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Agenda Item 4: Ecosystem Approach governance mechanism

Terms of Reference and Mandates of MAP bodies

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Note by the Secretariat

This Information Document provides the Terms of Reference and Mandates of MAP bodies:

- MAP Focal Points and Component Focal Points, as in COP15 Decision IG.17/5 Governance Paper, Almeria, Spain, 15-18 January 2008, and,
- EcAp Coordination Group and CORMONs, as in Annex III of the Report of the 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 Paris, France, 3-4 July 2012 (UNEP/BUR/75/5).

1. ROLE OF FOCAL POINTS

8.1 ROLE OF MAP FOCAL POINTS

Designation

The MAP Focal Points shall be designated by the competent Ministry/bodies that represent the Contracting Parties at the Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

The MAP Focal Points shall be appropriately empowered persons, officially from the administration of the Contracting Party. They shall serve as the official conduit for communication between the Secretariat and Contracting Parties and will receive copies of correspondence among Focal Points of the other MAP components. To correctly fulfil their tasks, MAP Focal Points must receive in a timely manner all relevant MAP correspondence and documents.

The name and functions of the designated Focal Points shall be communicated to the MAP Secretariat and to all concerned parties at the national level.

Any change with respect to the designation of the MAP Focal Points shall be notified to the Secretariat and other concerned authorities and bodies

Main tasks

- Coordinating the relationship between the MAP Secretariat and governmental/administrative bodies concerned by MAP's mandate and activities
- Coordinating with governmental/administrative bodies, as appropriate, for the preparation of the Contracting Parties' meetings and disseminating Secretariat working documents to concerned bodies
- Transmitting official comments and documents to MAP Secretariat
- Attending the meetings of the MAP Focal Points
- Disseminating nationally the recommendations and the decisions adopted by the Contracting Parties' meeting and the Bureau
- Following the implementation of the decisions of the Contracting Parties in particular with respect to:
 - procedures for ratification of MAP legal instruments
 - preparation of relevant national legislation
 - adoption and implementation of relevant national plans and strategies
 - preparation of projects and programmes for the implementation of the Convention and its protocols
 - preparation and transmission of reports in accordance with article 26 of the Convention
 - preparation and transmission of reports as requested by article 27 of the Convention on compliance
- Nominating appropriate national experts to participate at MAP meetings and activities after consulting with governmental/administrative bodies, as required
- Liaising with NGOs and other partners concerned with MAP activities
- Diffusing information on MAP activities making use as appropriate of MAP information documents
- Liaising with local representatives of international financial facilities, institutions and programmes for the support of projects related to the implementation of MAP
- Serving as contact point of the Contracting Party for matters related to the MCSD/MSSD
- Coordinating with the Contracting Party's RAC Focal Points
- Informing and advising RAC Focal Points about the Contracting Party's strategy regarding the Barcelona Convention and its protocols, and other Mediterranean policies

- Informing RAC Focal Points about decisions and activities that may be relevant to them
- Assisting the MAP Secretariat in the identification of relevant experts for specific initiatives or consultations

Support to MAP Focal Points

- For the fulfilment of their tasks, it is advisable that the MAP Focal Points should receive, as appropriate, support as follows:

Governmental/administrative bodies shall:

- Inform and, as appropriate, associate MAP Focal Points in the elaboration and implementation of the Contracting Parties' policies, strategies, programmes and projects related to the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols
- Provide MAP Focal Points with any relevant data and information
- Consult MAP Focal Points about the designation of RAC Focal Points
- Provide MAP Focal Points with adequate resources as required for the execution of their tasks, within the context of broader national fiscal and staffing policies and priorities
- Keep MAP Focal Points informed of developments related to the implementation, by the Contracting Party, of Multilateral Environmental Agreements relevant to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

The MAP Secretariat shall:

- Channel, where appropriate, its communications with the Contracting Party through MAP Focal Points
- Keep MAP Focal Points informed of correspondence or documents sent to RAC Focal Points
- Provide support, including appropriate training, to the MAP Focal Points to enable them to carry out their tasks

Relations with RAC Focal Points

- MAP Focal Points shall be kept informed by the RAC Focal Points of their activities in relation to the implementation of decisions and recommendations of the Contracting Parties, including their programme of work
- MAP Focal Points shall be informed by RAC Focal Points about the Contracting Party's needs and objectives identified in their specific field of action
- MAP Focal Points shall receive the necessary support for the execution of their tasks, including contributions for the preparation of the reports for the MAP Secretariat
- MAP Focal Points shall coordinate with RAC Focal Points for the preparation of MAP meetings and other activities

8.2 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR BP/RAC FOCAL POINTS

Designation

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

The BP/RAC Focal Point shall be an appropriately empowered person appointed by the governmental/administrative body responsible for broader policies on environmental protection and sustainable development.

The name and functions of the designated Focal Point shall be communicated by the MAP Focal Point to the MAP Secretariat and BP/RAC Director, as well as to concerned bodies in the Contracting Party.

