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Agenda item 4. Status of Implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan and Recommendations for Potential Updates

Status of Implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan and Proposed Recommendations for Further Streamlining of the Ecosystem Approach and other Regional and Global Developments

Draft

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Note by the Secretariat

1. 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, hereinafter referred to as the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan, was adopted by the Contracting Parties in their 19th Ordinary Meeting (COP 19, Athens, Greece, February 2016, Decision IG.22/3), with the overall objective of *“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”*.
2. The Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan provides for the achievement of 10 specific objectives, structured around four main components, namely (i) Governance Framework; (ii) Regional Offshore Standards and Guidelines; (iii) Monitoring and (iv) Reporting. The timeline of its implementation is 2016 to 2024.
3. Considering that the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan has entered the fourth year of its implementation period, the Secretariat, with support from the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), has undertaken a review of the status of its implementation based on relevant available information. This includes outcomes and conclusions of key meetings related to the Offshore Protocol, National Implementation Reports submitted by the Contracting Parties in the last two biennia, and national responses to questionnaires related to the Offshore Standards and Guidelines prepared and distributed by REMPEC in the last biennium.
4. The present document has tried to identify the challenges faced in the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan as well as needs for further support to the Contracting Parties. It also makes some general recommendations for fostering its implementation considering several recent policy and regulatory developments of MAP - Barcelona Convention namely the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), the MAP Ecological Objectives and Good Environmental Status (GES) targets, and the Integrated Mediterranean Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP).
5. The present document is composed of two parts: a) status of implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan; b) overall analysis and recommendations to strengthen integration with work under other policy and regulatory instruments of MAP - Barcelona Convention.

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List of Abbreviations/Acronyms

BCRS	Barcelona Convention Reporting System
CP	Contracting Party
CRF	Common Regional Framework
EcAp	Ecosystem Approach
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EO	Ecological Objective
GES	Good Environmental Status
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IGO	Intergovernmental Organisation
IMAP	Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OFOG	Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group
PoW	Programme of Work
PPR	Pollution Prevention and Response
R&D	Research and Development
REMPEC	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SO	Specific Objective
SPA	Specially Protected Area
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

1. Status of implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan

1. Since the adoption of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan in 2016, significant progress has been achieved in the implementation of its Specific Objectives. The following tables 1 and 2 provide an overview of the status of implementation at Specific Objectives and Outputs level based on available information, including National Reports on the implementation of the Offshore Protocol submitted by fourteen Contracting Parties through the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS) in the last two biennia (seven in 2016-2017, and seven in 2014-2015), and national responses to relevant questionnaires (seven Contracting Parties).

2. It should be noted that the assessment of the implementation of the Offshore Action Plan at national level is based on available information provided and might not reflect the exact situation in the whole region. This table will be further completed with additional information by the Contracting Parties during and after the second Meeting of OFOG, to be held in end of June 2019.

Table 1. Status of implementation of Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol	Means required	Status of Implementation to Date
1. To ratify the Offshore Protocol	a) Ratification by all Contracting Parties of the Offshore Protocol, transposition of the Offshore Protocol into national law, and cooperation through the Secretariat to ensure compliance with its provisions	Art.32	Contracting Parties time	Ongoing. 8 CPs ratified ¹ One ratification during the AP implementation period (Croatia in 2018).
	b) Review of the effectiveness of the Offshore Protocol	Art.30	Contracting Parties time	Ongoing. Through the biennial assessment of National Reports on the implementation of the Offshore Protocol (in BCRS) and present review.
2. To designate Contracting Parties' Representatives to participate to the regional governing bodies	a) Nomination of the National Offshore Focal Point designated by all MAP Focal Points to coordinate at national level activities carried out in the framework of the Action Plan and actively participate in the OFOG Group	Art.28 Decision IG.21/8	Nomination Contracting Parties time	Ongoing. 12 CPs nominated Offshore Focal Points – sufficient participation in OFOG meetings (2017 and 2019).
	b) Designation, upon request by the Secretariat, through their National Offshore Focal Point, of the appropriate national entities and/or officials as contact points for each OFOG Sub- Group	Art.28 Decision IG.21/8	Nomination	Ongoing. 10 CPs participated in the 1st OFOG meeting In April 2017 – Higher participation expected in the present 2nd OFOG meeting.

