

**Report of the 19th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP), 28 August 2014,
Athens, Greece**

EXECUTIVE COORDINATION PANEL (ECP)

Nineteenth Meeting

28 August 2014, Athens, Greece

Notes and Action Points

Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting and adoption of the agenda

1. Gaetano Leone, UNEP/MAP Coordinator, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. He referred to the formal nature of the ECP as mandated by decision IG17/5 (COP 15, Almeria, January 2008) and to the need to revive this crucial mechanism of coordination and execution of the Programme of Work.
2. The meeting was attended by:
 - Gaetano Leone, Coordinator, UNEP/MAP
 - Khalil Attia, Director of SPA/RAC
 - Jonathan Pace, Officer-in-charge/Head of REMPEC
 - Hugues Ravenel, Director of PB/RAC
 - Zeljka Scaricic, Director of PAP/RAC
 - Enrique Villamore de Martin, Director of SCP/RAC
 - Habib El Habr, Deputy Coordinator of UNEP/MAP, Officer-in-charge MED POL
 - Atila Uras, Programme Officer, UNEP/MAP
 - Kumiko Yatagai, Finance and Administration Officer, UNEP/MAP (Agenda item 3)
 - Lorenzo Galbiati, Project Manager of MedPartnership (Agenda items 3 and 4)
 - Gyorgyi Gurban, Project Manager of EcAp-MED (Agenda items 3 and 4)
3. The ECP reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECP.19/1.

Agenda item 2. Coordination, cooperation and accountability within the MAP system: principles, issues, challenges

4. The roles of the Coordinating Unit (CU) and the MAP components were discussed with a special emphasis on the scale of coordination. It was underlined that the complementary work of all the MAP Components must be efficiently delivered, in order to make sense as a big picture. It should be avoided to work in silos, and all efforts for effective and efficient integration need to be made. Coordination is essential in supporting the implementation of the Programme of Work (PoW), avoiding, however, undue interference.
5. There is shared responsibility for the delivery of the mandate of the Barcelona Convention and MAP system.
6. The ECP welcomed the MAP Planning and Priorities Table, a monitoring tool on quarterly basis developed and maintained by the CU, where milestones per PoW activities are listed.

#	Action item	Responsible	Deadline
1	Each component is expected to fill the sections of its responsibility and return it to the CU	RAC Directors	22 September 2014

7. Allocation of an earmarked budget for RACs cooperation as part of the biannual PoW could be considered when preparing the next PoW and budget.

Agenda item 3. Implementation of COP 18 decisions and delivery of the POW: review of progress and main issues (substantive and process-related, including preparation of project documents and reports)

8. The Administrative and Finance Task Force, agreed during the previous ECP meeting, is to be established.

#	Action item	Responsible	Deadline
2	Invite MAP Components to nominate members of the Administrative and Finance Task Force	Administration (Kumiko Yatagai)	30 September 2014

#	Action item	Responsible	Deadline
3	Organize a training session (either through skype or during the first in-person meeting) on the project document preparation and reporting prior to the next reporting period	CU (Atila Uras)	Before end of 2014

9. The RACs stated that existing MAP strategies and action plans should be mainstreamed into the new Midterm Strategy and activities for their implementation should be permanent part of each biennial PoW. This will secure their implementation with an appropriate budget allocation.

#	Action item	Responsible	Deadline
4	Share the detailed calendar of MSSD review process with other ECP members	CU (Atila Uras)	CU to by 12 September 2014.

10. The SCP Regional Action Plan, which will feed into the MSSD, will be discussed at the SCP/RAC Focal Points Meeting that will be organized in the third week of November 2014. ICZM will be part of the MSSD as a management approach rather than a "strategy" per se.
11. Options for greening MAP meetings/events and in general the work of the MAP system need to be further explored as a priority practice, and should be amongst the

initial work of the Administration and Finance Task Force, with the involvement of other interested Components.

#	Action item	Responsible	Deadline
5	Develop an agenda and have a test meeting on the greening issue.	Administration (Kumiko Yatagai)	31 October 2014

Agenda item 4. Partnerships and resource mobilization

12. For a better resource mobilization performance, it may be beneficial to refer to all existing UNEP/MAP strategies and action plans during Midterm Strategy preparations (as mentioned above).
13. In addition to resource mobilization, technical coordination and contribution to each other's work is a priority for CU and MAP Components, building on the on-going cooperation among RACs. In several occasions RACs include competent MAP Components as partner implementers of their projects.
14. The funding opportunities of EU, like in the example of the recent DG MARE call for proposal on Marine Spatial Planning should be followed closely. The future call for proposals on MSFD-related projects should be part of the agenda of the bilateral meetings of UNEP/MAP and EU in September 2014.
15. EEA cooperation regarding several existing data platforms is considered as an opportunity.

