



UNITED  
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/MED BUR.95/Inf.4



**Mediterranean  
Action Plan**  
Barcelona  
Convention

7 March 2024  
Original: English

95<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the  
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment  
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Ljubljana, Slovenia, 3-4 April 2024

**Agenda Item 3: Progress Report for October 2023 - February 2024**

**Agenda Item 5: Specific Issues**

**Report of the 51<sup>st</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> Meetings of the Executive Coordination Panel**

For environmental and cost-saving reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

UNEP/MAP  
Athens, 2024



UNITED  
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/MED ECP.51/2



UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

UNEP

16 October 2023  
Original: English

51<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Copenhagen, Denmark, 2-3 October 2023

### Report of the Meeting

For environmental and cost-saving reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

UNEP/MAP  
Athens, 2023

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

1. The 51<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 2-3 October 2023, in Copenhagen, Denmark. 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 Programme Officer responsible for governance issues (online) 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 2 October 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 meeting agreed to start with Agenda Item 4 on the final review of budget for PoW 2024-2025 due to the urgency of completing this discussion for the finalization of the respective working document to be submitted to the COP 23.

## **II. Agenda item 4. Final Review of Budget for PoW 2024-2025**

5. The MAP Coordinator explained to the ECP the changes that were introduced in the POW and Budget 2024-2025 following the request of the MAP Focal Points meeting, resulting in two budget scenarios, i.e. scenario 1 with 0% increase of assessed ordinary contributions, and scenario 2 with 2% increase of assessed ordinary contributions.

6. The meeting highlighted that the 0% increase scenario which includes the removal of the increase of the RAC administrative costs would not be a viable scenario for the RAC operations and would impact their effectiveness. **The meeting asked the Coordinator to stress this point in the narrative part of the POW and Budget working document.**

7. The MAP Coordinator explained the final budget reductions that should be proposed by each MAP Component for the finalization of the POW and Budget 2024-2025 in addition to the reductions already made by the Secretariat, i.e. 14,400 EUR in scenario 1 and 7,000 EUR in scenario 2. **The meeting agreed to provide to the Secretariat a final input about the activities where these funds should be removed from, by the second day of the meeting.** The RAC's Directors also stressed the fact that not increasing administrative cost for RACs would affect the level of salaries of their staff members which is already below practiced averages and will reduce their ability to attract and keep their experts. The meeting additionally pointed out that the risk of the 0% increase scenario should be distributed equally among Components, while one RAC asked for additional in-kind administrative support from the CU and reduction of the reporting burden, in case the 0% increase scenario is retained by the Contracting Parties.

8. The ECP should consider whether there might be any possible way of reducing the costs of the Components/Thematic Focal Points meetings, without entailing any risk on their successful organization and effectiveness. This should be discussed further in the next ECP meeting in January 2024.

9. **The MAP A/FMO should inform the Coordinator on the exact costs of online meetings for UN, including platform and interpretation costs.**

10. The MAP Coordinator informed the ECP meeting about the online budget working group meetings that will be held following the request of the MAP Focal Points meeting, with the first one planned to be organized at the end of October.

**Session on GEF-8 with the participation of UNEP GEF IW Task Manager, Ms. Isabelle Vanderbeck**

The GEF IW Task Manager presented an outline of the GEF-8 priorities, application processes and timelines as well as potential opportunities for support linked with MAP work. The GEF-8 IW focus will be on sustainable blue economy, ABNJ, water security.

She highlighted the importance of showcasing the achievements and gaps of the current GEF-funded MedProgramme in a potential subsequent application. Policy coherence is a key aspect for the success of submissions.

The meeting agreed to assess the Contracting Parties' support needs for the ratification of the BBNJ Treaty.

The relevant Components should also liaise with eligible countries to see whether there are unspent STAR country allocations, that could be mobilized.

The Coordinating Unit should consider how/whether the BueMed Partnership and PAMEX PLIFF could be best mobilized for co-financing.

**III. Agenda item 2. Preparations for COP 23 Discussions**

- a) **Thematic draft Decisions – potential expected issues**
- b) **Side events organization**
- c) **Logistical aspects – coordination of ECP**
- d) **COP 23 Ministerial Session and Declaration**

11. The MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues, Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis, updated the meeting on the preparations of the thematic draft decisions and other logistical aspects of the COP 23.

12. It was agreed that all Components should make an effort to provide their draft decisions in all languages, including Arabic and Spanish, and if this is not possible, to discuss with the Governance Unit to find a mutually agreed solution for their translation.

13. The MAP Coordinator informed the meeting that all working documents with the exception of the draft decisions on MedECC report, the 2023 MED QSR and the POW and budget 2024-2025 **should be submitted by 5 October 2023, in line with the 2-month deadline for COP documents submission.**

14. The meeting discussed about the structure and content of the QSR and agreed on the importance of ensuring to the extent possible balance and harmonization across the different EOs/IMAP clusters, including especially in the assessment methods and approaches followed.

15. It was further agreed that there is a need for the system to undertake a reflection exercise in early 2024 in order to absorb the outcomes of the 2023 MED QSR, in view also of the ECAP/IMAP revision process in 2024-2025.

16. The Coordinator will review the list of side events, as prepared by the Governance Unit and inform the ECP. The meeting discussed the possibility of organizing a joint side event for all externally funded projects implemented by MAP, to showcase their results and impact in the region. **All Components should send to the Communication Task Force and INFO/RAC material and key messages for this side event.**

17. The Coordinator informed the meeting that Slovenia has prepared a draft of the Ministerial Declaration and an updated version is expected soon. The ECP members should inform the soonest the Secretariat in case there is any important issue that the ECP would like to bring up to the Ministerial level. A background note for the Ministerial session is also prepared.

