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Fifth Steering Committee Meeting of the Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (MedPartnership) and Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to Implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean (ClimVar & ICZM) projects

3 November 2015, Athens, Greece

Report of the fifth Steering Committee meeting of the Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (MedPartnership) and Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to Implement the ICZM Protocol, 03 November 2015, Athens, Greece



Together for the Mediterranean Sea

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Introduction

1. In accordance with the programme of work adopted by the Steering Committee members, held in Hammamet (Tunisia) in February 2014, a meeting of the Project Steering Committee of the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM projects was held at the Divani Caravel Hotel in Athens (Greece) on 3 November 2015.

Attendance

2. The Steering Committee members represented at the meeting were Croatia, Egypt, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia.
3. The following Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention were represented at the meeting as observers: Israel, and Spain.
4. The following executing partners of the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM projects were represented: UNESCO-IHP, WWF MedPO, FAO, Plan Bleu, PAP-RAC, SCP-RAC, SPA-RAC, MEDPOL, GWP Med, MIO-ECSDE and UNEP-GRID Geneva.
5. The following United Nations bodies and International Institution (donors) were represented: UNEP/GEF and Global Environmental Facility.
6. The full list of participants is attached as Annex I to the present report.

I. Opening of the meeting (agenda item 1)

7. The meeting was opened at 9.35 a.m. on Tuesday, 3 November 2015, by Mr Gaetano Leone, MAP Coordinator who delivered the welcoming and opening statements.
8. Mr Leone's statement is set out in annex IV to the present report.
9. In his remarks, Mr Leone commented on the contribution of the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Barcelona Convention to address the challenges of environmental degradation in the Mediterranean Sea, while linking sustainable resources management with development over the last 40 years. He highlighted that the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM have been instrumental over the last 5 years in the implementation of the Convention's Protocols and their strategic action programme. Mr Leone explained that the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM projects have been an outstanding experience, which put together hundreds of people among experts, beneficiaries, decision makers, stakeholders, local authorities and international organizations, all of them together for the Mediterranean, all of them contributing towards an ultimate goal: a better and more sustainable marine and coastal environment in the Mediterranean. He emphasized that the results achieved by the projects are impressive in terms of quantity but also very much relevant in terms of quality and for their long term impacts on the sustainability of the region. After giving examples of some of the results achieved, Mr Leone mentioned that the impacts of the two projects went well beyond these figures. The two projects were instrumental in the implementation of the national strategies and activities on ground which supported greatly the implementation of the Barcelona Convention's principles and in general strengthened sustainable development in the region.

II. Organizational matters (agenda item 2)

A. Election of officers

10. In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, the Steering Committee members unanimously elected the following officers:

Chair:	Ms Nassira Rheyati (Morocco)
Vice-Chair:	Ms Jelena Knezevic (Montenegro)

B. Adoption of the provisional agenda

11. The Steering Committee members adopted their agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda circulated in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/1 and the provisional annotated agenda circulated in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/2. The latter is attached as Annex II to the present report.

C. Organization of work

12. The Steering Committee members agreed to work in plenary.

D. Final Event

13. Mr Leone explained that a Final Event of the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM projects was organised on 4 November to provide informal presentations on the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM results and achievements.

III. Progress Report and Financial Report on the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM projects for the 2014-2015 period (agenda item 3)

