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Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Izola, Slovenia, 20-21 June 2023

Agenda Item 3: Progress Report for November 2022 – May 2023

Report of the 49th and 50th Meetings of the Executive Coordination Panel

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ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

24 February 2022
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49th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Athens, Greece, 26-27 January 2023

Report of the Meeting

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2023

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I. Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work

1. The 49th meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 26-27 January 2023, in Athens, Greece. The meeting was chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Coordinator and attended by the Heads/Directors of MAP Components, the MAP Deputy Coordinator, the MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues and the MAP Associate Administrative Officer. The list of participants is presented in Annex I to this report.
2. Ms. Tatjana Hema, UNEP/MAP Coordinator opened the meeting at 09:30 a.m. (Athens time) on 26 January 2023. She welcomed the participants and referred to the recent developments, progress and MAP related events of the period since the previous ECP meeting.
3. UNEP/MAP Coordinator reminded the meeting that ECP meetings require physical representation of its members, unless this is arranged as a virtual meeting from the beginning. Extension of invitation to people other than the Components' Heads/Directors should be priorly approved by the Coordinator.
4. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat, as presented in Annex II to this report.

II. Agenda item 2: Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2022-2023:

- a) Report on Progress by Component including Possible Issues at Stake and Solutions (Planning and Priorities Table)
 - b) Implementation of the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement with MiTE and Agreement with the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
 - c) Follow-up Actions from the 48th ECP Meeting
 - d) Outcomes of the 93rd Bureau Meeting
5. The MAP Components were invited to briefly report on key achievements in the implementation of PoW 2022-2023 activities and indicate any issue faced or anticipated and the proposed corrective actions. Despite few challenges, all PoW activities are expected to be implemented as originally foreseen, and the following points were highlighted:
- The Post-2020 SAP BIO Resource Mobilisation process is progressing well. The Donor Conference to be held on 16 March in Paris, France is an important milestone. Project Concept Notes are developed and can be reviewed by the Components, as they will be shared as meeting documents for the Advisory Committee of 30 January 2023.
 - Potential issues in receiving timely GFCM inputs to the QSR2023 for CORMON meetings, should be followed up with support from the Secretariat.
 - An issue may be faced with the identification of pelagic habitat types and SPA/RAC proposed to bring this issue to the attention of SPA/BD Focal Points for their decision; prior bilateral discussion with the Coordinator should be held first.
 - A comparative analysis for the legal aspects of ICZM Protocol will be soon ready by PAP/RAC.
 - Difficulties are faced by PAP/RAC in the implementation of national activities in Lebanon. The PAP/RAC Director, Ms. Zeljka Skaricic, plans a bilateral meeting with the Focal Point in end of February, linked with a GWP-Med meeting.
 - CAMP Israel is progressing well. Challenges were faced in the CAMP Otranto, and the plan of work has been modified to adapt activities to the scope change.
 - An online Master's degree has been operational in Syria with PAP/RAC support; interest was expressed by ECP to replicate it in other countries as well.
 - MED POL activities, including guidelines, TDA work, etc. are progressing as planned, QSR chapters delivery may be challenging but material will be ready for CORMON.

- Guidelines on dumping of inert materials should be discussed with the Coordinator before submission.
- IMAP InfoSystem work is progressing well, and the system is ready to accommodate data for 18 CIs and one Candidate Indicator on marine litter (CCI24); some countries will be invited to record data to test the new indicator.
- Implementation of Data Policy Decision is also progressing well, as well as the work on the harmonization of Components' databases.
- INFO/RAC should present to ECP how the KM platform looks, what can be found in terms of data and content, as well as links to other platforms.
- On the QSR 2023 website, INFO/RAC will do the website, and GRID will only produce maps and other material to enrich the website.
- Regarding IMAP Common Indicator 19, links should be ensured with REMPEC work.
- REMPEC activities, including MED SO_x ECA Decision, Regional Strategy on Pollution from Ships, MENELAS meeting, BWM Strategy etc. are progressing well.
- Human resource constraints are faced by REMPEC since the post of the Head has remained vacant, and other human resources changes were experienced, but interim measures are already taken and there is no major risk foreseen. The Secretariat will make every effort to support REMPEC in the delivery of its mandate.
- A meeting should be held between REMPEC and Secretariat (Deputy Coordinator and Associate Administrative Officer) on planned work related to NO_x ECA.
- Some Components reported that they miss nominations of Focal Points from Albania; the Secretariat should look at it and support.
- Plan Bleu is confident that its planned activities will be implemented effectively.
- It should be further discussed with the Secretariat whether and how the outcomes, or at least an Executive Summary of the Med+50 should be presented to the decision-making bodies of MAP.
- MedWaves – SCP/RAC activities do not face any particular challenge or risk. Bilateral discussion with the Secretariat should be held on potential SwithMed follow up.
- MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues, Mr Ilias Mavroeidis, reported on key governance related activities implemented in 2022 and the planned work for 2023 and did not stress any major challenge.
- Any possible issue of maps in WESR, including points discussed in the MCSDD Steering Committee meeting should be addressed by Plan Bleu under the Secretariat's guidance.

