particular discussion was made on Nature-Based Solutions and how they can be best reflected in the PoW using a systemic approach. For outcome 4.2 it was noted that its title should be checked so that it is in line with the other outcome titles. On programme 5, it was noted that deliverables for the next biennium should take into account the constraints posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, that knowledge-sharing tools better fit under programme 6, and that meetings should be grouped together. It was added that thematic activities and technical capacity building should better go under the respective thematic programmes and not under programme 5. On programme 6 it was noted that complementarities and synergies should be ensured with the work under projects. On programme 7, the need of grouping of activities was highlighted under the appropriate outcomes, together with the need to put all educational activities together. On outreach issues, the importance of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system working as one was stressed, together with the important role of the Communication Task Force.

9. On next steps, the Deputy Coordinator noted the need to prepare a short, smart and precise narrative text, and to further work on the excel tables so as to: present better the main partners, include the most relevant specific SDG target (and not a general reference to SDGs), delete the rational/links to the MTS as well as the implementation means and tools (the latter to be reflected under activities). Then, the finalized tables together with the narrative text will be shared with the MAP Focal Points for consultation. It was also noted that the PoW will be sent to MAP Component/Thematic Focal Points meetings as an information document, so that they are aware of the current text, reflect on it and consult internally at an early stage.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
3.	Provide feedback on the consolidated text of the PoW 2022-2023	All MAP Components	7 April 2021
4.	Preparation of short and concise narrative text to accompany the tables	CU	Mid-April 2021
5.	Dissemination of PoW to MAP Focal Points	CU	Mid/Late-April 2021

### IV. Agenda Item 4: Preparation of the MAP Focal Points Meeting on the Medium-Term Strategy

10. The MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues, Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis, presented the provisional agenda of the upcoming MAP Focal Points meeting on the MTS (teleconference, 13-15 April 2021), so that the ECP could discuss the preparations for that meeting. Participants referred to the document on key products/deliverables that was presented in the 90<sup>th</sup> Bureau meeting as an information document, asking if it would be revised to reflect recent changes. The Deputy Coordinator responded that this document had been very useful for preparing the MTS

following a bottom-up approach, and that the products have been used for drafting the outputs and deliverables of the PoW for 2022-23 (and will be also used for the next two biennial PoWs). She added that there are no current plans in revising the document and that the initial document can be presented as a Reference Document to the MAP Focal Points Meeting of September 2021. To this end, the Coordinator noted that the MTS is a strategic document that needs to have the appropriate level of flexibility and not go into full implementation details. Another option that was mentioned was to have the indicative list of products as an annex to the MTS, if Contracting Parties request so during the Focal Points meeting of April 2021. Several participants noted that if the products are to be included, they need to be revised to reflect current evolutions and proposed changes from the original version. Following this discussion, the meeting agreed to delete from the draft PoW 2022-3 the column on products.

11. Another point raised by the participants was the importance of the current MTS evaluation, with some noting that the fact that the two processes go in parallel may not allow for fully exploiting the results of the current MTS evaluation for the new MTS preparation. The Coordinator noted that the independent evaluation was received somewhat later than expected, but the Secretariat had made all efforts so that the new MTS benefits from the current MTS evaluation.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
6.	<i>In case the list of products is to be included as an annex to the MTS: products to be revised</i>	CU and all MAP Components	May/June 2021

## V. Agenda Item 5: Preparation of the main MAP Meetings of 2021:

### a) 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD

### b) Meetings of the Focal Points of the MAP Components and of MAP

### c) COP 22

12. The MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues, presented the progress in the preparation of the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the MCSD, noting that short inputs will be soon requested by MAP Components for the meeting documents.

13. On the preparations of COP 22 and following a question by a participant on the next steps regarding the preparation of the COP 22 theme, the Coordinator noted that the Coordinating Unit will distill the inputs provided by the ECP and will come with a proposal to the 91<sup>st</sup> Bureau meeting (teleconference, 7-8 July 201), which will be first shared with the Host Country of COP 22. He added that suggestions are welcomed on ways to bring the theme together, based on the proposals tabled by MAP Components. During the ensuing discussion, and in relation to the proposals tabled by MAP Components, it was noted that the wording “Paving the way...” may be redundant since the process of the 2020-2030 decade has already started; it was added that theme should not start by “Despite world crises and pandemics...”. In this respect, it was stressed that the theme should be phrased in a way to attract the attention of media and for this reason it should be also seen by the Communication Task Force. The meeting agreed that the theme should not be too general and should be linked to the new MTS.

14. The meeting also discussed the possible list of draft decisions for COP 22 consolidated by the Coordinating Unit. Several proposals of aggregations were presented and discussed, to be considered for the next version of the list of draft COP 22 decisions to be presented to the Bureau at its next meeting. The Deputy Coordinator noted that the list will be further elaborated in the Coordinating Unit and shared with the MAP Components. The importance to ensure that all mandates given by Contracting Parties are included in the proposed list of draft decisions was also stressed. The Coordinator noted the need for each MAP Component to sent 2-3 sentences on each proposed decision, as relevant, for presentation to the Bureau.

15.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
7.	MAP Components to send 2-3 sentences on each relevant proposed COP decision	All MAP Components	18 May 2021

#### **VI. Agenda Item 6: Date and Venue of the 46<sup>th</sup> ECP Meeting**

16. The meeting discussed the possible dates for the next ECP meeting. The second half of May or early June 2021 was identified as an appropriate period, while it was agreed that the exact dates will be decided at a later stage. Setting the exact dates should take into account the need to have a first proposal on the budget for the biennium 2022-3 ready for discussion at the 46<sup>th</sup> ECP meeting, so that the budget is discussed internally at the ECP before submission to the MAP Focal Points. The meeting also noted the importance of the systemic analysis to accompany the next MTS. The Coordinator highlighted that the organization supporting the Secretariat with the systemic analysis has been notified on the importance of discussing with MAP Components, especially due to their role in the next MTS implementation.

#### **VII. Agenda Item 7: Any Other Matters**

17. No other matters were raised during the meeting.

18. The ECP Members expressed their heartfelt appreciation to the UNEP/MAP Coordinator, Mr. Gaetano Leone and wished him the best for his retirement, since he is retiring in May 2021 and no other ECP meetings are foreseen in the period until then.

19. The meeting was closed by the Coordinator at 17:30 on 30 March 2021.

**Annex I**  
**List of participants**



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**Annex II**  
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