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19th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016

Agenda item 3: Thematic Decisions

Draft Decision: Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan in the framework of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil

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Note by the Secretariat

Decision IG.20/12 of COP 17 (Paris, France, February 2012) mandated the preparation of an Action Plan with a view to facilitating the effective implementation of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (“the Offshore Protocol”).

The draft Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan was prepared by the Secretariat with substantive contribution of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) taking into account the findings of the studies and the recommendations made by the Contracting Parties and the results of a wide consultative process. This included three meetings of the Offshore Protocol Working Group and the review by the Meeting of the EcAp Coordination Group in 2014.

The reviewed Draft Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan in the framework of the Offshore Protocol and a note on its preparation process, were submitted to the Joint Session of the Eleventh Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC and the meeting of MED POL Focal Points (Malta, 17 June 2015). The said Joint session requested REMPEC to integrate the received comments, and initiate as soon as possible a written procedure to all Contracting Parties for their review and comments.

The Final Draft Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan addresses the governance framework for its implementation, the development of regional offshore standards and guidelines, the establishment of a regional offshore monitoring programme and reporting aspects.

The proposed draft decision was reviewed by the Meeting of MAP Focal Points (Athens, Greece, 13-16 October 2015) and endorsed for submission to COP 19, with one paragraph in square brackets, i.e. Specific Objective 8, sub-paragraph h) in both the main text of the Action Plan and Appendix 1. Editorial changes were made by the Secretariat for accuracy.

Several activities related to the implementation of the Action Plan are included in the proposed 2016-2017 Programme of Work, and contribute to the Medium Term Strategy 2016-2021 outputs:

- under the theme “Governance”: 1.1.4 and 1.5.1 to be financed from external resources;
- under the theme “Land and Sea-Based Pollution”: 2.2.1, 2.2.3, 2.4.1, 2.4.2, and 2.4.3 to be financed from external resources; and
- under the theme “Biodiversity and Ecosystems”: 3.2.2 to be financed from external resources.

Draft Decision IG.22/3

Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan in the framework of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil

The 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, herein after referred to as the Barcelona Convention,

Recalling the Protocol concerning the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil, hereinafter referred to as the Offshore Protocol, adopted in Madrid, Spain in 1994 and entered into force on 24 March 2011;

Recalling also Decisions IG.20/12 of COP 17 (Paris, France, February 2012) and IG.21/8 of COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013) mandating the preparation and completion of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan in the framework of the Offshore Protocol;

Conscious that possible significant accidents caused by increasingly intense offshore activities could have long term adverse consequences for the fragile ecosystems and biodiversity of the Mediterranean Sea due to its enclosed nature and special hydrodynamics as well as negative consequences on the economies of the Mediterranean coastal States especially in relation to tourism and fisheries;

Adopts the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan in the framework of the Offshore Protocol contained in the Annex to this Decision;

Urges the Contracting Parties to take the necessary measures to implement the Action Plan in a timely manner;

Urges all the Contracting Parties that have not yet done so, to ratify the Offshore Protocol, as soon as possible, and adopt legislation for its implementation, and to cooperate to ensure compliance with its provisions;

Requests the Secretariat to provide technical support to the Contracting Parties and mobilize adequate human and financial resources in cooperation with international bodies, including *inter alia* the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Seabed Authority (ISA), as well as European institutions and other relevant actors, including the oil and gas industry, to assist Mediterranean coastal States in carrying out the obligations arising from the Offshore Protocol.

ANNEX**MEDITERRANEAN OFFSHORE ACTION PLAN IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE
PROTOCOL FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AGAINST POLLUTION
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PART I – INTRODUCTION

I.1 Secretariat and its Components

Considering the range of expertise required for the implementation of the Action Plan, the Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention, represented by the United Nations Environment Programme – Mediterranean Action Plan Secretariat (UNEP/MAP) (the **Secretariat**) will coordinate the technical support from the relevant Regional Activity Centres (the **Components**) according to their mandates.

The role of the Secretariat and its Components will be primarily one of assistance to the Contracting Parties in enhancing their national capacities and in facilitating the means for regional or sub-regional cooperation.

It is envisaged that there may be several areas of activity within the Specific objectives of the Action Plan which will require a synergy between various Components of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP).

I.2. Geographical coverage

The area to which the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan in the framework of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (**the Action Plan**) applies is the area defined in Article 2 of the Offshore Protocol.

I.3. Preservation of rights

The provisions of this Action Plan shall be without prejudice to stricter provisions regulating the management of offshore activities contained in other existing or future national, regional or international instruments or programmes, when considering existing best practices for the development of standards for the Mediterranean region.

