4. MANDATES FOR REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRES AND PROGRAMMES[*]

The mandate for each RAC should at a <u>minimum</u> include the following:

• Long-term and horizontal goals and objectives, clearly identifying its role and the contribution to the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and Strategies;

• Scope of work including governing principles by which the RAC will operate with clear reference to cooperation with other RAC's, coordination by the MAP Coordinating Unit and the roles of the Focal Points' meetings, the MCSD and the Meetings of the Contracting Parties;

• Clear rules and procedures and related requirements/mechanisms to implement the principles.

To ensure comparability and harmonization among RACs, the mandates should be formulated in a standard format and clearly linked to specific sections/paragraphs of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and Strategies.

Each mandate should outline the modality of working relationships with the Secretariat and the other MAP components and, specifically, indicate mechanisms for developing and maintaining working partnerships among MAP components and other key MAP stakeholders, e.g. national authorities, NGOs, the private sector and local authorities.

The mandates should also make clear reference to the sources and mechanisms for financing the operations and activities of the RAC.

Each mandate should also highlight how the RAC will contribute to the collective goals of UNEP/MAP especially in knowledge management and dissemination and in improving <u>overall</u> MAP visibility, which is a critical and on-going collective responsibility of all MAP Components.

The mandate must include a clear reference and specific mechanisms for regular, efficient, effective and transparent reporting on activities/actions. Such reporting shall be provided to the Contracting Parties.

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[*] For all practical purposes, MED POL should be considered a RAC. Therefore all references in this Governance Document to 'RACs' shall be read to also include MED POL.