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Agenda Item 4: Specific Issues

UNEP/MAP Strategic Response to the COVID-19 Crisis (June 2020)

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2020

UNEP/MAP Strategic response to the COVID-19 crisis

June 2020

Purpose and context

In the context of the articulation of the UNEP COVID-19 strategic response, this document identifies the main issues and priorities of relevance to the mandate of UNEP/MAP. The UNEP/MAP action on COVID-19 will be part of the global response led by UNEP with a focus on the Mediterranean region and its specificities.

The document is articulated around the blocks set forth in the UNEP's COVID-19 Response paper "*Working With the Environment to Protect People*", namely: (1) The medical and humanitarian emergency phase; (2) A transformational change for nature and people; (3) Investing to build back better; and (4) Modernising global environmental governance, with a focus on elements related to the UNEP/MAP–Barcelona Convention system's legal and policy framework.

This document should also be read in the context of the United Nations Secretary General's report on the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 and the UN Sustainable Development Group's framework for the immediate socio-economic response to the crisis and its impact.

The implementation of the priority actions identified in this document will be based on partnerships and coordination with regional and global actors, including *in primis* the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, as well as the BRS Conventions, CBD, FAO/GFCM, WHO, ACCOBAMS, OECD, the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development and UNEP/MAP non-governmental Partners.

At a later stage UNEP/MAP system will assess which of the priority response actions can be achieved through its approved Programme of Work and existing activities, possibly with minor adjustments and/or redirection, and which actions require new activities in the framework of the next Medium-Term Strategy and Programmes of Work.

Building blocks for responding to the COVID-19

BLOCK 1: THE MEDICAL AND HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY PHASE

A sound COVID-19 response requires an adequate waste management response addressing the increase in the quantity of discarded single-use plastic items and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

The COVID-19 crisis is having increasingly visible implication for waste management. For instance, the widespread disposable face masks are mostly made of Polyethylene—a plastic that is nearly impossible for nature to completely break down.

The LBS Protocol provides the legal framework for the prevention, reduction, assessment and control of waste, including plastics in the Mediterranean. UNEP/MAP response will address the following priority issues:

- ensuring that contaminated municipal and medical waste is managed and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner, thus avoiding related pollution discharge into the Sea and the respective coastal zones, in particular disposable PPE (such as masks, gloves and gowns).
- with a view to reducing medical waste generation: promoting, to the extent possible, the use of reusable material and discouraging the excessive use of single-use items when it is not mandatory based on WHO recommendations and/or relevant national health authority directives.
- promoting preventive measures to minimize the wildlife trapping/entanglement hazards of such material.
- mitigating possible impacts on the national processes and rules applied in the recycling of plastic wastes, as some household items may be exempted from recycling due to contamination risks. A potential roll back of regulations and measures on single-use plastic bags (such as bans or taxes) as part of the COVID-19 prevention efforts is also possible and will require further attention. Robust systems for waste segregation, collection and management are to be taken into account in the implementation and planned revision of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management.
- ensuring interaction with and contribution to relevant global processes in the framework of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and WHO, especially those pertaining to the development of guidelines and best practices for the management of medical waste.
- assessing risks related to the possible contamination of the marine and coastal areas through wastewater outfalls. Specific analyses are required to identify potential traces of COVID-19 transferred to sea through treated wastewater and to assess any possibility of transmission through the trophic chain. In addition, the use of untreated wastewater for irrigation purposes in some Mediterranean countries should be assessed under the COVID-19 angle to address any potential risks.