¹ Albania, Croatia, Cyprus, EU, Libya, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol	Means required	Status of Implementation to Date
	c) Leadership, on a voluntary basis, of the established Sub-Groups to coordinate with the support of the Secretariat the work assigned to the Sub-Groups	Art.28 Decision IG.21/8	Volunteering	Started/in progress.
3. To establish a technical cooperation and capacity building programme	a) Technical cooperation and capacity building programme endorsed as set in Appendix 2	Art.24		Started. Discussions ongoing with MAP partners including from industry for the definition of possible cooperation and capacity building programmes. Planning included in proposed PoW 2020-2021.
Technical Cooperation for the Development of Standards and Guidelines:				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring 		Consultancy funds	Ongoing. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/3, WG.434/4, WG.434/5, WG.434/6, submitted to and reviewed by the 1 st OFOG meeting (Greece, April 2017).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material 		Consultancy funds	Planned.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disposal of oil and oily mixtures and on the use and disposal drilling fluids and cutting 		Consultancy funds	Completed. Common Standards and Guidance on the Disposal of Oil and Oily Mixtures and the Use and Disposal of Drilling Fluids and Cuttings developed (UNEP/MED WG.476/4).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offshore platform Preparedness and Response & Contingency Plan Assessment 		Participation of Contracting Parties to the IMO PPR meetings	Ongoing. Addressed through REMEPC work.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of installations and the related financial aspects 		Consultancy funds	Not started.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety measures including health and safety requirements and fire fighting 		Consultancy funds	Not started.

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol	Means required	Status of Implementation to Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum standards of qualification for professionals and crews 		Consultancy funds	Not started.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Granting of authorisations 		Consultancy funds	Not started.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspection/sanctions (Installation/Discharge/Competent manning) 		Consultancy funds	Not started.
Training:				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring 		Training funds	Planned. Planning foreseen in the proposed PoW 2020-2021 (See also SO 4)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material 		Training funds	Planned. Planning foreseen in the proposed PoW 2020-2021 (See also SO 4)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disposal of oil and oily mixtures and on the use and disposal drilling fluids and cutting 		Training funds	Planned. Planning foreseen in the proposed PoW 2020-2021 (See also SO 4)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offshoreplatform Preparednessand Response & Contingency Plan Assessment 		Training funds	Planned. Planning foreseen in the proposed PoW 2020-2021 (See also SO 4)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of installations 		Training funds	Planned. Planning foreseen in the proposed PoW 2020-2021 (See also SO 4)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety measures including health and safety requirements and fire fighting 		Training funds	Planned. Planning foreseen in the proposed PoW 2020-2021 (See also SO 4)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum standards of qualification for professionals and crews 		Training funds	Planned. Planning foreseen in the proposed PoW 2020-2021 (See also SO 4)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Granting of authorisations 		Training funds	Planned. Planning foreseen in the proposed PoW 2020-2021 (See also SO 4)

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol	Means required	Status of Implementation to Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection/sanctions (Installation/Discharge/Competent manning) 		Training funds	Planned. Planning foreseen in the proposed PoW 2020-2021 (See also SO 4)
4. To mobilise resources for the implementation of the Action Plan	a) Financial and human resources mobilised to support the implementation of the Action Plan, in particular its provisions related to the OFOG Group, technical cooperation, capacity building and monitoring activities	Art.31	Contracting Parties time and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Ongoing. Additional resources provided through the Cooperation Agreement with IMELS for relevant PoW 2018-2019 activities. Discussions ongoing with external entities for future resources in line with proposed PoW 2020-2021.
5. To promote access to information and public participation in decision- making	a) Template for public information in line with national and regional rules on access to information	Art.23, 25 & 26	Contracting Parties time and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Started.
	b) Report to the Secretariat every two years relevant information on the offshore installations within their jurisdiction including, when appropriate, information on their disposal for inclusion in the inventory to be maintained by the Secretariat	Art 6 & Art 17	Contracting Parties time	Ongoing. 4 CPs (out of those for which information was provided)
	c) Report to the Secretariat every two years discharges, spills and emissions from offshore oil and gas installations data in accordance with the monitoring programme to be defined by the relevant OFOG Sub-Group	Art 17	Contracting Parties time	Ongoing. Through the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (Revised Reporting Format adopted including for the Offshore Protocol (Decision IG.23/1)
6. To enhance the regional transfer of technology	a) Active participation of the respective scientific and technical institutions, as well as the industry, in R&D activities and programmes related to prevention, response and monitoring of pollution from offshore activities	Art.22	Contracting Parties time	Not available information.