18. **All Components Heads/Directors should arrive in Portoroz preferably on Sunday 3 December or latest Monday 4 December morning.**

#### **IV. Agenda item 3. Emerging Issues on MAP Programme of Work 2022-2023 Implementation:**

- a) **Possible Issues at Stake and Solutions**
- b) **Expected implementation rate for the three funds**

19. All MAP Components presented an update on the implementation of their activities under the MAP PoW and Budget 2022-2023.

20. No major concern was expressed by any of the Components, and the expected implementation and budget delivery rate is very high. Some specific elements were raised as follows:

- INFO/RAC has faced recruitment delays due to ISPRA administrative procedures, which might impact the operational costs expenditure rate, to around 90%.
- SCP/RAC would like to propose a change in the port activity, to move it from Albania to another country: proposal will be included in the progress report inputs for MASE reporting.
- PAP/RAC has faced some difficulties with the MASE-funded activity on transboundary SEA/EIA. If MASE allows to organize a physical meeting in February 2024, most of the budget will be spent.
- SPA/RAC has faced some difficulties in the implementation of national activities supported by MASE in Albania. An alternative proposal has been made for discussion at the SC with MASE and included in the inputs of SPA/RAC to the CU.
- Plan Bleu activities on NECA supported by MASE have faced some delays, as they have been dependent on REMPEC progress in this area. French funds will be all committed within 2023.
- REMPEC has faced some difficulties due to HR challenges in this biennium. Every effort is made to reach 80-90% expenditure for MTF activities, and a little bit less for MASE funds.

21. In general, MAP Components would largely benefit should an extension of both Agreements with Italy and France, i.e. for at least 3 months, be granted, which would allow them to (almost) fully implement and disburse the allocated funds.

22. **All MAP Components should inform the Secretariat within one week after the ECP meeting of the budget expenditure/commitment rate expected by end of December 2023, for all three POW 2022-2023 funding sources, i.e. MTF, MASE, and French voluntary contributions.**

#### **V. Agenda item 5. Potential Funding of PoW 2024-2025 Activities through External Resources**

23. The MAP Coordinator informed the meeting that informal and preliminary discussions were held with the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security of Italy (MASE) and the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France, regarding expected voluntary contributions for the implementation of the PoW 2024-2025.

24. Bilateral discussions with France have been more progressed, and a contribution of 1.1 ml EUR or more may be expected.

25. In view of the Steering Committee for the Bilateral Agreement with MASE, and possible discussion on a potential renewed Agreement, it is important to **know from all Components which activities of the 2022-2023 Agreement can be implemented and finalized by March 2024.**

26. The Coordinator informed the meeting that the EU-funded SEMPA project was formally approved, and the ECAP MED Plus and ML MED Plus full-fledged Project Documents were submitted for approval to the EC. The relevant Components should be informed once their formal approval notes are granted by the EC.

27. The Coordinator thanked the MAP Components for the preparation of the Concept Notes related to Blue Economy and it was agreed that this work should be followed up after return from Copenhagen. The RACs expressed their will to be closely involved in the follow-up activities and exchanges on these Concept Notes. Plan Bleu/RAC noted that RACs have not been appropriately involved in the preparation of the ECAP MED Plus and ML MED Plus projects and expressed the wish that this transparency also applies on the bilateral discussions with Italy and France. Responding to the issues raised, the Coordinator explained that regarding the Concept Notes on Blue Economy the same coordinated approach will be followed for their finalization as followed for their preparation and collaboration with relevant Components will be sought. With regards to the ECAP MED Plus project it was recalled that the Donor was very clear that they were not keen in continuing the funding of a number of activities that in were implemented by some of the RACs in the previous phases of the projects, and therefore the consultation was more limited in respect to these activities.

#### **VI. Agenda item 6. Any Other Matters**

28. Under this agenda item, SPA/RAC presented its planned participation in the GFCM Science Fish Forum (Antalya, Türkiye, 19-23 February 2024) including an abstract proposal submitted to the forum, and the meeting discussed potential MAP representation options.

29. **The MAP Coordinator should discuss with the GFCM Executive Secretary should there be an extended deadline for submissions and inform the ECP.**

#### **VII. Agenda item 7. Date and Venue of the 52nd ECP Meeting**

30. The next formal ECP Meeting should be held either on 17-18 January or 24-25 January 2024, in Greece, in a venue outside Athens, in order to reduce the meeting costs.

#### **Joint session with EEA on the implementation of the Joint Work Plan 2022-2030**

After the closure of the ECP meeting, a joint session was held with EEA focusing on the implementation of the MAP – EEA Joint Work Plan 2022-2030 (JWP).

EEA Officer, Ms. Cecile Roddier Quefelec, presented an update on the status of implementation of the MAP - EEA JWP, with a focus on areas that need further attention.

All MAP Components presented their priority activities included in the MAP PoW 2024-2025 in relation to the Joint Work Plan strategic priorities.

The following were jointly highlighted as follow up actions:

- Establishment of the process and preparation of a sustainability gap report.
- EEA ED potential participation in the COP 23 Ministerial session.
- Possible organization of a COP 23 side event on the JWP – this would require a lot of preparation.
- EEA to contribute to the MAP reflections on the QSR – EEA can participate in one of the EAP Task Force meetings of next year.
- A concept note should be prepared for a joint mission of MAP Coordinator and EEA Executive Director in Brussels for discussion with EC services for financial support to the JWP implementation.
- EEA to contribute to the extent possible to the upgrade process of MAP InfoSystem.
- MAP to be involved and contribute as much as rules allow to the preparation of EEA assessment reports.