- pursuing ongoing processes on development and/or updating of the UNEP/MAP legal and regulatory framework, including updating of the Annexes to the LBS Protocol and the development of new/updated Regional Plans (on municipal waste, sludge management, marine litter, etc.). This endeavour will consider these elements with a view to including provisions for contaminated municipal and medical waste, as appropriate, and analysis of wastewater to address potential contamination issues.
- strengthening efforts aiming to close all existing illegal dump sites on land and preventing any emerging illegal dumping of medical waste on beaches, in the sea and in rivers in accordance with the provisions of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management.
- addressing the impact of increased demand for and production of cleaning products and disinfectants, including the swift introduction into the market of new disinfectants, in the context of the implementation of pollution-related Protocols of the Barcelona Convention. The aim is to ensure their proper use and assess as well as prevent any potential impacts on the marine and coastal environment.
- exploring links with the Hazardous Wastes Protocol, in cooperation with the BRS Convention, in view of promoting the ratification of the Protocol by more Contracting Parties and supporting them in building capacities for the development of national inventories of hazardous wastes and their environmentally sound disposal and management.

BLOCK 2: A TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE

2A. Better understanding and responding to zoonotic threats

COVID-19 is a reminder of the importance of better understanding potential risks of transmission of zoonotic diseases from marine species (including highly migratory ones, such as birds and marine mammals) to humans, including pathways, and of responding to zoonosis risks adequately.

The principal legal basis for this work in the UNEP/MAP–Barcelona Convention system is the SPA/Biodiversity Protocol. In this respect, due consideration will be given to the aforementioned considerations in the development of the Post-2020 SAP BIO, also taking into account the way that relevant issues are addressed at global level; from the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework under the CBD to UNEP response articulation, including the development of a zoonotic risk and response programme, national zoonotic risk reduction action plans and increased ambition and commitment to new global biodiversity targets.

UNEP/MAP response will address the following priority issues:

- examining the need to reassess Action Plans on key species (particularly marine mammals, sea birds, and marine turtles) and habitats under the SPA/BD Protocol and, if need be, revising them to address the aforementioned issues.

- given that illegal fishing and trade of marine species is still observed in the Mediterranean, improving the assessment and understanding of potential transmission of pathogens and diseases from marine species to humans, as well as strengthening the enforcement and control measures for illegal fishing, in close cooperation with the FAO General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).
- exploring and establishing links with the ICZM Protocol implementation, specifically regarding the management of anthropogenic activities that have an impact on the safety and security in pathways of wildlife and wildlife products, including habitat encroachment and destruction and landscape fragmentation. Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and human health concerns into marine and coastal activities and sectoral planning and development can be achieved through ICZM and ecosystem-based Marine Spatial Planning (MSP).
- Assessment of human activities' impacts on coastal artificialisation can be based on the Candidate Indicator 25 on Land Use Change under the UNEP/MAP Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP). While this is still a candidate indicator, thus monitored on a voluntary basis, the COVID-19 response calls for the strengthening of expert knowledge and scientific advancement in view of developing it into a Common Indicator, the monitoring of which is mandatory in the framework of IMAP.

2B. Better understanding poverty, human and environment health linkages

The assessment of linkages between environment and human health is very relevant to UNEP/MAP work:

- ❖ The LBS Protocol provides the legal basis to support action in this respect, as its provisions explicitly stipulate the consideration of risks and potential impacts on human health from pollution (Article 7 par.1 and Annex I part A, and Annex II part E). A strong partnership was built on this basis between MED POL and WHO, and a WHO Unit was established within the Secretariat, focusing on assessment of and responses to human health risks from marine pollution from land-based sources. In the course of the past decade, this form of collaboration with WHO was terminated and work in this field suffered as a consequence. The response to the COVID-19 crisis provides an opportunity to rebuild this collaboration on the basis of the LBS Protocol.
- ❖ The SPA/BD Protocol will serve as an instrument to address links between human health and the status of marine and coastal biodiversity, including the assessment of possible pathways for human disease transmissions, potential risks for human health from the introduction of non-indigenous species and genetically modified species, and from wildlife trafficking.

UNEP/MAP response will address the following priority issues:

- under the implementation of the LBS Protocol and relevant Regional Plans: giving due consideration to the potential risks for human health from the increased use of single-

use items and sterilisation chemicals, as well as cleaning products and disinfectants. This could entail the possible inclusion of new substances into the Mediterranean List of Priority Contaminants and the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP).