I.4. Principles

In implementing the Action Plan, the Contracting Parties shall be guided by the following principles:

- (a) *Integration Principle* by virtue of which offshore activities management under the Offshore Protocol shall be an integral part of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, the Ecosystem Approach (the **EcAp**), other relevant strategies including regional strategies of the Mediterranean Action Plan and shall not conflict with applicable domestic regulations;
- (b) *Prevention principle* by virtue of which any offshore activities management measure should aim at addressing the prevention of any form of pollution resulting from offshore activities;
- (c) *Precautionary principle* by virtue of which where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation;
- (d) *Polluter-pays principle* by virtue of which the costs of pollution prevention, control and reduction measures are to be borne by the polluter, with due regard to the public interest;
- (e) *Ecosystem-based approach* by virtue of which the cumulative effects of offshore activities on air, marine and coastal ecosystem services, habitats and species with other contaminants and substances that are present in the environment should be fully taken into account;
- (f) *The principle of public participation and stakeholder involvement*; and
- (g) *Sustainable Production and Consumption principle* by virtue of which current unsustainable patterns of consumption and production must be transformed to sustainable ones that decouple human development from environmental degradation.

PART II – OBJECTIVES

II.1. General Objectives

The Action Plan aims at defining measures which, if applied at regional level and by each Contracting Party within their jurisdiction will ensure the safety of offshore activities and reduce their potential impact on the marine environment and its ecosystem.

These measures shall aim at regional level:

- Setting-up a **governance framework** to support the implementation of the Action Plan and the adoption, enforcement and monitoring of regional standards, procedures and rules;
- Defining commonly agreed **regional offshore standards and guidelines** to be integrated and used at national level; and
- Develop in conformity with EcAp and its relevant indicators a regional commonly agreed **reporting and monitoring** for the Action Plan.

Part II.2 describes the **Specific objectives** which, if achieved, will meet the general objective as set out above. For each specific objective expected outputs are proposed, which will also serve as criteria for indicating the success (or otherwise) of Contracting Parties in meeting the objectives.

The Action Plan is built around **Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties** and to **the Secretariat and its Components**.

The implementation timeframe for this Action Plan is the 1st March 2016 to 31 December 2024.

Appendix 1 provides information on the linkage between the objectives of the Action Plan and the various Articles of and Annexes to the Offshore Protocol as well as a draft budget estimate for the implementation of the Offshore Action Plan.

II.2. Specific Objectives

II.2.1 GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

Specific objective 1: *To ratify the Offshore Protocol*

In order that there is a comprehensive legal basis for the exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf and the seabed and its subsoil in the Mediterranean Sea, it is important that Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention take the necessary action to ensure that the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (the **Offshore Protocol**) is ratified and implemented nationally.

The expected outputs under this specific objective are:

Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties

- a) Ratification by all Contracting Parties of the Offshore Protocol, transposition of the Offshore Protocol into national law, and cooperation through the Secretariat to ensure compliance with its provisions¹; and
- b) Review of the effectiveness of the Offshore Protocol.

Outputs relating to the Secretariat and its Components, depending on the availability of resources

- a) Provision of advice and technical assistance to Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, which so request; and
- b) Assistance in reviewing the effectiveness of the Offshore Protocol.

¹Mediterranean coastal States shall consider the ratification of the Offshore Protocol and the transposition of its provisions into national law in accordance with domestic relevant practices and legislation.

Specific objective 2: To designate Contracting Parties' Representatives to participate to the regional governing bodies

At the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, Contracting Parties approved the establishment of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (BARCO OFOG) and adopted its terms of reference (Decision IG.21/8).

Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, with the support of the relevant UNEP/MAP Components will *inter alia* provide, through the OFOG Group and Sub-Groups, technical support and guidance as detailed in section II.2.2, and make recommendations to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol to accomplish its functions as stipulated in Article 30.2 of the Offshore Protocol, and further detailed in Decision IG.21/8.

The OFOG Group is primarily composed of representatives of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. In view of the range of expertise required for the various topics covered by the Protocol, several OFOG Sub-Groups could be set-up, as need be. To initiate the implementation of the Action Plan and ensure without delay that the measures and standards necessary to effectively implement the Action Plan are undertaken and developed, the following OFOG Sub-Groups will be established:

- **OFOG Sub-Group on environmental impact** dealing with *inter alia*:
 - Offshore monitoring procedures and programme;
 - Environment impact assessment;
 - Use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material;
 - Disposal of oil and oily mixtures and the use and disposal drilling fluids and cutting;
 - Precautions for Specially Protected Areas (SPA); and
 - Removal.

- **OFOG Sub-Group on health and safety** dealing with *inter alia*:
 - Risk assessment;
 - Health Safety measures;
 - Training and certification of operators professionals and crew; and
 - Removal plan.

These Sub-Groups will focus on technical and practical aspects of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan, in particular the development of the standards and guidelines referred in Specific objectives 7 and 8.

For the effective implementation of the Action Plan, the Contracting Parties shall ensure appropriate involvement of various stakeholders involving national competent authorities, civil society, private sector, operators, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders as appropriate to implement the measures provided for in the Action Plan and other measures as appropriate.

The expected outputs under this specific objective are:

Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties

- a) Nomination of the National Offshore Focal Point designated by all MAP Focal Points to coordinate at national level activities carried out in the framework of the Action Plan and actively participate in the OFOG Group;
- b) Designation, upon request by the Secretariat, through their National Offshore Focal Point, of the appropriate national entities and/or officials as contact points for each OFOG Sub-Group; and
- c) Leadership, on a voluntary basis, of the established Sub-Groups to coordinate with the support of the Secretariat the work assigned to the Sub-Groups.