**Annex I**  
**List of Participants**



**MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COORDINATION PANEL**

<b>MED POL</b>	<b>Ms. Olfat Hamdan</b> Head of MED POL Tel: +30 210 727 3106 Email: <a href="mailto:olfat.hamdan@un.org">olfat.hamdan@un.org</a>
<b>INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (INFO/RAC)</b>	<b>Ms. Lorenza Babbini</b> Director Tel: +3906 5007 2277 Email: <a href="mailto:lorenza.babbini@info-rac.org">lorenza.babbini@info-rac.org</a>
	<b>Mr. Arthur Pasquale</b> Deputy Director Tel: +39 32 8941 0002 Email: <a href="mailto:arthur.pasquale@info-rac.org">arthur.pasquale@info-rac.org</a>
<b>PLAN BLEU REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (PB/RAC)</b>	<b>Mr. François Guerquin (video-conference)</b> Director Tel: +33 7 86 38 17 20 Email: <a href="mailto:fguerquin@planbleu.org">fguerquin@planbleu.org</a>
	<b>Ms. Lina Tode (video-conference)</b> Deputy Director Tel: +33 (0)6 43 08 73 86 Email: <a href="mailto:ltode@planbleu.org">ltode@planbleu.org</a>
<b>PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (PAP/RAC)</b>	<b>Ms. Zeljka Skaricic</b> Director Tel: + 385 21 340 475 Email: <a href="mailto:zeljka.skaricic@paprac.org">zeljka.skaricic@paprac.org</a>
	<b>Mr. Marko Prem</b> Deputy Director Tel: +385 2134 0471 Email: <a href="mailto:marko.prem@paprac.org">marko.prem@paprac.org</a>
<b>REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)</b>	<b>Ms. Patricia Charlebois (video-conference)</b> Deputy Director IMO Marine Environment Division Tel: +44 20 7587 3163 Email: <a href="mailto:PCharlebois@imo.org">PCharlebois@imo.org</a>
	<b>Mr. Franck Lauwers (video-conference)</b> Programme Officer (Prevention) Tel: + 356 21 337 296/7/8 Email: <a href="mailto:flauwers@rempec.org">flauwers@rempec.org</a>

**SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS  
REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE  
(SPA/RAC)**

**MEDWAVES, THE UNEP/MAP  
REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE  
FOR SCP**

**Mr. Malek Smaoui (video-conference)**  
Programme Officer (OPRC)  
Tel: +356 2258 3119  
Email: [msmaoui@rempec.org](mailto:msmaoui@rempec.org)

**Mr. Khalil Attia**  
Director  
Tel: +216 7120 6649  
Email: [director@rac-spa.org](mailto:director@rac-spa.org)

**Mr. Jesús Maestro**  
Director  
Tel: +34 677 38 99 46  
Email: [jesus.maestro@gencat.cat](mailto:jesus.maestro@gencat.cat)

**Mr. Matías Ibáñez Sales**  
Project Manager / Policy Area  
Tel: +34 93 567 33 00  
Email: [matiasibanez@gencat.cat](mailto:matiasibanez@gencat.cat)

**COORDINATING UNIT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN - SECRETARIAT TO  
THE BARCELONA CONVENTION**

**Ms. Tatjana Hema**  
Coordinator  
Tel: +30 210 727 3101  
Email: [tatjana.hema@un.org](mailto:tatjana.hema@un.org)

**Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis (video-conference)**  
Programme Management Officer  
Tel: +30 210 727 3132  
Email: [ilias.mavroeidis@un.org](mailto:ilias.mavroeidis@un.org)

**Mr. Stavros Antoniadis**  
Associate Administrative Officer  
Tel: +30 210 727 3140  
Email: [stavros.antoniadis@un.org](mailto:stavros.antoniadis@un.org)

**Ms. Kumiko Yatagai (video-conference for  
Agenda item on Budget)**  
Administrative/Fund Management Officer  
Tel: +30 210 7273 104  
Email: [kumiko.yatagai@un.org](mailto:kumiko.yatagai@un.org)

**Mr. Mohamad Kayyal (video-conference for  
the Agenda item on GEF-8)**  
MedProgramme Programme Management Officer  
Tel: +30 210 727 3122

Email: [mohamad.kayyal@un.org](mailto:mohamad.kayyal@un.org)

**Annex II**  
**Agenda**

- Agenda item 1** Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work, Short Briefing by the Coordinator
- Agenda item 2** Preparations for COP 23 Discussions
- e) Thematic draft Decisions – potential expected issues
  - f) Side events organization
  - g) Logistical aspects – coordination of ECP
  - h) COP 23 Ministerial Session and Declaration
- Agenda item 3** Emerging Issues on MAP Programme of Work 2022-2023 Implementation:
- c) Possible Issues at Stake and Solutions
  - d) Expected implementation rate for the three funds
- Agenda item 4** Final Review of Budget for PoW 2024-2025
- Agenda item 5** Potential Funding of PoW 2024-2025 Activities through External Resources
- Agenda item 6** Any Other Matters \*
- Agenda item 7** Date and Venue of the 52<sup>nd</sup> ECP Meeting

**\* An agenda item on the presentation of GEF-8 will take place from 15:00 to 15:45 during the second day of the meeting, in between the joint sessions with EEA.**

