

Annex II

Measures to strengthen Barcelona Convention/MAP Governance and Management

Introduction

With a view to enhance effectiveness, coherence and transparency in the governance of the Barcelona Convention/MAP system and further to the reflections and recommendations on institutional reform at the MAP Focal Points and Bureau Meetings during the 2012-2013 biennium, the Parties agree to adopt the following measures to strengthen the governance and management of the system.

I. The focal point system – Thematic Focal Points

The current MAP Components Focal Points system will be refocused into Thematic Focal points so as to promote an integrated and coherent approach in the implementation of the Convention, its Protocols and the Programme of Work, generate system-wide interest and optimize costs while avoiding fragmentation.

Thematic Focal Points will perform the functions assigned to Focal Points under Article 24 of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity and Article 30 of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management. They will be the national liaison for the implementation of the technical and scientific aspects of thematic Protocols and in this context cooperate with the Secretariat and the corresponding supporting Centres as well as disseminate information at the national, regional and local level.

Since 2014-2015 is a transition biennium, current component focal points consistent with the themes in existing Protocols and the Strategic Programme of Work will be maintained. The Secretariat with the support of the Bureau will prepare more concrete proposals for next biennium.

Technical Working Groups and Correspondence Groups may be created for specific purposes, as need be.

The Secretariat with the support of the Bureau will prepare more concrete proposals for next biennium.

II. Integrated strategic planning process

The strategic planning process will help increasing the quality of decision-making; improving the communication with key actors and their participation, accommodating their divergent interests and values; promoting its successful implementation; fostering accountability; and, improving long-term performance. The process is to be led by the Contracting Parties in making strategic choices and setting the priorities (top-down). Thematic focal points provide technical guidance within the results to be achieved (bottom-up).

The current Programming cycle of the Five Year Mid-term PoW will be aligned with the COP decision-making and the Ecosystems Approach (EcAp) cycles, be integrated and strategic. This alignment will follow UNEP's practice under the Medium-term Strategy.

The initial phase of the strategic programming process will be the External Evaluation of the preceding Strategic Plan, which will be the first instance of consultation with the Contracting Parties, MAP Partners and other external relevant actors. The evaluation process will be participatory and the draft evaluation report will be shared with MAP's constituency and be

accompanied with a questionnaire on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of the Barcelona Convention/MAP system. The analysis of the responses to the questionnaire will guide the second phase focused in identifying the issues to be considered in designing the thematic framework of the Midterm Strategy.

An issues paper for consultation will be prepared by the Secretariat following the guidance of the First Bureau Meeting to facilitate the second phase. The paper will be based on the SWOT analysis of the system, the findings of the existing Mid-term Strategy, a scan of major programmes, projects and processes contributing to the implementation of the Mid-term Strategy (external actors) and main gaps in implementing the Convention and Protocols at national level also identifying technical assistance needs. In addition, new issues and remaining challenges to be addressed by the new Midterm Strategy will be identified.

The issues paper will be subject to a comprehensive consultation process facilitated by a virtual consultation platform, with the MAP and thematic Focal Points, the MCSD members, MAP Partners, regional stakeholders, and, where appropriate, global stakeholders, with full involvement and guidance of the Second Bureau of the Contracting Parties.

Based on the results from the consultation and drawing on the assistance from MAP Components, the Secretariat will prepare a strategic framework for the Midterm Strategy which clarifies the structure and content of the future Mid-Term Strategy, to be considered and endorsed by a first meeting of MAP Focal Points in March 2015. The guidance of MAP Focal Points will be the main reference to develop a full-fledge draft Mid-term Strategy. The Strategy will include major global and regional trends, lessons learned and comparative advantages; a vision; the main strategic directions/themes; the means of implementation including partnerships, institutional mechanisms and resources; the monitoring and evaluation cycle; and, a results matrix including objectives; expected outcomes and corresponding strategic targets to achieve.

The Secretariat with the support of MAP Components will prepare a Draft Midterm Strategy for consultation with the Third Bureau of the Biennium.

The Biennium Programme of Work will be aligned with the Midterm Strategy. Its preparation will start immediately after endorsement by MAP Focal Points of the strategic framework. The Coordinating Unit will lead the process with the support of MAP Components, and will be responsible for timely compilation and consolidation of the feedback received from the thematic Focal Points. Based on the strategic themes, overall objective, outcomes and strategic targets in the Midterm Strategy, the Biannual Programme of Work will develop results and specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-based (SMART) indicators that allow to monitor progress in activities; links with the Convention, Protocols, adopted Strategies and decisions of the Contracting Parties; links to other actions; indication of resources; and, assumptions and risks.

More advanced versions of the Mid-term Strategy and the Biennium Programme of Work will be submitted to the Bureau and the final draft versions to MAP Focal Points before submitted to COP for adoption.

III. Boosting use of system-wide competencies for improved operational management and knowledge sharing

MAP Components and the Coordinating Unit provide a well-structured foundation for an efficient hub of political and technical expertise to protect and manage the Mediterranean coastal and marine environment that could be further strengthened as follows:

Thematic Groups of selected representatives of Components will be set up to focus on critical themes that require internal attention such as technical and horizontal thematic issues or operational ones (for ex. communication, fundraising, proposal pipeline, monitoring and evaluation, financial management). These groups should convene regular virtual meetings to identify areas of common concern and explore joint planning and programming.

MAP/Barcelona Convention should also explore establishing external practice areas on those substantive issues that it has a clear knowledge lead for the benefit of the whole region. These virtual practice groups would provide needed knowledge sharing and dissemination as well as a link to knowledge centers which are not yet part of the system. The Executive Coordination Panel should repurpose itself as a strong operational management body between the Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP Coordinator and MAP Components Directors.

IV. Communications and Visibility

In order to make the achievements of the Barcelona Convention/MAP more visible, the Communication Strategy adopted in COP 17 should be fully implemented and in particular its visibility rules and standards. Clarifying the rules and regulations around using the Barcelona Convention/MAP, UNEP and UNEP/MAP brands for communication will be particularly important. The guiding principle should be to use the brand only for work that has been approved by the Contracting Parties and funded by the MTF. All other work should not be branded as Barcelona Convention/MAP, UNEP or UNEP/MAP work. A distinction between work funded by the MTF and work funded by external donors should also be made.

V. Budget Contact Group

A Budget Contact Group should be set up during COPs, in order to facilitate informed discussion among the Parties of the Barcelona Convention/MAP about its budget that can take account of draft decisions and the state of contributions and commitments in the on-going biennium.