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol	Means required	Status of Implementation to Date
	b) Presentation of the results of R&D activities and programmes by their respective national institutions and industry in international fora	Art.22	Contracting Parties time	Not available information.
	c) Information on ongoing R&D activities and research needs provided to the Secretariat	Art.22	Contracting Parties time	Not available information.
7. To develop and adopt regional offshore standards ²	a) Environmental impact assessment regional standards developed based on existing EIA regional standards taking into consideration requirements referred in Annex IV and other best practices	Art.5,6,7, 8 & 23 Annex IV	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Ongoing. Yes: 1 CP; Some related laws in place: 8 CPs; Draft laws: 1 CPs (out of those for which information was provided) Also, contribution of CPs in the development of Guidelines for the Conduct of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) (UNEP/MED WG.476/3).
	b) Common standards, on the use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material, in line with relevant international standards and conventions defining inter alia limits and prohibitions at regional level formulated and adopted	Art.5,6,7, 8,9,14 &23 Annexes I, II & III	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Ongoing. Yes: 9 CPs; Some related laws in place: 4 CPs (out of those for which information was provided)
	c) Identification of the required modifications of Annex I, II and III and definition of which chemicals should be covered and not covered by such standards and under which conditions	Art.5,6,7, 8,9 & 23 Annexes I, II & III	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Ongoing. Yes: 6 CPs, Some related laws in place: 5 CPs (out of those for which information was provided) Also, UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/3 List of Pollutants reviewed by the 1st OFOG meeting in April 2017.

² A Draft Regional standards and guidelines for offshore activities was developed in May 2018, led by REMPEC

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol	Means required	Status of Implementation to Date
	d) Common standards on the disposal of oil and oily mixtures and on the use and disposal of drilling fluids and cutting formulated and adopted, and revision of the limits set in Article 10 and the prescriptions referred in Annex V of the Protocol	Art.5,6,7, 8,10,14 & 23 Annex V Appendix	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Ongoing. Yes: 4 CPs, Some related laws in place: 4 CPs (out of those for which information was provided) Also, contribution of CPs in the development of Common Standards and Guidance on the Disposal of Oil and Oily Mixtures and the Use and Disposal of Drilling Fluids and Cuttings (UNEP/MED WG. 476/4).
	e) The method to be used to analyse the oil content is commonly agreed and adopted	Art.5,6,7, 8,10 & 23	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Ongoing. Yes: 2 CPs, Some related laws in place: 2 CPs (out of those for which information was provided)
	f) Procedures for contingency planning, notification of accidental spills and transboundary pollution established in accordance with the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea	Art.5,6,7, 8,16,17,18,26 & 23 Annex VII	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Ongoing. Yes: 5 CPs; Some related laws in place: 3 CPs (out of those for which information was provided) Also, contribution of the CPs to the development of of the Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents (COP 20 - Decision IG. 23/11).

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol	Means required	Status of Implementation to Date
	g) Special restrictions or conditions for SPAs defined and adopted	Art.5,6,7, 8,21 & 23	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Ongoing. Yes: 3 CPs (out of those for which information was provided) Also, contribution of CPs in the development of Common Standards and Guidelines for Special Restrictions or Conditions for Specially Protected Areas (SPA) within the Framework of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (UNEP/MED WG. 476/5)
	h) Common criteria, rules and procedures for the removal of installations and the related financial aspects adopted	Art.5,6,7, 8,20 & 23	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Ongoing. Yes: 5 CPs Draft: 1 CPs (out of those for which information was provided)
	i) Common criteria, rules and procedures for safety measures including health and safety requirements adopted	Art.5,6,7, 8,15 & 23 Annex VI	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Ongoing. Yes: 4 CPs Some related laws in place: 3 CPs (out of those for which information was provided).
	j) Common minimum standards of qualification for professionals and crews adopted	Art.5,6,7, 8,15 & 23 Annex VI	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Not available information.

