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**Mediterranean  
Action Plan**  
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Convention

28 July 2023  
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Meeting of the MAP Focal Points

Istanbul, Türkiye, 12-15 September 2023

**Agenda Items 3 and 4: Progress Report on Activities Carried Out during the 2022-2023 Biennium and Financial Report for 2020-2021 and 2022-2023**

**Reports of the 46<sup>th</sup>, 47<sup>th</sup>, 48<sup>th</sup>, 49<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the Executive Coordination Panel**

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UNEP/MAP  
Athens, 2023



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UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

UNEP

9 March 2022  
Original: English

46<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Rome, Italy, 16-17 February 2022

### Report of the Meeting

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UNEP/MAP  
Athens, 2022

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## **I. Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work**

1. The 46<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 16-17 February 2022, in Rome, Italy. The meeting was chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Coordinator and attended by the Heads of MAP Components, the MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues and the MAP Associate Administrative Officer. Other Coordinating Unit colleagues joined remotely for agenda items relevant to their scope of work. 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. (Rome time) on 16 February 2022. She welcomed the participants and referred to the recent developments, progress and MAP related events of the period since the previous ECP meeting. She noted that this is a demanding period, for the effective launch of the Programme of Work 2022-2023 implementation, requiring an efficient planning and cooperation.

3. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat, as in document UNEP/MED ECP.46/1.

## **II. Agenda item 2: Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2022-2023**

- a) **Strategic Priorities for 2022**
- b) **Status of ProDoc and Legal Instruments Signature**
- c) **Planning and Priorities Table 2022-2023**
- d) **Effective Implementation of Advocacy Component of MTS Programme 7**

4. In a tour de table, all MAP Components presented their strategic priorities for 2022, the planning for the implementation of the major mandates given by the COP 22, as well as any foreseen challenges and opportunities for cooperation with other Components. The following elements were in particular discussed under this agenda item:

- i) More detailed discussion should be held in dedicated session of the next ECP meeting for a number of topics, including a) MAP Components' work on Climate Change (what each Component does, how we can best coordinate actions, if there is room for improvement) and especially in relation to biodiversity; b) Processing of data for the 2023 MED QSR; c) MAP Knowledge Management; d) (possibly) MSSD revision process;
- ii) An updated Resource Mobilisation Strategy for the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027 is planned to be prepared by the Secretariat this year. In this respect, the fund-raising studies for the Post-2020 SAP BIO and for the Regional Strategy on pollution from ships should be taken into consideration;
- iii) Work on Emission Control Areas: priority in the current biennium will be given to the SO<sub>x</sub> ECA. Regarding NO<sub>x</sub>, work in the current biennium will aim at setting the grounds for a mandate to be given at the next COP 23 for the preparation of feasibility studies;
- iv) INFO/RAC is strengthening its capacities on GIS, with the recruitment of two experts, to support all Components' work. In this respect, Components are advised, before contracting experts on GIS, to first explore possibilities of provision of support through INFO/RAC expertise;
- v) An analysis of the new MAP-EEA Joint Work Plan should be undertaken in comparison with PoW activities to identify priority actions and funding opportunities;
- vi) The Coordinator asked the ECP Members that requests related to data addressed to the Contracting Parties should come from the respective MAP Component in coordination with the MAP Coordinator, INFO/RAC and other relevant Components;
- vii) MED POL ToRs for the preparation of LBS Regional Plans should be shared with the ECP for inputs before submission for clearance to the Coordinator;
- viii) SCP/RAC should share with ECP the vision paper for the Blue Economy workshop and organize discussion with interested Components;

- ix) A Concept Note for the planned EuroMed week on Waste Reduction should be prepared and shared by SCP/RAC;
- x) Questions raised regarding the geographical scope under specific Protocols (i.e. land border of coastal areas under the ICZM) should be addressed with the support of the Legal Officer upon his/her recruitment;
- xi) The Coordinator asked MAP Components to inform her if there is any need for support to overcome problems faced with the implementation of national activities, including through formal letters by the Coordinator;
- xii) Communication work planned for the Post-2020 SAP BIO, including publication of a short version for wide dissemination, should be considered for other key COP Decisions, including the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management, as well as interactive online publication of the Young Person's Guide to the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Barcelona Convention;
- xiii) The Coordinator informed the meeting about the new organigramme of the Coordinating Unit that was developed with the objective to enhance accountability and planning and support effective operations;
- xiv) The Coordinator informed the meeting of the intention to write a letter to the CPs to emphasize the main regional Strategies adopted by COP22, and the importance of their timely implementation and streamlining into new or updated national strategies and plans;
- xv) In the framework of the updated MoU with FAO/GFCM, the meeting agreed that further consideration should be given to the need to provide baseline for fishery subsidies and clarify the GFCM foresight in relation to MSSD indicators on fisheries
- xvi) The meeting discussed about the need and ways to ensure coordinated participation of relevant MAP Components in the EU Mission to "Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030" and especially the Mediterranean Sea basin lighthouse.

5. The Coordinator thanked the Components for timely submission of requested inputs for the preparation of the ProDoc and Legal Instruments for the PoW and Budget 2022-2023 and updated the meeting on their status. In particular, she informed the meeting that the entire package comprising the consolidated ProDoc and Legal Instruments, including work plans and budgets, were submitted to UNEP HQ for review and signature, and that following their signature, the legal instruments will be submitted to RAC for countersignature, and will be then inserted in Umoja Extension II for the disbursement of funds, hopefully by end of March 2022.

6. Some RAC Directors expressed concerns on budget losses due to EUR/USD conversion and exchange rate fluctuations. The Coordinator informed the meeting that she will discuss the issue including the currency in which funds are received by RACs with the AFMO and Finance Assistant and reminded them that losses from MTF budget due to exchange rate fluctuations can be compensated through the Working Capital Reserve, in accordance with the MAP Financial Rules and Procedures.

7. Several RAC Directors also expressed concerns about the information on their MTF budget implementation rates, reported to the COP 22, and especially the information shared to the Budget Contact Group by the AFMO, which was not in line with the actual level of expenditure as reported through their final financial reports at the end of the biennium. The Coordinator informed the meeting that she will look further into this issue with the AFMO.

8. The Associate Administrative Officer, Mr. Stavros Antoniadis, presented the updated Planning and Priorities Tool and thanked Components for their submissions. The meeting requested some changes to be inserted in the tool, including the addition of deliverables and additional cells for progress reporting, through hidden columns. Several RAC Directors stressed the difficulties faced to match the PoW activities progress with some MTS Indicators. The meeting discussed possible ways of streamlining the Planning and Priorities Tool into other progress reporting (PCA semestrial reports, or Bureau Progress Report) and the Coordinator noted the need for further discussion with CU colleagues

on this point. It was finally agreed that another officer per Component, in addition to the Director/Head, should be granted access to the Planning and Priorities Tool.

9. The MAP Public Information Officer, Mr. Jihed Ghannem introduced the agenda item on the Advocacy component under the MTS Programme 7 and the meeting discussed on the needs for its coordinated implementation. It was agreed to continue discussions with a view to having a clear common understanding of the difference and interrelation between advocacy and communication, as well as on issues for which MAP should advocate. It was suggested to define a narrowed scope of themes on which advocacy efforts should be focused. It was noted that in the future it should be considered to hold ECP meetings in the countries, to enable also the organization of meetings and discussions between the ECP and relevant authorities.

10. A joint session of the ECP was held with representatives from the Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition focusing on the priorities for the implementation of the PoW 2022-2023 and the support through the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement, including next steps for its operationalization and possibilities for expansion.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Include in next ECP Agenda items for discussion on climate change actions, QSR data processing, knowledge management, and possibly MSSD revision process and ways of reporting progress to Bureau	CU	For submission of 47 ECP Meeting Agenda
2.	Share LBS Regional Plans ToRs with ECP	MED POL	Upon drafting
3.	Share the vision paper for the Blue Economy workshop with interested Components	SCP/RAC	Upon drafting
4.	Share the Concept Note for the planned EuroMed week on Waste Reduction	SCP/RAC	Upon drafting
5.	Review the issues of exchange loss and currency of funds and financial implementation rate	CU	By next ECP meeting
6.	Update the Planning Priorities Table – review inputs submitted by Components	CU	By end of March 2022

### III. Agenda item 3: Finalization of Activity Fiches under the Bilateral Agreement with MiTE

11. The Associate Administrative Officer presented the Activity Fiches for the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement with MiTE, that were prepared with inputs from all MAP Components. The meeting discussed on the next steps towards submission for approval by MiTE, including the review of fiches and provision of Coordinator's comments by 25 February 2022 and final inputs by Components by 4 March 2022. The fiches will be then submitted for Steering Committee approval through letter exchanges.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
7.	Review and provide comments on the Activity fiches	CU	25 February 2022
8.	Provide final inputs on the Activity fiches	All MAP Components	4 March 2022

### IV. Agenda item 4: Global and Regional Processes of Relevance to MAP – Coordinated Participation

12. The meeting discussed on key global and regional processes and meetings of relevance to MAP and how to ensure an impactful and coordinated participation. The meeting identified six main

processes and events and agreed that relevant Components/colleagues would develop vision papers for MAP participation, by 4 March 2022, according to the following plan:

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
9.	Prepare vision papers for MAP participation in key processes and meetings:  CBD COP 15 (Kunming, China) UNECE 9th EfE Min Conference (Cyprus) Ocean Conference (Lisbon, Portugal) UNFCCC COP 27 (Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt) IMO MEPC BRS COP (Geneva, Switzerland)	SPA/RAC CU (JLT) – PB/RAC INFO/RAC PB/RAC – PAP/RAC REMPEC SCP/RAC - MEDPOL	4 March 2022

#### V. Agenda item 5: Calendar of Meetings and Main Events for 2022-2023

13. The meeting reviewed the Calendar of Meetings and Main Events for 2022-2023. It agreed to share with the MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues a few last updates, after which, the Calendar for 2022 would be considered final.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
10.	Share final updates to the Calendar of Meetings and Main Events for 2022	MED POL, SPA/RAC, SCP/RAC	18 February 2022

#### VI. Agenda item 6: Date and Venue of the 47<sup>th</sup> ECP Meeting

14. The meeting discussed the possible dates for the next ECP meeting and agreed to hold it in Split, Croatia, on 6-7 April 2022.

#### VII. Agenda item 7: Any Other Matters

- a) **Planning of Important Celebrations: SPAMI Day and Mediterranean Coast Day**
- b) **Follow up on MAP data management: process and way forward**
- c) **Clarifications on UNEP Procurement Rules and their Application by the Components**
- d) **Preparation of Bureau Meeting**
- e) **Breast One Ocean Summit briefing**
- f) **MAP Participation in the Lisbon Ocean Summit**

15. The MAP AFMO, Ms. Kumiko Yatagai, presented the applicable procurement rules and Components expressed concerns on the restrictions imposed to their operations and effective implementation of their activities under the PoW with the current processes. They also highlighted the ambiguity in some terms included in their assessment and threshold plan, especially in relation to consultancies. The Coordinator proposed that further discussions be held in the CU with relevant colleagues, especially the AFMO, the Associate Administrative Officer and the Procurement and Meeting Services Assistant, so as to come up with the needed guidance on the RAC procurement assessment results, provide clarifications on the definition of the term consultancy as used there, and explore possible options for alleviation of the administrative burden relating to the procurement limitations in consultation with UNEP HQ.

16. SPA/RAC and PAP/RAC presented their planning for the observance of SPAMI Day in Monaco and Mediterranean Coast Day in Morocco (tbc) respectively. The meeting agreed that such observance days should also involve, to the extent possible, actors from areas beyond their specific thematic scope and all MAP components were encouraged to take awareness actions on that day.