14. The Steering Committee members considered item 3 (Progress Report and Financial Report on the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM projects for the 2014-2015 period).
15. The Project Manager presented the progress made in the implementation of activities during the 2014 - 2015 biennium (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 423/Inf.3, UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 423/Inf.4, UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 423/Inf.5, and UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 423/Inf.6), presenting the budgets in the 2014-2015 period, highlighting the main achievements and challenges met during the implementation of the PoW and budgets approved by the Fourth Project Steering Committee Meeting (Hammamet, Tunisia, February 2014). (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 423/3, and UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 423/4).
16. In the ensuing discussion, Steering Committee members expressed deep appreciation for the successful implementation of the projects' programme of work and the results achieved in the biennium.
17. The representative of Montenegro mentioned that the MedPartnership provided the necessary support to the Coastal Area Management Programme, and the National Strategy and Action Plan that will open up space for future cooperation. Referring to the ClimVar & ICZM project, the delegates of Montenegro mentioned that they are very happy not only with the knowledge acquired through the project implementation but also with its contribution to building capacity at national level.
18. The representative of Croatia raised one comment on the ICZM component of the MedPartnership. Croatia was very satisfied with the opportunity to develop the National Coastal and Marine Management Strategy. This will allow them to apply an innovative approach and to fulfil their obligations regarding the EU MSFD and the ICZM Protocol. There was intensive work in 2013-2015 together with PAP/RAC concerning this national strategy. The delegates from Croatia remarked on the amount of work supported by the project for the collection of data and information, and for the organization of a series of national meetings and workshops. Thanks to this work, a new ICZM platform was developed and the inter-ministerial Committee was expanded.
19. The representative of Tunisia expressed great satisfaction and welcomed the results achieved through a strategic cooperative approach, diversity of partners, wide range of activities, opportunity to attain common objectives, opportunity to sustain legal and institutional

approaches, promote approaches, and ensure capacity building. Moreover the delegate stressed on the need to exchange lessons learnt and to transfer information among the countries to contribute to the follow up of the projects.

20. The representative of Egypt mentioned that the MedPartnership has been one of the most successful projects of UNEP/MAP. The work done on water resources management, water aquifers, and PCB disposal, among others, was very relevant for the country. The delegate is very much looking forward to a follow up of this experience which is especially important regarding climate change, as well as Green Economy as a tool.
21. The representative of Spain (as observer) mentioned that although Spain is not GEF eligible, the great results of the MedPartnership are bringing benefits to the region of Northern Mediterranean as well because they contribute to making the whole Mediterranean Sea more sustainable. Projects like the MedPartnership are instrumental to the strategy that is being developed by MAP through the implementation of the EcAp approach. Spain supports the continuation of projects like the MedPartnership, working on activities which should be totally integrated within the UNEP/MAP MTS and PoW.
22. The representative of Morocco mentioned that the MedPartnership was a very positive experience because it was tackling priorities which are common to all the Mediterranean countries. The results achieved will enable the implementation of policies in Morocco, transfer of green technologies, capacity building, especially in the north of the country. Moreover, the project contributed to apply the Ecosystem Approach to fisheries and the management of water resources and coastal zones. Morocco has participated in the implementation of several activities such as integration of various aspects of water resource management and coastal zone management and sustainable fisheries with the support of executing partners of the project.
23. The representative of Croatia commented on the fact that their participation in the ClimVar & ICZM project was really important as it allowed them to collect different kinds of data from various institutions, and process it in order to have a more homogeneous coverage for the country. Fifty national institutions joined the process. The collected data was very substantial and reflected in the national report and at the local level. Croatia made an assessment of the Climate Variability and Climate Change that was integrated in the ICZM national plan. It will be used in the National Climate Adaptation Strategy which is obligatory for complying with the European Regulations.
24. The representative of Libya mentioned that, with more than 150 activities carried out and 80 demonstration projects implemented, the projects aimed at facilitating the policy update and regulatory reforms at regional and national levels. The delegate showed his appreciation for all the efforts made by the PMU, agencies and countries and highlighted that although Libya was absent for a long time, a chance was given to the country to get back on track, during the previous steering committee held in Tunisia in 2014. Although the results of this second chance were not excellent - PCB's inventory is an example - due to some circumstances which were beyond control, the delegate of Libya expects that it will be a lot better in the future with the recently established committee at the national level for the country.
25. The representative of Palestine thanked the Project Manager and the PMU for the excellent coordination of the project. He mentioned that although the activities for Palestine were only a few, they were relevant in addressing the issues that matter relating to climate variability, and Mediterranean issues about water resources and coastal areas in Gaza. This feedback is also reflected at local level by the stakeholders living in the area. The delegate is sure that activities implemented under the project will be integrated within the national efforts. He also mentioned the vulnerability of the Mediterranean coast in the climate variability report developed under the ClimVar & ICZM project. The report shows that the coastal areas of Gaza are highly vulnerable, thus this issue is really important for the country. Palestine would