- considering the potential of plastic litter to serve as a substrate for the transmission and spread of pathogens and viruses as part of a reinvigorated effort to prevent and reduce plastic marine litter; and addressing knowledge gaps in this field in collaboration with scientific institutions.
- exploring the assessment of the potential impacts of the virus and of new/emerging chemicals used for its prevention on the quality of bathing waters and beaches in the Mediterranean.
- in addition to the implementation of the Med SO_x ECA roadmap—linking the Post-2021 Mediterranean Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, under preparation in the 2020-2021 biennium, with the COVID-19 response. In this context, future measures to limit the emission of other harmful substances from ships, such as NO_x, should be also considered. Atmospheric pollution (linked to maritime transport) is to be further assessed as an aggravating factor for human health and respiratory diseases. COVID-19 has brought linkages between air pollution and human health to the fore, as individuals subject to greater levels of air pollution are potentially more vulnerable to airborne diseases and their physiological impacts such as respiratory denudation.

Background on SO_x ECA

At global level, through regulations established by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the limit for sulphur in fuel oil used on board ships operating outside designated emission control areas has been reduced to 0.50% m/m (mass by mass) since 1 January 2020. The Mediterranean region is considering a step beyond by exploring the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as [an Emission Control Area for SO_x](#) (Med SO_x ECA), with special requirements to reduce ship emissions in line with a [road map](#) adopted by COP 21. According to a [Technical and Feasibility Study](#) carried out by REMPEC, the Med SO_x ECA would lower emissions by 78.7% for SO_x and 23.7% for PM_{2.5}, when comparing to the global sulphur limit (0.50% m/m), thus positively contributing to human health.

- assessing and reducing the impacts on key marine and coastal species of new/emerging chemicals present in cleaning and disinfectant products being used in the prevention of COVID-19, including by promoting good practices on their use and disposal.
- advocating the strengthening of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) networks based on the role they play in supporting environmental health, human well-being and socioeconomic stability.

These actions need to be based on strong scientific evidence and research. Taking into account the limited resources of UNEP/MAP system to conduct such specialised studies, it is important to identify new or strengthen existing partnerships and networks with scientific and research institutions and other specialised agencies, especially the WHO, including its Vulnerability and Risk Assessment and Management (VRAM) structures, as highlighted in the beginning of this chapter. In addition:

- The work of the UNEP/MAP Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre on the observation and foresight of environment and development will play a pivotal role in assessing links between environment and human health. These links were addressed in the State of the Environment and Development Report (SoED) and will be further analysed under the MED 2050 foresight study. UNEP/MAP participation in the implementation of the UN Decade on Ocean Science can also facilitate actions in this field.
- UNEP/MAP will explore and promote citizen science as an important source of information, including the reporting of unusual phenomena encountered in the marine and coastal environment. Efforts in this field will be pursued through the Information and Communication Regional Activity Centre (INFO/RAC).

2C. Making progress on the climate, biodiversity and chemical crises

Transformational change includes ensuring an ambitious approach to safeguarding environmental support systems in key areas, including climate, biodiversity and chemicals. All these areas are covered by the UNEP/MAP mandate and its key role in maintaining healthy and functioning ecosystems in the Mediterranean Sea and coasts.

The COVID-19 crisis may raise risks of weakened environmental regulation and enforcement in cases where emergency responses do not adequately integrate environmental protection as an important dimension. The UNEP/MAP response can address the multi-faceted nature of the challenge through the strategic and programmatic framework, legal and regulatory instruments, policy measures, monitoring and assessment activities as well as capacity building.

UNEP/MAP response will address the following priority issues:

- enhancing its efforts to ensure that Contracting Parties' commitments and action are maintained and reinforced through the Barcelona Convention governance structure and processes, and advocacy with the participation of MAP partners and civil society. The post COVID-19 period provides an opportunity for strengthening the environmental law and its implementation and enforcement, and thus it should be used by decision makers and civil society to push the environmental agenda with concrete proposals, backed by solid assessments including on links between environment and human health. Attention will be placed on promoting nature-based solutions and management of pressures, strengthening enforcement on illegal dumping prohibition, supporting environmentally sound management of municipal waste including medical waste, preventing illegal ecosystem degradation and highlighting the importance of restoration of degraded ecosystems (linked with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration).