6. No concern on budget consumption was reported by the Components, with the exception of the administrative challenges faced by INFO/RAC in recruitment processes which might also impact budget consumption rate.

7. The implementation of activities supported through Bilateral Agreements with Contracting Parties, i.e. the MoU with Italian Ministry for Environment and Energy Security (MASE) and the Agreement with the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France, is progressing well and no major issue was reported.

8. The meeting highlighted the importance of having the voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties reflected in the POW before COP, considering that allocation of additional funds during the biennial implementation may cause challenges in the timely delivery of work. Linked to this, the ECP agreed to pay additional attention in the estimation of non-secured external resources indicated in the PoW and Budget.

9. The meeting reviewed and reported on follow up actions agreed by the 48th ECP Meeting.

10. The MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues informed the meeting about the main outcomes and recommendations of the 93rd Bureau Meeting. It was agreed that he, together

with the MAP Legal Officer, should review the Bureau ToR to clarify again the role of the Bureau, including in relation to the payment of contributions.

11. Plan Bleu/RAC Director, Mr Francois Guerquin, highlighted the importance of early coordination for MAP presence in key events. Regarding the participation of UNEP/MAP in the UNFCCC Med pavilion, there was interest by the ECP to continue this and have it included as a standard activity in the biennial MAP PoW and Budgets.

12. It was agreed to organize a virtual ECP meeting in February 2023, so that Plan Bleu can present the 6 scenarios of the Med+50 study and discuss possible ways of presenting its main outcomes to key MAP meetings.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	CU to discuss with GFCM on timely provision of inputs to the QSR2023 for CORMON meetings	CU (TH, GG)	In February
2.	SPA/RAC to discuss with Coordinator issues related to the identification of pelagic habitat types before SPA/BD Focal Points	SPA/RAC	In February
3.	MED POL to discuss with Coordinator the Guidelines on dumping of inert materials before submission.	MED POL	By 27 January 2023
4.	INFO/RAC to present to ECP how the KM platform looks and its content	INFO/RAC	asap
5.	REMPEC to hold a meeting with the Secretariat on planned work related to NOx ECA.	REMPEC, CU (GG, SA)	In February
6.	MedWaves (SCP/RAC) to discuss with the Coordinator about potential SwicthMed follow up.	MedWaves (SCP/RAC)	In February
7.	Plan Bleu to address any possible issue of maps in WESR, under the Secretariat's guidance.	Plan Bleu	In February

III. Agenda item 3: Preparation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget 2024-2025

- a) Components' Presentation of their Proposed Activities
- b) Discussion on Possibilities for Further Integration
- c) Next Steps and Timeline

13. The ECP meeting reviewed the proposed consolidated MAP Programme of Work 2024-2025, going through activities Programme by Programme and each Component presented its proposals for the specific Programme.

14. The Coordinator asked the Components, when presenting their proposals to focus on the following questions:

- a) What is the relation with activities of the POW 2022-2023. Are there new activities? For continued activities, what is the added value/additional contribution through the POW 2024-2025? Are there activities that continue in the next biennium because they could not be (fully) implemented in the current biennium?
- b) What is the relation with the expected outcomes, products and targets of the MTS 2022-2027? Is the proposed POW aligned and keeping MAP in track of delivering the MTS? Are there emerging issues addressed?
- c) How is the integration between Components work ensured through the proposed PoW 2024-2025?

- d) Overall budget requirements for the delivery of the proposed activities – is it within 2022-2023 budget levels or additional budget is required for full delivery?
- e) Are there additional HR needs to deliver the proposed programme?