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol	Means required	Status of Implementation to Date
8. To develop and adopt regional offshore guidelines ³	a) Regional Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment	Art.5,6,7, 8 & 23 Annex IV	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Ongoing. Yes, to some degree: 3 CPs (out of those for which information was provided) Also, contribution of CPs in the development of Guidelines for the Conduct of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) (UNEP/MED WG. 476/3).
	b) Regional Guidelines on the use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material	Art.5,6,7, 8,9,14 & 23 Annexes I, II & III	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Ongoing. Yes, to some degree: 1 CP (out of those for which information was provided).
	c) Regional Guidelines on the disposal of oil and oily mixtures and the use and disposal drilling fluids and cutting and analytical measurement	Art.5,6,7, 8,10,14 & 23 Annex V	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Ongoing. Yes, to some degree: 2 CPs (out of those for which information was provided). Also, contribution of CPs in the development of Common Standards and Guidance on the Disposal of Oil and Oily Mixtures and the Use and Disposal of Drilling Fluids and Cuttings (UNEP/MED WG. 476/4).
	d) Regional Guidelines on removal of installations and the related financial aspects	Art.5,6,7, 8,20 & 23	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Ongoing. Draft: 1 CP (out of those for which information was provided).

³ A Draft Regional standards and guidelines for offshore activities was developed in May 2018, led by REMPEC

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol	Means required	Status of Implementation to Date
	e) Regional Guidelines on installation safety measures including health and safety requirements	Art.5,6,7, 8,15 & 23 Annex VI	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Not available information.
	f) Regional Guidelines on minimum standards of qualification for professionals and crews	Art.5,6,7, 8,15 & 23 Annex VI	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Not available information.
	g) Regional Guidelines on authorisation requirements based on the above-mentioned Standards	Art.4,5,6, 7,8,14 & 23	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Ongoing Yes: 12 CPs; Under development: 1 CP (out of those for which information was provided).
	h) A report assessing national, regional and international, rules, procedures and practices regarding liability and compensation for loss and damage resulting from the activities dealt with in the Offshore Protocol. The report is to be presented to the Contracting Parties at CoP 20 to form the basis of a proposal to facilitate implementing Article 27 of that Protocol.	Art.5,6,7, 8, 17, 23 & 27	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Ongoing. Some related laws in place: 4 CPs (out of those for which information was provided).

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol	Means required	Status of Implementation to Date
	i) Contribution through their OPRC Focal Points to the revision of the Section II of the Manual on Oil Pollution – Contingency Planning by the IMO Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR) which will include new information related to contingency planning for offshore units, sea ports and oil handling facilities	Art.5,6,7, 8,16 & 23	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Not available information.
9. To establish regional offshore monitoring procedures and programme	a) A regional monitoring programme for offshore activities building, inter alia, on the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme	Art. 5 & 10	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Ongoing. Yes: 6 CPs Some monitoring: 1 CP (out of those for which information was provided) UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/3, WG. 434/4, WG. 434/5, WG 434/6, submitted to and reviewed by the 1st OFOG meeting (Greece, April 2017).
	b) Results of the national offshore monitoring programme and the related agreed data are reported to the Secretariat every two years	Art. 5 & 19	Contracting Parties time	Planned. Through IMAP implementation.
10. To report on the implementation of the Action Plan	a) Report on the implementation of this Action Plan, in particular on the effectiveness of the measures defined in this Action Plan and difficulties encountered every two years	Art. 25 & 30	Contracting Parties time	Ongoing. 2016-17: 7 CPs 2014-15: 11 CPs (UNEP (DEPI)/MED WG.443/Inf.11) No reports submitted in the last two biennia by 8 CPs (out of which 3 Parties to the Protocol)
	b) Biennial review of the status of implementation of the Action Plan on the basis of the regional report prepared by the Secretariat	Art. 25 & 30	Contracting Parties time	Ongoing. Through the present document.

Table 2. Status of implementation of Outputs relating to the Secretariat and its Components