Outputs relating to the Secretariat and its Components, depending on the availability of resources

- a) Participation of the industry and their representatives as observers to the OFOG Sub-Groups;
- b) Enhancement of public awareness through the contribution of IGOs and NGOs with a relevant mandate to the topics discussed in the various OFOG Sub-Groups, through their participation as observers, ensuring an open and transparent process through public consultations;
- c) Establishment of institutional cooperation with various relevant regional and global institutions, initiatives and agreements and, at an operational level, identification and use of possible synergies with ongoing activities of bodies such as the European Maritime Safety Agency;
- d) Publication and update of the composition of the OFOG Group and Sub-Groups on a dedicated website;
- e) Updated list of the National Offshore Focal Points and OFOG Sub-Group Focal Points;
- f) Definition, in consultation with MAP Focal Points, of the roles and responsibilities of UNEP/MAP Components to facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan; and
- g) Identification of the required means including human resources to ensure the implementation of the Action Plan and the support of the relevant UNEP/MAP Components. A draft estimation of the required means is found in **Appendix 1**.

Specific objective 3: To establish a technical cooperation and capacity building programme

According to Article 24 of the Offshore Protocol the Parties shall, directly or with the assistance of competent regional or other international organisations, cooperate with a view to formulating and, as far as possible, implementing programmes of assistance to developing countries.

The expected outputs under this specific objective are:

Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties

- a) Technical cooperation and capacity building programme endorsed as set in **Appendix 2**.

Outputs relating to the Secretariat and its Components, depending on the availability of resources

- a) Integration of the technical cooperation and capacity building programme in the six year programme of activities of UNEP/MAP and its relevant Components and in their biennium programme of work;
- b) Preparation of the corresponding budget for consideration by the Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention; and
- c) Identification of donors to secure funds required for the implementation of the technical cooperation and capacity building programme.

Specific objective 4: To mobilise resources for the implementation of the Action Plan

The 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 2013 decided that the BARCO OFOG should be financed through extra budgetary resources and requested the Secretariat to identify international bodies that might provide specific sources of financing to assist Mediterranean coastal States in carrying out the obligations arising from the Offshore Protocol. The Meeting further invited the relevant oil and gas offshore industry to assist the BARCO OFOG, through technical support and financial contributions for the implementation of the program of work that may result from the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan.

The expected outputs under this specific objective are:

Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties

- a) Financial and human resources mobilised to support the implementation of the Action Plan, in particular its provisions related to the OFOG Group, technical cooperation, capacity building and monitoring activities.

Outputs relating to the Secretariat and its Components, depending on the availability of resources

- a) Identification of additional donors to secure funds for the implementation of the Action Plan.

Specific objective 5: To promote access to information and public participation in decision-making

According to the Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, “Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided.”

The expected outputs under this specific objective are:

Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties

- a) Template for public information in line with national and regional rules on access to information;
- b) Report to the Secretariat every two years relevant information on the offshore installations within their jurisdiction including, when appropriate, information on their disposal for inclusion in the inventory to be maintained by the Secretariat; and
- c) Report to the Secretariat every two years discharges, spills and emissions from offshore oil and gas installations data in accordance with the monitoring programme to be defined by the relevant OFOG Sub-Group.

Outputs relating to the Secretariat and its Components, depending on the availability of resources

- a) Support the preparation of the template for public information in line with existing Decisions of the Contracting Parties addressing public access to information and with UNEP’s Access to Information Policy;
- b) Development of an online regional system to be maintained for the purpose of public information sharing;
- c) Publication every two years on a dedicated website of the inventory of installations as well as the discharges, spills and emissions from offshore oil and gas installations data submitted by the Contracting Parties; and
- d) Consolidated report every two years on the discharges, spills and emissions from offshore oil and gas installations data submitted by the Contracting Parties.

Specific objective 6: To enhance the regional transfer of technology

The Offshore Protocol emphasises the need for cooperation and exchange of information concerning research and development (R&D) of new technologies. In order to make the results of R&D activities undertaken in the Mediterranean region better known, the Secretariat shall endeavour to encourage the participation of regional research institutions, scientific project leaders and industry in relevant events. The Secretariat shall also facilitate, through the network of its Focal Points, the exchange of these results amongst the Contracting Parties. In addition, the Secretariat might indicate to its Focal Points the potential fields that call for further R&D in order to encourage more active participation and contribution of the relevant Mediterranean institutions in global efforts in this field. In this regard, a list of potential research topics is presented in **Appendix 3** to this document.

The expected outputs under this specific objective are:

Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties

- a) Active participation of the respective scientific and technical institutions, as well as the industry, in R&D activities and programmes related to prevention, response and monitoring of pollution from offshore activities;
- b) Presentation of the results of R&D activities and programmes by their respective national institutions and industry in international fora; and
- c) Information on ongoing R&D activities and research needs provided to the Secretariat.

