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Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Istanbul, Turkey, 24-25 March 2022

Agenda Item 5: Specific Issues

Report by the Secretariat on Specific Issues

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A. Ratification, Reporting and Compliance

a) Status of Ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

1. Tables 1 and 2 reflect the status of ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as checked on 23 February 2022 against the link provided for this purpose by the Government of Spain, in its capacity as the Depositary of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols:

<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Portal/es/PoliticaExteriorCooperacion/Tratados/Nuevo/Paginas/mediterraneo.aspx>.

Table 1: Summary of Status of Ratification

22 Contracting Parties have accepted the amendments to the Convention, 1995;
15 Contracting Parties have accepted the amendments to the Dumping Protocol, 1995;
17 Contracting Parties have accepted the amendments to the LBS Protocol, 1996;
8 Contracting Parties have ratified the Offshore Protocol, 1994;
17 Contracting Parties have ratified the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol, 1995;
7 Contracting Parties have ratified the Hazardous Waste Protocol, 1996;
17 Contracting Parties have ratified the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, 2002;
12 Contracting Parties have ratified the ICZM Protocol, 2008.

Table 2: Ratification of Barcelona Convention and Protocols by individual Contracting Parties

Contracting Parties																							
	Albania	Algeria	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia	Cyprus	European Union	Egypt	France	Greece	Israel	Italy	Lebanon	Libya	Malta	Monaco	Montenegro	Morocco	Slovenia	Spain	Syria	Tunisia	Turkey	
Barcelona Convention																							
and Amendments																							
Dumping Protocol																							
and Amendments																							
Emergency Protocol																							
Prevention and Emergency Protocol																							
LBS Protocol																							
and Amendments																							
SPA Protocol																							
SPA and Biodiversity Protocol																							
Offshore Protocol																							
Hazardous Wastes Protocol																							
ICZM Protocol																							

Instrument of ratification, adhesion approval or accession deposited and Convention or Protocol entered into force	
No instrument of ratification, adhesion, approval or accession deposited	
Instrument of ratification, adhesion, approval or accession deposited but Protocol has not entered into force yet	

2. Following the adoption by COP 22 (Antalya, Turkey, 7-10 December 2022) of amendments to the Annexes to the LBS, Dumping and Offshore Protocols, with Decisions IG. 25/5, IG.25/6 and IG.25/7 respectively, the Secretariat sent on 13 January 2022 respective Notes Verbales to the Depositary, providing the certified true copies of the COP Decisions in all languages and recalling the

need for formal communication of the amendments to the Contracting Parties, in accordance with the process provided for in articles 23 (2) (iii) and 35 (2) of the Barcelona Convention the Convention and the relevant COP Decisions.

3. The latest submission of a ratification instrument is dated 19 October 2020 and corresponds to the deposit of the instrument of ratification by Bosnia and Herzegovina of the Amendments to the Barcelona Convention, which entered into force for Bosnia and Herzegovina on 18 November 2020. Beyond obtaining information from link provided for this purpose by the Government of Spain, in its capacity as the Depositary of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the Secretariat has officially contacted the Depositary through a Note Verbale in February 2022 to ask for the updated status of ratifications of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

4. To further promote the ratification of the Protocols to the Barcelona Convention, in particular the ratification of the Dumping Protocol which requires a single additional ratification to enter into force, online bilateral meetings with Contracting Parties will be used, seeking national opportunities for outstanding ratifications, to the extent possible taking into account limitations posed due to the measures to contain COVID-19. The UNEP/MAP PoW 2022-2023, under activity 5.1.1, also provides for facilitation and/or technical support provided upon request to Contracting Parties, to achieve progress on ratification of the Protocols of the Barcelona Convention.

b) Reporting

5. At COP 22 (Antalya, Turkey, 7-10 December 2021), Contracting Parties adopted Decision IG.25/2 entitled “Compliance Committee”, urging those Contracting Parties who have not yet submitted their national implementation reports for the biennium 2018-2019 to do so, as soon as possible and inviting Contracting Parties to submit their national implementation reports for the biennium 2020-2021 using the online Barcelona Convention Reporting System by December 2022. The UNEP/MAP PoW 2022-2023, under activity 5.3.3, also provides for the development of mechanisms to promote mutual supportiveness with other relevant international instruments when it comes to reporting and for providing support for reporting at national level (e.g. e-reporting modules, twinning approach).