- do its best to participate actively in another project to implement the results of the present one.
26. The representative of Spain (as observer) mentioned that to combat climate change and vulnerability in the Mediterranean is one of its priorities, because the region is one of the most vulnerable of the world. Spain is working on this with pilot projects, in different fora and institutions, addressing the requirements of the EU, but also UfM, and MAP. The delegate suggested to join efforts, making synergies with other relevant initiatives, and develop a new project for the future. He mentioned that the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention should be part of this from the beginning, working together with a clear articulation and coordination from MAP.
 27. The representative of Morocco agreed with Spain on the necessity of coordination. Indeed the ClimVar & ICZM project has played an important role at the level of coordination. In Morocco thanks to the project, all the information and all the efforts undertaken to adapt to climate change were coordinated and the players, civil society, national, and international partners were informed and involved. This allowed to establish a database with information shared through the MedCIP, a platform developed by the project. In conclusion, this project has reinforced the capacities of the regions as regards to the management of climate variability. The delegate mentioned that there is a need to put together all the priorities of all countries to design a new regional project for the future.
 28. PAP/RAC (as project partner) mentioned that the projects were an opportunity to make operative the activities included under the MAP PoW. It was an opportunity to enforce all protocols, also an opportunity to work together with all countries. PAP/RAC took the opportunity to thank all countries and all Focal Points for their support in either disseminating or collecting data. They highlighted that these are the type of projects in which we need to mobilise all actors and reach results which are not only useful but innovative for the Mediterranean.
 29. UNESCO-IHP (as project partner), enjoyed participating in this project. UNESCO mentioned that work on aquifers in the coastal area with the countries was a very interesting experience, and hope there will be a second phase to enhance water coast and aquifers.
 30. WWF MedPO (as project partner) mentioned that the projects were a unique opportunity in the region for the amount of activities, resources, partners and commitment in the region. It was a great experience and a good lesson for future initiatives. We still need to work on assessing the results together and see what has been achieved. Another lesson learned comes from the complexity of projects, the large number of countries and actors. He suggested that perhaps in the future we should simplify the project structure making it even more effective. WWF also sees the engagement of the NGOs as a great challenge. The projects probably brought the largest amount of funds mobilised for MAP activities, but they still did not cover all the real needs. WWF suggested that for the future we should have more activities on biodiversity and MPA. Finally WWF highlighted the key role of UNEP/MAP, and mentioned that the success of the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM was a good example of the capacity and leadership provided by MAP.
 31. GWP-Med (as project partner) agreed on the importance of the projects for the Mediterranean. This was well reflected in the number of actors, parties, and activities implemented. The complexity of the project and the significance of bringing new partners, has been unique. The leverage is an important issue to be taken into account for the future, by bringing together new partners and to better coordinate the relevant actors in the region. GWP-Med suggested to use the MedPartnership as a precious and special example showing lesson learned for the future.
 32. MIO-ECSDE (as project partner) highlighted the comprehensive and strategic communication actions undertaken within the framework of the MedPartnership ensuring the extended after-life and sustainability of the project results, including the effective facilitation of replication activities. MIO-ECSDE also stressed that this was the first time

that a regional NGO such as MIO-ECSDE has been involved in such a project from the design phase and this has been acknowledged across the board as a major success and strong point of the project. However NGOs should be even more integrated in future projects and adequate financial resources should be earmarked to support small scale pilot/demo activities undertaken by NGOs to considerably strengthen their ownership of the processes and objectives as well as the success of the overall project.

33. MED POL (as project partner), highlighted the huge effort made for the PCB activities and relevant policy reforms in the countries to reduce the LBS of pollution. MED POL mentioned that everybody learned a lot through these projects, thanks to the excellent collaboration among all the actors involved. In the future, it should be considered to strengthen the coordination within a component like MED POL and SCP/RAC. This project is not the end but the start of an interesting process.
34. Plan Bleu (as project partner) mentioned that the projects were really useful and interesting, and that everybody worked really well together. Plan Bleu took the opportunity to thank all the consultants that contributed to the project delivering excellent results.
35. UNEP Geneva (as project partner) mentioned that they were impressed by the results achieved by the projects. The figures, tables, graphs and outputs presented during the PSC meeting demonstrate that this kind of project can have an impact and is an opportunity. UNEP GRID Geneva mentioned that we should not take long to elaborate an action plan and additional programme. The environment is not a top priority for the countries, therefore we need to move fast to have support and collaboration, and to ensure continuity in the outstanding work undertaken by the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM projects.