Tasks

BP/RAC Focal Points shall be responsible for:

- Maintaining the relationship between BP/RAC and governmental/administrative bodies;
- Contributing to the preparation of BP/RAC Focal Point meetings through comments and proposals either made on their own initiative or relating to documents prepared by BP/RAC, after consultation with Contracting Party bodies as required;
- Attending the Focal Point meetings and reporting on their conclusions to governmental/administrative bodies and MAP Focal Points;
- Disseminating BP/RAC technical and information documents, guidelines, studies, etc., to concerned bodies;
- Following, in consultation with MAP Focal Points, the implementation of relevant decisions and recommendations of the Meetings of the Contracting Parties;
- Liaising with NGOs, the academic and scientific community and socioeconomic actors concerned with BP/RAC activities;
- Communicating to MAP Focal Points all information and documents needed for the execution of their tasks;
- Disseminating and promoting BP/RAC documents and publications among concerned governmental/administrative bodies, along with public and private institutions and interested individuals;
- Organizing, where necessary, presentations and discussions with partners and experts, with the participation of BP/RAC, to promote the Centre's activities;
- Transmitting to BP/RAC information relevant to its role as the Mediterranean Environment and Development Observatory, and as one of the support centres for the MCSD;
- Assisting BP/RAC to obtain other useful information by identifying relevant sources and key contact persons;
- Contributing to the preparation of MCSD meetings through comments and proposals either made on their own initiative or relating to documents prepared by BP/RAC, after consultation with national bodies;
- Producing, where necessary, joint publications with BP/RAC;
- Assisting BP/RAC in the identification of relevant experts for specific initiatives or consultations.

Support measures

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

Contracting Party bodies shall:

- Associate BP/RAC Focal Points with the formulation and implementation of Contracting Party policies and strategies on sustainable development, including the production of related statistics and indicators;
- Transmit to BP/RAC Focal Points all necessary information, in particular for following up relevant decisions and recommendations of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties;
- Provide BP/RAC Focal Points with adequate resources as required for the execution of their tasks, within the context of the broader fiscal and staffing policies and priorities of the Contracting Party.

BP/RAC shall:

- Provide Focal Points with all information needed for the execution of their tasks including technical details considered useful for proper understanding and evaluation;
- Provide support, including appropriate training, to BP/RAC Focal Points to enable them to carry out their tasks.

8.3 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CP/RAC FOCAL POINTS

Designation

The CP/RAC Focal Point shall be designated by the competent Ministry/body of the Contracting Party in consultation with the MAP Focal Point.

The CP/RAC Focal Point shall be an appropriately empowered person appointed by the governmental/administrative body responsible for policies for the promotion of sustainable production focusing on pollution prevention, and consumption patterns, according to the mission of the Centre.

The criteria for the decision of the Focal Points' designation would be based on:

- the expertise of the candidate in the field of sustainable production and/or consumption;
- the interaction of the institution or centre of the candidate with the sectors and stakeholders concerned with production and consumption issues (e.g. industrial and business associations, consumer protection agencies, etc.).

The name and functions of the designated Focal Point shall be communicated by the MAP Focal Point to the MAP Secretariat and CP/RAC Director, as well as to concerned bodies in the Contracting Party.

Tasks

CP/RAC Focal Points shall be responsible for:

- Maintaining the relationship between CP/RAC and all relevant stakeholders within the Contracting Party;
- Contributing to the preparation of CP/RAC Focal Point meetings through comments and proposals either made on their own initiative or relating to documents prepared by CP/RAC, after consultation with Contracting Party bodies as required;
- Attending Focal Point meetings and reporting on their conclusions to governmental/administrative bodies and MAP Focal Points;
- Disseminating CP/RAC technical and information documents, guidelines, studies, etc., to concerned bodies;
- Monitoring, in consultation with MAP Focal Points, the implementation of relevant decisions and recommendations of the Meetings of the Contracting Parties;
- Communicating to MAP Focal Points all information and documents needed for the execution of their tasks, including reports on implementation;
- Liaising with governmental/administrative bodies in drafting public policies related to sustainable production and consumption and in setting up appropriate programmes, voluntary agreements with production sectors, and other initiatives;
- Liaising with other regional and international processes related to cleaner production;
- Liaising with local representatives of international financial facilities, institutions and programmes for the support of projects related to the implementation of CP/RAC activities;
- Working with all stakeholders to achieve effective implementation of sustainable production, eco-efficiency and responsible consumption;
- Identifying the needs of the Contracting Party with respect to clean production and proposing activities according to those needs;
- Organizing activities in the Contracting Party (national workshops, courses, exchange of experts, etc.);

- Providing national information on specific topics for:
 - CP/RAC studies and publications; and
 - case studies of cleaner production measures;
- Assisting CP/RAC in the identification of relevant experts for specific initiatives or consultations.

Support measures

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

Contracting Party bodies shall:

- Provide CP/RAC Focal Points with adequate resources as required for the execution of their tasks, within the context of broader fiscal and staffing policies and priorities in the Contracting Party;
- Associate CP/RAC Focal Points with the formulation and implementation of Contracting Party policies, strategies and projects on cleaner production;
- Transmit to CP/RAC Focal Points all necessary information, in particular for following up those recommendations of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties addressed to the Contracting Parties.