6. As of 22 February 2022, the status of reporting can be summarized as follows: (a) 2012-2013 and 2014-2015 biennia: the Secretariat continues working with Contracting Parties that have requested so, to support them to submit their outstanding national implementation reports step-by-step, (b) biennium 2016-2017: a total of 18 Contracting Parties have submitted national implementation reports, and (c) biennium 2018-2019: a total of 12 Contracting Parties have submitted national implementation reports, with reporting rates for submission ranging across the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, from 55% (12 reporting Parties out of 22) for the Barcelona Convention and the SPA/BD Protocol to 27% (6 reporting Parties out of 22) for the Hazardous Wastes Protocol, out of which only 2 reports are submitted by Parties to the Protocol. Six more Contracting Parties are currently working towards finalizing the submission of their national implementation reports, with technical support from the Secretariat and INFO/RAC provided upon request.

c) Compliance

7. The Secretariat is starting the implementation of the Programme of Work of the Compliance Committee for the biennium 2022-2023, adopted through COP 22 Decision IG.25/2. Until the recruitment of the Legal Officer is completed, the Secretariat is finalizing the process for a legal expert to support the work of the Compliance Committee and other legal needs of the Secretariat.

8. Mr. Jojef Al Asmaar, Alternate Member of the Compliance Committee from Lebanon informed the Secretariat, through an email dated 23 December 2021, that he resigned from the Compliance Committee to pursue new professional challenges. The Secretariat is in contact with Lebanon and the respective group of Contracting Parties for the nomination of a new Alternate Member. The proposal once received will be shared with the Bureau for its consideration.

9. Proposed Recommendations:

(a) The Bureau takes note of the current status of ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and urges the Contracting Parties which have not yet done so to make efforts for the ratifications of the Protocols. To this aim the Bureau also invites these Contracting Parties to

liaise with the Secretariat as appropriate to facilitate coordination towards ratification of the relevant legal instruments, with particular focus on the Dumping Protocol to ensure its entry into force as soon as possible;

(b) The Bureau encourages the President and the Secretariat to continue their efforts with the respective Contracting Parties to achieve the full ratification of the Protocols to the Barcelona Convention;

(c) The Bureau strongly urges those Contracting Parties who have not yet done so, to submit their national implementation reports for the reporting periods 2012–2013, 2014–2015 (2 Contracting Parties), 2016–2017 (4 Contracting Parties) and/or 2018–2019 (10 Contracting Parties) without further delay to complete the reporting for these biennia as soon as possible;

(d) The Bureau requests the Secretariat to finalize streamlining work on the BCRS and to initiate the process for the timely submission by the Contracting Parties of their national implementation reports for the biennium 2020–2021.

B. COP 22 Key mandates:

- Antalya Ministerial Declaration

10. The Antalya Ministerial Declaration was adopted at COP 22 as a call by the Ministers of the Environment and Heads of Delegation of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, for leaving a pollution-free legacy, protecting biodiversity and sustaining climate resilience in the Mediterranean. The Declaration constitutes a strong expression of political support to the collective endeavor to achieve a healthy Mediterranean Sea and coast in the context of sustainable development. It evolves around four main pillars closely linked to the mandate of UNEP/MAP and to major global processes, namely (a) Switching to a Climate Resilient, Resource Efficient and Sustainable Mediterranean, (b) Leaving a Pollution and Litter-free Legacy, (c) Protecting and Restoring Biodiversity and Ecosystems, and (d) Raising ambition for common achievements. Therefore, its implementation is closely linked to mandates emanating for decisions adopted at COP 22 and previous COPs as well as to the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. The Secretariat will make every effort to explore these links and to facilitate the implementation of the Antalya Ministerial Declaration by the Contracting Parties. Furthermore, the Secretariat is also exploring ways to report through the MAP PoW on the implementation of the Antalya Ministerial Declaration, inter alia through the reports submitted to the meetings of the Bureau. Contracting Parties are also expected to raise awareness on the Antalya Ministerial Declaration at national, regional and global fora.

- 2023 MED QSR

11. The Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) Task Force is developing the 2023 MED QSR based on the MED QSR Roadmap and the activities included in the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2022–2023. A template for the MED QSR has been further developed, based on the outline and annotated contents agreed by the 8th EcAp Coordination Group (9 September 2021). An update of progress in the MED QSR Roadmap implementation is under preparation, to be considered by the CORMONs meetings. The EU-funded projects EcAp MED III, IMAP-MPA and Marine Litter Med II are supporting the development of national IMAPs, the implementation of monitoring programmes, as well as the data collection and submission that will contribute to indicators, Ecological Objectives and integrated assessments for the MED QSR, as feasible.