Outputs relating to the Secretariat and its Components, depending on the availability of resources

- a) Support in the identification of fields of research in which there is a need for enhancement of the state-of-the-art of offshore pollution prevention, response and monitoring technologies and techniques;
- b) Dissemination and exchange of results of national R&D activities and programmes within and outside the Mediterranean region; and
- c) Participation of national and regional research institutions and industry in the relevant international fora facilitated with a view to making better known the results of R&D activities undertaken in the Mediterranean region.

II. 2.3 REGIONAL OFFSHORE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

In accordance with the Specific objective 3 and Article 23 of the Offshore Protocol, as the core substance of the Offshore Protocol aims at establishing common standards and guidelines to harmonise regional practices in the Mediterranean region, Contracting Parties will consider relevant existing standards and guidelines in this field (*vide* REMPEC/WG.34/19/Rev.1), in line with overarching ecosystem-based ecological objectives, EcAp Roadmap and in particular with the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) of UNEP/MAP.

Specific objective 7: To develop and adopt regional offshore standards

The expected outputs under this specific objective are:

Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties

- a) Environmental impact assessment regional standards developed based on existing EIA regional standards taking into consideration requirements referred in Annex IV and other best practices;
- b) Common standards, on the use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material, in line with relevant international standards and conventions defining *inter alia* limits and prohibitions at regional level formulated and adopted;
- c) Identification of the required modifications of Annex I, II and III and definition of which chemicals should be covered and not covered by such standards and under which conditions;
- d) Common standards on the disposal of oil and oily mixtures and on the use and disposal of drilling fluids and cutting formulated and adopted, and revision of the limits set in Article 10 and the prescriptions referred in Annex V of the Protocol;
- e) The method to be used to analyse the oil content is commonly agreed and adopted;
- f) Procedures for contingency planning, notification of accidental spills and transboundary pollution established in accordance with the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea;
- g) Special restrictions or conditions for SPAs defined and adopted;
- h) Common criteria, rules and procedures for the removal of installations and the related financial aspects adopted;
- i) Common criteria, rules and procedures for safety measures including health and safety requirements adopted; and
- j) Common minimum standards of qualification for professionals and crews adopted.

Outputs relating to the Secretariat and its Components, depending on the availability of resources

- a) Support the specific OFOG Sub-Groups for the development of the above common standards.

Specific objective 8: To develop and adopt regional offshore guidelines

The expected outputs under this specific objective are:

Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties

- a) Regional Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment;
- b) Regional Guidelines on the use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material;
- c) Regional Guidelines on the disposal of oil and oily mixtures and the use and disposal drilling fluids and cutting and analytical measurement;
- d) Regional Guidelines on removal of installations and the related financial aspects;
- e) Regional Guidelines on installation safety measures including health and safety requirements;
- f) Regional Guidelines on minimum standards of qualification for professionals and crews;
- g) Regional Guidelines on authorisation requirements based on the above mentioned Standards;
- h) [Regional Guidelines on liability, compensation and financial responsibility in case of accidental spills, following the assessment by the UNEP/MAP Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts of the adequacy of the Guidelines on Liability and Compensation for Damage Resulting from Pollution of the Marine Environment in the Mediterranean Sea Area (Decision IG 17/4) to Offshore activities, taking into consideration relevant global developments, and with a view to contributing to the implementation of Article 27 of the Offshore Protocol by the Parties;] and
- i) Contribution through their OPRC Focal Points to the revision of the Section II of the Manual on Oil Pollution – Contingency Planning by the IMO Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR) which will include new information related to contingency planning for offshore units, sea ports and oil handling facilities.

Outputs relating to the Secretariat and its Components, depending on the availability of resources

- a) Support the specific OFOG Sub-Groups for the development of the above common guidelines.

II.2.3 REGIONAL OFFSHORE MONITORING PROGRAMME

Specific objective 9: To establish regional offshore monitoring procedures and programmes

The EcAp is the overarching principle of the Barcelona Convention, aiming to achieve good environmental status (GES) of the Mediterranean and ensuring adequate monitoring and assessment of the status on a cyclical basis.

The Offshore monitoring programme will be developed in line with the EcAp Roadmap and in particular with the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme.

According to Decision IG 20/4 “Implementing the MAP ecosystem approach roadmap: Mediterranean Ecological and Operational Objectives, Indicators and Timetable for implementing the ecosystem approach roadmap adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention” (COP17, 2012), and according to Decision 21/3 on the EcAp including adopting definitions of GES and Targets, for the purposes of this Action Plan, in compliance with the monitoring obligations under Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention and Article 19 of the Offshore Protocol, the expected outputs under this specific objective are:

Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties

- a) A regional monitoring programme for offshore activities building, *inter alia*, on the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme; and
- b) Results of the national offshore monitoring programme and the related agreed data are reported to the Secretariat every two years.