15. A number of issues and suggestions were provided during the meeting, and were added in the shared excel tables in comments section to be reflected by the Components in the revision of their proposed activities, before consultation with their respective Focal Points, including the following:

- Any MED POL proposal for potential activity on new/updated Regional Plans on POP should be reflected again, including on the added value compared to existing global instruments, and be discussed with MedWaves – SCP/RAC being the relevant Component.
- Before embarking on any NBB assessment, it needs to be clarified whether preparatory steps and updates in the system are completed.
- When referring to national and/or sub-regional actions, there should be reference to the number of counties/sub-regions and preferably also their names.
- REMPEC stressed its HR constraints, consisting of only 3 Professional Category staff, for the delivery of its ambitious and important mandate.
- An explanation should be provided for cases of activities of the current biennium that do not continue in the next biennium.
- MedWaves – SCP/RAC should hold a bilateral discussion with the Coordinator on possible continuation or follow up to the SwitchMed after 2024, since a potential cut of these external resources would mean a drastic reduction of the RACs staff.
- On desalination activities there is need for strong coordination between Plan Bleu, MED POL and SPA/RAC to make sure that there is no overlapping – Plan Bleu work should be focused on driver's level.
- MAP Components should reflect on potential activities derived from the outcomes of the Med+50 scenarios.
- The recommendations from the scientific symposia organized in Genoa have been taken into consideration for the formulation of proposed activities under Programme 2.
- There is an interest expressed by SPA/RAC in preparing a new Action Plan for Monk Seal, and funds are being mobilized.
- Activities of SPA/RAC and REMPEC related to NIS should be undertaken in close cooperation and synergy.
- Synergies should be maximized between SPA/RAC and Plan Bleu on activities related to ecosystem restoration, including the proposed deliverable on wilderness indicator for the Mediterranean, which aims to build on relevant IUCN work. This should also take into account the expected COP mandate for a renewed ECAP and IMAP.
- Proposed activities on platforms development and maintenance (i.e. MAMIAs, climate change platform etc.) should be aligned and in synergy with INFO/RAC activities on Knowledge Management Platform.
- A number of PAP/RAC activities on climate change continue from the current biennium, based the interest expressed by the relevant beneficiary countries (Morocco and Montenegro). Countries have also requested guidance on implementation of nature-based solutions for climate change, which should be addressed in coordination with other relevant RACs.
- The REMPEC proposed activity on GHG reduction in ports should be maintained and implemented in 2024-2025 and potential contribution from PAMEx/PLIFF to be explored.
- A number of PAP/RAC activities under Programme 4, funded by MedProgramme, are expected to continue following beneficiary countries' request.
- Regarding the new CAMP the following countries may be explored: Türkiye, Malta, Greece.
- Offshore activities should be reviewed carefully taking into consideration the timeline of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan, the findings of its mid-term assessment and the status of implementation of relevant activities in 2022-2023.
- Proposed activities from Plan Bleu on sustainable tourism should be addressed in coordination with PAP/RAC for the deliverables related to ICZM Protocol. In addition, consideration

should be given to the added value brought by the proposed activity in relation to previous guidelines on sustainable tourism and work undertaken by other actors in the region and globally, as well as links with MCSD.

- Knowledge generated on the issue of harmful subsidies should be shared with all Components so that it can be recapitalized.
- Assessments on the status of environment should be undertaken every 6 years in line with the IMAP cycles. Ad hoc assessments may be considered only for emergency situations.
- Components should consider that a mandate is anticipated to be given by COP 23 to revise the ECAP Roadmap and update the IMAP, including revised factsheets for IMAP indicators; new/updated assessment criteria; and national support to update IMAPs accordingly in 2026-2027.
- Components agreed to review again the major products included in the Joint Work Plan with EEA, for addition of any potential activity that was not so far included in the PoW 2024-2025.
- It was agreed that the three MAP Task Forces (ECAP/IMAP Task Force, Data Management Task Force and Communication Task Force) should work together and provide coordinated inputs to the proposed PoW 2024-2025 for activities of relevance to their scope of work.
- Communication activities on post-2020 SAP BIO should be considered, combined with the 40 years anniversary.
- The 50 years MAP anniversary is an important activity, that should include a Ministerial gathering, potentially led by Spain, Slovenia and the COP 24 Host Country.
- MAP contribution to the UNFCCC COP Mediterranean pavilion should be a standard activity in future PoWs. Potential ideas for similar work in other key global events, i.e. CBD COPs, may also be considered.
- Further consideration will be given by relevant Components on the need and importance to include in the PoW any proposed activities on emerging issues, i.e. windfarms, deep-sea mining, biotoxins, heatwaves, shipping-induced underwater noise etc.
- UNECE evaluation of SDG 14 should be reviewed again for any important lesson learnt to be considered in the development of the proposed POW 2024-2025.
- The identification of external resources for capacity building on SEA application and links with ICZM Protocol implementation should be further considered.
- Additional concrete comments were inserted in the comments section of the PoW tables to be reflected in the revision of proposals by all Components.

