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Draft Offshore Action Plan

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SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document proposes the Reviewed Draft Offshore Action adopted by the by the 3rd Offshore Protocol Working Group, Malta, 17-18 June 2014.

Action to be taken:

Related documents: REMPEC/WG.35/4
REMPEC/WG.35/6

**DRAFT 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 (OFFSHORE PROTOCOL)**

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BACKGROUND

The 17th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 2012 held in Paris, France between 8 and 10 February 2012 decided to embark on an Action Plan with a view to facilitating the effective implementation of the Offshore Protocol (Decision IG 20.12).

Based in the Decision IG 20.12, the Secretariat of the United National Environment Programme – Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) included a number of activities aimed at supporting the drafting of the Action Plan in the programme of the Ecosystem Approach for the Management of Human Activities in the Mediterranean (EcAp) funded by the European Union.

According to the Decision IG.20/12, UNEP/MAP Secretariat was requested to “*Establish an ad hoc working group coordinated by REMPEC composed of representatives of the Contracting Parties and observers from representatives of the concerned industries, relevant international organizations and MAP partners*”. At the time of drafting this document 11 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, namely Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, European Commission, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Morocco, Spain, and Turkey nominated their Offshore Protocol Focal Point.

UNEP/MAP with the support of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) organized the 1st Offshore Protocol Working Group Meeting held in Valletta, Malta on the 13 and 14 June 2013. The meeting benefited from the experience of representatives from the European Commission Directorate General Environment, the OSPAR Commission, the United Kingdom Health Safety Executive (HSE), the Italian Ministry of Economic Development, the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (OGP), Det Norske Veritas (DNV), Noble Energy International Limited and Mabruk Oil Operations; and from the experience gained by the Government of Cyprus and Israel, first countries in the region having applied the obligations defined under the Offshore Protocol, in their national authorization procedure.

The same decision calls for “*an in depth assessment and stock taking analysis of the existing practical measures in place in the Mediterranean countries with regard to Offshore activities*” to be conducted. REMPEC requested all Mediterranean coastal States to fill in the questionnaire in view of their analysis. A consultant firm was recruited by UNEP/MAP to take stock of the existing regulatory framework among the Contracting Parties mainly through the analysis of the responses in questionnaires provided to Competent Authorities (i.e., the official organization that has the legally delegated or invested authority, capacity, or power to perform a designated function) of the Contracting Parties, the online reports of the Contracting Parties under the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS) and a study prepared by Milieu Ltd. for the Director General (DG) Environment of the European Commission (EC study)¹.

In accordance with Article 23 of the Offshore Protocol and the Decision IG 20.12, the same consultancy firm was requested to identify existing international rules, standards, and recommended practices and procedures relevant to the implementation of the Offshore Protocol. The analysis focused on the main activities and installations listed in the Protocol. Whenever a topic addressed under the Offshore Protocol was also addressed by a relevant international instrument, this instrument was identified to establish consistency between the Protocol and the regional and international instruments in place.

Both the analysis of existing practical measures in place in the Mediterranean countries with regard to offshore activities and the study on best international practices were presented in the document WG.34.19 - Study on the International Best Practices-Rev1 at the Workshop on the Regional Response Capacity and Coordination to Major Oil Spill in the Mediterranean Sea (MEDEXPOL 2013) held in Athens, Greece, between 10 and 12 December 2013.

¹ EC study: “Safety of offshore exploration and exploitation activities in the Mediterranean: creating synergies between the forthcoming EU Regulation and the Protocol to the Barcelona Convention.” <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/international-cooperation/regional-sea-conventions/barcelona-convention/pdf/Final%20Report%20Offshore%20Safety%20Barcelona%20Protocol%20.pdf> (last accessed Nov. 15, 2013)

According to the Decision IG.21/8 of the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Istanbul, Turkey, 3-6 December 2013), “the Secretariat and the ad hoc Working Group were requested to continue the necessary work with a view to achieve the drafting of the Offshore Protocol Action Plan by the end of 2014”.

The Draft Offshore Protocol Action Plan (REMPEC/WG/35/4) has been prepared by the Secretariat taking into account the findings of the studies and the recommendations made by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. The present Reviewed Draft Offshore Action Plan (REMPEC/WG/35/5) has been adopted by the 3rd Offshore Protocol Working Group, Malta, 17-18 June 2014.