CP/RAC shall:

- Provide CP/RAC Focal Points with all information needed for the execution of their tasks, including technical details considered useful for proper understanding and evaluation;
- Provide support, including appropriate training, to CP/RAC Focal Points to enable them to carry out their tasks.

8.4 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INFO/RAC FOCAL POINTS

Designation

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

The INFO/RAC Focal Point shall be an appropriately empowered person appointed by the governmental/administrative body responsible for environment and sustainable development policies.

The name of the designated Focal Point shall be communicated by the MAP Focal Point to the MAP Secretariat and INFO/RAC Director, as well as to concerned bodies in the Contracting Party.

Tasks

INFO/RAC Focal Points shall be responsible for:

- Maintaining the relationship between INFO/RAC and governmental/administrative bodies;
- Contributing to the preparation of INFO/RAC Focal Point meetings through comments and proposals either made on their own initiative or relating to documents prepared by INFO/RAC, after consultation with Contracting Party bodies as necessary;
- Attending Focal Point meetings and reporting on their conclusions to governmental/administrative bodies and MAP Focal Points;
- Disseminating INFO/RAC technical and information documents, guidelines, studies, etc., to concerned bodies;
- Following, in consultation with MAP Focal Points, the implementation of relevant decisions and recommendations of the Meetings of the Contracting Parties;
- Liaising with NGOs, the academic and scientific community, and the media concerned with INFO/RAC activities;
- Communicating to MAP Focal Points all information and documents needed for the execution of their tasks;
- Keeping informed about and supporting INFO/RAC activities in its two focus areas of:
 - ICT, especially the design and implementation of InfoMAP, with the necessary collaboration from Contracting Parties (contributing mainly technical expertise); and
 - Public communication, increasing awareness, and media relations and communications;
- Identifying and highlighting areas of synergy and cooperation between INFO/RAC activities and those of Contracting Party agencies and programmes;
- Identifying synergies with European initiatives and programmes, such as the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe (INSPIRE) and Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES), and international forums, such as the Global Environment Outlook (GEO), directly related to INFO/RAC's mandate, in order to collaborate closely with them;
- Identifying funding and/or co-financing opportunities between the activities of INFO/RAC and programmes and/or projects in the Contracting Party;
- Commenting on and/or contributing to all online forums, websites, documents, reports, or other outputs of INFO/RAC, as required or appropriate;
- Bringing to the attention of INFO/RAC any relevant contacts, programmes, networks, innovations, etc., that could assist INFO/RAC in its activities and mandate;
- Assisting INFO/RAC in the identification of relevant experts for specific initiatives or consultations.

Support measures

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

Contracting Party bodies shall:

- Associate INFO/RAC Focal Points with the definition of Contracting Party policies, strategies and projects on environmental awareness and communication;
- Transmit to INFO/RAC Focal Points all necessary information, in particular for following up those recommendations of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties addressed to the Contracting Parties;
- Provide INFO/RAC Focal Points with adequate resources as required for the execution of their tasks, within the context of broader fiscal and staffing policies and priorities in the Contracting Party.

INFO/RAC shall:

- Provide INFO/RAC Focal Points with all information needed for the execution of their tasks, including technical details considered useful for proper understanding and evaluation;
- Provide support, including appropriate training, to INFO/RAC Focal Points to enable them to carry out their tasks.

8.5 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR MED POL FOCAL POINTS

Designation

The MED POL Focal Points shall be designated by the competent Ministry/body of the Contracting Party, in consultation with the MAP Focal Point.

The MED POL Focal Point shall be an appropriately empowered person appointed by the Contracting Party body responsible for the regulation of discharges into the marine environment from land-based sources.

The name and functions of the designated MED POL Focal Point shall be communicated by the MAP Focal Point to the MAP Secretariat and MED POL Coordinator, as well as to concerned bodies in the Contracting Party.

Tasks

MED POL Focal Points shall be responsible for:

- Coordinating and ensuring the implementation of MED POL programme activities in the Contracting Party;
- Maintaining the relationship between MED POL and governmental/administrative bodies;
- Contributing to the preparation of MED POL Focal Points meetings through comments and proposals either made on their own initiative or relating to documents prepared by MED POL, after consultation with Contracting Party bodies as necessary;
- Attending meetings and reporting on their conclusions to governmental/administrative bodies and MAP Focal Points;
- Disseminating MED POL technical and information documents, guidelines, studies, etc., to concerned bodies and other relevant institutions and stakeholders;
- Ensuring and following up, in consultation with MAP Focal Points, the implementation of relevant recommendations of the Meetings of the Contracting Parties, including monitoring implementation of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources (LBS Protocol), the Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (Dumping Protocol) and the Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Hazardous Waste Protocol);
- Communicating to MAP Focal Points all information and documents needed for the execution of their tasks, including reports on implementation of and compliance with the LBS, Dumping and Hazardous Waste Protocols, as appropriate;
- Liaising with NGOs, the academic and scientific community and socioeconomic actors concerned with MED POL activities;
- Liaising with the Contracting Party's Focal Points for other relevant environmental conventions;
- Liaising with local representatives of international financial facilities, institutions and programmes for the support of projects related to the implementation of MED POL activities in general and the NAPs in particular;
- Ensuring and coordinating the preparation and implementation of the Contracting Party's marine pollution national monitoring programme, according to MED POL methodology
- Ensuring the collection of data and information deriving from the implementation of monitoring activities and their transmission to the Secretariat;

- Following up the long term implementation of the NAPs to address pollution from land-based sources and collecting and transmitting to the Secretariat all relevant data and information;
- Assisting MED POL in the identification of relevant experts for specific initiatives or consultations.