16. The following steps were agreed by the ECP:

- Based on the points raised during the ECP and additional comments to be provided by CU, the Components will send back to the CU by 15 February 2023, the revised proposed activities and the narrative to be submitted to their respective Focal Points.
- CU will integrate all activities in a consolidated table and send clearance (both on the tables and the narrative/rationale) so that Components can submit them to their respective Focal Points, by 20 February 2023.
- With the view to promoting the integration aspects of PoW 2024-2025, Components will use the consolidated POW 2024-2025 tables in the consultation with their Focal Points, highlighting the cells which are relevant to each Component, i.e. activities which each Component is leading or to which it contributes.
- Components' Focal Points will be given a deadline of 10 days for comments, i.e. until Friday 3 March 2023.
- Revised activities of PoW 2024-2025 reflecting comments received from the Focal Points will be submitted to CU together with the first draft budget proposals by 10 March 2023.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Components to send back to the CU the revised proposed activities and the narrative	All Components	By 15 February 2023

	to be submitted to their respective Focal Points.		
2.	CU will integrate all activities in a consolidated table and give clearance to Components to submit them to their respective Focal Points	CU (TH)	By 20 February 2023
3.	Components' Focal Points to provide comments to the proposed PoW in 10 days	Components Focal Points	By 3 March 2023
4.	Components to submit to CU the revised activities of PoW 2024-2025 reflecting comments received from the Focal Points together with the first draft budget proposals.	All Components	By 10 March 2023

IV. Agenda item 4: Preparation of the main MAP Meetings of 2023:

- a) 20th Meeting of the MCSD
- b) Meetings of the Focal Points of the MAP Components and of MAP
- c) COP 23, including List of Possible Draft COP Decisions

17. The MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues briefed the meeting on the preparations undertaken and next steps for the organization of the 20th MCSD Meeting in June and the meetings of Focal Points. It was agreed that substantive elements of 20th MCSD should be further discussed in an ad-hoc virtual ECP meeting in February.

18. The MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues should share with ECP template for Components to provide their inputs for possible draft COP Decisions.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Share with ECP template for Components to provide their inputs for possible draft COP Decisions.	CU (IM)	asap

V. Agenda item 5: Date and Venue of the 50th ECP Meeting

19. The meeting discussed the possible dates for the next ECP meeting and agreed as follows:
- a) An ad hoc virtual ECP meeting will be held on 17 February 2023, focused on the Med+50 scenarios, the COP Ministerial Theme including format and potential speakers, the list of COP Decisions, and MCSD Meeting Theme.
 - b) The 50th ECP meeting will be held in Marseille, on 27-28 (potentially also 29 morning) March 2023, to conclude the review of the POW 2024-2025 including budget elements, finalise the reflection on the COP Ministerial Theme and conclude discussions on how Med+50 outcomes can feed into the next meetings (20th MCSD meeting, MAP Focal Points meeting and COP23).

VI. Agenda item 6: Any Other Matters:

20. The MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues should send to RACs the COP-agreed common provisions and RACs should check and inform the CU which of them are implemented and which are not.