- addressing key elements and emerging issues raised during the COVID-19 crisis in the development of the next Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027, which will define the MAP vision and priorities.
- considering emerging pollution-related issues, including the increase in medical waste and the use of chemicals for COVID-19 prevention, in ongoing work on updating the Annexes to the Pollution related Protocols.
- redirecting the development or updating of several regulatory and policy instruments in the current biennium in order to fully take into account emerging issues and pressures that the pandemic has brought up. Relevant instruments include:
 - The Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean (Post-2020 SAP BIO);
 - The new/updated Regional Plans under the LBS Protocol (Regional Plan on Municipal Wastewater Treatment; Regional Plan on Sewage Sludge Management; Regional Plan on Marine Litter) and relevant Guidelines;
 - The Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships;
 - The Mid-Term Evaluation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) and of the Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Regional Action Plan;
 - New/Updated Species and Habitats Action Plans;
 - Set of regional measures to support the development of green and circular businesses in the Mediterranean.
- reviewing and updating (where applicable) the monitoring programmes under the ambitious UNEP/MAP Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) in order to adequately cover new/emerging pollutants generated by the response to COVID-19, affecting both marine environment and human health, including the identification of pathways. In this respect, the UNEP/MAP List of Priority Contaminants may need to be updated in view of integrating these elements.
- considering the impacts of COVID-19 in the next UNEP/MAP assessment products on the marine and coastal environment as well as socioeconomic aspects. The 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report (2023 Med QSR) will address elements highlighted above related to municipal and medical wastes, hazardous wastes, illegal and uncontrolled dumping, occurrence of new/emerging chemicals, impacts on the status of key marine and coastal species and habitats, and links between human and environment health. Focus will be also placed on drivers of pressures, including an assessment of whether and to what extent reduction of human activities during the first months of the outbreak affected the status of marine and coastal environment. COVID-19-related issues will also be addressed by the forthcoming MED 2050 Foresight Study under a perspective and scenario analysis.
- assessing socioeconomic impacts from the COVID-19 crisis focusing on economic sectors with a particular importance for the Mediterranean region, including tourism,

maritime transport, fishing and aquaculture, as well as socioeconomic impacts on MPAs. In this respect, the work undertaken by the UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre Plan Bleu will be instrumental in acquiring valuable insights. UNEP/MAP will also support Contracting Parties in undertaking national socioeconomic assessments focused on the COVID-19 impacts, to the extent possible.

- given the need for additional efforts at national level: exploring the possibility of providing further support and capacity building to the Contracting Parties in the implementation and enforcement of the UNEP/MAP–Barcelona Convention system’s legal and regulatory framework, in particular regarding the management and disposal of medical waste and illegal dumping. In this respect, partnerships with key actors in the region and engagement in the H2020 Initiative will be strengthened.

BLOCK 3: INVESTING TO BUILD BACK BETTER

As highlighted in the UNEP’s COVID-19 Response, fiscal stimulus packages provide an opportunity for initiating a transformational and green recovery with the creation of green jobs and build back better, specifically by accelerating integrated, life-cycle approaches. UNEP/MAP will catalyse actions towards this direction in the Mediterranean region, in the framework of its legal and policy framework including the promotion of sustainable consumption and production and circular economy, green jobs, marine renewable energy, sustainable tourism, nature-based solutions and transition to sustainable blue economy.

The Naples Declaration adopted by the Contracting Parties in their 21st Meeting (COP21, Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019) put forward a regional consensus on the importance of *triggering economic prosperity and contributing to the stability of the region with green jobs and innovation opportunities in full respect of the environmental protection, in a circular approach and good governance pattern*. UNEP/MAP intends to build on this consensus in order to ensure that post COVID-19 recovery is fully based on principles of environmental protection and sustainable development.