17. The meeting discussed extensively the issue of data management, and the challenges and needs for effective implementation of the relevant Decision adopted by COP 22. It was agreed that following finalization of the ToR of the data management task force, INFO/RAC should get a clear picture of all different MAP information systems and dashboards, and in this respect, all Components should share with INFO/RAC links/access to their info systems/dashboards. Following this step, another substantive discussion with all MAP Components should be carried out on how these can be used and brought together in the most efficient way. INFO/RAC should also provide to the Coordinator a briefing note (1-2 pages) on possible challenges in the implementation of the COP 22 Decision on MAP data management. Finally, the Coordinator informed them that she will hold another discussion with UNEP HQ colleagues for a better understanding on the plans for the part of WESR to be dedicated to the Mediterranean region confirming the current arrangement in place with them.

18. The MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues, Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis, presented the process for the preparation of the next Bureau meeting to be held on 24-25 March in Turkey, and asked MAP Components to timely provide the inputs as requested. He also reminded the meeting of the International Women's Day on 8 March 2022 and proposed to organize actions with CU support focusing on mainstreaming of gender considerations in RACs work, including a possible online event with the ECP.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
11.	Review the RAC procurement assessment results and provide clarifications on their effective application	CU	February 2022
12.	Provide a brief note on challenges in implementation of the COP 22 Decision on MAP data management	INFO/RAC	Before the 92 <sup>nd</sup> Bureau meeting



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

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**Annex II**  
**Agenda**

## Agenda

- Agenda item 1** Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work
- Agenda item 2** Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2022-2023
- a) Strategic Priorities for 2022
  - b) Status of ProDoc and Legal Instruments Signature
  - c) Planning and Priorities Table 2022-2023
  - d) Effective Implementation of Advocacy Component of MTS Programme 7
- Agenda item 3** Finalization of Activity Fiches under the Bilateral Agreement with MiTE
- Agenda item 4** Global and Regional Processes of Relevance to MAP – Coordinated Participation
- Agenda item 5** Calendar of Meetings and Main Events for 2022-2023
- Agenda item 6** Date and Venue of the 47<sup>th</sup> ECP Meeting
- Agenda item 7** Any Other Matters
- a) Planning of Important Celebrations: SPAMI Day and Mediterranean Coast Day
  - b) Follow up on MAP data management: process and way forward
  - c) Clarifications on UNEP Procurement Rules and their Application by the Components
  - d) Preparation of Bureau Meeting
  - e) Breast One Ocean Summit briefing
  - f) MAP Participation in the Lisbon Ocean Summit



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UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

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20 April 2022  
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47<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Split, Croatia, 6-7 April 2022

### Report of the Meeting

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## **I. Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work**

1. The 47<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 6-7 April 2022, in Split, Croatia. The meeting was chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Coordinator and attended by the Heads of MAP Components, the MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues and the MAP Associate Administrative Officer (remotely). Other MAP Coordinating Unit colleagues joined remotely for agenda items relevant to their scope of work. 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 6 April 2022. 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, with some revisions, as presented in Annex II to this report.

## **II. Agenda item 2: Follow-up to the 92nd Bureau Meeting**

4. The Coordinator presented the main outcomes of the 92<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, that was attended by all Members, and highlighted the attention placed by the Presidency and all Members to the effective implementation of the PoW during the current biennium and their willingness to actively support the MAP in its advocacy, visibility and outreach efforts. The MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues, Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis, presented the conclusions of the 92<sup>nd</sup> Bureau Meeting and indicated that a follow-up table will be prepared for each recommendation and responsible person to monitor their implementation progress. Important issues to be followed up include the request for maximum financial implementation of the Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget 2022-2023, the delivery of the 2023 Med QSR etc.

5. The Coordinator informed the meeting that a number of missions to countries are planned to support among others the ratification efforts of Protocols, the payment of arrears and other important issues, and that the Bureau Presidency is willing to lead these efforts; the Coordinator recommended that one or two RAC Directors should join each country mission, starting with the mission in Tunisia, together with SPA/RAC Director in May 2022; other missions in the coming months may include Libya, Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Spain and others.

## **III. Agenda item 3: Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2022-2023 – Possible Issues at Stake and Solutions**

6. In a tour de table, all MAP Components presented the status of implementation of their activities under the PoW and Budget 2022-2023, focusing on areas where challenges are faced or foreseen. The following elements were in particular addressed under this agenda item:

- i) RAC Directors/Heads expressed their concerns for the delay in the disbursement of the funds for the PoW and Budget and stressed the need to receive the first installment the soonest in order to start their activities implementation.
- ii) The implementation of activities supported by the Bilateral Agreement with the Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition (MiTE) should start with no delay. For correspondence on national activities, relevant CU colleagues should be in copy, while for activities involving Italy, MiTE colleagues (Mr. Roberto Giangreco and Ms. Valentina Mauriello) should be in copy.
- iii) REMPEC is expected to prepare two letters on SECA, one for all the Contracting Parties informing them about the process and next steps and another one for the Ministries of the 6 countries that have not ratified the MARPOL Annex VI, by 20 April 2022.



- iv) The drafting of the 2023 Med QSR should start the soonest possible, and in coordination with the MedProgramme TDA, based on the information we have at hand. The EcAp/IMAP Task Force should become less bureaucratic and more focused on the technical/operational aspects of work in order to ensure a timely delivery of the QSR in 2023; in this respect a table should be prepared showing the status for each IMAP Cluster and a timeline for the QSR delivery for the next Task Force meeting. A draft zero of the QSR should be presented at the ECAP Coordination Group meeting in July. A mandate to review the ECAP Roadmap is planned to be sought at the next COP.
- v) Components expressed concerns about the implementation of national activities in Lebanon, as there are problems in their communication with the country. It was agreed that all Components should send to the Coordinator an email presenting all the ongoing/planned activities in Lebanon, their budget and problems encountered.
- vi) PAP/RAC informed the meeting that Egypt withdrew from its MedProgramme activities, and that it will be proposed to the Steering Committee to distribute the respective funds to other beneficiary countries (i.e. Tunisia, Montenegro and possibly Morocco) to boost their respective activities.
- vii) The implementation of the SAP BIO is a priority for SPA/RAC. A partners/donors conference will be organized in November 2022 and will be linked with key relevant events. A detailed concept note in this respect should be prepared by end of April and shared with the Coordinator. Work is progressing well for the SPAMI Day celebrations (virtual on 15 April 2022 and physical in Monaco on 20 May 2022). Invitation letters should be prepared for the event in Monaco, including to the Bureau President, the Ministries of Environment of countries that have SPAMIs, Albert II Prince of Monaco, Mr. Montanaro, and the UNEP Executive Director. The Habitat and NIS Symposium will be organized in Genova, Italy, on 19-23 September 2022 (to be confirmed whether the former or the current Bureau Presidency will attend).
- viii) Plan Bleu activities focus on MedECC, tourism and blue economy, the environment and development observatory, and MED2050. It was stressed that overlapping should be avoided between the Plan Bleu work on economic instruments and relevant work undertaken by MED POL. In this respect the MED POL ToRs should be seen by Plan Bleu. The activities on SIMPEER and One Health implementation will depend on the possible mobilization of external resources. The SIMPEER process did not yield any volunteer countries willing to pursue the exercise. Future SIMPEER editions should be further discussed, and possibly focus on one thematic subject (on SDG 14 implementation for example). Discussions are ongoing with UNEP HQ on the best option for cooperation between Plan Bleu and UNEP GRID on the WESR and possibly between INFO/RAC and UNEP GRID on the Node and Knowledge Management.
- ix) SCP/RAC work progresses on the implementation of the Regional Plan, trainings on microplastics, the organization of MARLICE forum, sustainable business support, blue biotechnology etc. A foreseeable challenge is about external funding sources after the end of SwitchMed. The Team Leader Policy Area, Ms. Magali Outters, informed the meeting about the issues of Tunisia in ratifying the Minamata Convention; a brief report should be sent to the Coordinator presenting the reasons for Tunisia's hesitation to ratify the Minamata Convention.
- x) MED POL work is progressing on the preparation of the new LBS Regional Plans, TDA regional consultancy, dumping guidelines and desalination and IMAP. Issues are faced with some countries on the SSFAs and IMAP regional consultants to be addressed the soonest.
- xi) INFO/RAC work is progressing on Knowledge Management, IMAP Info-System and trainings, communication activities etc., and no major concerns were expressed. Physical national trainings on IMAP should be considered, provided that COVID-19 situation allows, possibly together with relevant Components' staff.
- xii) REMPEC work is progressing in all activities and no major issue was reported. Possible challenges that are being addressed include the finalization of data standards/data dictionaries (DS/DD) for IMAP CI 19, GHG Med project for which there has not been

- update, and the Subregional Contingency Plan between Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, for which possible solutions are explored.
- xiii) CU activities are progressing. The Individual Contractor on legal issues is recruited and RACs were invited to share with the CU any issue of legal nature they may have. Discussion to be held with Tunisia and France on possible hosting of the next MCSD meeting.
- xiv) A dedicated discussion on the MAP Resource Mobilisation Strategy should take place in the next ECP meeting. In this respect, potential benefits from GEF-8 should be discussed, with invitation of Olfat and relevant colleagues from GEF (i.e. Christine Haffner-Sifakis). The Associate Administrative Officer, Mr. Stavros Antoniadis should recirculate to the ECP the GEF-8 document, collect inputs on selected priorities and links with their activities by 12 April and prepare a one-page brief note to be sent to the HQ; REMPEC should also look at the IMO GEF priorities.
- xv) The Front Office Programme Assistant, Ms. Irene Cavoura, should send to ECP Members an email with potential missions to countries for their feedback on issues and solutions.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Two letters on SECA to be prepared for review by the Coordinator.	REMPEC	20 April 2022
2.	A table should be prepared showing the status for each IMAP Cluster and a timeline for the QSR delivery	EcAp/IMAP Task Force	Next Task Force meeting
3.	Briefing email to be sent to the Coordinator listing all ongoing/planned activities in Lebanon, their budget and problems encountered	All relevant MAP Components	The soonest
4.	A detailed Concept Note for the SAP BIO donors conference to be prepared and shared with the Coordinator	SPA/RAC	By end of April 2022
5.	Invitation letters for the SPAMI Day in Monaco to be prepared and shared with the Coordinator	SPA/RAC	The soonest
6.	MED POL to share ToRs on economic instruments with Plan Bleu Deputy Director	MED POL	Upon drafting
7.	A brief report to be sent to the Coordinator presenting the reasons for Tunisia's hesitation to ratify the Minamata Convention	SCP/RAC	The soonest
8.	Discussion to be held with Tunisia and France on possible hosting of the next MCSD meeting	CU	
9.	An agenda item on RMS to be added in the next ECP Meeting	CU (Stavros)	By next ECP Meeting
10.	Inputs to be shared by Components on GEF-8 Brief Note to be prepared for submission to HQ	All Components CU (Stavros)	By 8 April 2022 By 12 April 2022
11.	Email with potential missions to countries to be sent to ECP for their feedback on issues and solutions.	CU (Irene)	The soonest

#### IV. Agenda item 4. Global and Regional Processes of Relevance to MAP – Vision Papers

- a) BRSC COP (Geneva, Switzerland, 6-17 June 2022)
- b) UN Ocean Conference (Lisbon, Portugal, 27 June – 1 July 2022)
- c) CBD COP 15 (Kunming, China, 3Q 2022)
- d) UNECE 9th Ministerial Conference (Nicosia, Cyprus, October 2022)
- e) UNFCCC COP 27 (Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 7-18 November 2022)
- f) IMO MEPC 78 (6-10 June 2022) and 79 (12-16 December 2022)

7. The Head of MED POL, Mr Mohamad Kayyal, and the SCP/RAC Team Leader Policy Area, Ms. Magali Outters, presented an overview of their proposal for MAP representation in the BRSC COP to be held in Geneva, Switzerland on 6-17 June 2022, including the possible organization of a side event, based on a preliminary Concept Note jointly prepared by the two Components. The meeting agreed that more concrete planning is required for the organization of such a side event including information on speakers, costs, resources, deadlines, role distribution and the added value of this side event. The meeting agreed that a concrete concept note along these lines should be jointly prepared by MED POL and SCP/RAC by end of April 2022.