Support measures

- In order to fulfil their tasks, it is advisable for MED POL Focal Points to receive the following support, as appropriate:

Contracting Party bodies shall:

- Involve MED POL Focal Points in the formulation and implementation of Contracting Party policies, strategies and projects on prevention and control of land-based marine pollution, including monitoring, dumping activities and management of hazardous waste;
- Transmit to MED POL Focal Points all necessary information, in particular for following up those recommendations of the Meetings of the Contracting Parties addressed to the Contracting Parties;
- Provide MED POL Focal Points with adequate resources as required for the execution of their tasks, within the context of broader fiscal and staffing policies and priorities in the Contracting Party.

MED POL shall:

- Provide MED POL Focal Points with all information needed for the execution of their tasks, including technical details considered useful for proper understanding and evaluation;
- Provide support, including appropriate training, to MED POL Focal Points to enable them to carry out their tasks.

8.6 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR PAP/RAC FOCAL POINTS

Designation

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

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

The name and functions of the designated Focal Point shall be communicated by the MAP Focal Point to the MAP Secretariat and PAP/RAC Director, as well as to concerned bodies in the Contracting Party.

Tasks

PAP/RAC Focal Points shall be responsible for:

- Maintaining the relationship between PAP/RAC and Contracting Party bodies;
- Contributing to the preparation of PAP/RAC Focal Point meetings through comments and proposals either made on their own initiative or relating to documents prepared by PAP/RAC, after consultation with Contracting Party bodies as necessary;
- Attending meetings of the Focal Points and reporting on their conclusions to governmental/administrative bodies and MAP Focal Points;
- Disseminating PAP/RAC technical and information documents, guidelines, studies, etc., to concerned Contracting Party bodies;
- Following, in consultation with MAP Focal Points, the implementation of relevant decisions and recommendations of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties;
- Liaising with NGOs, the academic and scientific community and socioeconomic actors concerned with PAP/RAC activities;
- Communicating to MAP Focal Points all information and documents needed for the execution of out their tasks, including reports on coastal zone management;
- Liaising with local representatives of international financial facilities, institutions and programmes for the support of projects related to the implementation of PAP/RAC activities;
- Following activities related to the follow-up of the Coastal Areas Management Programme (CAMP) and maintaining links with the responsible institutions and other stakeholders in the implementation of CAMP recommendations;
- Assisting PAP/RAC in the identification of relevant experts for specific initiatives or consultations;
- Following activities in relation to the implementation of Barcelona Convention instruments and obligations related to ICZM.

Support measures

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

Contracting Party bodies shall:

- Associate PAP/RAC Focal Points with the formulation and implementation of national policies, strategies and projects on coastal zone management;
- Transmit to PAP/RAC Focal Points all necessary information, in particular for following up recommendations of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties addressed to countries;

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

PAP/RAC shall:

- Provide Focal Points with all information needed for the execution of their tasks, including technical details considered useful for proper understanding and evaluation;
- Provide support, including appropriate training, to PAP/RAC Focal Points to enable them to carry out their tasks.

8.7 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR REMPEC FOCAL POINTS

Designation

The REMPEC Focal Point shall be designated by the competent Ministry/body of the Contracting Party, in consultation with the MAP Focal Point.

The REMPEC Focal Point shall be an appropriately empowered person appointed by the Contracting Party's body responsible for policy related to marine pollution from maritime activities and measures for combating it. If this body is not the same as—or part of—the body responsible for marine pollution emergencies, it is advisable to consider designating two REMPEC Focal Points: one responsible for preparedness and response to marine pollution accidents, and the other responsible for prevention of pollution from ships.

The name and functions of the designated REMPEC Focal Point shall be communicated by the MAP Focal Point to the MAP Secretariat and to the REMPEC Director, as well as to concerned bodies in the Contracting Party.