21. Other points of this agenda item were addressed during the discussions under the previous items.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Send to RACs the COP-agreed common provisions for RACs to inform the CU which of them are implemented and which are not	CU (IM), all RAC	27 January 2023

Annex I
List of Participants

<p>SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (SPA/RAC)</p> <p>MEDWAVES, THE UNEP/MAP REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR SCP</p>	<p>Mr. Malek Smaoui (video-conference) Programme Officer (OPRC) Tel: +356 2258 3119 Email: msmaoui@rempec.org</p> <p>Mr. Khalil Attia Director Tel: +216 7120 6649 Email: director@rac-spa.org</p> <p>Ms. Magali Outters Team Leader Policy Area Tel: +34 93 554 16 66 Email: moutters@gencat.cat</p>
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Annex II
Agenda

Agenda

- Agenda item 1** Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work
(26 January 2023 / 9:30 – 09:45)
- Agenda item 2** Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2022-2023:
- e) Report on Progress by Component including Possible Issues at Stake and Solutions (Planning and Priorities Table)
 - f) Implementation of the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement with MiTE and Agreement with the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
 - g) Follow-up Actions from the 48th ECP Meeting
 - h) Outcomes of the 93rd Bureau Meeting
- (26 January 2023 / 09:45 – 13:00)*
- Agenda item 3** Preparation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget 2024-2025
- d) Components' Presentation of their Proposed Activities
 - e) Discussion on Possibilities for Further Integration
 - f) Next Steps and Timeline
- (26 January 2023 / 14:00 – 17:30) and
(27 January 2023 / 09:30 – 13:00)*
- Agenda item 4** Preparation of the main MAP Meetings of 2023:
- d) 20th Meeting of the MCSD
 - e) Meetings of the Focal Points of the MAP Components and of MAP
 - f) COP 23, including List of Possible Draft COP Decisions
- (27 January 2023 / 14:00 – 15:15)*
- Agenda item 5** Date and Venue of the 50th ECP Meeting
(27 January 2023 / 15:15 – 15:30)
- Agenda item 6** Any Other Matters
- a) Med 2050 Foresight Study Scenarios
 - b) Brief Update on MAP Knowledge Management
 - c) Delivery of 2023 MED QSR
 - d) Coordinator's Plan of Official Visits to Contracting Parties
 - e) UNEP/MAP – EEA JWP
 - f) Cooperation with UfM
 - g) RAC Host Country Agreements
- (27 January 2023 / 15:30 – 17:30)*



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**UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

28 April 2023
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50th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Marseille, France, 27-28 March 2023

Report of the Meeting

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2023

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I. Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work, Short Briefing by the Coordinator

1. The 50th meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 27-28 March 2023, in Marseille, France. The meeting was chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Coordinator and attended by the Heads/Directors of MAP Components, the MAP Deputy Coordinator, the MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues and the MAP Associate Administrative Officer. The list of participants is presented in Annex I to this report.

2. Ms. Tatjana Hema, UNEP/MAP Coordinator opened the meeting at 09:30 a.m. (CET) on 27 March 2023. She welcomed the participants and referred to the recent developments, progress and MAP related events of the period since the previous ECP meeting.

3. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat, as presented in Annex II to this report.

4. The MAP Coordinator provided a detailed briefing on the developments in the collaboration with EEA, UfM, and ACCOBAMS, her official missions in Paris (SAP BIO donor conference, bilateral meetings with French officials, OECD, AFD etc.) and Brussels (meetings with European Commission officials in DG ENV, DG MARE, DG NEAR, EIONET Day meeting), the Joint Strategy with Black Sea Commission, and the UNEP Regional Seas Coordinators Retreat.

5. The meeting discussed the need to ensure proper representation of UNEP/MAP in key relevant global events and fora and in relation to that to clarify the MAP Barcelona Convention status as observer, including especially for the meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRSC), and the Minamata Convention.

6. As follow up actions, the MAP Coordinator will share with the ECP her mission report from the UNEP Ecosystems Integration Branch staff retreat in Nairobi; Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis, UNEP/MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues, will send to the ECP the agenda of the meeting with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and re-confirm the dates of the Ministerial Segment of the UNFCCC COP 28 to ensure overlapping with COP 23 Ministerial Segment is avoided; in addition, a meeting with ECP and R20 on PLIFF will be organised.

II. Agenda item 2: Finalisation of the Proposed UNEP/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) 2024-2025

- a) Proposed PoW 2024-2025 Activities
- b) Budget Allocations

7. The revised Programme of Work (PoW) 2024-2025 activities, integrating comments received from MAP Components Focal Points' consultation was shared on the screen for final review and update by the ECP. It was highlighted that the proposed activities of the PoW 2024-2025 should consider the MTS completion so that we are aware of the outcomes will be delivered and what part of MTS will remain for implementation in the next biennium. The next steps for finalization of the proposed PoW 2024-2025 before submission for MAP Focal Points consultation were agreed, as follows:

- The Coordinating Unit will introduce the last changes in coordination with MAP Components in the English version of the excel. Changes coming from MAP Components' Focal Points should be marked in the document and have an explanatory note.