**After the closure of the ECP meeting, there will be joint sessions with EEA on the implementation of the Joint Work Plan 2022-2030. Agenda items are included in the timetable below.**

#### Provisional Timetable

2 October 2023	
09:30 – 10:00	<b>Agenda item 1.</b> Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work, Short Briefing by the Coordinator
10:00 – 12:00	<b>Agenda item 2.</b> Preparations for COP 23 Discussions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Thematic draft Decisions – potential expected issues</li> <li>b) Side events organization</li> <li>c) Logistical aspects – coordination of ECP</li> <li>d) COP 23 Ministerial Session and Declaration</li> </ul>
12:00 – 13:00	<b>Agenda item 3.</b> Emerging Issues on MAP Programme of Work 2022-2023 Implementation:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Report on progress by Component including possible issues at stake and solutions</li> </ul>

	b) Expected implementation rate for the three funds
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14:30 – 17:30	<b>Agenda item 4.</b> Final Review of Budget for PoW 2024-2025
3 October 2023	
09:30 – 11:00	<b>Agenda item 5.</b> Potential Funding of PoW 2024-2025 Activities through External Resources
11:00 – 11:30	<b>Agenda item 6.</b> Any Other Matters <b>Agenda item 7.</b> Date and Venue of the 52 <sup>nd</sup> ECP Meeting
<b>11: 30 – 17:30</b>	<b>Joint Sessions Between ECP and EEA</b>
11:30 – 11:45	a) Introductory remarks by UNEP/MAP and EEA
11:45 – 12:15	b) Presentation of key elements and major planned products under the MAP – EEA Joint Work Plan (JWP) 2022-2030
12:15 – 12:45	c) Assessing marine and coastal environment – uptake of QSR outcomes
12:45 – 14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14:00 – 15:00	d) Tour de table – Ongoing/planned activities of relevance to the JWP (indicators, data flows, links with platforms/observatories etc.)
<b>15: 00 – 15:45</b>	<b>Presentation on GEF-8 to the ECP</b>
15:45 – 17: 00	e) i. Sustainability Gap Report – key elements and proposed Roadmap ii. Foresight and measuring sustainability (EEA foresight approach for SoER, MED50 outcomes, integration)
17:00 – 17:20	f) Horizontal aspects (coordination, resource mobilization, MAP/EEA networks engagement)
17:20 – 17:30	g) Closing remarks



**UNITED  
NATIONS**

**EP**

UNEP/MED ECP.52/2



**UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

29 January 2024  
Original: English

52<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Vrachati, Greece, 17-19 January 2024

### **Report of the Meeting**

For environmental and cost-saving reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

UNEP/MAP  
Athens, 2024

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

1. The 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 17-19 January 2024, in Vrachati, 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 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 17 January 2024. She welcomed the participants, with special welcoming remarks for the newly appointed Directors of Plan Bleu and SPA/RAC and referred to the recent developments and progress of the period since the previous ECP meeting. She pointed out the key milestones and timelines for the operationalization of the Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget 2024-2025 adopted by COP 23 (Decision IG.26/14) and stressed the importance of MAP support to Contracting Parties for strengthened implementation of the Barcelona Convention and Protocols and COP decisions, in line with the Portoroz Ministerial Declaration, calling for enhanced efforts from decision to action.
3. The Associate Administrative Officer should share with ECP the ToRs of the ECP.
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 2024-2025

5. All the MAP Components presented in a *Tour de Table* their key priorities for the biennium 2024-2025 in line with the first draft of the Planning and Priorities Table that was prepared as draft for the ECP meeting. Main elements are summarized below:
  - **PAP/RAC:** The PAP/RAC Director ad interim, Ms Zeljka Skaricic, presented the priorities of the Centre for the biennium as follows: One national CAMP (Israel) is expected to be finalized, and two new national CAMPs (Malta and Türkiye) to be launched. All relevant Components are expected to contribute to these CAMP. Funds are available for the feasibility studies of the new CAMPs, but additional resources will be needed, should their implementation be sought within the biennium. Following adoption of the MSP Decision by COP 23, the Working Group will be established (its composition to be defined in line with the mandate provided in the COP Decision), while two Contracting Parties (Albania and Tunisia) are planned to be supported in their MSP studies. PAP/RAC will prepare a 2-page document on the state of art of MSP in the region to be circulated with ECP by end of February 2024, for ECP inputs and nomination of one person per Component to be involved. The legal study on transboundary EIA/SEA is drafted by the legal expert and a regional meeting to review the document will be held in Athens, Greece in early March (tbc) possibly back to back with the Steering Committee for the Bilateral Agreement with MASE. Documents will be sent to the Coordinator for review before the meeting. All Components are welcome to contribute to the Med Coast Days in September of each year.
  - **REMPEC:** The new Head of REMPEC, Mr. Ivan Sammut, presented the priorities of the Center for the biennium, as follows: Entry into force of the MED SOx ECA set for 2025 is a priority and extended support needs to be provided to CPs to ratify Annex VI of MARPOL. Work on NOx ECA will be launched as well. Implementation of the existing Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (MOAP) and preparation of revised Action Plan will be undertaken in the biennium. Enhanced efforts are needed for the implementation of the Regional Strategy on Pollution from Ships adopted by COP 22, especially for the preparation of NAPs. Work is planned in Egypt, Lebanon and Libya under the ML MED Plus project. Gaps in capacities and

resources is still an issue for REMPEC. REMPEC should prepare and share with the MAP Coordinator detailed information per country not having ratified the MARPOL Annex VI, explaining the situation, what has been done, what are the needs, and the planned course of action and estimated costs, so that she can undertake informed follow-up actions with the respective countries. REMPEC should inform the MAP Coordinator on missing nominations from CPs on the NOx ECA Group.