Tasks

REMPEC Focal Points shall be responsible for:

- Maintaining the relationship between REMPEC and governmental/administrative bodies;
- Regularly providing REMPEC with the information specified in Articles 4 and 7 of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, and any other information relevant to its implementation;
- Contributing to the preparation of REMPEC Focal Point meetings through comments and proposals either made on their own initiative or relating to documents prepared by REMPEC, after consultation with relevant Contracting Party authorities as necessary ;
- Attending meetings of REMPEC Focal Points and reporting on their conclusions to governmental/administrative bodies and to MAP Focal Points;
- Disseminating REMPEC technical and information documents, guidelines, studies, etc., to concerned authorities and other stakeholders within the Contracting Party ;
- Following, in consultation with MAP Focal Points, the implementation of relevant decisions and recommendations of the Meetings of the Contracting Parties, including monitoring, in particular, the implementation of the Regional Strategy for prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships;
- Liaising with NGOs, the academic and scientific community and socioeconomic actors concerned with REMPEC activities;
- Communicating to MAP Focal Points all information and providing them with the documents needed for the execution of their tasks, including reports on implementation of and compliance with the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, as appropriate;
- Liaising, as appropriate, with the authorities responsible for the implementation of relevant IMO and ILO Conventions;
- Liaising with local representatives of international financial facilities, institutions and programmes for the support of projects related to implementation of REMPEC activities;
- Ensuring that the Contracting Party's component of the regional communication and information system is always fully operational;
- Providing assistance, as appropriate, to REMPEC in organizing national, sub-regional and regional training activities, meetings and exercises;
- Assisting REMPEC in creating and maintaining up-to-date databases relevant for responding to oil spills and releases of other hazardous and noxious substances, and for prevention of pollution from ships, including in particular “country pages” on the REMPEC website;

- Facilitating work within the Contracting Party, as appropriate, by the Mediterranean Assistance Unit, following its activation in the event of a serious marine pollution accident;
- Keeping REMPEC regularly informed on: (a) competent Contracting Party authorities in charge of oil pollution preparedness and response; (b) Contracting Party operational contact points (operational 24 hours a day) responsible for receipt and transmission of marine pollution reports; (c) the Contracting Party authority entitled to act on behalf of the State to request and render assistance in case of emergency; and (d) Contracting Party authorities responsible for prevention of pollution from ships;
- Assisting REMPEC in the identification of relevant experts for specific initiatives or consultations.

Support measures

- In order to fulfil their tasks, it is advisable for REMPEC Focal Points to receive the following support, as appropriate:

Contracting Party bodies shall:

- Involve REMPEC Focal Points in the formulation and implementation of Contracting Party policies, strategies and projects related to the prevention and combating of marine pollution from maritime activities;
- Transmit to REMPEC Focal Points all necessary information, in particular for following up those recommendations of the Meetings of the Contracting Parties addressed to Contracting Parties;
- Provide REMPEC Focal Points with adequate resources as required for the execution of their tasks, within the context of broader fiscal and staffing policies and priorities in the Contracting Party.

REMPEC shall:

- Provide Focal Points with all information and training needed for the execution of their tasks, including technical details considered useful for proper understanding and evaluation;
- Provide support, including appropriate training, to Focal Points to enable them to carry out their tasks.

NOTE: In the event of marine pollution emergencies, all communications between REMPEC and the competent authorities of the Contracting Party concerned shall be established and maintained through the Contracting Party's Centre or Contact Point, operational 24 hours a day, which will be responsible for further dissemination of all such communications within the Contracting Party.

8.8 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SPA/RAC FOCAL POINTS

Designation

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

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

The name and functions of the designated Focal Point shall be communicated by the MAP Focal Point to the MAP Secretariat and SPA/RAC Director, as well as to concerned bodies in the Contracting Party.

Tasks

SPA/RAC Focal Points shall be responsible for:

- Maintaining the relationship between SPA/RAC and governmental/administrative bodies;
- Contributing to the preparation of SPA/RAC Focal Point meetings through comments and proposals either made on their own initiative or relating to documents prepared by SPA/RAC, after consultation with Contracting Party bodies as necessary;
- Attending Focal Point meetings and reporting on their conclusions to governmental/administrative bodies and MAP Focal Points;
- Disseminating SPA/RAC technical and information documents, guidelines, studies, etc., to concerned bodies;
- Following, in consultation with MAP Focal Points, the implementation of relevant decisions and recommendations of Meetings of the Contracting Parties, including implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SAP BIO) and its related National Action Plans (NAPs);
- Liaising with NGOs, the academic and scientific community and socioeconomic actors concerned with SPA/RAC activities;
- Communicating to MAP Focal Points all information and documents needed for the execution of their tasks, including reports on implementation of and compliance with the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol as appropriate;
- Liaising with other Focal Points for relevant environmental conventions on marine and coastal biodiversity issues;
- Liaising with local representatives of international financial facilities, institutions and programmes for the support of projects related to implementation of SPA/RAC activities and NAPs ;
- Communicating to SPA/RAC all information on implementation of and compliance with the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA and Biodiversity Protocol);
- Disseminating SPA/RAC questionnaires, enquiries, etc., on specific issues relevant to the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol;
- Disseminating announcements, invitations, programmes, etc., of various events organized by SPA/RAC to appropriate bodies, organizations, resource persons, etc. ;
- Consulting with governmental bodies on the nomination of Contracting Party experts to participate in SPA/RAC meetings and activities;
- Coordinating and helping, as appropriate, in the organization of events/missions relevant to the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol in the Contracting Party;
- Assisting SPA/RAC in the identification of relevant experts for specific initiatives or consultations.