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol	Means required	Status of Implementation to Date
1. To ratify the Offshore Protocol	a) Provision of advice and technical assistance to Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, which so request	Art.32	Technical Support and Secretariat staff time	Ongoing.
	b) Assistance in reviewing the effectiveness of the Offshore Protocol	Art.30	Secretariat staff time, Consultancy funds	Ongoing.
2. To designate Contracting Parties representatives to participate to the regional governing bodies	a) Participation of the industry and their representatives as observers to the OFOG Sub-Groups	Art.28 Decision IG.21/8	Secretariat staff time and travels	10 CPs participated in the 1st OFOG meeting In April 2017 – [Report: UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/10] Higher participation expected in the present 2 nd OFOG meeting.
	b) Enhancement of public awareness through the contribution of IGOs and NGOs with a relevant mandate to the topics discussed in the various OFOG Sub-Groups, through their participation as observers, ensuring an open and transparent process through public consultations	Art.28 Decision IG.21/8	Secretariat staff time	Started. New Partners' submissions. Addressed also through development of EIA Guidelines
	c) Establishment of institutional cooperation with various relevant regional and global institutions, initiatives and agreements and, at an operational level, identification and use of possible synergies with ongoing activities of bodies such as the European Maritime Safety Agency	Art.28 Decision IG.21/8	Secretariat staff time and travels	Ongoing. Planning considered in the proposed PoW 2020-2021.
	d) Publication and update of the composition of the OFOG Group and Sub-Groups on a dedicated website	Art.28 Decision IG.21/8	Website developer	Not completed.
	e) Updated list of the National Offshore Focal Points and OFOG Sub-Group Focal Points	Decision IG.21/8	Secretariat staff time	Started, but not updated.
	f) Definition, in consultation with MAP Focal Points, of the roles and responsibilities of UNEP/MAP Components to facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan	Art.28 Decision IG.21/8	Secretariat staff time	Ongoing.
	g) Identification of the required means including human resources to ensure the implementation of the Action Plan and the support of the relevant UNEP/MAP Components. A draft estimation of the required means is found in Appendix 1	Art.28 Decision IG.21/8	Secretariat staff time	Ongoing. Provisions included in PoW 2018-2019 and the proposed 2020-2021
	3. To establish a technical cooperation and capacity building programme	a) Integration of the technical cooperation and capacity building programme in the six-year programme of activities of UNEP/MAP and its relevant Components and in their biennium programme of work	Art.24	Secretariat staff time
b) Preparation of the corresponding budget for consideration by the Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention		Art.24	Secretariat staff time	Planned. Planning foreseen in the proposed PoW 2020-2021

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol	Means required	Status of Implementation to Date
	c) Identification of donors to secure funds required for the implementation of the technical cooperation and capacity building programme	Art.24	Secretariat staff time	Ongoing. Discussion initiated with relevant partners and planning foreseen in the proposed PoW 2020-2021.
4. To mobilise resources for the implementation of the Action Plan	a) Identification of additional donors to secure funds for the implementation of the Action Plan	Art.31	Secretariat staff time	Ongoing. Discussion initiated with relevant partners and planning foreseen in the proposed PoW 2020-2021.
5. To promote access to information, public participation in decision-making	a) Support the preparation of the template for public information in line with existing Decisions of the Contracting Parties addressing public access to information and with UNEP's Access to Information Policy	Art.23, 25 & 26	Consultancy funds	Started.
	b) Development of an online regional system and to be maintained for the purpose of public information sharing	Art.23, 25 & 26	Online regional system	Planned. Through Info-MAP system.
	c) Publication every two years on a dedicated website of the inventory of installations as well as the discharges, spills and emissions from offshore oil and gas installations data submitted by the Contracting Parties	Art 6 & Art 17	Secretariat staff time	Started.
	d) Consolidated report every two years on the discharges, spills and emissions from offshore oil and gas installations data submitted by the Contracting Parties.	Art 17	Secretariat staff time	Ongoing. Through assessment of National Reports submitted through the BCRS assessment and REMPEC regular reports.
6. To enhance the participation of the regional transfer of technology	a) Support in the identification of fields of research in which there is a need for enhancement of the state-of-the-art of offshore pollution prevention, response and monitoring technologies and techniques	Art.22	Secretariat staff time	Not started.
	b) Dissemination and exchange of results of national R&D activities and programmes within and outside the Mediterranean region	Art.22	Secretariat staff time	Not started.
	c) Participation of national and regional research institutions and industry in the relevant international fora facilitated with a view to making better known the results of R&D activities undertaken in the Mediterranean region	Art.22	Travels	Not started.