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 co-operation.

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.5. 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 certain goals are proposed which will also serve as criteria for indicating the success (or otherwise) of Contracting Parties in meeting the objectives.

With the understanding that not all goals can be achieved immediately, the implementation goals and a tentative timetable for implementation of the Action Plan are set out in **Appendix 1**.

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 Contracting Parties endeavor:

- a) to ratify the Offshore Protocol, as soon as possible, preferably by [2017], and transpose it into national law, and to co-operate through the Secretariat to ensure compliance with its provisions.²

The Contracting Parties agree to request the Secretariat:

- a) to provide Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, which so request, with advice and technical assistance in order to meet the deadline set forth in sub-paragraph (a) above.

² Mediterranean 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 Offshore Protocol 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, NGOs and other stakeholders as appropriate to implement the measures provided for in the Action Plan and other measures as appropriate.

The Contracting Parties agree:

- a) to nominate the National Offshore Focal Point designated by the MAP Focal Point to coordinate at national level activities carried out in the framework of the Action Plan and actively participate in the OFOG Group;
- b) to designate, upon request by the Secretariat, through their National Offshore Focal Point, the appropriate national entities and/or officials as contact points for each OFOG Sub-Group;
- c) to take the 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; and

To request the Secretariat:

- a) to encourage the participation of the industry and invite their representatives as observers to the OFOG Sub-Groups;

- b) to enhance public awareness through the contribution of IGOs and NGOs with a relevant mandate to the topics discussed in the various OFOG Sub-Groups to participate as observers and ensure an open and transparent process through public consultations;
- c) to establish institutional cooperation with various relevant regional and global institutions, initiatives and agreements as soon as possible but preferably by [2017];
- d) to publish by [2016] and keep up to date on a dedicated website the composition of the OFOG Group and Sub-Groups;
- e) to keep updated the list of the National Offshore Focal Points and OFOG Sub-Group Focal Points;
- f) to define, in consultation with MAP Focal Points, the roles and responsibilities of UNEP/MAP Components for adoption by the Contracting Parties to facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan; and
- g) to propose, 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 2**.

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 organizations, cooperate with a view to formulating and, as far as possible, implementing programmes of assistance to developing countries. In this regard and with the view to facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan,

The Contracting Parties agree:

- a) on the technical cooperation and capacity building programme as set in **Appendix 3**; and

To request the Secretariat:

- a) to include 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) to propose the corresponding budget to be adopted by the Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention; and
- c) to identify donors to secure funds required for the implementation of the technical cooperation and capacity building programme.

Specific objective 4: To establish a financial mechanism 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 Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (BARCO OFOG), through technical support and financial contributions for the implementation of the program of work that may result from the Offshore Protocol Action Plan. In this regards,

The Contracting Parties agree:

- a) to consider the establishment of a financial mechanism aimed at supporting the implementation of the Action Plan, in particular its provisions related to the OFOG Group,

technical cooperation, capacity building and monitoring activities as soon as possible and preferably by [2017]; and

To request the Secretariat:

- a) to identify additional donors to secure funds for the implementation of the Action Plan; and
- b) to propose, by [2017], Terms of Reference for an Offshore Action Plan financial mechanism.

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.”

With a view to meeting the specific objective of promoting access to information and public participation in decision-making,

The Contracting Parties agree:

- a) to adopt a template for public information in line with national and regional rules on access to information by [2017];
- b) to report to the Secretariat by [2017] and every two years thereafter, 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;
- c) to report to the Secretariat by [2017] and every two years thereafter, 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; and

To request the Secretariat:

- a) to 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) to assess by the cost of an online regional system, to develop it by [2016] and maintain it thereafter for the purpose of public information sharing;
- c) to publish by [2017] and every two years thereafter and keep up to date on a dedicated website 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) to consolidate in a report by [2017] and every two years thereafter, 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 emphasizes 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 4** to this document.

With a view to meeting the specific objective of promoting the participation of the relevant Mediterranean institutions in R&D activities and to facilitate transfer of technology within the region,

The Contracting Parties agree:

- a) to encourage their respective scientific and technical institutions, as well as the industry, to actively participate in R&D activities and programmes related to prevention, response and monitoring of pollution from offshore activities;
- b) to encourage their respective national institutions and industry to present the results of their R&D activities and programmes in international fora;
- c) to provide information to the Secretariat on ongoing R&D activities, research needs; and

To request the Secretariat:

- a) to assist identifying 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) to facilitate dissemination and exchange of results of national R&D activities and programmes within and outside the Mediterranean region; and
- c) to facilitate the participation of national and regional research institutions and industry in the relevant international fora with a view to making better known the results of R&D activities undertaken in the Mediterranean region.