Support measures

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

Contracting Party bodies shall:

- Associate SPA/RAC Focal Points with the formulation and implementation of Contracting Party policies, strategies and projects on marine and coastal biodiversity, including monitoring and scientific research;
- Transmit to SPA/RAC Focal Points all necessary information, in particular for following up those recommendations of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties addressed to Contracting Parties;
- Provide SPA/RAC Focal Points with adequate resources as required for the execution of their tasks, within the context of broader fiscal and staffing policies and priorities in the Contracting Party.

SPA/RAC shall:

- Provide SPA/RAC Focal Points with all information needed for the execution of their tasks, including technical details considered useful for proper understanding and evaluation;
- Provide support, including appropriate training, to SPA/RAC Focal Points to enable them to carry out their tasks.

9 VISIBILITY

Improving overall MAP visibility and its key role in the protection of the Mediterranean Sea area is a critical and ongoing collective responsibility of all MAP components. Each RAC will commit and contribute to the collective goals of UNEP/MAP especially in knowledge management-dissemination and visibility. The mandate of each RAC shall highlight how it should contribute to these goals, under the overall coordination of the MAP Secretariat.

In this respect and to move towards concrete actions, the common information and communication policy/strategy mentioned in section 2.4 of this document shall identify:

- Objectives and draft general principles of a common MAP IC strategy;
- Operational modalities related to.
 - ordinary (daily, weekly, monthly, bi-monthly, etc.) information management and dissemination issues;
 - cases of emergency/crisis (i.e. accidents, major events, etc.), defining the modalities and responsibilities of operation of the MAP components and the Secretariat, and how to raise visibility and mobilize responses in a coordinated manner in special circumstances

The policy shall identify the need for media strategies capable of adapting MAP messages to the target audience, and of using tools with multiplier effects.

One of the main 'common' and concrete outcomes of the implementation of the MAP information and communication policy will be the bi-annual "State of the Environment" report, elaborated by the Secretariat based on the Contracting Parties' reports to the Barcelona Convention and its protocols and publicly available data, focused on thematic areas of competence of centres. Dissemination of this report will concretely help raise the visibility of the MAP / Barcelona Convention.

10 NEW TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE MCSD

The Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) was established in 1995 in the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) as an advisory body to the Contracting Parties to assist them in their efforts to integrate environmental issues in their socioeconomic programmes and, in so doing, promote sustainable development policies in the Mediterranean region. The Commission is unique in its composition, in as much as government representatives, local communities, socioeconomic actors, IGOs and NGOs participate on an equal footing. During the first decade of its existence, the MCSD has carried out high-quality undertakings, mobilising work on priority themes for the Mediterranean, notably, water resources, integrated coastal zone management, tourism, industry etc., and developing the MSSD.

Ten years after its founding, the MCSD needs to be reformed, taking into account new international and regional developments (the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Millennium Development Goals, the MSSD, etc.). Whatever the option chosen, better interaction should be sought between the MCSD and the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), for instance regarding the choice of themes, which should bring a breath of fresh air to the MCSD and allow its fuller integration into the international actions being carried out in favour of sustainable development. Furthermore, the composition of the Commission should be reviewed to ensure it achieves greater representativeness and fosters a sense of ownership by the entire Mediterranean

community. Furthermore, the role of the Commission should be better clarified in relation to the overall MAP system and to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

1- Mandate

The MCSD is an advisory body and represents a forum for debate with essentially the following missions:

- Assist Mediterranean countries and other stakeholders active in the region in the adoption and implementation of sustainable development policies, including the integration of environmental considerations into other policies
- Ensure the follow-up of MSSD implementation through appropriate tools, mechanisms and criteria that would better enhance an efficient follow-up function
- Promote the exchange of experience and good practices regarding the integration of environmental and socioeconomic policies, as well as examples which show the application of international sustainable development commitments at suitable scales in different countries
- Identify the obstacles encountered and support regional and subregional cooperation for the effective implementation of the sustainable development principle
- Coordinate the periodical drafting of the report on the state of implementation of the MCSD recommendations
- Produce opinions of the overall MAP Work Programme and the functioning of the Coordinating Unit and the RACs, with the aim of integrating sustainability considerations into the MAP / Barcelona Convention system as a whole.

2- Composition

The MCSD is a forum for debate and exchange of experiences on sustainable development issues that concern all interested parties in the Mediterranean region. It would therefore be appropriate to involve the greatest possible variety of national actors in the work of the Commission, so as to ensure the greatest possible dissemination of the concepts promoted by the MCSD. For this to be achieved the composition of the Commission should be expanded as follows:

- 22 representatives designated by the competent bodies of the Contracting Parties
- 3 representatives of local authorities
- 3 representatives of NGOs
- 3 representatives of socio- economic stakeholders
- 3 representatives of the scientific community
- 3 representatives of intergovernmental organizations working in the field of sustainable development
- 3 eminent experts in the field of the topics of the MCSD meeting agenda

Efforts should be made to ensure participation of representatives from both environmental and development sector related to the topics of the agenda of each meeting of the MCSD.