IV. Communication strategy and dissemination of the results (agenda item 4)

36. The Steering Committee members considered item 4 (Communication strategy and dissemination of the results).
37. The PMU presented the communication strategy and the activities implemented to ensure the dissemination of the results achieved (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/5; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/Inf.7; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/Inf.8).
38. In the ensuing discussion, Steering Committee members expressed appreciation for the communication and dissemination strategies implemented in support of the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM projects.
39. The delegate of Spain (as observer) stressed the importance of the communication strategy for the success of the project. He suggested to define a strategy to link the results achieved under the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM with the resource mobilisation for the future.
40. The PMU mentioned that UNEP/MAP is creating a new website where all the information from the projects will be stored to ensure that the lessons learned from the two projects are taken into consideration in the future.
41. The PMU stressed the importance and purpose in the development of lessons learnt, by then extracting what is valuable in any future replication.
42. UNEP/GEF encouraged the use of the lessons learnt, as a basis for a wider stakeholder dialogue in the region.

V. The way forward: strategy to ensure continuity to the activities implemented by the projects (agenda item 5)

43. Introducing the item, the Project Manager said that to ensure the continuity of the activities implemented under the projects, a new Mediterranean regional project/programme proposal

and other projects/initiatives are being develop in the framework of the UNEP/MAP 2015-2021 Mid Term Strategy.

44. A presentation by UNEP/GEF followed explaining the priorities for the future regional project/programme which should build on the success of the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM project.
45. UNEP/MAP presented the new EC funded project “Towards an ecologically representative and efficiently managed network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas”, which has been prepared together with SPA/RAC, WWF-MedPO and MedPAN and approved by DG NEAR.
46. PAP/RAC presented the project proposal “Implementation of Ecosystem Approach in the Adriatic Sea through Marine Spatial Planning”.
47. In the following discussion, Steering Committee members expressed their full support to the preparation of a follow up of the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM projects and urged the preparation of a proposal to be discussed with the countries and potential partners.
48. The representative of Montenegro mentioned that they are in favour of the continuation of these activities in support of the national action and implementation. She stressed the importance of project management and support from the MAP Secretariat and the components. Montenegro thanked all the partners that made the MedPartnership a success. Montenegro values the implementation of concrete projects and pilot actions, and even more important is the sharing of the knowledge, the results and the experiences related to the implementation of the protocols of the Barcelona Convention. The MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM projects had a strong enforcement of the national governance system and National Instruments have been tested and implemented. Support was also given to the updating and upgrading of national action plans on biodiversity etc. All these aspects are an excellent basis for the preparation/implementation of a new regional project/programme. The projects allowed an increase in the knowledge of the marine ecosystem.
49. The representative of Spain (as observer) stressed on the identification of the priorities for the new project/programme. He welcomed the priorities identified by the GEF and he highlighted the extreme importance of the integrated approach supported by GEF. The delegate stressed on the role of EcAp and mentioned that any new regional project/programme should be based on the EcAp approach.
50. The representative of Palestine (as observer) welcomed the follow up of the project and mentioned the different levels of the project activities: national, sub-regional or regional level. He suggested the replication of these projects, e.g. rehabilitation of the coastal area of Palestine, e.g. desalination plant to solve the water availability problem. The delegate stressed on the importance of the deterioration of the coastal aquifer.
51. The representative of Morocco showed their support in the preparation of a new project/programme and welcomed the comments made by Spain. The delegate stressed on the identification of the priorities for the next phase. He mentioned that Morocco has ratified the ICZM Protocol, and hoped that the new programme will help their national process on this.
52. UNEP/GEF stressed the importance of building on the foundations established under the MedPartnership project moving to targeted implementation of priority actions for the Mediterranean region with possibly a specific investment component to support this implementation process. This would be supported by continuing to build partnerships and synergies with other relevant initiatives such as the Union for the Mediterranean and Horizon 2020 of the European Union amongst others.