#	Action item	Responsible	Deadline
6	Send suggested priorities for GEF project/programme development to the MedPartnership Project Management Unit, to be taken to its Coordination Group Meeting in November 2014	RAC Directors	24 October 2014

16. SPA/RAC will participate to Marine Protected Areas Trust Fund Meeting in September 2014. Plan Bleu who was also invited provided SPA/RAC with its inputs.
17. Cooperation is being explored with University of Athens through Professor Raftopoulos regarding complementarities of Barcelona Convention (particularly ICZM Protocol) and EU Landscape Convention.
18. REMPEC will consider participation, as a project partner or as a member of the project steering committee, in a project proposal related to response to oil spills and marine pollution being submitted by the Technical University of Crete, CEDRE and other partners under the EC's Horizon 2020 Blue Growth: Unlocking the potential of Seas and Oceans call for project proposals 2014-2015.

Agenda item 5. Outreach, information and communications

19. Discussions were held on the request for proposals on a Virtual Knowledge Center (VKC) received from EU. It was agreed to consider the possibility of hosting the VKC at the CU with the help of MAP Components. The concerns and the points that need clarification will be included in the response that will be sent to EU by 15 September. Support of UNEP HQ Virtual Knowledge center will be sought.

#	Action item	Responsible	Deadline
7	Contact Info/RAC and ask for their comments	Gyorgyi Gurban	5 September 2014

20. Annual meeting of Regional Seas Programme will take place in Athens on 29 Sep – 1 October 2014, where 40th Anniversary of the Programme will also be celebrated. The RAC Directors are invited.

21. Regarding the 40th Anniversary of MAP in 2015, it was agreed to have series of events and use regional meetings as opportunities for outreach activities. SCP Congress tentatively planned for October 2015, 2015 Coast Day and other events will be used for PR and visibility. The anniversary could be an opportunity for updating the UNEP/MAP website.

22. Support for 40th Anniversary of MAP needs to be sought. RACs will also help for further possible fundraising, including with civil society and most importantly the private sector.

23. Info/RAC should be actively involved in 40th Anniversary of MAP process, as well as other communications activities of UNEP/MAP.

#	Action item	Responsible	Deadline
8	Assign a communications focal person to the previously agreed Communications Task Force, whose first task will be to draw up plans and ideas for the 40 th Anniversary of MAP	RAC Directors	30 September 2014
9	Inform the ECP on the policy to use UNEP logo	CU (Atila Uras, Didier Guiffault and Hoda Elturk)	17 October 2014

24. UNEP/MAP will be pioneering the “UNEP Life” Portal.

Agenda item 6. Calendar of ECP meetings in the biennium 2014-2015

25. It was agreed to have a teleconference on 9 September 2014 at 15:00 Athens time to update ECP on 78th Bureau Meeting outcomes.

26. ECP meetings should be organized in different RAC offices.

27. The tentative dates for other ECP meetings in the biennium are agreed as follows:

- 7-8 October 2014, prior to EcAp CG Meeting, Athens (to be confirmed).
- 19-20 January 2015, Plan Bleu premises, Sophia Antipolis.
- 16-17 February 2015, REMPEC premises, prior to MSSD Review Conference, Malta.
- 1-2 July 2015, Split.

Agenda item 7. Any Other Matters (78th Bureau Meeting update, status of HCAs and any other matter)

28. CU provided a briefing on the upcoming 78th Bureau Meeting.

29. Regarding the Host Country Agreements, the status of signatures was reviewed and discussed. The aim is to finalize and sign pending HCAs at COP 19.

#	Action item	Responsible	Deadline
10	Provide support and facilitate the process with their Host Countries.	Relevant RAC Directors	First half of 2015
11	To confirm existing bilateral nature of the REMPEC Host Country Agreement (i.e: Malta and IMO)	CU (Habib Elhabr)	October 2014

Agenda item 8. Closure of the Meeting

30. Meeting was closed at 18:00 on 28 August 2014.