8. The INFO/RAC Director, Ms Lorenza Babbini, presented the Concept Note for MAP representation in the UN Ocean Conference to be held in Lisbon, Portugal, on 27 June – 1 July 2022, including the proposal for a side event to present issues on Med SOx ECA designation (post MEPC 78), the Med+50, Plastic Pollution and Circular Economy as well as Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). It was highlighted that the Biodiversity component of MAP work would be covered by a dedicated side event on MPA/SPAMI Twinning Programme, to be submitted by the Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition (MiTE) with support from MAP Coordinating Unit, SPA/RAC and INFO/RAC. It was recalled that the deadline for submission of side event proposals was postponed to 8 May 2022.

9. The MAP Coordinator presented the possible options for registration and participation of MAP Components to the UN Ocean Conference, stressing her willingness to ensure that a maximum number RAC are represented at least by their Directors/Heads. In this respect, RAC Directors were asked to explore potential ways of registration according to the different categories listed in the Conference registration portal. In parallel, the Coordinating Unit should explore ways to ensure maximum representation of the MAP system. The below follow-up actions were agreed by the meeting:

- i. Contact countries that have expressed interest to explore their plans for the organization of side events that could involve MAP.
- ii. A more concrete Concept Note for the MAP side event to be prepared by INFO/RAC.
- iii. The Coordinating Unit to send to the ECP the Concept Note prepared for the Brest Workshop as source of inspiration.

Timeline: 10 days/by 17 April 2022

10. The SPA/RAC Director, Mr. Khalil Attia, presented the plans for MAP representation in the CBD COP 15 to be held in Kunming, China, in the third quarter of 2022, including a side event on SAP BIO and possibly another one with Partners, including GFCM, or only one side event and a stand. The Director informed the meeting that Lebanon and Montenegro had confirmed participation in the side event, while it was said that following the request of the Coordinator, the Bureau President confirmed that every effort will be made to also attend in order to present the outcomes of COP 22 and the Antalya Ministerial Declaration.

11. The MAP Coordinator updated the meeting about the organization of the UNECE 9th Ministerial Conference, to be held in Nicosia, Cyprus, in October 2022, with a focus on tourism. It was discussed that a side event with MAP involvement would be interesting, and more details could be provided by the MAP Programme Management Officer on Socio-Economic Affairs, Mr. Julien Le Tellier. It was stressed that the Coordinating Unit and Plan Bleu/RAC should be mainly involved in this side event organization.

12. The MAP Coordinator informed the meeting about the discussions with UfM Secretariat for the potential co-organization of a Mediterranean Pavilion in the UNFCCC COP 27 to be held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, on 7-18 November 2022, including the request for signature of a partnership agreement between MAP, UfM and PRIMA, and the need for allocation of financial resources by all three parties for the pavilion, which are still under negotiation in coordination also with the UNEP HQ. The meeting agreed that all MAP Components should prepare themselves in a coordinated manner irrespective of the developments around the pavilion organization. It was agreed that Plan Bleu/RAC (Kasia Marini), would coordinate this work with the other MAP Components to get a clear picture of

MAP potential contribution, possibly foreseeing one side event per RAC. In this respect the following steps were agreed by the meeting:

- i. Plan Bleu/RAC Director to share with the ECP Members the Concept Note prepared in collaboration with MedECC at the earliest convenience.
- ii. All Components to add inputs/provide feedback by 20 April 2022.
- iii. Plan Bleu/RAC to finalize the Concept Note based on the feedback received, providing a clear picture of MAP planned contribution, including on subjects to be addressed, countries involved etc. by 30 April 2022.

13. The REMPEC Head of Office, Mr. Gabino Gonzalez, gave an overview of the process to be followed in the two next IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) meetings, i.e. MEPC 78 (6-10 June 2022) and 79 (12-16 December 2022). In particular the MEPC 78 is expected to assess the proposal for the designation of Med SOx ECA, and to consider and agree on draft amendments to regulation 14.3 of, and Appendix VII to MARPOL Annex VI to be circulated by the IMO Secretary-General for consideration by the MEPC 79. In such a case, the MEPC 79 is expected to consider and adopt the draft amendments and determine the date of their entry into force. The MAP Coordinator informed the meeting that her attendance in-person to the MEPC 78 is still under discussion in coordination with IMO and EC relevant colleagues. It was finally agreed that in the case that the proposal goes for review and adoption to MEPC 79, a side event should be organized.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
12.	A concrete Concept Note for MAP participation in the BRSC COP to be prepared	MED POL and SCP/RAC	By end of April 2022
13.	Potential ways of RAC registration in the UN Ocean Conference to be explored	All Components	The soonest
14.	Countries' plans for the organization of side events in the UN Ocean Conference that could involve MAP to be explored	All Components	By 17 April 2022
	A more concrete Concept Note for the MAP side event in the UN Ocean Conference to be prepared	INFO/RAC	
	The Concept Note prepared for the Brest Workshop to be shared with ECP	CU (Tatjana)	
15.	More details to be provided to the ECP about the UNECE 9 <sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference	CU (Julien)	The soonest
16.	The Concept Note prepared in collaboration with MedECC on the UNFCCC COP 27 to be shared with ECP.	Plan Bleu	The soonest
	Inputs/feedback to be provided on the Concept Note	All Components	By 20 April 2022
	Concept Note to be finalised providing a clear picture of MAP planned contribution, including on subjects to be addressed, countries involved etc.	Plan Bleu	By 30 April 2022

## V. Agenda item 5: Thematic Discussions

- a) MAP Components' Work on Climate Change and Especially in Relation to Biodiversity
- b) Processing of Data for the 2023 MED QSR
- c) MAP Knowledge Management

d) MSSD Revision Process

14. The meeting discussed in depth the ongoing and planned work on climate change and the prospects and added value of further work of MAP in this area. A number of issues were in particular discussed under this agenda item, considering both the need to strengthen and articulate further the existing mandates of the MAP system as well as the potential opening of new perspectives that would be beneficial and innovative for the region and for the MAP system.

15. Regarding the strengthening of existing mandates, the following elements were raised:

- i) Assessment of expected impacts of climate change on water and wastewater management, and the need to support the development and implementation of technical measures to address them; the mandate and capacities of the system to support this work should be assessed. The Mediterranean Water initiative of MIO should be also reviewed in this respect.
- ii) It is important to continue mainstreaming climate change into MAP policies and strategies and consider updating of those that do not sufficiently address climate change.
- iii) It would be useful to capitalize and expand the work that was already undertaken on mainstreaming of climate change into planning and management, through the AdriAdapt Platform. A training to all MAP staff should be organized on the tool.
- iv) There is an issue of how to better communicate MAP work on climate change, as sometimes there is a feeling that this is “hidden” due to the cross-cutting nature of this work.
- v) MedECC work should continue, and it is important to assess the added value and the differences of the new reports compared to MAR1.
- vi) Climate change aspects should be taken into consideration in MAP cooperation with the UN Country Teams.
- vii) A proposal for green and carbon neutral meetings should be prepared for the next COP. Plan Bleu/RAC Deputy Director will distribute a paper for reflection and discussion.
- viii) Links between climate change and IMAP may be addressed through the work on the update of the EcAp Roadmap expected to be mandated by the COP 23.
- ix) All MAP components are invited to read the MAR1.

16. Regarding the potential new/emerging issues to be considered, these should be in the following directions:

- i) There is scope of work on greening of the shipping sector, adaptation of ports and energy transition/electrification etc.
- ii) There is potential to support business on the use of tools to measure climate change impacts and ways to reduce them (MEAL system with Switchers support).
- iii) The capacities of the system to maximise financial sustainability for climate change should be strengthened, including a better knowledge and understanding of the different funding mechanisms (Green Climate Fund and other mechanisms, i.e. PLIFF) and building of capacities of the region to increase benefit from these funds.
- iv) Digital transformation and artificial intelligence should be further used to identify impacts and local hotspots.
- v) The MAP system should consider to what extent we can work on building capacities of the region in implementing nature-based solutions at technical level taking into consideration the new definition of the term given by the UNEA-5.2.

17. The MedProgramme Management Officer, Ms. Olfat Hamdan, presented the progress of work on the MedProgramme Knowledge Platform and the plans for the next steps, which was followed by discussion with all ECP Members on a number of issues including: the links with existing MAP system websites and platforms, the technical tools to be deployed, the nature of data to be used in the platform’s second module (database), the options for the development and hosting of the platform, the timeline of the different steps and modules including the agreement on the need to start with the

development of the website without waiting the data and then proceed with the database at a second stage. The following actions were agreed by the meeting:

- i) The MedProgramme Management Officer to disseminate the technical requirements of the Platform with INFO/RAC and other ECP members.
- ii) Additional consultation to be held on the modalities (development and hosting of the platform) and the possibility of having both or one of the two (hosting) done in-house with INFO/RAC support.
- iii) INFO/RAC Director to appoint a colleague from INFO/RAC to see the requirements and assess the possibilities of cooperation for the platform, including, if need be, the recruitment of an external expert at INFO/RAC.

18. The INFO/RAC Director presented the work on the MAP Knowledge Management Strategy including its objectives, steps and timelines and discussion was held among the ECP Members on various aspects, including on: links with the MedProgramme Knowledge Platform; links and relation with the Plan Bleu Observatory to be further assessed once the Knowledge Management architecture and prototype are developed; the need to analyse information from all Components and their platforms; the scope of information (limited to information generated by MAP or broader?) etc. It was highlighted that this work will focus primarily on internally produced MAP knowledge, and at a later stage external sources may also be considered to be added, for example with the provision of links directing to other platforms; a step-by-step process will be followed, and these issues should be discussed further. INFO/RAC informed the meeting that the Prototype phase will be completed in the current biennium 2022-2023, also with support from the Bilateral Agreement with MiTE. The meeting agreed on the importance of having a Med Node in the WESR even if for the moment it will present limited data, that can be complemented later. Plan Bleu will make a proposal for this Med WESR frontpage. It was agreed to include a standing agenda item on Knowledge Management in every ECP meeting.

19. The INFO/RAC Deputy Director, Mr. Arthur Pasquale, gave an overview of the work on the processing of data for the 2023 Med QSR. A table on the status of data submission has been requested by all relevant Components. If inputs are missing by any Component, their Director/Head should be informed. Based on this information, a paper with analysis of the situation and recommendations should be prepared by the INFO/RAC Deputy Director and submitted to the Coordinator in one month, i.e. by 7 May 2022.

20. The Coordinator introduced the item on the MSSD revision process, outlining, with the support of the Programme Management Officer on Socio-Economic Affairs, Mr. Julien Le Tellier, the possible options for this process, and their pros and cons. The following options were discussed by the meeting, and it was stressed that the final option should be decided by the MSCD Steering Committee and the Bureau of the Contracting Parties:

- i) Business as Usual: both the review of the MSSD and parallel preparation of the next MSSD to be undertaken in the biennium 2024-2025;
- ii) Agree on a small extension of the current MSSD for another biennium and get COP 24 mandate for its revision in the biennium 2026-2027;
- iii) Extend the MSSD until 2030 to coincide with the end of the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

21. The meeting raised several elements that should be taken into consideration in evaluating the different options, including: the timeline of key regional and global processes, in particular the UN 2030 Agenda and SDGs and the necessary time to adapt a new MSSD after the post-2030 global agenda is agreed, the difficulties of having in parallel the evaluation of the current MSSD and the preparation of the next one, the timing of preparation of the Med2050 (planned to be concluded in 2023) and the next SoED Report (planned for 2026-2027, to be confirmed) which will provide important information for the MSSD revision process, the level of information that can be used from the MSSD dashboard and the evaluation of the flagship initiatives, the relation of the MSSD with other MAP strategies (MSSD not to be a compilation of other strategies but a framework strategy to

guide the others), the optimal timeline for the MSSD (10 or 15 years?), whether the MSSD is considered obsolete or it can be extended for some additional years, the links with the Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production etc.

