

1. MAP GOVERNANCE GOALS AND PRINCIPLES

MAP was originally conceived as a catalytic entity to guide the numerous actors operating in the Mediterranean region whose collective conduct and activities determine the quality of its environment. After 30 years, the socio-economic, political and environmental situation in the area has evolved. There is wide recognition that the MAP system needs to adapt to these changes to better meet present complex challenges.

MAP is faced with the interrelated challenges of good governance, increased visibility and maintaining relevance to the environmental and sustainable development challenges of the region. The main goal of this governance document is to ensure that the MAP system establishes and implements the required *modus operandi* – especially in terms of *coordination, approaches* to actions as well as the *operational structure*.

In particular, the MAP governance system should ensure two crucial aspects:

1. Strong and cooperative relationships among MAP components and key actors, and
2. A MAP organizational system that is:
 - Consistent with the intent and obligations of the Barcelona Convention, its protocols and strategies;
 - Responsive to contemporary needs and priorities;
 - Efficient and effective (in terms of good governance principles and measures) to meet future goals;
 - Structured to optimize the use of resources.

A well-functioning MAP structure will:

- Be streamlined for effectiveness;
- Ensure implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;
- Ensure effectiveness of the measures taken towards the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols using a system of suitable indicators, which should also serve to assess possible trends in the quality of the marine environment and coastal zones;
- Ensure that Regional Activity Centres (RACs), including MED POL, operate as integral parts of MAP and their work is entirely focused on implementation of the Convention and its Protocols;
- Ensure that Contracting Parties, as essential parts of the Barcelona Convention, play a full and active role in the Barcelona Convention/MAP system;
- Properly target dissemination of information to enhance implementation effectiveness and political and public visibility, and strengthen commitment within Contracting Parties.