Building back better will also entail the effective use of exiting instruments promoted by the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols by Contracting Parties, including the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment for investments. Green fiscal policy options¹ can be a powerful lever to orient actions towards nature-based and climate-neutral strategies.

In view of building back better, SCP should be placed at the core of the post-COVID recovery. Measures taken to face the pandemic resulted in people abstaining from previous negative practices, or switching and substituting them, especially in areas such as hygiene, food provision, mobility, shopping, leisure, household work.

Virtuous behaviour that we have seen during the pandemic may lay the groundwork for scaling up the adoption and uptake of SCP as part of a new, green normality. The extraordinary situation provided evidence that this is possible provided the right incentives and conditions are

¹ For example, making accession to recovery subsidies/ funding conditional to the implementation of defined sustainability criteria and environmental safeguards.

present. The implementation of the Regional Action Plan on SCP in the Mediterranean will lead to a green recovery by putting in place the conditions for practices deemed as sustainable to become the “new normal”.

UNEP/MAP response will address the following priority issues:

- considering the implications of COVID-19 in the mid-term evaluation process for the Regional Action Plan on SCP and the MSSD, as well as in the development of the next MTS 2022-2027. Global developments on a more deliberate and harmonised use of “SCP terminology” will be also followed closely, as this can support bringing together currently fragmented communities working on circular and green economy, green growth, an inclusive transition to SCP.
- considering potential links between recovery efforts and the Paris Agreement. The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) may also be considered in the new MTS under the framework of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas. Opportunities for nature-based solutions, ecosystem restoration, biodiversity safeguards and green infrastructure offered by the COVID-19 recovery plans need to be supported in that respect.
- COVID-19 is expected to put additional pressures on the water sector in the Mediterranean, which already faces significant challenges, including an increased demand for water supply in order to apply the hygiene measures recommended by the health authorities combined with possible reduction of capital investments and utility revenues. In this context, and taking into account the impacts of climate change on water resources in the region, the post COVID-19 period calls for more effective water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) systems, streamlined into climate change adaptation plans. These elements are to be addressed by the MTS 2022-2027, in the framework of the ICZM Protocol, which can offer a legal basis for the integration of water management and climate change adaptation through the national ICZM strategies and coastal implementation plans and programmes. Opportunities for financial support, including through the Green Climate Fund, need to be explored to this aim.
- assessing the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on tourism, one of the major economic sectors in the Mediterranean, including through due consideration of different criteria for assessing carrying capacity, in view of ensuring safety distance and behaviour, and promoting more sustainable forms of tourism.
- developing new schemes on physical planning and urban development to ensure more open and green spaces and promotion of nature-based solutions, green and blue infrastructure, etc. The coastal plans and programmes, as stipulated by Art.18 of the ICZM Protocol, constitute adequate instruments that can be used in this field.
- promoting SPAMIs/MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures as part of plans to build back better, as they not only support ecosystem conservation but can also sustain income-generating activities benefiting local communities and create additional sustainable jobs.

- ensuring that efforts to build back better are backed by solid socioeconomic analyses. The forthcoming State of the Environment and Development Report (SoED) can serve as the basis to build UNEP/MAP actions in that respect, as it provides the most recent and comprehensive knowledge base on environment and development in the Mediterranean region. Further integration of socioeconomic assessment in UNEP/MAP activities will be also considered, for example through a cross-cutting component on socioeconomic assessment of all major activities in the next Medium-Term Strategy.
- bolstering partnerships with civil society: consultations should be held to discuss common issues and responses. UNEP/MAP web-based platforms may be used as a tool to disseminate up-to-date information and promote best practices from across the region.
- fostering inclusive partnerships and cooperation with relevant regional and global actors as a prerequisite for an effective region-wide response. The participation of the private sector in view of promoting sustainable practices and life-cycle approaches, increasing the offer of sustainable products and services, and supporting green business and entrepreneurship will be crucial. By embracing sustainable and circular models, businesses can decouple economic activity from the consumption of raw materials vulnerable to climate risks and other crises and shocks, and build supply chains that are more diverse, distributed, flexible, and resilient. The efforts of SCP/RAC in developing national partnerships led by Business Support Organisations in southern Mediterranean countries to support the development of green and circular businesses (SwitchMed initiative) will contribute to this necessary effort. The recent COP 21 Decision on the “Development of a Set of Regional Measures to Support the Development of Green and Circular Businesses and to Strengthen the Demand for more Sustainable Products”, will be used as a basis in this respect and its implementation will take into consideration the COVID-19 crisis implications.
- considering as a matter of priority the improvement and use of economic instruments for sustainable use and management of marine and coastal resources in collaboration with relevant actors.