II.3.2 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 harmonize 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).

Specific objective 7: To develop and adopt regional offshore standards

The Contracting Parties agree:

- a) to develop or adapt to the Mediterranean context existing EIA regional standards taking into consideration requirements referred in Annex IV and other best practices by [2017];
- b) to formulate and adopt common standards on the use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material, defining *inter alia* limits and prohibitions at regional level by [2019];
- c) to review, as required, Annex I, II and III and differentiate which chemicals should be covered and not covered by such standards and under which conditions by [2019];
- d) to formulate and adopt common standards on the disposal of oil and oily mixtures and on the use and disposal of drilling fluids and cutting, and review the limits set in Article 10 and the prescriptions referred in Annex V of the Protocol by [2017];
- e) to commonly agree on and adopt the method to be used to analyse the oil content by [2017];
- f) to follow procedures for contingency planning, notification of accidental spills and transboundary pollution as set under the Protocol concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea;
- g) to define and adopt special restrictions or conditions for specially protected areas by [2017];

- h) to commonly agree on and adopt criteria, rules and procedures for the removal of installations and the related financial aspects by [2021];
- i) to commonly agree on and adopt criteria, rules and procedures for safety measures including health and safety requirements by [2023];
- j) to commonly agree on and adopt minimum standards of qualification for professionals and crews by [2023]; and

To request the Secretariat:

- a) to support through the relevant MAP Component the specific OFOG Sub-Groups for the development of the above common standards.

Specific objective 8: To develop and adopt regional offshore guidelines

With a view to facilitate the development and implementation of the appropriate policy, legal instruments and institutional arrangements, in accordance with the adopted regional offshore standards,

The Contracting Parties agree to develop regional guidelines on:

- a) Environment Impact Assessment by [2017];
- b) Use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material by [2019];
- c) Disposal of oil and oily mixtures and the use and disposal drilling fluids and cutting and analytical measurement by [2017];
- d) Removal of installations and the related financial aspects by [2021];
- e) Installation safety measures including health and safety requirements by [2023];
- f) Minimum standards of qualification for professionals and crews by [2023]; and
- g) Authorization requirements based on the above mentioned Standards by [2024].

The Contracting Parties further agree:

- h) to contribute through their OPRC Focal Points to the revision of the Section II of the Manual on Oil Pollution – Contingency Planning by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR) scheduled for [2015] which will include new information related to contingency planning for offshore units, sea ports and oil handling facilities; and

To request the Secretariat:

- a) to support through the relevant MAP Components, 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

Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) is the overarching principle of the Barcelona Convention, aiming to achieve good environmental status of the Mediterranean by [2020] and ensuring adequate monitoring and assessment of the status on a cyclical basis.

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 Ecosystem Approach including adopting definitions of Good

Environmental Status 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 Contracting Parties agree:

- a) to define, by [2017], a regional monitoring programme for offshore activities building, *inter alia*, on the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the EcAp, as well as, the relevant work of the regional bodies;
- b) to report by [2017] and every two years thereafter to the Secretariat results of the national offshore monitoring programme and provide the agreed data;
- c) [to report to the Secretariat in the framework of the monitoring programme deviation from the initial EIA;]; and

To request the Secretariat:

- a) to coordinate the development/adoption of Mediterranean Monitoring Procedures and Programmes between 2016 and 2017 for the above, building on the relevant work undertaken in the Monitoring Correspondence Groups in the EcAp process in line with Decision 21/3;
- b) to define, by 2016, the cost and to develop, by [2017], and manage 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) to produce, disseminate and publish by [2017] and every two years thereafter a report on Discharges, Spills and Emissions from Offshore Oil and Gas Installations, based on data submitted by countries.