Outputs relating to the Secretariat and its Components, depending on the availability of resources

- a) The development/adoption of Mediterranean Monitoring Procedures and Programmes for the above, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, building on the relevant work undertaken in the Monitoring Correspondence Groups in the EcAp process in line with Decision 21/3;
- b) Development of the Mediterranean Offshore Reporting and Monitoring System (e.g. Regional Data Bank on Offshore activities through the Barcelona Convention Reporting System or other systems defined by the Contracting Parties); and
- c) Production, dissemination and publication every two years of a report on Discharges, Spills and Emissions from Offshore Oil and Gas Installations, based on data submitted by countries which should be used as a base for the State of Environment Report regarding the impacts of the offshore oil and gas industry.

PART III – REPORTING

Specific objective 10: To report on the implementation of the Action Plan

The expected outputs under this specific objective are:

Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties:

- a) Report on the implementation of this Action Plan, in particular on the effectiveness of the measures defined in this Action Plan and difficulties encountered every two years; and
- b) Biennial review of the status of implementation of the Action Plan on the basis of the regional report prepared by the Secretariat.

Outputs relating to the Secretariat and its Components, depending on the availability of resources

- a) Guidelines on the structure and content of the national report on the implementation of this Action Plan considering existing reporting procedures (e.g. Reporting under the Compliance Committee) to avoid duplication of reporting procedures, as well as a set of indicators;
- b) Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol; and
- c) Consolidated report on the implementation of the Action Plan every two years for its submission to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol and the Meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Links between outputs and articles of the offshore protocol and estimation of required means for the implementation of the action plan for indicative purposes only

Appendix 2 – Technical cooperation and capacity building programme

Appendix 3 – Potential research topics

MEDITERRANEAN OFFSHORE ACTION PLAN**Appendix 1: LINKS BETWEEN OUTPUTS AND ARTICLES OF THE OFFSHORE PROTOCOL AND ESTIMATION OF REQUIRED MEANS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR INDICATIVE PURPOSES ONLY****A) Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties**

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol²	Means required	Indicative estimated cost provided for information purposes only (Euro)
1. To ratify the Offshore Protocol	a) Ratification by all Contracting Parties of the Offshore Protocol, transposition of the Offshore Protocol into national law, and cooperation through the Secretariat to ensure compliance with its provisions	Art.32	Contracting Parties time	0
	b) Review of the effectiveness of the Offshore Protocol	Art.30	Contracting Parties time	0
2. To designate Contracting Parties' Representatives to participate to the regional governing bodies	a) Nomination of the National Offshore Focal Point designated by all MAP Focal Points to coordinate at national level activities carried out in the framework of the Action Plan and actively participate in the OFOG Group	Art.28 Decision IG.21/8	Nomination Contracting Parties time	0

²Linkage between the objectives of the Action Plan and the Articles of and Annexes to the Offshore Protocol considering that the Article 1 on Definitions, Article 2 on Geographical coverage and Article 3 on General undertakings apply to all Specific Objectives, that Article 29 on Transition measures is no longer applicable and that the discharge and disposal of machinery oil, the treatment and discharge of sewage (Article 11), the disposal and discharge of garbage (Article 12), the reception facilities (Article 13) and the ship storage shall be regulated according to the requirements listed under the relevant Annexes of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol ²	Means required	Indicative estimated cost provided for information purposes only (Euro)
	b) Designation, upon request by the Secretariat, through their National Offshore Focal Point, of the appropriate national entities and/or officials as contact points for each OFOG Sub-Group	Art.28 Decision IG.21/8	Nomination	0
	c) Leadership, on a voluntary basis, of the established Sub-Groups to coordinate with the support of the Secretariat the work assigned to the Sub-Groups	Art.28 Decision IG.21/8	Volunteering	0
3. To establish a technical cooperation and capacity building programme	a) Technical cooperation and capacity building programme endorsed as set in Appendix 2	Art.24		
	Technical Cooperation for the development of Standards and Guidelines			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring 		Consultancy funds	20,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material 		Consultancy funds	20,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disposal of oil and oily mixtures and on the use and disposal drilling fluids and cutting 		Consultancy funds	20,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offshore platform Preparedness and Response & Contingency Plan Assessment 		Participation of Contracting Parties to the IMO PPR meetings	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of installations and the related financial aspects 		Consultancy funds	20,000	

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol ²	Means required	Indicative estimated cost provided for information purposes only (Euro)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety measures including health and safety requirements and fire fighting 		Consultancy funds	20,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum standards of qualification for professionals and crews 		Consultancy funds	20,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Granting of authorisations 		Consultancy funds	20,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspection/sanctions (Installation/Discharge/Competent manning) 		Consultancy funds	20,000
	Training³			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring 		Training funds	60,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material 		Training funds	60,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disposal of oil and oily mixtures and on the use and disposal drilling fluids and cutting 		Training funds	60,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offshore platform Preparedness and Response & Contingency Plan Assessment 		Training funds	60,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of installations 		Training funds	60,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety measures including health and safety requirements and fire fighting 		Training funds	60,000

³ Estimation based on the assumption that 2 Participants per country attend the regional training