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol	Means required	Status of Implementation to Date
7. To develop and adopt regional offshore standards	a) Support the specific OFOG Sub-Groups for the development of the above common standards	Art.23	Secretariat staff time	Ongoing. See present meeting documents UNEP/MED WG. 476/3, UNEP/MED WG. 476/4, UNEP/MED WG. 476/5
8. To develop and adopt regional offshore guidelines	a) Support the specific OFOG Sub-Groups for the development of the above common guidelines	Art.23	Secretariat staff time	Ongoing. See present meeting documents UNEP/MED WG. 476/3, UNEP/MED WG. 476/4, UNEP/MED WG. 476/5
9. To establish regional offshore monitoring procedures and programme	a) The development/adoption of Mediterranean Monitoring Procedures and Programmes for the above, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, building on the relevant work undertaken in the Monitoring Correspondence Groups in the EcAp process in line with Decision 21/3	Art.19	Secretariat staff time	Ongoing. See documents submitted to the 1st OFOG Meeting in 2017 UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/1 – 6 + WG.444/Inf.7/Corr.1
	b) Development of the Mediterranean Offshore Reporting and Monitoring System (e.g. Regional Data Bank on Offshore activities through the Barcelona Convention Reporting System or other systems defined by the Contracting Parties)	Art.19	Mediterranean Offshore Reporting and Monitoring System	Ongoing. Revised Reporting Format adopted including for the Offshore Protocol (Decision IG.23/1). IMAP implementation ongoing,
	c) Production, dissemination and publication every two years of a report on Discharges, Spills and Emissions from Offshore Oil and Gas Installations, based on data submitted by countries which should be used as a base for the State of Environment Report regarding the impacts of the offshore oil and gas industry	Art.17 & 19	Secretariat staff time, publication and dissemination	Ongoing. Through assessment National Reports on the implementation of the Offshore protocol (BCRS) and REMPEC reports.
10. To report on the implementation of the Action Plan	a) Guidelines on the structure and content of the national report on the implementation of this Action Plan considering existing reporting procedures (e.g. Reporting under the Compliance Committee) to avoid duplication of reporting procedures, as well as a set of indicators	Art.25 & 30	Secretariat staff time	Not started.
	b) Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Art.30	Travel/DSA	Ongoing. Two OFOG meetings organised (1st one in Loutraki, Greece, April 2017 and present meeting in Athens, Greece, June 2019).

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol	Means required	Status of Implementation to Date
	c) Consolidated report on the implementation of the Action Plan every two years for its submission to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol and the Meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Art.30	Secretariat staff time	Ongoing. Through the present document.

3. On the basis of the information provided in the tables above, the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan is progressing. Most of the outputs' implementation has started, and efforts are made from both the Contracting Parties and the Secretariat and MAP Components. There is however room for improvement especially regarding the rate of ratifications of the Offshore Protocol, the establishment of permanent mechanisms for Offshore representatives' participation in regional governing bodies, the provision of technical support and capacity building in a regular manner, etc. A summary of the status of implementation per Specific Objective of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan is provided below.

Table 3. Summary of the status of implementation per Specific Objective of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan

Specific Objectives	Overall Implementation Status
1. To ratify the Offshore Protocol	Ongoing To date, 8 Contracting Parties have ratified the Offshore protocol. One ratification was done after the adoption of the Offshore Action Plan.
2. To designate Contracting Parties' Representatives to participate to the regional governing bodies	Ongoing – on track Progress is ongoing under this Specific Objective with the nomination of a List of Offshore protocol Focal Points. The list requires more regular updating.
3. To establish a technical cooperation and capacity building programme	Ongoing Discussion have started with MAP partners, including from the offshore industrial sector for the designation of technical cooperation and capacity building programmes. The planning of such activities, including timeline, needs assessment etc. is included in the proposed PoW 2020-2021.
4. To mobilise resources for the implementation of the Action Plan	Ongoing Implementation of this specific objective is ongoing, with the mobilization of resources for the implementation of relevant activities of the MAP PoW 2018-2019 through the Cooperation Agreement with the Italian Ministry for Environment and Land and Sea Protection.