- **MED POL:** The Head of MED POL, Ms. Olfat Hamdan, outlined the key priorities for MED POL in the biennium which include the preparation of updated LBS NAPs for all CPs, linked also with the updated NBB reporting in cooperation with INFO/RAC, to be completed before the MED POL FP meeting in May 2025. Under the desalination activity, two CPs will be supported on application of the adopted Guidelines. State of Play on marine renewable energies will be undertaken in cooperation with Plan Bleu under the coordination of the CU, in which process synergies will be also ensured with the MSP TF led by PAP/RAC. Communication should be ensured with OSPAR and HELCOM, for best practices or even TORs on similar work in their regions. Implementation IMAP on Pollution and Marine Litter will continue being supported. The MAP Coordinator will call for a meeting with MED POL and INFO/RAC on NBB in February.
- **CU/Governance Unit:** The MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues, Mr Ilias Mavroeidis, updated the meeting on the planning of important governing bodies meetings. An important activity in this biennium is the revision of the BCRS reporting formats in light of new/updated instruments (Protocol Annexes and legally binding measures). The analysis should also address whether new elements should be introduced to align with the post 2020 SAP BIO. The MAP Coordinator will hold a meeting with the Reporting Task Force in February. The Governance Unit should present to the MAP Coordinator a paper on how to strengthen visibility of the work of the Compliance Committee. The possibility of making the BCRS reports, or parts thereof, publicly available should be raised for discussion with the Bureau of the Contracting Parties.
- **SPA/RAC:** The newly appointed Director of SPA/RAC, Mr. Elyes Mahmoud Hamza, outlined the key priorities of the Center for the biennium, comprising the following mandates: (i) Mid-Term Assessment of the Post-2020 SAP BIO; (ii) the Evaluation of 25 SPAMIs, which is very ambitious undertaking; (iii) The assessment and update of four Regional Plans on Species; (iv) the finalization of Ecological Objectives 4 and 6 under EcAp Roadmap/IMAP and the Common Indicator on Pelagic Habitats; (v) the celebration of the 40-year Anniversary of SPA/RAC. On EO4/EO6, SPA/RAC should contact GFCM; the letter should also address the assessment of the SPA/BD Protocol Annexes, mandated by COP 23 in cooperation between SPA/RAC and PB/RAC. Tunisia should be encouraged to take the lead in the organization of the 40-year Anniversary. The SPAMI twinning programme should be continued but is dependent on mobilization of external resources. SPA/RAC should prepare an analysis of the state of play of MPA and OECM to have a clear picture of where we stand in relation to the 30X30 target and what is needed to reach it.
- **SCP/RAC:** The Director of SCP/RAC – MedWaves, Mr. Jesus Maestro, presented the priorities of the Centre for the biennium focusing on policy support to the Contracting Parties for pollution prevention and circular economy, actions to strengthen prevention of marine litter, in particular plastics, promotion of green entrepreneurship and switchers support. The MARLICE conference is planned to be held in May. SCP/RAC will continue following the developments under the new Plastics Treaty. The financial gap after the SwicthMed end (more than one million EUR) is a crucial issue for SCP/RAC and ways to bridge this are being explored. There have been some difficulties on the revision of the MedProgramme Child Project executed by SCP/RAC to be discussed further bilaterally with the CU.



- **INFO/RAC:** The Director of INFO/RAC, Ms Lorenza Babbini, presented the priorities of the Centre for the biennium as follows: the upgrade of IMAP Infosystem with new functionalities and integration of assessment tools will advance in the current biennium. On the Knowledge Management Platform, the prototype has been released and the platform itself is expected to be finalized by the end 2025. The 2023 MED QSR will be published in the next months and a communication package will be prepared. INFO/RAC will celebrate its 20 years anniversary. An important role is given also in this biennium to INFO/RAC in relation to the communication activities of the system which would largely benefit from the mobilization of additional funds.
- **Plan Bleu:** the newly appointer Director of Plan Bleu, Mr. Robin Degron, presented the priorities of the Centre for the biennium comprising: (i) the finalization of the Med50 projections; (ii) the contribution under CU leadership to the MSSD revision; (iii) the undertaking of socioeconomic assessment studies (NOx ECA, SPA/BD Protocol Annexes etc.); (iv) promotion of sustainable Blue Economy, through economic instruments (taxation, harmful subsidies etc.); (v) promotion of sustainable tourism; (vi) One Health Approach. The meeting agreed on the importance to have a coordinated approach on the use of some common terms, especially on the Blue Economy. Plan Bleu should send to the MAP Coordinator the study on the harmful subsidies. The MAP Coordinator highlighted the need to have an updated population of the MSSD Dashboard.

6. On the issue of lack of nominations of Components FPs from some CPs raised by several RACs, the MAP Coordinator recalled that this communication should be from the MAP Coordinator to the MAP Focal Points. All RACs should inform asap the Coordinating Unit on missing FP nominations, or those that are felt to be not the most appropriate persons for the role. MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues should prepare a letter for the MAP Coordinator to be addressed to the MAP FP, to ask them to nominate FPs for all Components, with respective rules and COP decisions attached.

7. In this biennium there is an opportunity for a holistic review and possible update of different NAPs in a more transversal perspective, in addition to the LBS NAP update foreseen in the POW, for example through the mid-term evaluation of the SAP BIO, the national action plans under the Strategy on Pollution from Ships, taking also into consideration the ICZM CRP matrix. Support is also available through the ECAP MED Plus and ML MED Plus projects for new/updated NAPs. The MAP Coordinator will call for a meeting with relevant Components in early February 2024, for project implementation.