- The Coordinating Unit will prepare a template for the French version and integrate the French texts from MAP Components files to be shared with the MAP Associate Administrative Officer, Mr. Stavros Antoniadis.
- The Coordinating Unit will prepare a consolidated narrative part, building on individual Components' narrative parts and send for one day no-objection to ECP.
- Plan Bleu will support the Coordinating Unit with the translation of parts of the excel that are not yet translated.
- The Coordinating Unit will share the final version of the narrative part and activity tables in English and French with the ECP.
- The Coordinating Unit will submit for consultation with MAP Focal Points the full package in English and French with a letter signed by the Coordinator by mid-April 2023.
- Following submission of the activities for consultation with MAP Focal Points, the Coordinating Unit should provide clear instructions for Components to propose budget allocations for their activities.

8. Regarding offshore-related activities, it was agreed that both REMPEC and CU should be indicated as Lead Components.

9. The MAP Coordinator presented in general terms the approach to be used for the identification of potential scenarios for the PoW budget portfolio and possible ways of strengthening the amount of income, i.e. through use of MTF savings, or increase of the ordinary or voluntary contributions or a combination of both. It was noted that further analysis would be undertaken at CU level before sharing with Components more concrete information on budget availability and proposed distribution.

10. The meeting agreed that the Components should make an analysis of staff travel and posts budget needs and explore whether part of this budget linked to specific activities should be put under the respective activities and not under operational costs.

11. The ECP further agreed to propose a simplified template of the PoW 2024-2025 to be submitted to the meeting of MAP Focal Points, without listing the deliverables, while the entire PoW with deliverables should be submitted only as Information document. The working document for Components Focal Points meetings should include also the deliverables.

12. RACs Directors/Heads were requested to provide to the Secretariat their staff organigrammes with information on funding source of each staff member.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	The Coordinator's mission report from the UNEP Ecosystems Integration Branch staff retreat in Nairobi to be shared with ECP	CU (TH)	April 2023
2.	The agenda of the meeting with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) to be sent to the ECP	CU (IM)	April 2023
3.	The dates of the Ministerial Segment of the UNFCCC COP 28 to be checked to avoid overlapping with COP 23 Ministerial	CU (IM)	April 2023
4.	A meeting with ECP and R20 on PLIFF to be organised.	CU (GG, EC)	April 2023
5.	PoW 2024-2025 activity tables and narrative part to be finalized in consultation with respective Components in English and French and submitted to MAP Focal Points for consultation	CU (TH, GG, SA) with all Components	Mid-April 2023

6.	Instructions to be provided to MAP Components to propose budget allocations for their activities	CU (TH, GG, KY, SA)	By end of April 2023
7.	RACs organigrammes to be shared with CU including funding sources per post	All RAC	By end of April 2023
8.	Simplified template of the PoW 2024-2025 for the MAP Focal Points meeting, without the list of deliverables, to be considered and discussed at the Bureau meeting	CU (TH, GG, IM)	By the Bureau meeting in June 2023

III. Agenda item 3: MED+50 Outcomes Inputs to Main MAP Meetings (20th MCS D, MAP Focal Points, COP 23)

13. The Plan Bleu Director, Mr. Francois Guerquin and Deputy Director, Ms. Lina Tode briefed the meeting about the status of preparation of the Med+50 foresight study and presented the six scenarios that have been drafted and will be presented to the MCS D meeting in June 2023.

14. The ECP shared their views on each of the scenarios and made general and specific comments for consideration by Plan Bleu.

15. Plan Bleu clarified that there is no plan to have the Med+50 or parts of it submitted for adoption by COP 23. The transitions part will be presented as information document to the COP 23.

16. It was agreed that the final version of the scenarios should be shared with CU before circulation and submission to Plan Bleu Focal Points meeting.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Final version of the scenarios to be shared with CU before wider submission	Plan Bleu (FG, LT)	April 2023

IV. Agenda item 4: Discussion on COP 23 Ministerial Session Theme:

17. The ECP meeting discussed the COP 23 Ministerial Theme, based on a concept note prepared by the Coordinating Unit. The Theme to be proposed by the Secretariat is focused on “green transition – from decision to action” and it will be discussed with Slovenian officials during the mission of the Coordinating Unit there. Following that, the document will be finalized for consideration by the Bureau meeting in June 2023.