22. It was agreed that the evaluation of the MSSD should be a simple/light one and the main focus of work should be placed on the preparation of the next MSSD. With regards to the best available option, this requires further reflection. It was agreed that based on the discussions of the ECP meeting, the Programme Management Officer on Socio-Economic Affairs will prepare a table with the timeline of different regional and global instruments and processes of relevance to the MSSD and a more elaborated Issue Paper on the possible options for the MSSD revision process and that discussions on this topic will continue among ECP members.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
17.	A training to all MAP staff to be organized on the AdriAdapt tool.	PAP/RAC	The soonest
18.	Opportunities for financial support on climate change through the Green Climate Fund and other mechanisms (i.e. PLIFF) to be further explored.	CU	Together with the RMS preparation
19.	A paper on green and carbon neutral meetings for the possible development of a proposal to COP23 to be prepared and shared with ECP	Plan Bleu (Lina)	The soonest
20.	The technical requirements of the MedProgramme KM Platform to be shared with INFO/RAC and other ECP members.  Additional consultation to be held on the modalities (development and hosting) of the platform and the possibility of having them done in house with INFO/RAC support.  An INFO/RAC SM to be appointed to support these discussions	CU (Olfat)  CU – INFO/RAC  INFO/RAC	
21.	A standing agenda item on Knowledge Management to be added in every ECP meeting agenda.	CU (Stavros)	By next ECP meeting
22.	A paper with analysis of the situation of data for the QSR and recommendations to be prepared and submitted to the Coordinator	INFO/RAC (Arthur)	By 7 May 2022
23.	A table with the timeline of different regional and global instruments and processes of relevance to the MSSD and a more elaborated Issue Paper on the possible options for the MSSD revision process to be prepared	CU (Julien)	The soonest
24.	Draft note on potential content of a light version of a WESR Mediterranean frontpage to be elaborated by Plan Bleu and shared with ECP	Plan Bleu	The soonest

## **VI. Agenda item 6: Date and Venue of the 48<sup>th</sup> ECP Meeting**

23. The meeting discussed the possible dates for the next ECP meeting and agreed to hold it in Greece, on 5-6 October 2022, possibly back to back with the UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit staff retreat.

## **VII. Agenda item 7: Any Other Matters**

- a) Follow-up of six Actions from the 46th ECP Meeting
- b) UNEP/MAP – EEA Joint Work Plan 2022-2030
- c) 1st Steering Committee Meeting for the Bilateral Agreement with MiTE
- d) RAC Assessment
- e) Collaboration with UfM
- f) Collaboration with GFCM
- g) New MSP Platform/Toolkit
- h) EURO-MED Week for Waste Reduction
- i) New Visual Identity and Website of SCP/RAC
- j) Participation in Med Lighthouse

24. The MAP Coordinator presented the six actions to be followed up from the 46th ECP Meeting which were all addressed by the present meeting.

25. The MAP Associate Administrative Officer presented the main parts of the UNEP/MAP – EEA Joint Work Plan (JWP) 2022-2030. The ECP members requested to review it more in detail, and it was therefore agreed that the final JWP would be recirculated with the ECP for their inputs on the priority activities and assessment of the needs for external resources by end of May.

26. The MAP Coordinator informed the meeting about the plans for the organization of the 1<sup>st</sup> Steering Committee meeting with MiTE, to be held either in Athens, either in May/June, with the sole purpose to formally approve the activity fiches, or in September/October for a more substantive discussion on progress of implementation.

27. The MAP Coordinator informed the meeting on the discussions held internally as well as with the UNEP HQ on the RAC procurement thresholds, and the preparation of a survey to be soon circulated to the RACs to support a qualitative and quantitative assessment of the implementation of the current policy. The SCP/RAC Team Leader Policy Area should check what is the policy on procurement thresholds for BRSC Regional Activity Centres.

28. The MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues updated the meeting on the cooperation with UfMS and GFCM. A letter should be drafted for GFCM including all elements raised by the ECP meeting. SPA/RAC Director should prepare the first draft. The Coordinator informed the meeting about the appointment of the new UfM Deputy Secretary General for Water, Environment and Blue Economy, Mr. Álvaro Albacete, and the positive interaction they had. A meeting with him is planned to be organized. The issue of the Med Pavilion organization should be followed up as discussed under agenda item 4.

29. PAP/RAC Director asked to present the new MSP Platform/Toolkit in the next ECP meeting in the interest of time.

30. SCP/RAC presented its new visual identity and website. It was stressed that the important is for the visual identity to show the affiliation with UNEP/MAP without necessarily having the MAP logo attached to the RAC one. An issue to be further considered is the need to increase the homogeneity of RAC Components visual representation. The same applies for the MAP Components publications which should also be in some harmony and their peer review process.



31. It was agreed that INFO/RAC Deputy Director will recirculate with ECP members the proposal for a coordinated approach and together with the MAP Public Information Officer they should prepare a policy on publications, their categories, and an indication of which should be under full RAC discretion, which should be prepared with INFO/RAC support, and which should be submitted for UNEP approval. Based on this paper further discussion will be held among the ECP members.

32. The MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues informed the meeting about the organization of the Med Citizens Festival in Catania, on 2-5 June 2022.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
25.	The UNEP/MAP – EEA JWP (final) to be recirculated to the ECP	CU (Stavros)	By 8 April 2022
	MAP Components to share inputs on the priority activities and needs for external resources	All Components	By end of May 2022
26.	A survey on the evaluation of the RAC procurement policy implementation to be circulated for completion by the RACs	CU (Tatjana/Kumiko)	In April 2022
	The policy on procurement thresholds for BRSC Regional Activity Centres to be reviewed	SCP/RAC (Magali)	In April 2022
27.	A first draft of the letter for GFCM to be prepared and shared with the Coordinator	SPA/RAC	The soonest
28.	A policy on MAP Components publications to be prepared for discussion by the ECP	INFO/RAC (Arthur) and CU (Jihed)	By the next ECP meeting

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



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**Annex II**  
**Agenda**

## Agenda

- Agenda item 1** Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work
- Agenda item 2** Follow-up to the 92<sup>nd</sup> Bureau Meeting
- Agenda item 3** Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2022-2023 – Possible Issues at Stake and Solutions
- Agenda item 4** Global and Regional Processes of Relevance to MAP – Vision Papers:
- a) BRSC COP (Geneva, Switzerland, 6-17 June 2022)
  - b) UN Ocean Conference (Lisbon, Portugal, 27 June – 1 July 2022)
  - c) CBD COP 15 (Kunming, China, 3Q 2022)
  - d) UNECE 9th Ministerial Conference (Nicosia, Cyprus, October 2022)
  - e) UNFCCC COP 27 (Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 7-18 November 2022)
  - f) IMO MEPC 78 (6-10 June 2022) and 79 (12-16 December 2022)
- Agenda item 5** Thematic Discussions:
- a) MAP Components' Work on Climate Change and Especially in Relation to Biodiversity
  - b) Processing of Data for the 2023 MED QSR
  - c) MAP Knowledge Management
  - d) MSSD Revision Process
- Agenda item 6** Date and Venue of the 48<sup>th</sup> ECP Meeting
- Agenda item 7** Any Other Matters
- a) Follow-up of six Actions from the 46th ECP Meeting
  - b) UNEP/MAP – EEA Joint Work Plan 2022-2030
  - c) 1<sup>st</sup> Steering Committee Meeting for the Bilateral Agreement with MiTE
  - d) RAC Assessment
  - e) Collaboration with UfM
  - f) Collaboration with GFCM
  - g) New MSP Platform/Toolkit
  - h) EURO-MED Week for Waste Reduction
  - i) New Visual Identity and Website of SCP/RAC
  - j) Participation in Med Lighthouse



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**UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

17 October 2022  
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48<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Floriana, Malta, 3-5 October 2022

**Report of the Meeting**

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UNEP/MAP  
Athens, 2022



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## **I. Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work**

1. The 48<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 3-5 October 2022, in Floriana, Malta. 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, while the Head of the Programme Advisory Services Unit, Corporate Services Division of UNEP, attended the meeting for the agenda item 3. The list of participants is presented in Annex I to this report.

2. Ms. Tatjana Hema, UNEP/MAP Coordinator opened the meeting at 09:00 a.m. (CET) on 3 October 2022. 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.

## **II. Agenda item 2: Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2022-2023:**

- a) Possible Issues at Stake and Solutions
- b) Planning and Priorities Table for January-June 2022
- c) Implementation of the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement with MiTE
- d) Voluntary Contribution by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
- e) Follow-up Actions from the 47<sup>th</sup> ECP Meeting

4. The MAP Components were asked to indicate any issue faced or anticipated with regard to the implementation of PoW 2022-2023 activities. No particular concern was raised by the participants, with the exception of: the need to relaunch the contract for the SAPBIO Donor Conference on which guidance was provided to SPA/RAC, including a request to check again the means of implementation indicated in the PoW for this specific activity; some delays expected in the implementation of the activity on biofouling by REMPEC; and administrative process issues faced by INFO/RAC. Despite few challenges, all PoW activities are expected to be implemented as originally foreseen.

5. The following elements were in particular addressed under this agenda item:

- i) The MAP Coordinator asked the Components to provide, within a period of one month, an indication of potential savings for 2022, especially in relation to vacancies and recruitment delays, as well as feedback on any potential impacts from the EUR/USD exchange rate fluctuations.
- ii) The meeting was reminded that the last COP 22 Decision on the PoW and Budget granted to the MAP Coordinator an increased authority for budget transfers, within some criteria; a detailed analysis is pending by the Secretariat's Administration Unit.
- iii) The meeting agreed that any use of maps in MAP Components documents or publications should be approved by the respective Directors, after consultation with the MAP Coordinator.
- iv) The MAP Coordinator informed the meeting about a memo on the flow of work and clearance process distributed within the Secretariat and asked the Associate Administrative Officer to share it with ECP members.
- v) The MAP Coordinator informed the meeting about a potential visit of Ecosystems Division Deputy Director, Mr. Bruno Pozzi to the MAP CU premises, in Athens, in November 2022, and asked for the arrangement of an online meeting with ECP members.
- vi) The MAP Coordinator provided updated information on the process which is underway for potential accreditation of MAP-Barcelona Convention in key global meetings (CBD COP, UNFCCC COP, UNOC etc.), which would allow the Components representatives

- to be registered under this accreditation; the process is ongoing and MAP Components will be informed as soon as it is concluded.
- vii) The ECP members were asked to take into consideration comments provided by the Secretariat on the Planning and Priorities Table for the period December-June 2022, in preparation of their inputs for the next reporting period. The Associate Administrative Officer was asked to recirculate the comments to the ECP members.
  - viii) With regards to the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement with MiTE, the ECP members were reminded that in the next progress report there is a request to indicate the share of staff/external consultancies for the budget under the umoja staff/personnel class.
  - ix) The MAP Coordinator updated the ECP members about the process and timeline for the operationalization of the French voluntary contribution of 1,143,000 EUR, through amendment to the PoW Legal Instruments, which are expected to be signed by both sides by end of October 2022.
  - x) The Plan Bleu/RAC Director, Mr. Francois Guerquin, informed the meeting about the PAMEx 2030 and its Local Invest Finance Facility (PLIFF) and highlighted the need for further streamlining of the governance systems between the two streams. MAP indicators should be used to the extent possible for PAMEx monitoring.
  - xi) It was agreed to include a session in the next ECP meeting to discuss on ways to strengthen links of the CPs' political segment with MAP and the role of MAP Components towards this.
  - xii) The follow-up actions from the previous ECP Meeting were reviewed and updates provided by relevant Components.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Provide an indication of potential savings for 2022 from the PoW budget, especially in relation to vacancies and recruitment delays, as well as feedback on any potential impacts from the EUR/USD exchange rate fluctuations.	All RACs	By 4 November 2022
2.	Share with ECP the MAP Coordinator's memo on flow of work and clearance process	CU (SA)	By mid-October 2022
3.	Organise a call between ECP and Ecosystems Division Deputy Director, Mr. Bruno Pozzi, should his visit be confirmed	CU (SA)	As soon as visit and programme is confirmed
4.	Provide an indication of the share of staff costs /external consultancies for the budget under the umoja staff/personnel class for MiTE funds	All RACs	By the next Progress and Financial Report under the Bilateral Agreement with MiTE
5.	Redistribute to ECP comments made by the Coordinator to the last Planning and Priorities Table	CU (SA)	By mid-October 2022
6.	In the next ECP meeting, include a session on ways to strengthen links of the political segment with MAP and the role of MAP Components	CU (SA)	By next ECP meeting

