

8. 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.