VI. Terminal evaluation process (agenda item 7)

53. The Steering Committee was informed about the terminal evaluation process.

54. The leading consultant undergoing the terminal evaluation explained the process and the objectives of the exercise. The consultant explained the criteria that will be followed during the evaluation and the type of results expected by the process.
55. In the ensuing discussion, Steering Committee members expressed their appreciation for the process and looked forward to receiving the results of the terminal evaluation of the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM projects.

VII. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations (agenda item 7)

56. The Chair of the Steering Committee presented the conclusions and recommendations prepared by the PMU, on the basis of the discussions, inputs and feedbacks received by the Steering Committee members during the meeting.
57. The Steering Committee reviewed the conclusions and recommendations prepared by the PMU for both the MedPartnership and the ClimVar & ICZM projects, which were adopted with the necessary modifications. The complete text of the conclusions and recommendations is attached as Annex III to this report.

IX. Closure of the meeting

58. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was declared closed at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday 3 November 2015.

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ANNEX II Annotated Agenda

Introduction

1. The objectives of the fifth Steering Committee meeting of the “Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem” (MedPartnership), and “Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to Implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean” (ClimVar & ICZM) are to inform participants about the progress achieved during the 2014-2015 period in the implementation of the PoW and budgets approved by the Fourth Project Steering Committee (Hammamet, Tunisia, February 2014).

The following annotations to the proposed provisional agenda for the present meeting were prepared by the Project Management Unit (PMU) to assist the meeting and its deliberations.

Agenda item 1: **Opening of the Meeting**

2. The meeting will be opened at 09.30 on 3 November 2015 by the Coordinator of UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention Secretariat, Mr. Gaetano Leone.

Agenda item 2: **Organizational Matters**

UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 423/1; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/2; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/Inf.1

a) Election of Officers

3. The Steering Committee will elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman from among the representatives of the Countries participating to the project.

b) Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

4. The proposed agenda appearing in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/1 and annotated in the present document will be proposed for adoption by the meeting. The meeting will review and adopt the agenda and the proposed timetable contained in Annex to the present document, including as appropriate any other issues suggested to be addressed under item 9.

c) Organization of Work

5. Simultaneous interpretation in English and French will be available for the plenary sessions. As per practice, pre-session documentation will not be distributed on paper. Participants are encouraged to download the documentation on their computers in advance of the session.
6. The sessions of the Steering Committee of the 3 November 2015 are scheduled from 09:30-12:30 and 14:30-18:30.
7. It is expected that the members of the Steering Committee will address all items of the Agenda during their meeting. It is envisaged to close the meeting at 18:30 on 3 November 2015.

d) Final Event

8. A Final Event of the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM projects will be organized on 4 November to provide informal presentations on the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM activities.

e) Exhibition on the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM Projects

9. An exhibition area will be organized the 4 November to showcase the results achieved by the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM projects and share the documents, reports, posters and communication and dissemination material with the participant.

Agenda items 3: Progress Report and Financial Report on the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM projects for the 2014-2015 period

UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/3; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/4; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/Inf.3; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/Inf.4; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/Inf.5; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.421/Inf.6

10. The PMU will present the progress made by the projects in the implementation of activities, and delivering of the budgets in the 2014-2015 period, highlighting the main achievements and challenges met during the implementation of the PoW and budgets approved by the Fourth Project Steering Committee Meeting (Hammamet, Tunisia, February 2014).
11. The Steering Committee is expected to review the progress achieved on the implementation of the PoW and Budgets, as presented in the final progress reports and budgets revisions.
12. Informal presentations on the results achieved under the components 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the MedPartnership project and the ClimVar & ICZM project will be made during the Final Event of 4 November 2015.

Agenda item 4: Communication strategy and dissemination of the results

UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/5; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/Inf.7; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/Inf.8

13. Under this agenda item the PMU will present a number of documents prepared to showcase the results achieved by the project and ensure their dissemination.

a) Regional Report

14. The PMU will present the Projects' Regional Report which collects all the results achieved by the projects, organized by themes and country fact sheets.

b) Lessons learned and bibliography

15. The PMU will present the compilation of lessons learned from the two projects and the bibliography with over 200 reports, fact sheets and workshop training material available online.