Appropriate geographical representation, and media participation, should be ensured.

3- Periodicity of meetings

The Commission will hold an ordinary meeting on a biannual basis and extraordinary sessions on a need-be basis.

4 – Steering Committee

A Steering Committee, meeting annually, will oversee the work of the MCSD between sessions.

5- Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Commission will be under the authority of the MAP Coordinating Unit.

6- Functioning

The Commission will hold an ordinary meeting on a biannual basis with a multi-annual planning programme. Each session will focus on sectoral issues (MSSD and CSD themes) and on cross-sectoral issues (education, public access to information, financing and cooperation, technology transfer etc.). MCSD recommendations will be presented for consideration to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties, following discussion at the meeting of the MAP Focal Points. The conclusions of the meetings should influence the Work Programme of the MAP system, and the implementation of the Barcelona Convention in the Contracting Parties.

7- Reports

Before each session, each member should provide a concise report focusing on the implementation of MCSD recommendations, following a basic draft prepared by the Secretariat. The Secretariat will then prepare a summary report to be presented at the beginning of each session. The Regional Activity Centres (RACs) should also provide a report on the implementation of MCSD recommendations relevant to their line of work.

ANNEX III

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF ECAP COORDINATION GROUP

Terms of Reference for Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group (EcAp CG)

Background

Based on Operational Paragraph 6 of decision IG.20/4, "Implementing MAP ecosystem approach roadmap: Mediterranean Ecological and Operational Objectives, Indicators and Timetable for implementing the ecosystem approach roadmap" adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at its 17th meeting in Paris, it was decided to establish an EcAp Coordination Group (EcAp CG) consisting of MAP focal points, the Coordinating Unit, the MAP components and MAP partners to oversee the implementation of the ecosystem approach, identifying progress gaps in the implementation of the road map and finding feasible solutions for the advancement of the EcAp agenda.

Mandate

1. In accordance with the Decision IG.20/4, EcAp CG shall integrate and give guidance to the work under the Barcelona Convention:
 - a) On the delivery of the ecosystem approach, making sure that all elements for its implementation are taken into account, weighting of priorities and resource implications; and,
 - b) Coordinating UNEP/MAP's facilitation role, in support of Contracting Parties in their implementation of EcAp.

Key activities

2. EcAP CG reviews and gives guidance on the way forward to the progress of EcAP implementation road map presented by UNEP/MAP in each EcAp CG Meeting.

With regard to Initial Assessments

3. Receive, review and endorse the work of the Clusters of the Socio-economic Analysis Correspondence Group regarding the necessary assessments to complement the integrated assessment of the Mediterranean Ecosystem with a socio-economic analysis

With regard to determination of Good Environmental Status and development of associated targets and indicators

4. Receive, review and endorse the work of the Clusters of GES & Targets Correspondence Group regarding the definition of GES and setting of targets, which will be developed through a common methodology at the Mediterranean and appropriate subscales;

With regard to monitoring and assessment

5. Receive, review and endorse the work of the Clusters of the Monitoring Correspondence Group and Clusters regarding the development of an integrated monitoring program;

With regard to programmes and measures

6. Consider whether the measures required at regional level through MAP sectoral policies to achieve the objectives of the EcAp in the Mediterranean are coherent and coordinated; and provide guidance to UNEP/MAP and its components;

With regard to overall governance of EcAp implementation in the Mediterranean

7. Advice on ways to ensure full participation of relevant UNEP/MAP partners, relevant projects and the scientific community, at all relevant levels, such as Correspondence Groups and clusters;
8. Consider cooperation with other European and/or other Regional Seas Conventions and EU to allow comparisons across borders of respective maritime areas;
9. Inform the Bureau about the results achieved; and,
10. Validate at policy level and in an integrated manner the results of the scientific and technical work carried out at regional and sub-regional level and prepare the necessary draft decisions for the MAP FPs and COP consideration.

Operation

11. EcAp CG Meetings will be led by a Chair-person, 2 vice-chairpersons and a rapporteur, elected at the beginning of the Meeting.
12. EcAP CG meets annually and more frequently if required.
13. "The rules of procedures for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols" is applied for the organization and operation of the EcAP CG Meetings.