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol ²	Means required	Indicative estimated cost provided for information purposes only (Euro)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum standards of qualification for professionals and crews 		Training funds	60,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Granting of authorisations 		Training funds	60,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection/sanctions (Installation/Discharge/Competent manning) 		Training funds	60,000
4. To mobilise resources for the implementation of the Action Plan	a) Financial and human resources mobilised to support the implementation of the Action Plan, in particular its provisions related to the OFOG Group, technical cooperation, capacity building and monitoring activities	Art.31	Contracting Parties time and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Spec. Objective 10
5. To promote access to information and public participation in decision-making	a) Template for public information in line with national and regional rules on access to information	Art.23, 25 & 26	Contracting Parties time and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Spec. Objective 10
	b) Report to the Secretariat every two years relevant information on the offshore installations within their jurisdiction including, when appropriate, information on their disposal for inclusion in the inventory to be maintained by the Secretariat	Art 6 & Art 17	Contracting Parties time	0
	c) Report to the Secretariat every two years discharges, spills and emissions from offshore oil and gas installations data in accordance with the monitoring programme to be defined by the relevant OFOG Sub-Group	Art 17	Contracting Parties time	0

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol ²	Means required	Indicative estimated cost provided for information purposes only (Euro)
6. To enhance the regional transfer of technology	a) Active participation of the respective scientific and technical institutions, as well as the industry, in R&D activities and programmes related to prevention, response and monitoring of pollution from offshore activities	Art.22	Contracting Parties time	0
	b) Presentation of the results of R&D activities and programmes by their respective national institutions and industry in international fora	Art.22	Contracting Parties time	0
	c) Information on ongoing R&D activities and research needs provided to the Secretariat	Art.22	Contracting Parties time	0
7. To develop and adopt regional offshore standards	a) Environmental impact assessment regional standards developed based on existing EIA regional standards taking into consideration requirements referred in Annex IV and other best practices	Art.5,6,7, 8 & 23 Annex IV	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Spec. Objective 3 Spec. Objective 10

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol ²	Means required	Indicative estimated cost provided for information purposes only (Euro)
	b) Common standards, on the use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material, in line with relevant international standards and conventions defining inter alia limits and prohibitions at regional level formulated and adopted	Art.5,6,7, 8,9,14 & 23 Annexes I, II & III	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Spec. Objective 3 Spec. Objective 10
	c) Identification of the required modifications of Annex I, II and III and definition of which chemicals should be covered and not covered by such standards and under which conditions	Art.5,6,7, 8,9 & 23 Annexes I, II & III	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Spec. Objective 3 Spec. Objective 10
	d) Common standards on the disposal of oil and oily mixtures and on the use and disposal of drilling fluids and cutting formulated and adopted, and revision of the limits set in Article 10 and the prescriptions referred in Annex V of the Protocol	Art.5,6,7, 8,10, 14 & 23 Annex V Appendix	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Spec. Objective 3 Spec. Objective 10

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol ²	Means required	Indicative estimated cost provided for
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				information purposes only (Euro)
	e) The method to be used to analyse the oil content is commonly agreed and adopted	Art.5,6,7, 8, 10 & 23	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Spec. Objective 3 Spec. Objective 10
	f) Procedures for contingency planning, notification of accidental spills and transboundary pollution established in accordance with the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea	Art.5,6,7, 8, 16,17,18,26 & 23 Annex VII	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Spec. Objective 3 Spec. Objective 10
	g) Special restrictions or conditions for SPAs defined and adopted	Art.5,6,7, 8, 21 & 23	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Spec. Objective 3 Spec. Objective 10

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol ²	Means required	Indicative estimated cost provided for information purposes only (Euro)
	h) Common criteria, rules and procedures for the removal of installations and the related financial aspects adopted	Art.5,6,7, 8, 20 & 23	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Spec. Objective 3 Spec. Objective 10
	i) Common criteria, rules and procedures for safety measures including health and safety requirements adopted	Art.5,6,7, 8, 15 & 23 Annex VI	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Spec. Objective 3 Spec. Objective 10
	j) Common minimum standards of qualification for professionals and crews adopted	Art.5,6,7, 8, 15 & 23 Annex VI	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Spec. Objective 3 Spec. Objective 10

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol ²	Means required	Indicative estimated cost provided for information purposes only (Euro)
8. To develop and adopt regional offshore guidelines	a) Regional Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment	Art.5,6,7, 8 & 23 Annex IV	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Spec. Objective 3 Spec. Objective 10
	b) Regional Guidelines on the use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material	Art.5,6,7, 8,9,14 & 23 Annexes I, II & III	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Spec. Objective 3 Spec. Objective 10
	c) Regional Guidelines on the disposal of oil and oily mixtures and the use and disposal drilling fluids and cutting and analytical measurement	Art.5,6,7, 8,10,14 & 23 Annex V	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Spec. Objective 3 Spec. Objective 10

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol ²	Means required	Indicative estimated cost provided for information purposes only (Euro)
	d) Regional Guidelines on removal of installations and the related financial aspects	Art.5,6,7, 8, 20 & 23	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Spec. Objective 3 Spec. Objective 10
	e) Regional Guidelines on installation safety measures including health and safety requirements	Art.5,6,7, 8, 15 & 23 Annex VI	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Spec. Objective 3 Spec. Objective 10
	f) Regional Guidelines on minimum standards of qualification for professionals and crews	Art.5,6,7, 8, 15 & 23 Annex VI	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Spec. Objective 3 Spec. Objective 10