PART III – REPORTING

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

To ensure the effective and timely implementation of the Offshore Protocol Action Plan

The Contracting Parties agree:

- a) to report on the implementation of this Action Plan, in particular on the effectiveness of the measures defined in this Action Plan and difficulties encountered by [2017] and every two years thereafter;
- b) to review biennially the status of implementation of the Action Plan on the basis of the regional report prepared by the Secretariat; and

To request the Secretariat:

- a) to draft 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, by [2016];
- b) to organise, subject to funds availability, the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol; and
- c) to consolidate the report on the implementation of the Action Plan by [2017] and every two years thereafter 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 – Implementation goals and tentative timetable for the implementation of the Offshore Protocol Action Plan

Appendix 2 – Draft estimation of required means for the implementation of the Offshore Protocol Action Plan

Appendix 3 – Technical cooperation and capacity building programme

Appendix 4 – Potential research topics

MEDITERRANEAN OFFSHORE ACTION PLAN

Appendix 2: DRAFT ESTIMATION OF REQUIRED MEANS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN

Specific Objective	Activities	Means required	Estimated cost (Euro)
1. To ratify the Offshore Protocol	a) Contracting Parties ratify and transpose into national law the Offshore Protocol	Contracting Parties time	0
	a) The Secretariat to provide Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, which so request, with advice and technical assistance	Technical Support and Secretariat staff time	75,000
2. To designate Contracting Parties' Representatives to participate to the regional governing bodies	a) MAP Focal Point to nominate the National Offshore Focal Point to coordinate, at national level, activities carried out in the framework of the Action Plan and actively participate in the OFOG Group	Nomination Contracting Parties time	0
	b) National Offshore Focal Point to designate, upon request by the Secretariat, the appropriate national entities and/or officials as contact points for each OFOG Sub-Group	Nomination	0
	c) National Offshore Focal Point to take the 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.	Volunteering	0
	a) The Secretariat to encourage the participation of the industry and invite their representative as observers to the OFOG Sub-Groups	Secretariat staff time and travels	End note ⁱ Secretariat Travels on Official Business
	b) The Secretariat to enhance public awareness through the contribution of IGOs and NGOs with a relevant mandate to the topics discussed in the various OFOG Sub-Groups to participate as observers and ensure an open and transparent process through public consultations	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
	c) The Secretariat to establish institutional cooperation with various relevant regional and global institutions, initiatives and agreements	Secretariat staff time and travels	End note ⁱ Secretariat Travels on Official Business
	d) The Secretariat to publish and keep up to date on a dedicated website the composition of the OFOG Group and Sub-Groups	Website developer	20,000
	e) The Secretariat to keep updated the list of the National Offshore Focal Points and OFOG Sub-Group Focal Points	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ

Specific Objective	Activities	Means required	Estimated cost (Euro)
	f) The Secretariat to define, in consultation with MAP Focal Points, the roles and responsibilities of UNEP/MAP Components for adoption by the Contracting Parties to facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
	g) The Secretariat to propose, the required means including human resources to ensure the implementation of the Action Plan and the support of the relevant UNEP/MAP Components	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
3. To establish a technical cooperation and capacity building programme	a) Contracting Parties to agree on the technical cooperation and capacity programme as set in Appendix 3		
	Technical Cooperation for the development of Standards and Guidelines		
	• Monitoring	Consultancy funds	20,000
	• Use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material	Consultancy funds	20,000
	• Disposal of oil and oily mixtures and on the use and disposal drilling fluids and cutting	Consultancy funds	20,000
	• Offshore platform Preparedness and Response & Contingency Plan Assessment	Participation of Contracting Parties to the IMO PPR meetings	0
	• Removal of installations and the related financial aspects	Consultancy funds	20,000
	• Safety measures including health and safety requirements and fire fighting	Consultancy funds	20,000
	• Minimum standards of qualification for professionals and crews	Consultancy funds	20,000
	• Granting of authorizations	Consultancy funds	20,000
	• Inspection/sanctions (Installation/Discharge/Competent manning)	Consultancy funds	20,000
	• Training³		
	• Monitoring	Training funds	60,000
	• Use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material	Training funds	60,000
• Disposal of oil and oily mixtures and on the use and disposal drilling fluids	Training funds	60,000	