8. The issue of registration of MAP Regional Activity Centres in key global meetings under the umbrella of UNEP/MAP was brought up again. The MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues should make a proposal to the MAP Coordinator on how MAP can ensure its own registration at key global events of relevance, by mid-February.

9. The meeting expressed its appreciation to the work and commitment of two colleagues who recently left their Regional Activity Centres, namely Ms. Lina Tode from Plan Bleu and Ms. Magali Outters from SCP/RAC.

### **III. Agenda item 3. Major Processes and Mandates**

10. Under this agenda item, relevant Components presented concept notes prepared and shared with ECP relating to process and milestones for the delivery of key mandates for the biennium 2024-2025, including on the methodology and expected outputs, followed by meeting discussion.

**i. MSSD Revision**

11. As introduced by Plan Bleu Director, the process for the evaluation of the MSSD has been launched and should proceed as quickly as possible, taking into consideration relevant recent commitments at regional and global levels, including at EU level (i.e. Green Deal).

12. Regarding the revised MSSD it is not expected to have a drastic change of the current Strategic Directions, but rather possibly some repositioning and slight updates. Climate Change is expected to have a more prominent role in the revised MSSD.

13. Flagship Initiatives will be an important part of the revised MSSD as well; there are already some proposals to be examined, and there is an intention to find a way to leave space for more/new Flagship Initiatives during the implementation phase of the MSSD. The implementation of the MSSD through economic and market instruments should be further promoted, and links should be explored with the work of OECD in this respect.

14. Currently, the number of MSSD indicators is very high, so an assessment should be undertaken to consider limiting their number in the revised MSSD, while coherence with SDG indicators should be further strengthened. A proposal on the draft battery of MSSD indicators should be prepared by September 2024.

15. The meeting of the extended Steering Committee of the MCSD should be held in end of February 2024, to review the concept note for the MSSD revision, as well as the recent developments of relevance, agree on the timeline of the revision and propose the meetings to be organized throughout the process. The ad hoc meeting of the MCSD on the revised MSSD should be held in January/February 2025.

16. Thematic Groups will be established as needed, and a further reflection on the themes should be undertaken under the leadership of the CU. During the meeting it was proposed to consider the establishment of a Thematic Group on Blue Economy and MSP (with substantive support from Plan Bleu and PAP/RAC), and one on Circular Economy, while a third group on Indicators and Monitoring could be also further reflected. In the Thematic Groups we should aim at attracting expertise that we don't have in MAP and in this respect the MAP Coordinator should liaise also with UNEP HQ.

17. MSSD revision should be a standard agenda item in all ECP meetings of the biennium. A discussion between the MAP Coordinator and the Plan Bleu Director on this matter will be held every two weeks.

**ii. ECAP Roadmap Renewal /IMAP Upgrade, and QSR Summary for Policy Makers**

18. With regards to the IMAP upgrade, there is already an evaluation and recommendation of the 2023 MED QSR to be considered, so it is expected that the main focus of this exercise will include to further develop Candidate Indicators to become Common Indicators; remove one Common Indicator on coast that was proven to be problematic; develop Common Indicators for EO 4 and EO 6; review the offshore related indicators; assess the needs to introduce climate change, i.e. through indicators to measure impact of climate change, in consultation with MedECC as appropriate etc.

19. With regards to the ECAP Roadmap renewal, this will require the active involvement of the ECP, . Links with MSFD should be maintained so the developments on its revision will be closely followed up. The renewed EcAp Roadmap should put emphasis on strengthening of the IMAP reporting of monitoring data from the CPs. We should reflect on whether response/process indicators should be also introduced and how, with support mainly from Plan Bleu and SCP/RAC.

20. The first online EcAp Coordination Group meeting will be held in September/October 2024. All CORMONs should be held annually (remotely on the first year and physical on the second year).

**iii. New/Updated Climate Change Adaptation Framework**

21. This process will be led by the Coordinating Unit with involvement of all Components. The CU should circulate the 2016 Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework (RCCAF) among all Components, including the newly established RAC on Climate Change (CC/RAC), by early February 2024, giving one-month deadline to present their views on the updating of the document and the direction of the revision, including from the perspective of global developments. The draft decision should be submitted to the MAP Focal Points through the MCSD meeting. It should be further reflected whether it should be also presented as Information Document to MAP Components/Thematic Focal Points meetings.

**iv. New/Updated Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan**

22. The REMPEC Head presented this Concept Note for the updating of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (MOAP) and pointed out the important gaps in the implementation of the current MOAP and the low level of ratifications of the Offshore Protocol by the CPs. He stressed the need for additional financial resources to undertake the planned activities of this biennium, including the implementation of assigned activities from the current MOAP, the organisation of OFOG meeting and the updating of the MOAP.

23. During the meeting it was highlighted that although the OFOG will continue reviewing the Offshore Protocol Annexes, as part of its mandate, there is no amendment foreseen in the PoW for this biennium. An internal group of REMPEC, MED POL, CU and possible SPA/RAC should be formed for an initial internal analysis of the existing Offshore Action Plan, and a consultancy may be mobilized to support the analysis, and drafting of the updated MOAP taking into consideration new developments, including the new EU Directive on Offshore, the WWF study on the matter, new technologies etc. After the ECP meeting, REMPEC Head should write to the OFOG to inform them about the process and timeline for the updating of the MOAP, expected to be reviewed by the OFOG Meeting in April ahead of the REMPEC Focal Points meeting.