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol ²	Means required	Indicative estimated cost provided for information purposes only (Euro)
	g) Regional Guidelines on authorisation requirements based on the above mentioned Standards	Art.4,5,6, 7,8,14 & 23	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Spec. Objective 3 Spec. Objective 10
	h) [Regional Guidelines on liability, compensation and financial responsibility in case of accidental spills, following the assessment by the UNEP/MAP Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts of the adequacy of the Guidelines on Liability and Compensation for Damage Resulting from Pollution of the Marine Environment in the Mediterranean Sea Area (Decision IG 17/4) to Offshore activities, taking into consideration relevant global developments, and with a view to contributing to the implementation of Article 27 of the Offshore Protocol by the Parties]	[Art.5,6,7, 8, 17, 23 & 27]	[Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol]	[Spec. Objective 3 Spec. Objective 10]

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol ²	Means required	Indicative estimated cost provided for information purposes only (Euro)
	i) Contribution through their OPRC Focal Points to the revision of the Section II of the Manual on Oil Pollution – Contingency Planning by the IMO Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR) which will include new information related to contingency planning for offshore units, sea ports and oil handling facilities	Art.5,6,7, 8,16 & 23	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Spec. Objective 3 Spec. Objective 10
9. To establish regional offshore monitoring procedures and programme	a) A regional monitoring programme for offshore activities building, <i>inter alia</i> , on the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme	Art.5 & 10	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Spec. Objective 3 Spec. Objective 10
	b) Results of the national offshore monitoring programme and the related agreed data are reported to the Secretariat every two years	Art. 5 & 19	Contracting Parties time	0

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol ²	Means required	Indicative estimated cost provided for information purposes only (Euro)
	c) A regional monitoring programme for offshore activities building, <i>inter alia</i> , on the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme	Art.5 & 10	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Spec. Objective 3 Spec. Objective 10
	d) Results of the national offshore monitoring programme and the related agreed data are reported to the Secretariat every two years	Art. 5 & 19	Contracting Parties time	0
10. To report on the implementation of the Action Plan	a) Report on the implementation of this Action Plan, in particular on the effectiveness of the measures defined in this Action Plan and difficulties encountered every two years	Art. 25 & 30	Contracting Parties time	0
	b) Biennial review of the status of implementation of the Action Plan on the basis of the regional report prepared by the Secretariat	Art. 25 & 30	Contracting Parties time	0

B) Outputs relating to the Secretariat and its Components

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol ²	Means required	Indicative estimated cost provided for information purposes only (Euro)
1. To ratify the Offshore Protocol	a) Provision of advice and technical assistance to Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, which so request	Art.32	Technical Support and Secretariat staff time	75,000
	b) Assistance in reviewing the effectiveness of the Offshore Protocol	Art.30	Secretariat staff time Consultancy funds	End note ⁱ 30,000]
2. To designate Contracting Parties representatives to participate to the regional governing bodies	a) Participation of the industry and their representatives as observers to the OFOG Sub-Groups	Art.28 Decision IG.21/8	Secretariat staff time and travels	End note ⁱ Secretariat Travels on Official Business
	b) Enhancement of public awareness through the contribution of IGOs and NGOs with a relevant mandate to the topics discussed in the various OFOG Sub-Groups, through their participation as observers, ensuring an open and transparent process through public consultations	Art.28 Decision IG.21/8	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
	c) Establishment of institutional cooperation with various relevant regional and global institutions, initiatives and agreements and, at an operational level, identification and use of possible synergies with ongoing activities of bodies such as the European Maritime Safety Agency	Art.28 Decision IG.21/8	Secretariat staff time and travels	End note ⁱ Secretariat Travels on Official Business