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

Specific Objective	Activities	Means required	Estimated cost (Euro)
	and cutting		
	<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
	<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 authorizations 	Training funds	60,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspection/sanctions (Installation/Discharge/Competent manning) 	Training funds	60,000
	a) The Secretariat to include the technical cooperation and capacity building programme in the six-year programme of activities of UNEP/MAP and its relevant Components and in the biennium programme of work	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
	b) The Secretariat to propose the corresponding budget to be adopted by the Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
	c) The Secretariat to identify donors to secure funds required for the implementation of the technical cooperation and capacity building programme	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
4. To establish a financial mechanism for the implementation of the Action Plan	a) Contracting Parties to consider the establishment of a financial mechanism aimed at supporting the implementation of the Action Plan, in particular its provisions related to the OFOG Group, technical cooperation, capacity building and monitoring activities	Contracting Parties time and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Spec. Objective 10
	a) The Secretariat to identify additional donors to secure funds for the implementation of the Action Plan	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
	b) The Secretariat to propose Terms of Reference for an Offshore Action Plan financial mechanism	Consultancy funds	20,000
5. To promote access to information and public participation in decision-making	a) Contracting Parties to adopt a template for public information in line with national and regional rules on access to information	Contracting Parties time and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Spec. Objective 10
	b) Contracting Parties to report to the Secretariat every two years, relevant information on the offshore installations within their jurisdiction including, when	Contracting Parties time	0

Specific Objective	Activities	Means required	Estimated cost (Euro)
	appropriate, information on their disposal for inclusion in the inventory to be maintained by the Secretariat		
	c) Contracting Parties to 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	Contracting Parties time	0
	a) The Secretariat to 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	Consultancy funds	20,000
	b) The Secretariat to assess by the cost of an online regional system, to develop it and maintain it for the purpose of public information sharing	Online regional system	20,000
	c) The Secretariat to publish and keep up to date on a dedicated website the inventory of installations as well as the discharges, spills and emissions from offshore oil and gas installations data submitted by the Contracting Parties	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
	d) The Secretariat to consolidate in a report the discharges, spills and emissions from offshore oil and gas installations data submitted by the Contracting Parties	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
6. To enhance the regional transfer of technology	a) Contracting Parties to encourage their respective scientific and technical institutions, as well as the industry, to actively participate in R&D activities and programmes related to prevention, response and monitoring of pollution from offshore activities	Contracting Parties time	0
	b) Contracting Parties to encourage their respective national institutions and industry to present the results of their R&D activities and programmes in international fora	Contracting Parties time	0
	c) Contracting Parties to provide information to the Secretariat on ongoing R&D activities, research needs	Contracting Parties time	0
	a) The Secretariat to assist identifying 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	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
	b) The Secretariat to facilitate dissemination and exchange of results of national R&D activities and programmes within and outside the Mediterranean region	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ

Specific Objective	Activities	Means required	Estimated cost (Euro)
	c) The Secretariat to facilitate the participation of national and regional research institutions and industry in the relevant international fora with a view to making better known the results of R&D activities undertaken in the Mediterranean region	Travels	20,000
7. To develop and adopt regional offshore standards	a) Contracting Parties to develop or adapt to the Mediterranean context existing EIA regional standards taking into consideration requirements referred in Annex IV and other best practices	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) Contracting Parties to formulate and adopt common standards on the use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material, defining <i>inter alia</i> limits and prohibitions at regional level	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) Contracting Parties to review, as required, Annex I, II and III and differentiate which chemicals should be covered and not covered by such standards and under which conditions	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) Contracting Parties to formulate and adopt common standards on the disposal of oil and oily mixtures and on the use and disposal of drilling fluids and cutting, and review the limits set in Article 10 and the prescriptions referred in Annex V of the Protocol	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) Contracting Parties to commonly agree on and adopt the method to be used to analyse the oil content	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore	Spec. Objective 3 Spec. Objective 10

Specific Objective	Activities	Means required	Estimated cost (Euro)
		Protocol	
	f) Contracting Parties to follow procedures for contingency planning, notification of accidental spills and transboundary pollution as set under the Protocol concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea	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) Contracting Parties to define and adopt special restrictions or conditions for Specially Protected Areas	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) Contracting Parties to commonly agree on and adopt criteria, rules and procedures for the removal of installations and the related financial aspects	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) Contracting Parties to commonly agree on and adopt criteria, rules and procedures for safety measures including health and safety requirements	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) Contracting Parties to commonly agree on and adopt minimum standards of qualification for professionals and crews	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
	a) The Secretariat to support through the relevant MAP Component the specific OFOG Sub-Groups for the development of the above common standards	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ

Specific Objective	Activities	Means required	Estimated cost (Euro)
8. To develop and adopt regional offshore guidelines on	a) Contracting Parties to develop and adopt regional guidelines on Environment Impact Assessment	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) Contracting Parties to develop and adopt regional guidelines on Use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material	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) Contracting Parties to develop and adopt regional guidelines on disposal of oil and oily mixtures and the use and disposal drilling fluids and cutting and analytical measurement	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) Contracting Parties to develop and adopt regional guidelines on removal of installations and the related financial aspects	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) Contracting Parties to develop and adopt regional guidelines on installation safety measures including health and safety requirements	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) Contracting Parties to develop and adopt regional guidelines on minimum standards of qualification for professionals and crews	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore	Spec. Objective 3 Spec. Objective 10

Specific Objective	Activities	Means required	Estimated cost (Euro)
		Protocol	
	g) Contracting Parties to develop and adopt regional guidelines on authorization requirements based on the above mentioned Standards	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) Contracting Parties to contribute through their OPRC Focal Points to the revision of Section II of the Manual on Oil Pollution – Contingency Planning by the International Maritime Organization (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	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
	a) The Secretariat to support through the relevant MAP Components, the specific OFOG Sub-Groups for the development of the above common guidelines	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
9. To establish regional offshore monitoring procedures and programme	a) Contracting Parties to define a regional monitoring programme for offshore activities building, <i>inter alia</i> , on the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the EcAp, as well as, the relevant work of the regional bodies	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) Contracting Parties to report every two years to the Secretariat results of the national offshore monitoring programme and provide the agreed data	Contracting Parties time	0
	c) Contracting Parties to report to the Secretariat in the framework of the monitoring programme deviation from the initial EIA	Contracting Parties time	0
	a) The Secretariat to coordinate the development/adoption of Mediterranean Monitoring Procedures and Programmes, building on the relevant work undertaken in the Monitoring Correspondence Groups in the EcAp process in line with Decision 21/3	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
	b) The Secretariat to define the cost and to develop and manage the Mediterranean Offshore Reporting and Monitoring System	Mediterranean Offshore Reporting and Monitoring System	20,000

Specific Objective	Activities	Means required	Estimated cost (Euro)
	c) The Secretariat to produce, disseminate and publish every two years a report on Discharges, Spills and Emissions from Offshore Oil and Gas Installations, based on data submitted by countries	Secretariat staff time, publication and dissemination	9,000 ⁴
10. To report on the implementation of the Action Plan	a) Contracting Parties to 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	Contracting Parties time	0
	b) Contracting Parties to review biennially the status of implementation of the Action Plan on the basis of the regional report prepared by the Secretariat	Contracting Parties time	0
	a) The Secretariat to draft Guidelines on the structure and content of the national report on the implementation of this Action Plan considering existing reporting procedures	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
	b) The Secretariat to organize the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Travel/DSA	300,000 ⁵
	c) The Secretariat to consolidate the report on the implementation of the Action Plan for its submission to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol and the Meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
Secretariat Travels on Official Business	Participate in relevant meetings and events	Travel/DSA	100,000 ⁶
TOTAL			1,304,000⁷

ⁱ Taking into account the amount of tasks to be implemented by the Secretariat, the creation of a five-year Project Post should be envisaged, with the assumption that the Officer is recruited at P3 level, the annual cost would be estimated at Euro 107,000 with an annual increase of approximately 4.5%. For cost reduction purposes, this role could be fulfilled by a national officer seconded every two years by Contracting Parties to the Secretariat.

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

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

⁶ Assumption: Budget of 10,000 Euro per year over the Action Plan period (2015-2024) for Secretariat Travels on Official Business

⁷ Excluding the cost related to the Officer –in-Charge of supporting the implementation of the Action Plan

MEDITERRANEAN OFFSHORE ACTION PLAN
Appendix 3 – TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

	Year ⁸				
	15	16	17	18	19
Technical support (Consultancy services) for the development of Standards and Guidelines⁹	15	16	17	18	19
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 authorizations					
Training	15	16	17	18	19
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 authorizations					
Inspection/sanctions (Installation/Discharge/Competent manning)					

⁸ Subject to availability of funds

⁹ Offshore platform Preparedness and Response & Contingency Plan Assessment will be followed by Contracting Parties through the Meeting of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR).

MEDITERRANEAN OFFSHORE ACTION PLAN

Appendix 4: 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