Agenda item 5: The way forward: strategy to ensure continuity to the activities implemented by the projects

16. The PMU will present the strategy to ensure the continuity of the activities implemented under the projects, which includes the new Mediterranean regional project proposal and other projects/initiatives in the frame of the UNEP/MAP 2015-2021 Mid Term Strategy.

Agenda item 6: Terminal evaluation process

17. The Steering Committee will be informed about the terminal evaluation process.

Agenda item 7: Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations

18. The Steering Committee will be invited to review and adopt the draft conclusions and recommendations prepared by the PMU.

Agenda item 8: Any Other Business

19. Under this agenda item, the meeting will be invited to raise and discuss other matters that may require attention, as agreed during the adoption of the provisional agenda.

Agenda item 9: Closure of the meeting

20. The Chair of the meeting is expected to close the Meeting at 18:30 on Tuesday 3 November 2015.

TIMETABLE

Tuesday, 3 November 2015		
Time	Agenda item	Documents
09:30 – 10:00	1. Opening of the Meeting 2. Organizational Matters	UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 423/1; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/2; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/Inf. 1
10:00 – 11:00	3. Progress Report and Financial Report on the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM projects for the 2014-2015	UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/3; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/4; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/Inf.3; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/Inf.4; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/Inf.5; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.421/Inf.6
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
11:30 – 12:30	3. Progress Report and Financial Report on the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM projects for the 2014-2015 <i>(continuation)</i>	UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/3; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/4; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/Inf.3; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/Inf.4; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/Inf.5; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.421/Inf.6
12:30 – 14:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
14:30 – 15:30	4. Communication strategy and dissemination of the results	UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/5; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/Inf.7; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.423/Inf.8
15:30 – 16:30	5. The way forward: strategy to ensure continuity of the activities implemented by the projects	
16:30 – 17:00	6. Terminal evaluation process	
17:00 – 17:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
17:30 – 18:00	7. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations of the Steering Committee	
18:00 – 18:15	8. Any Other Business	
18:15 – 18:30	9. Closure of the meeting.	

Annex III

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Fifth meeting of the MedPartnership Project Steering Committee, which also served as the Steering Committee for the Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to Implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean (ClimVar & ICZM), was held in Athens, Greece, on 3 November 2015. It was attended by all executing partners (UNESCO/IHP, FAO, UNEP/MAP's MEDPOL, Plan Bleu, UNEP-GRID, PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC, SCP/RAC, WWF-MedPO, MIO-ECSDE and GWP-Med), 7 participating countries, and observers.

The participants:

1. Welcomed the efforts made by UNEP/MAP PMU and co-executing partners to timely and efficiently implement the ambitious 2014-2015 work plans for the two projects as approved by the fourth Project Steering Committee in February 2014.
2. Recognized the progress made in the implementation of the activities and the use of financial resources as shown by the quarterly activity and expenditure reports, which allowed to constantly track the progress made and timely identify problems and measures.
3. Welcomed the 2014-2015 progress and financial reports presented by the PMU and their alignment with the decisions taken at the previous meeting of the Steering Committee.
4. Acknowledged with appreciation the Summary Activities Report 2009-2015.
5. Expressed deep appreciation for the high-quality results achieved by the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM projects in their fifth year of implementation.
6. Recommended to UNEP/MAP PMU and all executing partners to collect and present the results of the two projects in their reporting phase and disseminate them widely in order to ensure that other initiatives build upon these results.
7. Welcomed the efforts of UNEP/MAP PMU and executing partners to complete the replication activities approved by the fourth Project Steering Committee and included in the ambitious 2014-2015 work plans.
8. Recognized the importance of addressing the increasing environmental and socioeconomic impacts of climate variability and change in the marine and coastal environment of the Mediterranean, including adaptation, in a coordinated manner.
9. Acknowledged the need to strengthen the national coordination in projects like the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM to ensure that all the relevant actors at national level are properly informed about the activities implemented in the countries.