The Correspondence Groups

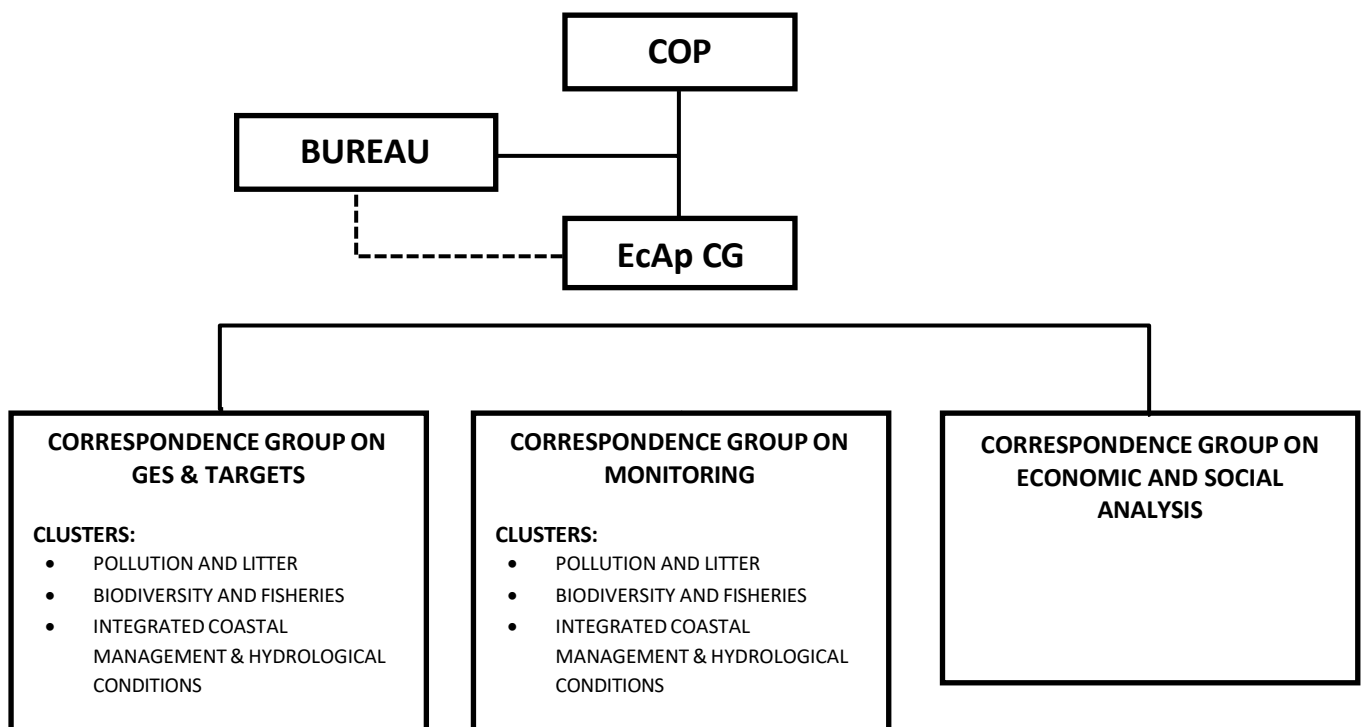
14. Three correspondence groups will be formed in the process of application of EcAp in the Mediterranean and to support EcAp Coordination Group: the Correspondence Group on GES and Targets, the Correspondence Group on Monitoring and the Correspondence Group on Economic and Social Analysis.
15. The Correspondence Group on GES and Targets will be composed of national experts designated by the Contracting Parties, and will be coordinated by the UNEP/MAP CU. It will work to ensure efficient coverage and in-depth discussions and analysis of all Ecological Objectives (EOs) and it will be made up of 3 clusters: 1) Pollution and litter related EOs (EOs 5, 9, 10 and 11); 2) Biodiversity and Fisheries related EOs (EOs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6); and 3) ICZM and Hydrological Conditions related EOs (EOs 7 and 8). The expected outcome of the group is defining the methodology for Mediterranean targets, as well as identifying regional targets through a participatory process involving contracting parties and MAP components, to be submitted to COP 18.
16. The Correspondence Group on Monitoring will be composed of national experts designated by the Contracting Parties, and will be coordinated by MEDPOL. It will work to ensure efficient coverage and in-depth discussions and analysis regarding integrated monitoring, with reference to the outcomes of the Correspondence Group on GES and Targets and it will be made up of 3 clusters: 1) Pollution and litter related EOs (EOs 5, 9, 10 and 11); 2) Biodiversity and Fisheries related EOs (EOs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6); and 3) ICZM and Hydrological Conditions related EOs (EOs 7 and 8). A Regional Thematic Expert will be assigned to each cluster to ensure coordination and provide technical assistance. The expected outcome of the group is determination of the methodology to be applied for the

preparation of the integrated monitoring programme, which will be submitted to EcAp CG for endorsement.

17. The Correspondence Group on Economic and Social Analysis will be composed of national experts designated by the Contracting Parties and invited experts, and coordinated by BP/RAC. It will further develop a socio economic analysis of marine ecosystems uses, focusing on priority sectors such as fisheries, aquaculture, maritime transport, recreational activities, oil industry and offshore. The overall objective of this group is to elaborate a common understanding and to foster a broad appropriation by Mediterranean riparian countries of the social and economic dimensions involved in the EcAp implementation.

18. At national level, the MAP Focal Point would be the member of the EcAp Coordination Group (as per COP17, Decision IG.20/4). The Contracting Parties would delegate a representative to each of the proposed Correspondence Groups. Also in order to ensure ownership, countries would be asked to nominate experts for consultation purposes. This could be an expert per each EO, or otherwise as per countries own decision as relevant.

The Organizational Chart



Coordination support by UNEP/MAP CU and its components