	<p>Negotiations are ongoing for additional support for activities to be implemented in 2020-2021, especially regarding technical cooperation and capacity building programmes.</p> <p>Identified resources need to be secured and additional resources to be mobilized.</p>
<p>5. To promote access to information and public participation in decision-making</p>	<p>Ongoing – on track</p> <p>The Secretariat is preparing a synthesis report based on the National Implementation Reports submitted by the Contracting Parties through the BCRS.</p> <p>REMPEC has started the development of a template for public information in line with existing Decisions of the Contracting Parties.</p> <p>The implementation of this specific objective is expected to be further supported through the establishment and operationalization of the centralized regional IMAP compatible Info-System which will support the preparation of key MAP Assessment Reports, including the next Mediterranean 2023 Quality Status Report.</p>
<p>6. To enhance the regional transfer of technology</p>	<p>Not on track and/or lack of information</p> <p>Implementation in many outputs has not started and there is lack of sufficient information. Additional efforts are required for the implementation of this Specific Objective.</p>
<p>7. To develop and adopt regional offshore standards</p>	<p>Ongoing – on track</p> <p>Regional Offshore Guidelines and Standards have been developed, in consultation with the Contracting Parties for key aspects related to offshore activities (i.e. on the conduct of EIA, the disposal of oil and oily mixtures and use and disposal of drilling fluids and cuttings, and the establishment of special restrictions or conditions for SPAs).</p>
<p>8. To develop and adopt regional offshore guidelines</p>	<p>The Guidelines and Standards have been submitted for review by respective MAP technical bodies, including the Meetings of the REMPEC Focal Points, the SPA/DB Thematic Focal Points and the present meeting, in view of possible submission to higher decision-making bodies (EcAp Coordination Group and MAP Focal Points Meetings).</p>
<p>9. To establish regional offshore monitoring procedures and programme</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Progress has been achieved under this Specific Objective, mainly following the outcomes of the First Meeting of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG) Sub-Group on Environmental Impact of Offshore Monitoring Programmes, held in Loutraki, Greece, on 3-4 April 2017. A limited list of IMAP Common and Candidate Indicators has been proposed for the monitoring of offshore activities; Work to continue.</p>
<p>10. To report on the implementation of the Action Plan</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	<p>The implementation of this Specific Objective is ensured through the submission of National Implementation Reports for the Offshore Protocol under the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS).</p> <p>The Revised Reporting Format for the Implementation of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols (COP 20, Tirana, Albania, December 2017, Decision IG. 23/1) ensures stronger linkages between the Offshore Protocol and the Action Plan.</p> <p>REMPEC is also undertaking regular assessment reports.</p>
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	Specific Objective overall on track
	Specific Objective ongoing but need for further work and support
	Specific Objective not on track and/or lack of information

2. Regional and global processes related to the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan

a) Ecosystem Approach Roadmap – Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme

4. A key development under the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap implementation following the adoption of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan has been the adoption of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) (COP 19 Decision IG. 22/7). The First Meeting of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG) Sub-Group on Environmental Impact of Offshore Monitoring Programmes, held in Greece on 3-4 April 2017, reviewed a proposed list of IMAP indicators relevant to the Offshore Monitoring Programme and related draft guidance fact sheets UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/6.

5. The First OFOG meeting suggested to review and revise this list with a more targeted and results based set of indicators, taking into consideration the different nature of offshore activities, as not all indicators may be relevant for different activities, in different locations considering the depth and the position of the installation (i.e. within or out of the continental shelf) as well as the type of installation for the future development of a mandatory set of indicators for offshore monitoring. It was stressed that IMAP monitoring data should be used to compliment the more targeted and site-specific monitoring of offshore installations and activities, and to provide information on whether the impact of activities affects the wider environment and coast (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/10).

6. IMAP implementation for the needs of Offshore Protocol and its Action Plan SO9 should be focused on the following list of Common and Candidate Indicators:

- a. **Common Indicator 1:** Habitat distributional range, to also consider habitat extent as a relevant attribute (EO1);
- b. **Common Indicator 2:** Condition of the habitat's typical species and communities (EO1);
- c. **Common Indicator 15:** Location and extent of the habitats impacted directly by hydrographic alterations (EO7);
- d. **Common Indicator 17:** Concentration of key harmful contaminants measured in the relevant matrix (EO9, related to biota, sediment, seawater)
- e. **Common Indicator 18:** Level of pollution effects of key contaminants where a cause and effect relationship has been established (EO9);

- f. **Common Indicator 19:** Occurrence, origin (where possible), and extent of acute pollution events (e.g. slicks from oil, oil products and hazardous substances) and their impact on biota affected by this pollution (EO9);
- g. **Candidate Indicator 26:** Proportion of days and geographical distribution where loud, low, and mid-frequency impulsive sounds exceed levels that are likely to entail significant impact on marine animals (EO11);
- h. **Candidate Indicator 27:** Levels of continuous low frequency sounds with the use of models as appropriate (EO11).

b) **Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)**

7. The adoption of Decision IG.23/7 on the “Implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Protocol: Annotated Structure of the Common Regional Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Conceptual Framework for Marine Spatial Planning”, by COP 20 (Tirana, Albania, December 2017) has been an important step to promote the implementation of MSP in the Mediterranean. This Decision provides a shared context to Contracting Parties and, most importantly, links MSP to Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) under a Common Regional Framework (CRF). According to this Decision, MSP is the appropriate tool for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol in the marine part of the coastal zone. It is therefore highly linked with the offshore activities and should be fully taken into consideration in the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan.