**v. Independent Mapping Exercise as per Decision IG.26/12 on the CC/RAC**

24. This process will be led by the CU, with support from an independent expert, preferably from outside the region/ MAP system. The CU will prepare ToR for a consultant to be shared with MAP Components. ECP is welcome to recommend potential candidates.

**vi. Internal Evaluation of Coherence of the MAP System to the “Common Operational Principles for MAP Components”**

25. The CU explained the process to be followed for this important exercise. The meeting went through the Common Operational Principles of the MAP Components and agreed that the CU should prepare a questionnaire for MAP Components’ response, with the aim to assess the level of coherence of each Component with these. The meeting highlighted that there is no common understanding on some parts of the principles and clarification should be sought under the coordination of the CU.

**vii. Post-2020 SAPBIO Mid-Term Evaluation**

26. SPA/RAC presented the main elements and timeline of the Post-2020 SAPBIO Mid-Term Evaluation. The meeting pointed out that this is not just an assessment, but should be seen as an opportunity to identify gaps and needs at regional but also national level, for the achievement of SAP BIO targets and the important goal of 30X30, as well as areas where interventions from MAP are needed, and this would also support the work on updated NAPs/PoM. For information at national level, a questionnaire should be prepared by SPA/RAC and circulated among the CPs.

**viii. Any Other Major COP Decision Mandate**

27. It was agreed that the ECP should maintain the spirit of provision of constructive feedback among its members and for critical matters, each Component should contact the ECP with request for inputs, as appropriate, with a short deadline.

28. MED POL and SCP/RAC should prepare a joint paper on the new Plastic Treat, including a state of play, opportunities for MAP role etc. to be sent to the MAP Coordinator by 15 February 2024.

29. The two Components should also review the Regional Plans and recent amendments of the Annexes to assess whether there are elements to be further considered for new legally binding measures. A paper on this should be prepared and shared with the Coordinator by end of April 2024.

30. The MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues should consider what issues discussed by the meeting should be brought to the attention of the next Bureau meeting, under the agenda item on specific issues.

**IV. Agenda item 4. Global and Regional Processes of Relevance to MAP – Coordinated Participation (focus on UNEA, Our Ocean Conference (Greece 2024), 50th Anniversary of Regional Seas Programme etc.)**

31. The MAP Coordinator updated the meeting on important events in the upcoming period where UNEP/MAP can have a role.

32. Regarding the 9<sup>th</sup> OOC, MAP should submit proposals for side events (possible topics on the Med+50, the 2023 MED QSR, MedProgramme results, circular economy, MSP etc.). The MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues should circulate the email on the side events and keep the ECP updated on MAP participation.

33. At UNEA 6 there are two side events that MAP can contribute, i.e. a side event organized by France and Costa Rica and a side event organized by the Regional Seas Programme. More information and requests for inputs will be shared shortly with the ECP.

**V. Agenda item 5. Calendar of Meetings and Main Events for 2024-2025**

34. The meeting defined the dates of MAP Components' Focal Points meetings. It agreed that further organisation of the calendar would be useful, with three separate tables: (i) institutional MAP meetings derived from the PoW, including separate sub-tables on national activities and on communication related activities (Days, Awards etc.); (ii) meetings under projects executed by MAP; (iii) external project meetings.

35. The meeting agreed that the dates of the meetings of 2024 for the first and second list of the above paragraph should be defined by early February. For CU/MED POL both the dates and venues should be fixed by that deadline. The dates for the 2025 events should be fixed by September 2024.

**VI. Agenda item 6. Discussion on Future Activities including Possible Financing from MASE**

36. INFO/RAC Director should inform the MAP Coordinator about the expected priorities of the Italian G7 presidency.

37. The MAP Coordinator will bring to the attention of MASE potential POW activities that could benefit from a renewed Bilateral Cooperation Agreement for 2024-2025, including among others, the

updating of the RCCAF, MSP and transboundary EIA/SEA work, new CAMPs, SPAMI twinning, SO<sub>x</sub> ECA/NO<sub>x</sub> ECA, Knowledge Management Platform, links between circular economy and climate change, etc.

**VII. Agenda item 7. Date and Venue of the 53<sup>rd</sup> ECP Meeting**

38. The next ECP Meeting should be held in Athens, Greece, on 18-19 April 2024 (1,5 days).

**VIII. Agenda item 8. Any Other Matters**

39. Under this Agenda Item INFO/RAC displayed a video on the use of the Knowledge Management Platform prototype, which was welcomed by the ECP meeting.