### III. Agenda item 3: RAC Procurement Assessment – Joint Session with the Head, Programme Advisory Services Unit, Corporate Services Division, UNEP

6. Under this agenda item, the Head of UNEP Corporate Services Division - Programme Advisory Services Unit, presented the UNEP rules and policies on procurement, especially regarding the procurement monitoring and assessment framework, applied to the RACs. RAC Directors had the

opportunity to raise their questions and refer to any challenges faced in the implementation of the assessment and monitoring framework, and the following actions were mainly agreed:

- i) The objective is to have the RAC assessment frameworks revised in Q1 2023
- ii) The revised plans are expected to strengthen accountability of RACs and possibly increase the assigned thresholds per award.
- iii) To the extent possible, harmonized thresholds across the RACs should be considered.
- iv) On sole source, a threshold can be set (i.e. to an amount to be defined) for no-objection, so that small purchases do not have to go for no-objection.
- v) Procurement assessment revision timeline could be increased from 24 months to 36 months.
- vi) Steps to be followed:
  - The Programme Advisory Services Unit will share revised templates for the monitoring plan – *asap, before end of 2022*
  - Using the revised monitoring sheet, the RAC should indicate their past procurement awards (above a certain amount - tbd) covering the last three years (2020-2022). – *By end of January 2023*
  - RAC procurement plans for 2023 will be prepared and shared with the Programme Advisory Services Unit, as is done for CU planning. - *By end of January 2023*
  - The Programme Advisory Services Unit Head will hold a meeting/training with RAC administrative officers, 2-3 weeks after receipt of the completed monitoring sheet and procurement plan for RACs. – *By mid-February 2023*
    - Based on review of inputs from the RAC and meeting with Administrative Officers, revised procurement assessment and monitoring plans for RACs will be issued – *By end of February 2023*
- vii) The inclusion of thresholds for the individual consultants' engagement, will be further discussed.
- viii) Discussion between the Programme Advisory Services Unit Head with INFO/RAC will be continued; as well as with Plan Bleu regarding lessons learnt from the request for sole sourcing with UNEP GRID.
- ix) The Programme Advisory Services Unit Head will follow-up with RACs on specific questions raised, with MAP CU in copy.
- x) Direct communication between RAC and the Programme Advisory Services Unit on procurement issues is encouraged, with CU in copy.
- xi) MAP CU should ensure that the monitoring plan is implemented, including timely submissions to the Programme Advisory Services Unit as requested. The assessment of no-objection requests and post award reviews are to be run by the Programme Advisory Services Unit.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Revised templates for the procurement monitoring plan to be provided.	UNEP Programme Advisory Services Unit	Asap, before end of 2022
2.	RAC to indicate their past procurement awards covering the last three years (2020-2022).	All RAC	By end of January 2023
3.	RAC procurement plans for 2023 to be prepared and shared with the Programme Advisory Services Unit, as is done for CU planning.	CU and all RAC	By end of January 2023
4.	Organise meeting/training with RAC administrative officers, 2-3 weeks after	UNEP Programme Advisory Services Unit Head	By mid-February 2023

	receipt of the completed monitoring sheet and procurement plan for RACs.		
5.	Issue revised procurement assessment and monitoring plans for RACs.	UNEP Programme Advisory Services Unit Head	By end of February 2023

#### IV. Agenda item 4: Thematic Discussions

- a) MAP Knowledge Management
- b) Preparation of 2023 MED QSR – Status of Data Submission
- c) Digitalization of MAP Library
- d) MAP Resource Mobilization Strategy
- e) Preparation of Med 2050 Foresight Study
- f) Voluntary Commitments
- g) Other Issues in View of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Bureau Meeting

7. The INFO/RAC Director, Ms. Lorenza Babbini, presented the status of implementation of the MAP Knowledge Management Platform and the plans for the next steps. She explained that INFO/RAC is currently at the state of play stage and is expected that in the INFO/RAC Focal Points meeting the knowledge hub will be presented for feedback.

8. All Components, through the dedicated Task Force, should provide inputs on possible topics and areas that may be included in the platform; in this respect, INFO/RAC should share the relevant survey and report on knowledge management with ECP detailing further the state of play, for the ECP to assess and agree on the way forward.

9. A discussion was held among the ECP members on the MAP Knowledge Platform in relation to other platforms used currently by MAP Components (i.e. World Situation Environment Room (WESR)) and it was agreed that this should be further discussed as soon as ECP members have a clearer idea of the content and layout of the MAP KM Platform, after which, appropriate links and integration aspects with other platforms can be discussed and agreed upon. The Coordinator stressed the importance of the stability that a MAP-owned platform can provide to the system. In the meantime, it was agreed that a reference that “*the work is in progress*” should be added to the Mediterranean Hub of the WESR platform and that the content of this Hub, as a MAP product, should be looked at by the Communication Task Force.

10. Regarding the preparation of the 2023 MED QSR, the Coordinator reminded the meeting of the timeline, including the preparation of draft assessment chapters by the relevant Components by end of October 2022, a meeting with the IMAP Task Force planned in end of November 2022 to discuss among others about gaps and possibilities of integration, the preparation of a full first draft of the QSR in November-December 2022 on which more data can be added, the organization of CORMON meetings in February (preferably) or March 2023, to receive formal inputs from the Contracting Parties, the organization of an Integrated CORMON meeting to review the final draft and finally the submission to the ECAP Coordination Group and MAP Focal Points meetings.

11. The meeting discussed about the visualization elements of the 2023 MED QSR, on which INFO/RAC should coordinate with GRID and be ready, if necessary, to undertake this assignment itself. All Components should ensure that the deadlines are respected, and inputs are observed.

12. The ECP welcomed the idea of working towards the digitalization of MAP Components libraries. The MAP Coordinator informed the meeting that a librarian expert will be soon contracted for a few months at the Coordinating Unit to support the premises renovation process, and we should reflect on if and how (s)he can be involved in this process and provide inputs on libraries digitalization that could be expanded to the entire system.

13. The MAP Associate Administrative Officer presented a concept on the updating of the MAP Resource Mobilisation Strategy (RMS). Upon recommendation of the MAP Coordinator, it was agreed that the table annexed to the existing RMS should be updated and circulated with ECP members for inputs on both the resource needs for the different MTS outcomes, as well as on potential donors, partners and funding instruments.

14. The Plan Bleu/RAC Director, Mr. Francois Guerquin, presented the status and timeline for the preparation of the Med 2050 Foresight Study, which is expected to be finalized in the current biennium. Module 3 on scenarios (consisting of six scenarios of a cross-cutting nature) is planned to be delivered by November 2022, after which a consultation process including workshops and webinars will be carried out. The scenarios should be presented to the ECP in a dedicated session of its next meeting. The transition chapter (including recommendations) will be prepared between February and April 2023. The meeting highlighted the importance of supporting Contracting Parties in undertaking this kind of analysis at national level through trainings, capacity building, pilots etc., which should be taken into consideration in the preparation of the next PoW and Budget 2024-2025.

15. Regarding potential registration of UNEP/MAP voluntary commitments for The Ocean Conference, it was agreed to see if the platform is still open, look at what kind of commitments the Contracting Parties and other organizations (i.e. other RSCAP, IUCN, MedPAN etc.) have inserted and decide on potential MAP voluntary commitments.

16. The MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues, Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis, informed the meeting about the 93<sup>rd</sup> Bureau meeting preparations and inputs needed from the MAP Components. The Secretariat aims to present an updated document on COP Decisions implementation (color-coded table) for Bureau consideration. In this respect, MAP Components should link to the decisions' operative paragraphs the number of relevant PoW activities (and if possible, deliverables) that are ongoing. The Secretariat also intends to present to the Bureau some options for the update of the Progress Report, including reporting at MTS Programme level, or per outcome, and possibly adding information on the status of achievement of MTS indicators and targets. The MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues will send an email with possible options to the ECP for their inputs. The Project Fiches document should be also updated, including a potential structural update of the document in due time. The substantive changes in the progress report and project fiches document should be processed after the MAP Deputy Coordinator is on board, with support from the Associate Administrative Officer.

17. The MAP Coordinator informed the meeting of her intention to prepare a Memo addressed to the ECP members and Secretariat staff, with the view to formalizing the process for review and clearance of externally mobilized resources funding and vetting by the MAP system.

18. The MAP Coordinator informed the meeting about the organization of a MAP CU staff retreat, to be held in Greece, in the first week of February 2023. Should the next ECP meeting be held back-to-back with the retreat, RAC Directors will be also invited to participate in the retreat. Focus of the retreat will be placed on areas of multitasking, accountability, delegation, and leadership, in addition to other thematic trainings. If the ECP meeting takes place independently from the MAP CU staff retreat it should be held on 22-23 January 2023, as originally planned.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	All Components, through the dedicated Task Force, to provide inputs on topics and areas that should be included in the KM platform	All Components	Asap, but no later than end of October
2.	KM platform survey and report to be shared with ECP	INFO/RAC	Asap, but no later than end of October

3.	Ask UNEP GRID to add a reference that “the work is in progress” in the Mediterranean Hub of the WESR platform.	Plan Bleu/RAC	Asap, but no later than end of October
4.	Inform ECP members when the librarian is on board to check any possible support on Components’ libraries digitalization	CU	Upon recruitment of librarian
5.	Share with ECP members an updated table annexed to the existing RMS for inputs on both the resource needs for the different MTS outcomes, as well as on potential donors, partners and funding instruments.	CU (SA)	By mid-October 2022
6.	Organize a dedicated session in the next ECP meeting to review the Med+50 scenarios.	CU (SA)	By next ECP meeting
7.	Consider national needs for support in undertaking foresight analysis at national level in the preparation of the next PoW and Budget 2024-2025	CU (TH; SA) Plan Bleu/RAC	1 <sup>st</sup> half of 2023 in the preparation of PoW 2024-2025
8.	See if platform for voluntary commitments is still open, check what CPs and other organisations have included and decide on potential MAP voluntary commitments	All Components CU (IM)	Asap
9.	MAP Components to add links with relevant PoW activities (and if possible, deliverables) that are ongoing in the Bureau color-coded table.	All Components	By 13 October 2022
10.	Options for updating of Bureau Progress Report to be shared with ECP for inputs	CU (IM)	Asap in early October
11.	Inputs to be provided on 93 <sup>rd</sup> Bureau meeting documents as well as on the proposals/options to update the Progress Report	All Components	By 13/14 October
12.	Project fiches document to be updated	CU	Basic updates: By 20 October / Structural updates: for 94 <sup>th</sup> Bureau meeting
13.	Prepare and circulate a memo on the process for review and clearance of externally mobilized resources funding and vetting in MAP.	CU (TH)	By end of October 2022

#### V. Agenda item 5: Global and Regional Processes of Relevance to MAP

- a) CBD COP 15 Part II (Montreal, Canada, 7 - 19 December 2022)
- b) UNECE 9<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference (Nicosia, Cyprus, 5-7 October 2022)
- c) UNFCCC COP 27 (Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 7-18 November 2022)
- d) IMO MEPC 79 (12-16 December 2022)

19. The Coordinator, supported by the MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues, provided updated information on the main upcoming meetings and events, focusing on MAP participation, dates of presence in each meeting, and the organization of side events. ECP members also provided inputs for their own contribution, including plans for registration.