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol ²	Means required	Indicative estimated cost provided for information purposes only (Euro)
	d) Publication and update of the composition of the OFOG Group and Sub-Groups on a dedicated website	Art.28 Decision IG.21/8	Website developer	20,000
	e) Updated list of the National Offshore Focal Points and OFOG Sub-Group Focal Points	Decision IG.21/8	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
	f) Definition, in consultation with MAP Focal Points, of the roles and responsibilities of UNEP/MAP Components to facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan	Art.28 Decision IG.21/8	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
	g) Identification of the required means including human resources to ensure the implementation of the Action Plan and the support of the relevant UNEP/MAP Components. A draft estimation of the required means is found in Appendix 1	Art.28 Decision IG.21/8	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
3. To establish a technical cooperation and capacity building programme	a) Integration of the technical cooperation and capacity building programme in the six year programme of activities of UNEP/MAP and its relevant Components and in their biennium programme of work	Art.24	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
	b) Preparation of the corresponding budget for consideration by the Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Art.24	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
	c) Identification of donors to secure funds required for the implementation of the technical cooperation and capacity building programme	Art.24	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol ²	Means required	Indicative estimated cost provided for information purposes only (Euro)
4. To mobilise resources for the implementation of the Action Plan	a) Identification of additional donors to secure funds for the implementation of the Action Plan	Art.31	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
5. To promote access to information, public participation in decision-making	a) Support the preparation of the template for public information in line with existing Decisions of the Contracting Parties addressing public access to information and with UNEP's Access to Information Policy	Art.23, 25 & 26	Consultancy funds	20,000
	b) Development of an online regional system and to be maintained for the purpose of public information sharing	Art.23, 25 & 26	Online regional system	20,000
	c) Publication every two years on a dedicated website of the inventory of installations as well as the discharges, spills and emissions from offshore oil and gas installations data submitted by the Contracting Parties	Art 6 & Art 17	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
	d) Consolidated report every two years on the discharges, spills and emissions from offshore oil and gas installations data submitted by the Contracting Parties.	Art 17	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
6. To enhance the participation of the regional transfer of technology	a) Support in the identification of fields of research in which there is a need for enhancement of the state-of-the-art of offshore pollution prevention, response and monitoring technologies and techniques	Art.22	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
	b) Dissemination and exchange of results of national R&D activities and programmes within and outside the Mediterranean region	Art.22	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol ²	Means required	Indicative estimated cost provided for information purposes only (Euro)
	c) Participation of national and regional research institutions and industry in the relevant international fora facilitated with a view to making better known the results of R&D activities undertaken in the Mediterranean region	Art.22	Travels	20,000
7. To develop and adopt regional offshore standards	a) Support the specific OFOG Sub-Groups for the development of the above common standards	Art.23	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
8. To develop and adopt regional offshore guidelines	a) Support the specific OFOG Sub-Groups for the development of the above common guidelines	Art.23	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
9. To establish regional offshore monitoring procedures and programme	a) The development/adoption of Mediterranean Monitoring Procedures and Programmes for the above, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, building on the relevant work undertaken in the Monitoring Correspondence Groups in the EcAp process in line with Decision 21/3	Art.19	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
	b) Development of the Mediterranean Offshore Reporting and Monitoring System (e.g. Regional Data Bank on Offshore activities through the Barcelona Convention Reporting System or other systems defined by the Contracting Parties)	Art.19	Mediterranean Offshore Reporting and Monitoring System	20,000
	c) Production, dissemination and publication every two years of a report on Discharges, Spills and Emissions from Offshore Oil and Gas Installations, based on data submitted by countries which should be used as a base for the State of Environment Report regarding the impacts of the offshore oil and gas industry	Art.17 & 19	Secretariat staff time, publication and dissemination	9,000 ⁴

⁴ Assumption: 3 reports published over the Action Plan period at Euro 3,000 per report

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol	Means required	Indicative estimated cost provided for information purposes only (Euro)
10. To report on the implementation of the Action Plan	a) Guidelines on the structure and content of the national report on the implementation of this Action Plan considering existing reporting procedures (e.g. Reporting under the Compliance Committee) to avoid duplication of reporting procedures, as well as a set of indicators	Art.25& 30	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
	b) Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Art.30	Travel/DSA	300,000 ⁵
	c) Consolidated report on the implementation of the Action Plan every two years for its submission to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol and the Meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Art.30	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
TOTAL				1,314,000

⁵ Assumption: 5 Meetings over the Action Plan period (2015-2024) at Euro 60,000 per meeting

MEDITERRANEAN OFFSHORE ACTION PLAN**Appendix 2: TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME**

Technical support (Consultancy services) for the development of Standards and Guidelines⁶
Monitoring
Use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material
Disposal of oil and oily mixtures and on the use and disposal drilling fluids and cutting
Removal of installations
Safety measures including health and safety requirements and fire fighting
Role/responsibility and qualification of professional and crews
Granting of authorisations
Training
Monitoring
Use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material
Disposal of oil and oily mixtures and on the use and disposal drilling fluids and cutting
Offshore platform Preparedness and Response & Contingency Plan Assessment
Removal of installations
Safety measures including health and safety requirements and fire fighting
Role/responsibility and qualification of professional and crews
Granting of authorisations
Inspection/sanctions (Installation/Discharge/Competent manning)

⁶Offshore platform Preparedness and Response & Contingency Plan Assessment will be followed by Contracting Parties through the Meeting of the IMO Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR).

MEDITERRANEAN OFFSHORE ACTION PLAN

Appendix 3: INDICATIVE POTENTIAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TOPICS

Air Emissions:

- Effects of air emissions from offshore activities

Noise:

- Environmental Impact Assessment on noise generated by offshore activities

Fisheries

- Short-term and long-term impact of the oil and gas (O&G) industry on Mediterranean fisheries

Prevention

- Safety of operations

Monitoring

- Marine environment monitoring

Response to marine pollution

- Environmental Impact Assessment of multiple in situ burning operations on major oil spills from offshore platforms in the Mediterranean Region
- Environmental Impact Assessment of extended use of dispersants on major oil spills from offshore platforms in the Mediterranean Region
- Oil spill monitoring & forecasting modelling
- Mediterranean Offshore Oil Spill Risk Assessment Study
- Mediterranean Offshore Oil Spill Risk Assessment Tool