**Annex I**  
**List of Participants**

**MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COORDINATION PANEL**

<b>MED POL</b>	<b>Ms. Olfat Hamdan</b> Head of MED POL Tel: +30 210 727 3106 Email: <a href="mailto:olfat.hamdan@un.org">olfat.hamdan@un.org</a>
<b>INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (INFO/RAC)</b>	<b>Ms. Lorenza Babbini</b> Director Tel: +3906 5007 2277 Email: <a href="mailto:lorenza.babbini@info-rac.org">lorenza.babbini@info-rac.org</a>
<b>PLAN BLEU REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (PB/RAC)</b>	<b>Mr. Robin Degron</b> Director Tel: + +33 (0)6 71 63 78 33 Email: <a href="mailto:rdegron@planbleu.org">rdegron@planbleu.org</a>
<b>PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (PAP/RAC)</b>	<b>Ms. Zeljka Skaricic</b> Director Tel: + 385 21 340 475 Email: <a href="mailto:zeljka.skaricic@paprac.org">zeljka.skaricic@paprac.org</a>
<b>REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)</b>	<b>Mr. Marko Prem</b> Deputy Director Tel: +385 2134 0471 Email: <a href="mailto:marko.prem@paprac.org">marko.prem@paprac.org</a>
<b>SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (SPA/RAC)</b>	<b>Mr. Ivan Sammut</b> Head of Office Tel: + 356 21 337 296/7/8 Email: <a href="mailto:isammut@rempec.org">isammut@rempec.org</a>
<b>MEDWAVES, THE UNEP/MAP REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR SCP</b>	<b>Mr. Elyes Hamza</b> Director Tel: +216 7120 6649 Email: <a href="mailto:director@rac-spa.org">director@rac-spa.org</a>
	<b>Mr. Jesús Maestro</b> Director Tel: +34 677 38 99 46 Email: <a href="mailto:jesus.maestro@gencat.cat">jesus.maestro@gencat.cat</a>
	<b>Mr. Matías Ibáñez Sales</b> Coordinator of Operations Tel: +34 93 567 33 00 Email: <a href="mailto:matiasibanez@gencat.cat">matiasibanez@gencat.cat</a>

<b>COORDINATING UNIT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN - SECRETARIAT TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION</b>	
	<p><b>Ms. Tatjana Hema</b> Coordinator Tel: +30 210 727 3101 Email: <a href="mailto:tatjana.hema@un.org">tatjana.hema@un.org</a></p> <p><b>Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis</b> Programme Management Officer Tel: +30 210 727 3132 Email: <a href="mailto:ilias.mavroeidis@un.org">ilias.mavroeidis@un.org</a></p> <p><b>Mr. Stavros Antoniadis</b> Associate Administrative Officer Tel: +30 210 727 3140 Email: <a href="mailto:stavros.antoniadis@un.org">stavros.antoniadis@un.org</a></p>
<b>OBSERVERS</b>	
	<p><b>Mr. Khalil Attia</b> Former Director of SPA/RAC Email: <a href="mailto:khalil.attia1959@gmail.com">khalil.attia1959@gmail.com</a></p>



**Annex II**  
**Agenda**

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

**Agenda item 2** Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2024-2025

*Under this agenda item, all the Components will present their key priorities for the biennium 2024-2025 in line with the first draft of the Planning and Priorities Table to be presented by the Secretariat. Discussion will be also held on the implementation of the Bilateral Agreement with the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France in support of the PoW 2024-2025 activities.*

**Agenda item 3** Major Processes and Mandates

*Under this agenda item, all Components will be invited to present their milestones for the delivery of the below key mandates, as appropriate, including on the methodology and expected outputs*

- a) MSSD Revision
- b) ECAP Roadmap Renewal /IMAP Upgrade, and QSR Summary for Policy Makers
- c) New/Updated Climate Change Adaptation Framework
- d) New/Updated Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan
- e) Independent Mapping Exercise as per Decision IG.26/12 on the CC/RAC
- f) Internal Evaluation of Coherence of the MAP System to the “Common Operational Principles for MAP Components”
- g) Post-2020 SAPBIO Mid-Term Evaluation
- h) Any Other Major COP Decision Mandate

**Agenda item 4** Global and Regional Processes of Relevance to MAP – Coordinated Participation (*focus on UNEA, Our Ocean Conference (Greece 2024), 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Regional Seas Programme etc.*)

**Agenda item 5** Calendar of Meetings and Main Events for 2024-2025

**Agenda item 6** Discussion on Future Activities including Possible Financing from MASE

**Agenda item 7** Date and Venue of the 53<sup>rd</sup> ECP Meeting

**Agenda item 8** Any Other Matters

**Provisional Timetable**

<b>17 January 2024</b>	
09:30 – 10:00	<b>Agenda item 1.</b> Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work, Short Briefing by the Coordinator
10:00 – 13:00	<b>Agenda item 2.</b> Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2024-2025
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14:30 – 17:30	<b>Agenda item 3.</b> Major Processes and Mandates  a) MSSD Revision b) ECAP Roadmap Renewal /IMAP Upgrade, and QSR Summary for Policy Makers c) New/Updated Climate Change Adaptation Framework d) New/Updated Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan
<b>18 January 2024</b>	
09:30 – 12:30	<b>Agenda item 3.</b> Major Processes and Mandates  e) Independent Mapping Exercise as per Decision IG.26/12 on the CC/RAC f) Internal Evaluation of Coherence of the MAP System to the “Common Operational Principles for MAP Components” g) Post-2020 SAPBIO Mid-Term Evaluation h) Any Other Major COP Decision Mandate
12:30 – 13:00	<b>Agenda item 4.</b> Global and Regional Processes of Relevance to MAP – Coordinated Participation
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14:30 – 15:00	<b>Agenda item 4.</b> Global and Regional Processes of Relevance to MAP – Coordinated Participation <i>(cont.)</i>
15:00 – 15:30	<b>Agenda item 5.</b> Calendar of Meetings and Main Events for 2024-2025
15:30 – 16:30	<b>Agenda item 6.</b> Discussion on Future Activities including Possible Financing from MASE
16:45 – 17:30	<b>Agenda item 7.</b> Date and Venue of the 53 <sup>rd</sup> ECP Meeting  <b>Agenda item 8.</b> Any Other Matters
<b>19 January 2024</b>	
09:00 – 11:00	Wrap up of the ECP Meeting  Bilateral Meetings with RAC Directors/Heads