18. Regarding speakers, Mr Janez Potočnik will be invited to be among the key speakers, while other personalities should be further explored to be invited as speakers or panelists.

19. During the preparatory mission of the CU in Slovenia, other issues relevant to COP 23 preparations will be discussed, including among others the potential organisation of a youth side event prior to COP, as well as a women’s lunch to continue the successful practice started in COP 22 in Antalya, Türkiye.

20. The MAP Coordinator expressed her intention to organize an online meeting prior to COP 23 with all MAP Partners, to discuss key issues to be brought to the attention of the COP.

21. The ECP should start thinking of side events for COP 23, with the intention to come up with innovative ideas, including joint events with partners. Ideas raised during the meeting addressed the topics of Posidonia network, the links and synergetic implementation of post 2020 SAP BIO and CBD Global Biodiversity Framework, the role of Regional Seas in the implementation of the new Global

Treaty on plastics and others. A corner can be also prepared in the margins of the COP 23 focusing on big projects implemented by MAP.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Issues related to organization of youth event, women's lunch, and online meeting with partners around COP 23 to be discussed with Host Country, during the Coordinator's mission in Slovenia and ECP to be briefed on its outcomes	CU (TH, IM)	By end of April 2023
2.	Side event ideas to be explored for discussion with the Secretariat	All MAP Components	By end of May 2023

V. Agenda item 5: Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2022-2023

- a) Report on Progress by Component including Possible Issues at Stake and Solutions
- b) Follow-up Actions from the 49th ECP Meeting

22. The ECP members updated the meeting on the status of implementation of their activities under the PoW 2022-2023 and no major issue was reported, apart from HR delays and bottlenecks faced by some of the RAC.

23. Some RAC also expressed their concerns on staff turnover noticed due to the non-competitive salaries compared to other organisations in the respective countries and other issues particular to each RAC, which should be further considered by the ECP and the Secretariat.

24. IMO Marine Environment Division Deputy Director, Ms. Patricia Charlebois, representing REMPEC, raised some concerns on the human resources and capacity of REMPEC to implement offshore activities, and it was agreed that this issue will be further discussed with the Coordinating Unit. It was agreed that during the next OFOG meeting the status of implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan will be presented and its time extension will be proposed for consideration by the meeting.

25. PAP/RAC Director, Ms. Zeljka Skaricic, informed the meeting of difficulties faced to recruit experts to implement the activity on Strategic Environmental Assessment in relation to ICZM and asked the Coordinating Unit to further discuss on potential way forward.

26. MED POL Head, Mr. Mohamad Kayyal, informed the meeting of difficulties faced with the organization of multiple meetings in 2023, but expressed its confidence that all meetings and activities of the biennium under MED POL responsibility will be fully delivered.

27. INFO/RAC Director, Ms. Lorenza Babbini reiterated difficulties faced due to public administration rules in the recruitment of officers, and expressed her will to find possible ways to initiate recruitments before the COP in December, to ensure human resources are on board in the beginning of the biennium. This should be further discussed with the Coordinating Unit.

28. SPA/RAC Director, Mr. Khalil Attia, expressed some challenges of a financial management nature, considering the Center's status being a local entity with regional mandate. Difficulties are currently faced with the opening of foreign currency accounts, but the Director was confident that solutions will be found in consultation with national administration services. The SPA/RAC Director also reported a low level of responsiveness from MASE officers responsible for biodiversity and SPAMI activities supported under the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement and asked the Coordinating Unit to assist.

29. The meeting discussed possible next steps on the preparation of RAC Host Country Agreements. The Secretariat should look further into it in consultation with HQ, and explore other Conventions RAC modalities, i.e. the ones of Basel Convention.

30. The implementation of activities supported through Bilateral Agreements with Contracting Parties, i.e. the MoU with Italian Ministry for Environment and Energy Security (MASE) and the Agreement with the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France, is progressing well and no major issue was reported. RACs asked for clarifications on the timeline for completion of actual expenditure especially for the activities supported through French voluntary contribution funds.