10. Noted the need to ensure the replication and long-term sustainability of projects actions beyond the projects life span.
11. Recommended to UNEP/MAP to develop a comprehensive strategy and project proposals to ensure continuity and follow-up to the activities implemented under the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM projects and the development of new projects based on the lessons learnt and other relevant developments.
12. Extended special thanks to UNEP/MAP and GWP-Med for their hospitality and contribution to the organization of the meeting.

Annex IV

Speech of Mr Gaetano Leone MAP Coordinator

Project Steering Committee meeting – the MedPartnership
Athens, 3 November 2015

Distinguished invitees and colleagues,

I am pleased to extend to you my warmest personal greetings and thank you for attending the fifth Project Steering Committee meeting of the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM projects. Most importantly, I want to thank you for your support and contribution over the past 5 years that make the implementation of these two projects a success.

I would like to start with a few words on the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Barcelona Convention: the framework within which all the activities implemented by the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM were developed.

The Mediterranean Action Plan was established in the 70's as a rather innovative initiative at the time. This was the first Regional Seas Programme of UNEP, with the intention to provide a coherent legal institutional and programmatic framework for cooperation to address the challenges of environmental degradation in the Mediterranean Sea, while linking sustainable resources management with development.

Today, thanks to this approach all the 21 countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea and the European Union are bound together through an advanced legal environmental framework comprised of the Barcelona Convention and its seven Protocols. With these instruments, we are jointly working against pollution, protecting biodiversity and sustainably managing our coastal and marine ecosystems.

Over the past four decades, the MAP system has evolved into a more holistic and integrated approach of sustainable management of the precious resources of the Mediterranean in-line with contemporary demands.

The work of MAP is guided by 6 years Mid Term Strategies (MTSs) and biennial PoWs which are approved by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

Both the MTS and PoW define strategic themes and priorities to be tackled to support the Convention's principle and implement its protocols such as the Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land-Based Activities (SAP/MED), and The Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP/BIO) and the Action Plan for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol.

In this context, the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM have been instrumental over the last 5 years in the implementation of these protocols and their strategic action programme. The projects have been a collective effort of leading organizations (regional, international, non-governmental, etc.) and countries

sharing the Mediterranean Sea, towards the protection of the marine and coastal environment of the Mediterranean.

The projects' overarching goal has been to enable a coordinated and strategic approach to catalyse the policy, legal and institutional reforms, and the investments necessary to reverse the degradation trends affecting the Mediterranean, including its coastal habitats and biodiversity.

The MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM have been an outstanding experience, which put together hundreds of people among experts, beneficiaries, decision makers, stakeholders, local authorities and international organizations, all of them together for the Mediterranean, all of them contributing towards an ultimate goal: a better and more sustainable marine and coastal environment in the Mediterranean.

The results achieved by the projects are impressive in terms of quantity but also very much relevant in terms of quality and for their long term impacts on the sustainability of the region.

The Projects together have implemented more than 150 activities and 80 demonstration projects. Just to mention some of them...they contributed to make more sustainable several industrial sectors in the countries, they created 5 new MPAs, produced new maps of coastal aquifers, they produced vulnerability studies and index for the coastal and marine areas of the Mediterranean, and made possible the disposal of over 900 tons of PCBs from 3 different countries. The number of meetings, trainings, workshops organized under the projects is also impressive (several hundreds). These meetings reached thousands of stakeholders and put together local actors with regional experts and international institutions. Moreover the projects' activities produced over 300 documents among reports, technical and policy analysis.

Nevertheless, the impacts of the two projects went well beyond these figures. The two projects were instrumental in the implementation of the national strategies and activities on ground which supported greatly the implementation of the Barcelona Convention principles and in general strengthened sustainable development in the region.

This has been possible thanks to the endless support of the countries where the activities have been developed; the partners which executed the project together with UNEP/MAP, and clearly thanks to the supported provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the EU and all the other donors.

All these results created a positive trend and a momentum which add strength and support to the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its principles. This was visible in all the meetings held under the projects where the countries, partners and projects' beneficiaries expressed their support to ensure continuity to the activities implemented by the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM.

This gives even more enthusiasm for a future when such projects like the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM should be replicated to ensure that the expression "together for the Mediterranean" would be translated in concrete actions and not remain a nice motto.

In this spirit of cooperation, I extend my best wishes for a very productive and fruitful meeting.