#### VI. Agenda item 6: Date and Venue of the 49th ECP Meeting

20. The meeting discussed the possible dates for the next ECP meeting and agreed to hold it in Greece, either in the first week of February 2023, back-to-back with the UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit staff retreat, or independently from the retreat, on 22-23 January 2023, as originally planned.

**VII. Agenda item 7: Any Other Matters:**

- a) Policy on MAP Components Publications
- b) Calendar of Meetings and Events

21. The meeting agreed that the Coordinating Unit will share with ECP members for information and feedback the work on the publications and logo use, which is being prepared at the CU.

22. The meeting provided updates to the Calendar of Meetings and Events for its finalization ahead of the Bureau meeting document submission.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Share with ECP the work on the publications and logo use, prepared by the Coordinating Unit	CU (IM and IT)	As soon as analysis is completed at CU



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

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*For agenda item 3*

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**Annex II**  
**Agenda**

## Agenda

- Agenda item 1** Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work
- Agenda item 2** Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2022-2023:
- a) Possible Issues at Stake and Solutions
  - b) Planning and Priorities Table for January-June 2022
  - c) Implementation of the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement with MiTE
  - d) Voluntary Contribution by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
  - e) Follow-up Actions from the 47<sup>th</sup> ECP Meeting
- Agenda item 3** RAC Procurement Assessment –Joint Session with the Head, Programme Advisory Services Unit, Corporate Services Division, UNEP
- Agenda item 4** Thematic Discussions:
- a) MAP Knowledge Management
  - b) Preparation of 2023 MED QSR – Status of Data Submission
  - c) Digitalization of MAP Library
  - d) MAP Resource Mobilization Strategy
  - e) Preparation of Med 2050 Foresight Study
  - f) Voluntary Commitments
  - g) Other Issues in View of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Bureau Meeting
- Agenda item 5** Global and Regional Processes of Relevance to MAP:
- a) CBD COP 15 Part II (Montreal, Canada, 7 - 19 December 2022)
  - b) UNECE 9<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference (Nicosia, Cyprus, 5-7 October 2022)
  - c) UNFCCC COP 27 (Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 7-18 November 2022)
  - d) IMO MEPC 79 (12-16 December 2022)
- Agenda item 6** Date and Venue of the 49<sup>th</sup> ECP Meeting
- Agenda item 7** Any Other Matters:
- a) Policy on MAP Components Publications
  - b) Calendar of Meetings and Events



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UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

24 February 2022  
Original: English

49<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Athens, Greece, 26-27 January 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

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## **I. Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work**

1. The 49<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 26-27 January 2023, in Athens, 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 Deputy Coordinator, 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. (Athens time) on 26 January 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. UNEP/MAP Coordinator reminded the meeting that ECP meetings require physical representation of its members, unless this is arranged as a virtual meeting from the beginning. Extension of invitation to people other than the Components' Heads/Directors should be priorly approved by the Coordinator.
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 2022-2023:**

- a) Report on Progress by Component including Possible Issues at Stake and Solutions (Planning and Priorities Table)
  - b) Implementation of the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement with MiTE and Agreement with the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
  - c) Follow-up Actions from the 48<sup>th</sup> ECP Meeting
  - d) Outcomes of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Bureau Meeting
5. The MAP Components were invited to briefly report on key achievements in the implementation of PoW 2022-2023 activities and indicate any issue faced or anticipated and the proposed corrective actions. Despite few challenges, all PoW activities are expected to be implemented as originally foreseen, and the following points were highlighted:
- The Post-2020 SAP BIO Resource Mobilisation process is progressing well. The Donor Conference to be held on 16 March in Paris, France is an important milestone. Project Concept Notes are developed and can be reviewed by the Components, as they will be shared as meeting documents for the Advisory Committee of 30 January 2023.
  - Potential issues in receiving timely GFCM inputs to the QSR2023 for CORMON meetings, should be followed up with support from the Secretariat.
  - An issue may be faced with the identification of pelagic habitat types and SPA/RAC proposed to bring this issue to the attention of SPA/BD Focal Points for their decision; prior bilateral discussion with the Coordinator should be held first.
  - A comparative analysis for the legal aspects of ICZM Protocol will be soon ready by PAP/RAC.
  - Difficulties are faced by PAP/RAC in the implementation of national activities in Lebanon. The PAP/RAC Director, Ms. Zeljka Skaricic, plans a bilateral meeting with the Focal Point in end of February, linked with a GWP-Med meeting.
  - CAMP Israel is progressing well. Challenges were faced in the CAMP Otranto, and the plan of work has been modified to adapt activities to the scope change.
  - An online Master's degree has been operational in Syria with PAP/RAC support; interest was expressed by ECP to replicate it in other countries as well.
  - MED POL activities, including guidelines, TDA work, etc. are progressing as planned, QSR chapters delivery may be challenging but material will be ready for CORMON.



- Guidelines on dumping of inert materials should be discussed with the Coordinator before submission.
- IMAP InfoSystem work is progressing well, and the system is ready to accommodate data for 18 CIs and one Candidate Indicator on marine litter (CCI24); some countries will be invited to record data to test the new indicator.
- Implementation of Data Policy Decision is also progressing well, as well as the work on the harmonization of Components' databases.
- INFO/RAC should present to ECP how the KM platform looks, what can be found in terms of data and content, as well as links to other platforms.
- On the QSR 2023 website, INFO/RAC will do the website, and GRID will only produce maps and other material to enrich the website.
- Regarding IMAP Common Indicator 19, links should be ensured with REMPEC work.
- REMPEC activities, including MED SO<sub>x</sub> ECA Decision, Regional Strategy on Pollution from Ships, MENELAS meeting, BWM Strategy etc. are progressing well.
- Human resource constraints are faced by REMPEC since the post of the Head has remained vacant, and other human resources changes were experienced, but interim measures are already taken and there is no major risk foreseen. The Secretariat will make every effort to support REMPEC in the delivery of its mandate.
- A meeting should be held between REMPEC and Secretariat (Deputy Coordinator and Associate Administrative Officer) on planned work related to NO<sub>x</sub> ECA.
- Some Components reported that they miss nominations of Focal Points from Albania; the Secretariat should look at it and support.
- Plan Bleu is confident that its planned activities will be implemented effectively.
- It should be further discussed with the Secretariat whether and how the outcomes, or at least an Executive Summary of the Med+50 should be presented to the decision-making bodies of MAP.
- MedWaves – SCP/RAC activities do not face any particular challenge or risk. Bilateral discussion with the Secretariat should be held on potential SwithMed follow up.
- MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues, Mr Ilias Mavroeidis, reported on key governance related activities implemented in 2022 and the planned work for 2023 and did not stress any major challenge.
- Any possible issue of maps in WESR, including points discussed in the MCS D Steering Committee meeting should be addressed by Plan Bleu under the Secretariat's guidance.

6. No concern on budget consumption was reported by the Components, with the exception of the administrative challenges faced by INFO/RAC in recruitment processes which might also impact budget consumption rate.

7. The implementation of activities supported through Bilateral Agreements with Contracting Parties, i.e. the MoU with Italian Ministry for Environment and Energy Security (MASE) and the Agreement with the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France, is progressing well and no major issue was reported.

8. The meeting highlighted the importance of having the voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties reflected in the POW before COP, considering that allocation of additional funds during the biennial implementation may cause challenges in the timely delivery of work. Linked to this, the ECP agreed to pay additional attention in the estimation of non-secured external resources indicated in the PoW and Budget.

9. The meeting reviewed and reported on follow up actions agreed by the 48<sup>th</sup> ECP Meeting.

10. The MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues informed the meeting about the main outcomes and recommendations of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Bureau Meeting. It was agreed that he, together

with the MAP Legal Officer, should review the Bureau ToR to clarify again the role of the Bureau, including in relation to the payment of contributions.

11. Plan Bleu/RAC Director, Mr Francois Guerquin, highlighted the importance of early coordination for MAP presence in key events. Regarding the participation of UNEP/MAP in the UNFCCC Med pavilion, there was interest by the ECP to continue this and have it included as a standard activity in the biennial MAP PoW and Budgets.

12. It was agreed to organize a virtual ECP meeting in February 2023, so that Plan Bleu can present the 6 scenarios of the Med+50 study and discuss possible ways of presenting its main outcomes to key MAP meetings.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	CU to discuss with GFCM on timely provision of inputs to the QSR2023 for CORMON meetings	CU (TH, GG)	In February
2.	SPA/RAC to discuss with Coordinator issues related to the identification of pelagic habitat types before SPA/BD Focal Points	SPA/RAC	In February
3.	MED POL to discuss with Coordinator the Guidelines on dumping of inert materials before submission.	MED POL	By 27 January 2023
4.	INFO/RAC to present to ECP how the KM platform looks and its content	INFO/RAC	asap
5.	REMPEC to hold a meeting with the Secretariat on planned work related to NOx ECA.	REMPEC, CU (GG, SA)	In February
6.	MedWaves (SCP/RAC) to discuss with the Coordinator about potential SwicthMed follow up.	MedWaves (SCP/RAC)	In February
7.	Plan Bleu to address any possible issue of maps in WESR, under the Secretariat's guidance.	Plan Bleu	In February

### III. Agenda item 3: Preparation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget 2024-2025

- a) Components' Presentation of their Proposed Activities
- b) Discussion on Possibilities for Further Integration
- c) Next Steps and Timeline

13. The ECP meeting reviewed the proposed consolidated MAP Programme of Work 2024-2025, going through activities Programme by Programme and each Component presented its proposals for the specific Programme.

14. The Coordinator asked the Components, when presenting their proposals to focus on the following questions:

- a) What is the relation with activities of the POW 2022-2023. Are there new activities? For continued activities, what is the added value/additional contribution through the POW 2024-2025? Are there activities that continue in the next biennium because they could not be (fully) implemented in the current biennium?
- b) What is the relation with the expected outcomes, products and targets of the MTS 2022-2027? Is the proposed POW aligned and keeping MAP in track of delivering the MTS? Are there emerging issues addressed?
- c) How is the integration between Components work ensured through the proposed PoW 2024-2025?

- d) Overall budget requirements for the delivery of the proposed activities – is it within 2022-2023 budget levels or additional budget is required for full delivery?
- e) Are there additional HR needs to deliver the proposed programme?