31. The meeting reviewed and reported on follow up actions agreed by the 49th ECP Meeting.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	A discussion to be held between REMPEC and CU on offshore activities	CU (TH, GG) and REMPEC	Before OFOG meeting in May 2023
2.	Ways to be explored to overcome issues in the SEA ICZM activity supported by MASE	PAP/RAC with CU	Asap
3.	A discussion to be held between INFO/RAC and CU on recruitment delays and ways to overcome	CU (TH, GG) with INFO/RAC	Asap
4.	The issue of RAC Host Country Agreements to be looked further by the Secretariat in consultation with HQ, seeing also other Conventions RAC modalities, i.e. the ones of Basel Convention	CU (TH, GG, IM)	

VI. Agenda item 6: Any Other Matters:

- a) Finalization of any Pending Issue on the Proposed UNEP/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) 2024-2025
- b) Update on the KMP process and Brief Presentation of the InfoMAP Node

32. INFO/RAC Director, Ms Lorenza Babbini, introduced the item on the Knowledge Management Platform which was presented in more detail by INFO/RAC responsible officer, and was discussed among MAP Components. A key element in this process is to ensure communication and interoperability between existing websites and databases, including external platforms. Another element to be considered when developing the platform is to ensure quality assurance of uploaded data. The platform should also include a section on trainings and learning.

33. The KMP prototype will be developed in 2023, while the platform is expected to be fully operational in the next biennium 2024-2025.

34. Plan Bleu Director highlighted the importance to avoid duplications, considering the existing work and collaboration with WESR, and this discussion should continue further on.

35. Regarding IMAP InfoSystem which will be eventually integrated into the KMP, three main functions are critical: feasibility and support for insertion of data by Contracting Parties, quality assurance, assessment tools to be integrated in the system.

36. Regarding the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS), INFO/RAC will work during the next biennium to develop assessment tools to be integrated into the platform.

37. It was agreed that the Coordinating Unit with Plan Bleu should follow up with Türkiye regarding the comments made on WESR during the MCSD Steering Committee meeting.

VII. Agenda item 7: Date and Venue of the 51st ECP Meeting:

38. The meeting discussed the possible dates for the next ECP meeting and agreed that the next ECP Meeting should be held back to back with the MAP Focal Points meeting in September, in Istanbul, Türkiye or Athens, Greece depending on the meeting venue.

39. Should there be a need for additional discussions of the ECP, especially regarding PoW budget allocations, an extraordinary online meeting will be organised.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Hold the 51 st ECP meeting back to back with MAP Focal Points meeting, preceded by online extraordinary meeting if needed, especially for the budget allocations to the PoW 2024-2025	CU (TH, GG, SA)	By September 2023

Annex I
List of Participants

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Annex II
Agenda

Provisional Agenda

Agenda item 1 Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work, Short Briefing by the Coordinator (*collaboration with EEA, UfM, and ACCOBAMS, Mission in Paris, Mission in Brussels, Joint Strategy with Black Sea Commission, UNEP Regional Seas Coordinators Retreat etc.*)

(27 March 2023 / 9:00 – 09:30)

Agenda item 2 Finalisation of the Proposed UNEP/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) 2024-2025:

- c) Proposed PoW 2024-2025 Activities
- d) Budget Allocations

(27 March 2023 / 09:30 - 13:30)

(27 March 2023 / 14:30 – 16:00)

Agenda item 3 MED+50 Outcomes Inputs to Main MAP Meetings (20th MCSD, MAP Focal Points, COP 23)

(27 March 2023 / 16:00 – 17:30)

Dinner together

Agenda item 4 Discussion on COP 23 Ministerial Session Theme

(28 March 2023 / 09:30 – 11:00)

Agenda item 5 Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2022-2023:

- c) Report on Progress by Component including Possible Issues at Stake and Solutions
- d) Follow-up Actions from the 49th ECP Meeting

(28 March 2023 / 11:00 – 12:30)

(28 March 2023 / 13:30 – 15:00)

Agenda item 6 Any Other Matters

- a) Finalization of any Pending Issue on the Proposed UNEP/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) 2024-2025
- b) Update on the KMP process and Brief Presentation of the InfoMAP Node

(28 March 2023 / 15:00 – 16:30)

Agenda item 7 Date and Venue of the 51st ECP Meeting

(28 March 2023 / 16:30 – 17:00)