8. The Common Regional Framework (CRF) for ICZM, currently under finalization for COP 21 consideration, is well placed within the Barcelona Convention for ensuring an integrated implementation of the Offshore Action Plan. As provided in the General Structure and Elements of the Common Regional Framework for ICZM and Timetable of its Preparation (Decision IG. 23/7), its Part II can support the development and harmonization of policies and measures needed to ensure the sustainable use and management of coastal zones, ensuring that the economic activities related to coastal zones minimize the use of natural resources and are adapted to the fragile nature of coastal zones. The CRF for ICZM after its consideration and possible adoption by the Contracting Parties should be therefore used in the framework of the Offshore Action Plan as an integrative process providing the framework in which sectoral policies affecting the coastal zones, including offshore related ones, are brought together contributing to the rationalization of effort, resources and time. Part III of CRF for ICZM: Tools and instruments to implement the CRF, has a section on integrating the directions from the Offshore Protocol with IMAP and other assessment tools, *inter alia*, EIAs and SEAs.

9. Marine Spatial Planning offers an important tool for integrated management of different sectors in the sea area, including the offshore sector. The development of marine spatial plans based on the principles and steps outlined in the Conceptual Framework for MSP in the Mediterranean (Decision IG. 23/7), including the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), as an integral part of the preparation of MSP plans, can guide the development and regulation of offshore activities, thus contributing to the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan in synergy with other MAP Barcelona Convention policies.

c) **Other relevant developments**

10. Other MAP policies and technical documents should be taken into consideration for the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan, including pollution prevention and reduction Regional Plans, key species and habitats Action Plans and Guidelines developed under the Dumping Protocol, especially the Guidelines on the dumping of platforms and other man-made structures at sea adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in their 13th Ordinary Meeting in Catania, in November 2003. The London Dumping Protocol has updated its global Guidelines on the dumping of man-made structures and platforms recently and this should be taken into consideration.

11. Noting that the Contracting Parties agreed that the discharge and disposal of machinery oil, the treatment and discharge of sewage (Article 11), the disposal and discharge of garbage (Article 12), the reception facilities (Article 13) and the ship storage shall be regulated according to the requirements listed under the relevant Annexes of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), any relevant development should be considered and monitored, to ensure the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan, in accordance with international regulations.

12. SDG 14 on Life Below Water (*Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development*) is the one of most relevance to the Offshore Action Plan. Other relevant SDGs include the SDG 13 on Climate Action (*Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*), SDG 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production (*Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns*).

3. Way forward for further implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan

13. The implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan could benefit and contribute to the implementation of other regional and global instruments and processes analyzed above in line with its guiding Integration Principle. This integration can be achieved in two ways:

- i) Adjusting the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan, to adapt its language to include references on the above-mentioned instruments and processes; or
- ii) Maintaining the text of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan as it stands and applying the identified instruments and processes into its implementation.

14. Should option (i) is supported by the present meeting, a process should be launched in the course of the next biennium (2020-2021) during which a more elaborated analysis of the Action Plan and integration needs will be undertaken by the Secretariat, with support from REMPEC and other relevant MAP Components and in consultation with the Contracting Parties, for the development and submission of a concrete proposal to the COP 22.

15. Should the meeting decide to support option (ii), the Secretariat, with support from REMPEC and other relevant MAP Components, should provide concrete advice and support to the Contracting Parties on how relevant processes can be effectively streamlined into the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan.

16. An important element to be taken into consideration by the present meeting in defining the best way forward is the implementation timeline of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan. We are currently before the middle of its life span and it may be premature to draw safe conclusions about its state of implementation and needs for potential revision.

17. At this stage and taking into consideration that some of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan Outputs have not started, it is important to ensure the development of a comprehensive plan of action including milestones, and sufficient resources for its effective implementation.