15. A number of issues and suggestions were provided during the meeting, and were added in the shared excel tables in comments section to be reflected by the Components in the revision of their proposed activities, before consultation with their respective Focal Points, including the following:

- Any MED POL proposal for potential activity on new/updated Regional Plans on POP should be reflected again, including on the added value compared to existing global instruments, and be discussed with MedWaves – SCP/RAC being the relevant Component.
- Before embarking on any NBB assessment, it needs to be clarified whether preparatory steps and updates in the system are completed.
- When referring to national and/or sub-regional actions, there should be reference to the number of counties/sub-regions and preferably also their names.
- REMPEC stressed its HR constraints, consisting of only 3 Professional Category staff, for the delivery of its ambitious and important mandate.
- An explanation should be provided for cases of activities of the current biennium that do not continue in the next biennium.
- MedWaves – SCP/RAC should hold a bilateral discussion with the Coordinator on possible continuation or follow up to the SwitchMed after 2024, since a potential cut of these external resources would mean a drastic reduction of the RACs staff.
- On desalination activities there is need for strong coordination between Plan Bleu, MED POL and SPA/RAC to make sure that there is no overlapping – Plan Bleu work should be focused on driver's level.
- MAP Components should reflect on potential activities derived from the outcomes of the Med+50 scenarios.
- The recommendations from the scientific symposia organized in Genoa have been taken into consideration for the formulation of proposed activities under Programme 2.
- There is an interest expressed by SPA/RAC in preparing a new Action Plan for Monk Seal, and funds are being mobilized.
- Activities of SPA/RAC and REMPEC related to NIS should be undertaken in close cooperation and synergy.
- Synergies should be maximized between SPA/RAC and Plan Bleu on activities related to ecosystem restoration, including the proposed deliverable on wilderness indicator for the Mediterranean, which aims to build on relevant IUCN work. This should also take into account the expected COP mandate for a renewed ECAP and IMAP.
- Proposed activities on platforms development and maintenance (i.e. MAMIA, climate change platform etc.) should be aligned and in synergy with INFO/RAC activities on Knowledge Management Platform.
- A number of PAP/RAC activities on climate change continue from the current biennium, based the interest expressed by the relevant beneficiary countries (Morocco and Montenegro). Countries have also requested guidance on implementation of nature-based solutions for climate change, which should be addressed in coordination with other relevant RACs.
- The REMPEC proposed activity on GHG reduction in ports should be maintained and implemented in 2024-2025 and potential contribution from PAMEx/PLIFF to be explored.
- A number of PAP/RAC activities under Programme 4, funded by MedProgramme, are expected to continue following beneficiary countries' request.
- Regarding the new CAMP the following countries may be explored: Türkiye, Malta, Greece.
- Offshore activities should be reviewed carefully taking into consideration the timeline of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan, the findings of its mid-term assessment and the status of implementation of relevant activities in 2022-2023.
- Proposed activities from Plan Bleu on sustainable tourism should be addressed in coordination with PAP/RAC for the deliverables related to ICZM Protocol. In addition, consideration

should be given to the added value brought by the proposed activity in relation to previous guidelines on sustainable tourism and work undertaken by other actors in the region and globally, as well as links with MCSD.

- Knowledge generated on the issue of harmful subsidies should be shared with all Components so that it can be recapitalized.
- Assessments on the status of environment should be undertaken every 6 years in line with the IMAP cycles. Ad hoc assessments may be considered only for emergency situations.
- Components should consider that a mandate is anticipated to be given by COP 23 to revise the ECAP Roadmap and update the IMAP, including revised factsheets for IMAP indicators; new/updated assessment criteria; and national support to update IMAPs accordingly in 2026-2027.
- Components agreed to review again the major products included in the Joint Work Plan with EEA, for addition of any potential activity that was not so far included in the PoW 2024-2025.
- It was agreed that the three MAP Task Forces (ECAP/IMAP Task Force, Data Management Task Force and Communication Task Force) should work together and provide coordinated inputs to the proposed PoW 2024-2025 for activities of relevance to their scope of work.
- Communication activities on post-2020 SAP BIO should be considered, combined with the 40 years anniversary.
- The 50 years MAP anniversary is an important activity, that should include a Ministerial gathering, potentially led by Spain, Slovenia and the COP 24 Host Country.
- MAP contribution to the UNFCCC COP Mediterranean pavilion should be a standard activity in future PoWs. Potential ideas for similar work in other key global events, i.e. CBD COPs, may also be considered.
- Further consideration will be given by relevant Components on the need and importance to include in the PoW any proposed activities on emerging issues, i.e. windfarms, deep-sea mining, biotoxins, heatwaves, shipping-induced underwater noise etc.
- UNECE evaluation of SDG 14 should be reviewed again for any important lesson learnt to be considered in the development of the proposed POW 2024-2025.
- The identification of external resources for capacity building on SEA application and links with ICZM Protocol implementation should be further considered.
- Additional concrete comments were inserted in the comments section of the PoW tables to be reflected in the revision of proposals by all Components.

16. The following steps were agreed by the ECP:

- Based on the points raised during the ECP and additional comments to be provided by CU, the Components will send back to the CU by 15 February 2023, the revised proposed activities and the narrative to be submitted to their respective Focal Points.
- CU will integrate all activities in a consolidated table and send clearance (both on the tables and the narrative/rationale) so that Components can submit them to their respective Focal Points, by 20 February 2023.
- With the view to promoting the integration aspects of PoW 2024-2025, Components will use the consolidated POW 2024-2025 tables in the consultation with their Focal Points, highlighting the cells which are relevant to each Component, i.e. activities which each Component is leading or to which it contributes.
- Components' Focal Points will be given a deadline of 10 days for comments, i.e. until Friday 3 March 2023.
- Revised activities of PoW 2024-2025 reflecting comments received from the Focal Points will be submitted to CU together with the first draft budget proposals by 10 March 2023.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Components to send back to the CU the revised proposed activities and the narrative	All Components	By 15 February 2023

	to be submitted to their respective Focal Points.		
2.	CU will integrate all activities in a consolidated table and give clearance to Components to submit them to their respective Focal Points	CU (TH)	By 20 February 2023
3.	Components' Focal Points to provide comments to the proposed PoW in 10 days	Components Focal Points	By 3 March 2023
4.	Components to submit to CU the revised activities of PoW 2024-2025 reflecting comments received from the Focal Points together with the first draft budget proposals.	All Components	By 10 March 2023

**IV. Agenda item 4: Preparation of the main MAP Meetings of 2023:**

- a) 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD
- b) Meetings of the Focal Points of the MAP Components and of MAP
- c) COP 23, including List of Possible Draft COP Decisions

17. The MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues briefed the meeting on the preparations undertaken and next steps for the organization of the 20<sup>th</sup> MCSD Meeting in June and the meetings of Focal Points. It was agreed that substantive elements of 20<sup>th</sup> MCSD should be further discussed in an ad-hoc virtual ECP meeting in February.

18. The MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues should share with ECP template for Components to provide their inputs for possible draft COP Decisions.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Share with ECP template for Components to provide their inputs for possible draft COP Decisions.	CU (IM)	asap

**V. Agenda item 5: Date and Venue of the 50th ECP Meeting**

19. The meeting discussed the possible dates for the next ECP meeting and agreed as follows:
- a) An ad hoc virtual ECP meeting will be held on 17 February 2023, focused on the Med+50 scenarios, the COP Ministerial Theme including format and potential speakers, the list of COP Decisions, and MCSD Meeting Theme.
  - b) The 50<sup>th</sup> ECP meeting will be held in Marseille, on 27-28 (potentially also 29 morning) March 2023, to conclude the review of the POW 2024-2025 including budget elements, finalise the reflection on the COP Ministerial Theme and conclude discussions on how Med+50 outcomes can feed into the next meetings (20<sup>th</sup> MCSD meeting, MAP Focal Points meeting and COP23).

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

20. The MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues should send to RACs the COP-agreed common provisions and RACs should check and inform the CU which of them are implemented and which are not.

21. Other points of this agenda item were addressed during the discussions under the previous items.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Send to RACs the COP-agreed common provisions for RACs to inform the CU which of them are implemented and which are not	CU (IM), all RAC	27 January 2023

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





<p><b>SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (SPA/RAC)</b></p> <p><b>MEDWAVES, THE UNEP/MAP REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR SCP</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Malek Smaoui (video-conference)</b> Programme Officer (OPRC) Tel: +356 2258 3119 Email: <a href="mailto:msmaoui@rempec.org">msmaoui@rempec.org</a></p> <p><b>Mr. Khalil Attia</b> Director Tel: +216 7120 6649 Email: <a href="mailto:director@rac-spa.org">director@rac-spa.org</a></p> <p><b>Ms. Magali Outters</b> Team Leader Policy Area Tel: +34 93 554 16 66 Email: <a href="mailto:moutters@gencat.cat">moutters@gencat.cat</a></p>
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**Annex II**  
**Agenda**

## Agenda

- Agenda item 1** Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work  
*(26 January 2023 / 9:30 – 09:45)*
- Agenda item 2** Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2022-2023:
- e) Report on Progress by Component including Possible Issues at Stake and Solutions (Planning and Priorities Table)
  - f) Implementation of the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement with MiTE and Agreement with the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
  - g) Follow-up Actions from the 48<sup>th</sup> ECP Meeting
  - h) Outcomes of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Bureau Meeting
- (26 January 2023 / 09:45 – 13:00)*
- Agenda item 3** Preparation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget 2024-2025
- d) Components' Presentation of their Proposed Activities
  - e) Discussion on Possibilities for Further Integration
  - f) Next Steps and Timeline
- (26 January 2023 / 14:00 – 17:30) and  
(27 January 2023 / 09:30 – 13:00)*
- Agenda item 4** Preparation of the main MAP Meetings of 2023:
- d) 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD
  - e) Meetings of the Focal Points of the MAP Components and of MAP
  - f) COP 23, including List of Possible Draft COP Decisions
- (27 January 2023 / 14:00 – 15:15)*
- Agenda item 5** Date and Venue of the 50<sup>th</sup> ECP Meeting  
*(27 January 2023 / 15:15 – 15:30)*
- Agenda item 6** Any Other Matters
- a) Med 2050 Foresight Study Scenarios
  - b) Brief Update on MAP Knowledge Management
  - c) Delivery of 2023 MED QSR
  - d) Coordinator's Plan of Official Visits to Contracting Parties
  - e) UNEP/MAP – EEA JWP
  - f) Cooperation with UfM
  - g) RAC Host Country Agreements
- (27 January 2023 / 15:30 – 17:30)*



**UNITED  
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**UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

28 April 2023  
Original: English

50<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Marseille, France, 27-28 March 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

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

1. The 50<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 27-28 March 2023, in Marseille, France. 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 Deputy Coordinator, 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 27 March 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 MAP Coordinator provided a detailed briefing on the developments in the collaboration with EEA, UfM, and ACCOBAMS, her official missions in Paris (SAP BIO donor conference, bilateral meetings with French officials, OECD, AFD etc.) and Brussels (meetings with European Commission officials in DG ENV, DG MARE, DG NEAR, EIONET Day meeting), the Joint Strategy with Black Sea Commission, and the UNEP Regional Seas Coordinators Retreat.

5. The meeting discussed the need to ensure proper representation of UNEP/MAP in key relevant global events and fora and in relation to that to clarify the MAP Barcelona Convention status as observer, including especially for the meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRSC), and the Minamata Convention.

6. As follow up actions, the MAP Coordinator will share with the ECP her mission report from the UNEP Ecosystems Integration Branch staff retreat in Nairobi; Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis, UNEP/MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues, will send to the ECP the agenda of the meeting with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and re-confirm the dates of the Ministerial Segment of the UNFCCC COP 28 to ensure overlapping with COP 23 Ministerial Segment is avoided; in addition, a meeting with ECP and R20 on PLIFF will be organised.

## **II. Agenda item 2: Finalisation of the Proposed UNEP/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) 2024-2025**

- a) Proposed PoW 2024-2025 Activities
- b) Budget Allocations

7. The revised Programme of Work (PoW) 2024-2025 activities, integrating comments received from MAP Components Focal Points' consultation was shared on the screen for final review and update by the ECP. It was highlighted that the proposed activities of the PoW 2024-2025 should consider the MTS completion so that we are aware of the outcomes will be delivered and what part of MTS will remain for implementation in the next biennium. The next steps for finalization of the proposed PoW 2024-2025 before submission for MAP Focal Points consultation were agreed, as follows:

- The Coordinating Unit will introduce the last changes in coordination with MAP Components in the English version of the excel. Changes coming from MAP Components' Focal Points should be marked in the document and have an explanatory note.

- The Coordinating Unit will prepare a template for the French version and integrate the French texts from MAP Components files to be shared with the MAP Associate Administrative Officer, Mr. Stavros Antoniadis.
- The Coordinating Unit will prepare a consolidated narrative part, building on individual Components' narrative parts and send for one day no-objection to ECP.
- Plan Bleu will support the Coordinating Unit with the translation of parts of the excel that are not yet translated.
- The Coordinating Unit will share the final version of the narrative part and activity tables in English and French with the ECP.
- The Coordinating Unit will submit for consultation with MAP Focal Points the full package in English and French with a letter signed by the Coordinator by mid-April 2023.
- Following submission of the activities for consultation with MAP Focal Points, the Coordinating Unit should provide clear instructions for Components to propose budget allocations for their activities.