BLOCK 4: MODERNISING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

The COVID-19 crisis provides an opportunity to re-assess our traditional ways of work and the future of environmental governance. Areas to be addressed under this assessment include every-day office operations, activities implementation, budget implications and resource mobilisation, partnerships, and communication.

The pandemic has shown that technology and modern tools can help us shift our traditional ways of work while maintaining the same level of efficiency and reducing the environmental footprint of our operations. These methods, including mainly telecommuting, zero-printing, and holding meetings through virtual means should be further promoted and maintained to the extent possible even after the end of the crisis, in line with UNEP-led process of modernizing global environmental governance towards a unified and collective response to international

crises, including pandemics, while supporting the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

As we respond to the COVID-19 emergency, UNEP/MAP will stay the course on priorities and key processes. We will continue pursuing MAP objectives, which all remain valid and up to date. Modifications in means of implementation or activities may need to be introduced but the general framework is to be maintained.

The implementation of activities in the field, including environmental monitoring, pilot implementation, trainings and national capacity building activities, is expected to be impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, due to limitations imposed in travel, and movement restrictions in most Mediterranean countries. It is therefore crucial to identify alternative ways of working with the countries in order to ensure that PoW activities as adopted by the COP will continue and expected outputs will be delivered, including the possibility of boosting capacity development in the Contracting Parties' national institutions.

The current situation can be an opportunity to promote the use of the UNEP/MAP e-learning platform through an integrated and collaborative approach among the different MAP Components in order to deliver high-level quality learning and training thematic material to ensure appropriate support to the Contracting Parties.

The role of the Barcelona Convention Compliance Committee is even more important in the post COVID-19 governance period, in view of ensuring that the legal and policy framework of MAP Barcelona Convention continues to be effectively implemented and enforced by the Contracting Parties.

The COVID-19 crisis may also have budgetary implications, especially in the medium term, which should be further evaluated. Budget savings from limited operations and virtually held meetings during the crisis may be redirected to support activities for the implementation of the UNEP/MAP strategic response to COVID-19 in particular at country level. At the same time, it is important to continue working closely with the Contracting Parties in view of maintaining high level of ambition and national commitment in the implementation of the UNEP/MAP programmatic framework. The COVID-19 crisis highlights the importance of MEAs in timely tackling threatening degradations which can give place to health crisis, generated by ecosystems impoverishment and the associated risks of pathogenic diseases spread; the important contribution of well-functioning MEAs to the One Health approach should be promoted. In addition, UNEP/MAP efficiency in mobilising external resource through Programmes and Projects should be maintained, while the redirection of some activities, as indicated above, including work on medical waste, new/emerging contaminants and hazardous waste, policy responses for green recovery, assessment of pathways of diseases and pathogens, quality of bathing waters etc. may provide new opportunities for resource mobilisation.

UNEP/MAP will step up communication and advocacy for building back better in the region. A UNEP/MAP narrative paper will be developed for dissemination addressing the priorities identified in the present document and taking into account the need to raise awareness on the linkages between environmental issues and public health with a specific focus on Mediterranean context. Some elements brought up by the pandemic illustrate the relevance of the UNEP/MAP mandate and can therefore provide opportunities for institutional visibility. One

important objective of outreach campaigns to be developed jointly with INFO/RAC would be to mobilize the attention of and engage stakeholders in seizing the historic opportunity for a green renaissance in the Mediterranean.