8. Regarding offshore-related activities, it was agreed that both REMPEC and CU should be indicated as Lead Components.

9. The MAP Coordinator presented in general terms the approach to be used for the identification of potential scenarios for the PoW budget portfolio and possible ways of strengthening the amount of income, i.e. through use of MTF savings, or increase of the ordinary or voluntary contributions or a combination of both. It was noted that further analysis would be undertaken at CU level before sharing with Components more concrete information on budget availability and proposed distribution.

10. The meeting agreed that the Components should make an analysis of staff travel and posts budget needs and explore whether part of this budget linked to specific activities should be put under the respective activities and not under operational costs.

11. The ECP further agreed to propose a simplified template of the PoW 2024-2025 to be submitted to the meeting of MAP Focal Points, without listing the deliverables, while the entire PoW with deliverables should be submitted only as Information document. The working document for Components Focal Points meetings should include also the deliverables.

12. RACs Directors/Heads were requested to provide to the Secretariat their staff organigrammes with information on funding source of each staff member.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	The Coordinator's mission report from the UNEP Ecosystems Integration Branch staff retreat in Nairobi to be shared with ECP	CU (TH)	April 2023
2.	The agenda of the meeting with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) to be sent to the ECP	CU (IM)	April 2023
3.	The dates of the Ministerial Segment of the UNFCCC COP 28 to be checked to avoid overlapping with COP 23 Ministerial	CU (IM)	April 2023
4.	A meeting with ECP and R20 on PLIFF to be organised.	CU (GG, EC)	April 2023
5.	PoW 2024-2025 activity tables and narrative part to be finalized in consultation with respective Components in English and French and submitted to MAP Focal Points for consultation	CU (TH, GG, SA) with all Components	Mid-April 2023

6.	Instructions to be provided to MAP Components to propose budget allocations for their activities	CU (TH, GG, KY, SA)	By end of April 2023
7.	RACs organigrammes to be shared with CU including funding sources per post	All RAC	By end of April 2023
8.	Simplified template of the PoW 2024-2025 for the MAP Focal Points meeting, without the list of deliverables, to be considered and discussed at the Bureau meeting	CU (TH, GG, IM)	By the Bureau meeting in June 2023

### III. Agenda item 3: MED+50 Outcomes Inputs to Main MAP Meetings (20th MCS D, MAP Focal Points, COP 23)

13. The Plan Bleu Director, Mr. Francois Guerquin and Deputy Director, Ms. Lina Tode briefed the meeting about the status of preparation of the Med+50 foresight study and presented the six scenarios that have been drafted and will be presented to the MCS D meeting in June 2023.

14. The ECP shared their views on each of the scenarios and made general and specific comments for consideration by Plan Bleu.

15. Plan Bleu clarified that there is no plan to have the Med+50 or parts of it submitted for adoption by COP 23. The transitions part will be presented as information document to the COP 23.

16. It was agreed that the final version of the scenarios should be shared with CU before circulation and submission to Plan Bleu Focal Points meeting.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Final version of the scenarios to be shared with CU before wider submission	Plan Bleu (FG, LT)	April 2023

### IV. Agenda item 4: Discussion on COP 23 Ministerial Session Theme:

17. The ECP meeting discussed the COP 23 Ministerial Theme, based on a concept note prepared by the Coordinating Unit. The Theme to be proposed by the Secretariat is focused on “green transition – from decision to action” and it will be discussed with Slovenian officials during the mission of the Coordinating Unit there. Following that, the document will be finalized for consideration by the Bureau meeting in June 2023.

18. Regarding speakers, Mr Janez Potočnik will be invited to be among the key speakers, while other personalities should be further explored to be invited as speakers or panelists.

19. During the preparatory mission of the CU in Slovenia, other issues relevant to COP 23 preparations will be discussed, including among others the potential organisation of a youth side event prior to COP, as well as a women’s lunch to continue the successful practice started in COP 22 in Antalya, Türkiye.

20. The MAP Coordinator expressed her intention to organize an online meeting prior to COP 23 with all MAP Partners, to discuss key issues to be brought to the attention of the COP.

21. The ECP should start thinking of side events for COP 23, with the intention to come up with innovative ideas, including joint events with partners. Ideas raised during the meeting addressed the topics of Posidonia network, the links and synergetic implementation of post 2020 SAP BIO and CBD Global Biodiversity Framework, the role of Regional Seas in the implementation of the new Global



Treaty on plastics and others. A corner can be also prepared in the margins of the COP 23 focusing on big projects implemented by MAP.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Issues related to organization of youth event, women's lunch, and online meeting with partners around COP 23 to be discussed with Host Country, during the Coordinator's mission in Slovenia and ECP to be briefed on its outcomes	CU (TH, IM)	By end of April 2023
2.	Side event ideas to be explored for discussion with the Secretariat	All MAP Components	By end of May 2023

**V. Agenda item 5: Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2022-2023**

- a) Report on Progress by Component including Possible Issues at Stake and Solutions
- b) Follow-up Actions from the 49<sup>th</sup> ECP Meeting

22. The ECP members updated the meeting on the status of implementation of their activities under the PoW 2022-2023 and no major issue was reported, apart from HR delays and bottlenecks faced by some of the RAC.

23. Some RAC also expressed their concerns on staff turnover noticed due to the non-competitive salaries compared to other organisations in the respective countries and other issues particular to each RAC, which should be further considered by the ECP and the Secretariat.

24. IMO Marine Environment Division Deputy Director, Ms. Patricia Charlebois, representing REMPEC, raised some concerns on the human resources and capacity of REMPEC to implement offshore activities, and it was agreed that this issue will be further discussed with the Coordinating Unit. It was agreed that during the next OFOG meeting the status of implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan will be presented and its time extension will be proposed for consideration by the meeting.

25. PAP/RAC Director, Ms. Zeljka Skaricic, informed the meeting of difficulties faced to recruit experts to implement the activity on Strategic Environmental Assessment in relation to ICZM and asked the Coordinating Unit to further discuss on potential way forward.

26. MED POL Head, Mr. Mohamad Kayyal, informed the meeting of difficulties faced with the organization of multiple meetings in 2023, but expressed its confidence that all meetings and activities of the biennium under MED POL responsibility will be fully delivered.

27. INFO/RAC Director, Ms. Lorenza Babbini reiterated difficulties faced due to public administration rules in the recruitment of officers, and expressed her will to find possible ways to initiate recruitments before the COP in December, to ensure human resources are on board in the beginning of the biennium. This should be further discussed with the Coordinating Unit.

28. SPA/RAC Director, Mr. Khalil Attia, expressed some challenges of a financial management nature, considering the Center's status being a local entity with regional mandate. Difficulties are currently faced with the opening of foreign currency accounts, but the Director was confident that solutions will be found in consultation with national administration services. The SPA/RAC Director also reported a low level of responsiveness from MASE officers responsible for biodiversity and SPAMI activities supported under the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement and asked the Coordinating Unit to assist.

29. The meeting discussed possible next steps on the preparation of RAC Host Country Agreements. The Secretariat should look further into it in consultation with HQ, and explore other Conventions RAC modalities, i.e. the ones of Basel Convention.

30. The implementation of activities supported through Bilateral Agreements with Contracting Parties, i.e. the MoU with Italian Ministry for Environment and Energy Security (MASE) and the Agreement with the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France, is progressing well and no major issue was reported. RACs asked for clarifications on the timeline for completion of actual expenditure especially for the activities supported through French voluntary contribution funds.

31. The meeting reviewed and reported on follow up actions agreed by the 49<sup>th</sup> ECP Meeting.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	A discussion to be held between REMPEC and CU on offshore activities	CU (TH, GG) and REMPEC	Before OFOG meeting in May 2023
2.	Ways to be explored to overcome issues in the SEA ICZM activity supported by MASE	PAP/RAC with CU	Asap
3.	A discussion to be held between INFO/RAC and CU on recruitment delays and ways to overcome	CU (TH, GG) with INFO/RAC	Asap
4.	The issue of RAC Host Country Agreements to be looked further by the Secretariat in consultation with HQ, seeing also other Conventions RAC modalities, i.e. the ones of Basel Convention	CU (TH, GG, IM)	

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

- a) Finalization of any Pending Issue on the Proposed UNEP/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) 2024-2025
- b) Update on the KMP process and Brief Presentation of the InfoMAP Node

32. INFO/RAC Director, Ms Lorenza Babbini, introduced the item on the Knowledge Management Platform which was presented in more detail by INFO/RAC responsible officer, and was discussed among MAP Components. A key element in this process is to ensure communication and interoperability between existing websites and databases, including external platforms. Another element to be considered when developing the platform is to ensure quality assurance of uploaded data. The platform should also include a section on trainings and learning.

33. The KMP prototype will be developed in 2023, while the platform is expected to be fully operational in the next biennium 2024-2025.

34. Plan Bleu Director highlighted the importance to avoid duplications, considering the existing work and collaboration with WESR, and this discussion should continue further on.

35. Regarding IMAP InfoSystem which will be eventually integrated into the KMP, three main functions are critical: feasibility and support for insertion of data by Contracting Parties, quality assurance, assessment tools to be integrated in the system.

36. Regarding the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS), INFO/RAC will work during the next biennium to develop assessment tools to be integrated into the platform.

37. It was agreed that the Coordinating Unit with Plan Bleu should follow up with Türkiye regarding the comments made on WESR during the MCSD Steering Committee meeting.

**VII. Agenda item 7: Date and Venue of the 51<sup>st</sup> ECP Meeting:**

38. The meeting discussed the possible dates for the next ECP meeting and agreed that the next ECP Meeting should be held back to back with the MAP Focal Points meeting in September, in Istanbul, Türkiye or Athens, Greece depending on the meeting venue.

39. Should there be a need for additional discussions of the ECP, especially regarding PoW budget allocations, an extraordinary online meeting will be organised.

	Action item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Hold the 51 <sup>st</sup> ECP meeting back to back with MAP Focal Points meeting, preceded by online extraordinary meeting if needed, especially for the budget allocations to the PoW 2024-2025	CU (TH, GG, SA)	By September 2023

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

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**Annex II**  
**Agenda**

### **Provisional Agenda**

**Agenda item 1** Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work, Short Briefing by the Coordinator (*collaboration with EEA, UfM, and ACCOBAMS, Mission in Paris, Mission in Brussels, Joint Strategy with Black Sea Commission, UNEP Regional Seas Coordinators Retreat etc.*)  
*(27 March 2023 / 9:00 – 09:30)*

**Agenda item 2** Finalisation of the Proposed UNEP/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) 2024-2025:  
c) Proposed PoW 2024-2025 Activities  
d) Budget Allocations  
*(27 March 2023 / 09:30 - 13:30)*  
*(27 March 2023 / 14:30 – 16:00)*

**Agenda item 3** MED+50 Outcomes Inputs to Main MAP Meetings (20<sup>th</sup> MCSD, MAP Focal Points, COP 23)  
*(27 March 2023 / 16:00 – 17:30)*

*Dinner together*

**Agenda item 4** Discussion on COP 23 Ministerial Session Theme  
*(28 March 2023 / 09:30 – 11:00)*

**Agenda item 5** Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2022-2023:  
c) Report on Progress by Component including Possible Issues at Stake and Solutions  
d) Follow-up Actions from the 49<sup>th</sup> ECP Meeting  
*(28 March 2023 / 11:00 – 12:30)*  
*(28 March 2023 / 13:30 – 15:00)*

**Agenda item 6** Any Other Matters  
a) Finalization of any Pending Issue on the Proposed UNEP/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) 2024-2025  
b) Update on the KMP process and Brief Presentation of the InfoMAP Node  
*(28 March 2023 / 15:00 – 16:30)*

**Agenda item 7** Date and Venue of the 51<sup>st</sup> ECP Meeting  
*(28 March 2023 / 16:30 – 17:00)*