12. However, the level of data reporting is behind UNEP/MAP's collectively agreed commitments for the delivery of the assessment products for preparation of 2023 MED QSR. Reporting monitoring data in line with several decisions adopted at COP 19, COP 20 and COP 21 and with the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap milestones is of primary importance. Contracting Parties need to respond to the data calls (June 2020 and October 2021) and prioritise their data submission and/or completion of the IMAP Info System validation process as a matter of urgency.

- Ecosystem Approach Evaluation

13. The mandate of the COP 22 Programme of Work and Budget 2022–2023 (Decision IG.25/19) requires the advancement of the implementation of Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) in the Mediterranean and IMAP, in coherence with regional and global developments. The Secretariat has initiated a process

for evaluating the implementation of the EcAp Roadmap 2008-2021, with the vision of enhancing and strengthening the delivery of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system's EcAp mandate in the future and, to this end, providing recommendations and a proposal for a renewed EcAp Roadmap for the consideration of COP 23 in 2023. The process will adopt a bottom-up approach, reviewing the implementation of the seven steps of the EcAp Roadmap that builds on the previous review conducted in 2017 (6th EcAp CG meeting document WG.444/4), to enable MAP to measure progress against the expected accomplishments.

14. The review will form the basis for developing the proposal for a renewed EcAp Roadmap/Policy and IMAP to 2030 with new features that take account of recent developments at global and regional levels. Key relevant regional and global processes include UNEP/MAP's Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027 and COP 22 Decisions; UNEA Resolutions, in particular the proposed resolution on Nature Based Solutions; UNEP Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2022-2025); UN Decades; the UN Convention on Biological Diversity; UN Framework Convention on Climate Change; and EU Directives and strategies, recognising that MSFD is currently under review.

Table 1: The milestones and responsible bodies for EcAp review and renewal process

Stage/milestone	Responsible body	Date
Prepare the concept and approach	Secretariat and ECP	March 2022
Initiate review of EcAp Roadmap to determine the status of implementation; achievements; and gaps for each of the Roadmap steps	Secretariat	March 2022
Report progress	Secretariat to 9 th EcAp Coordination Group	July 2022
Report progress	Secretariat to Bureau	November 2022
Develop next steps, taking account of recent developments at global and regional level; prepare an initial proposal for a renewed EcAp Roadmap for the achievement of GES beyond 2023, to 2030	Secretariat	Winter 2022-2023
Present evaluation outcomes and the initial proposal for a new/updated EcAp Roadmap for the achievement of GES beyond 2023	Secretariat to MAP components, thematic CORMONs	Spring 2023
Report progress	Secretariat to Bureau	Spring 2022
Develop EcAp Roadmap/Policy and IMAP with new features based on feedback from CORMONs and EcAp CG, and following the experience with QSR 2023 preparation	Secretariat	Summer 2023
Renewed EcAp Roadmap/Policy to 2030 for the implementation of the ecosystem approach and the achievement of GES beyond 2023	Secretariat to 10 th EcAp CG, MAP Focal Points	Autumn 2023
Present final EcAp Roadmap/Policy to 2030 for the implementation of the ecosystem approach and the achievement of GES beyond 2023	Secretariat to COP23	December 2023

Ecosystem Approach governance mechanism

15. COP22 endorsed a new Governance Mechanism for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach policy in the Mediterranean (Decision IG.25/03 Annex I). The EcAp Coordination Group tasked the Secretariat to further work on the details of the mechanism during the biennium 2022-2023.

16. The Secretariat has conducted an initial review to summarize the mandates of the different EcAp governance groups as defined in the various COP Decisions. Following this, a detailed elaboration has been prepared of the types of IMAP products per cluster and for the science-policy interface (SPI), for which each EcAp governance body is responsible, along with defining the steps for approval of products. This enables distinction of the scope and products between the CORMONs, MAP Component Focal Points and the EcAp Coordination Group. The levels of responsibilities for considering and approving IMAP products depends on the type of products, with due respect to the mandates and responsibilities of MAP Components as defined in various COP Decisions.

17. The process is ongoing and The Secretariat will report to the next Bureau meetings in late Autumn 2022 and late Spring/early summer 2023 on the progress. The objective is to present a proposal to the 10th EcAp Coordination Group and MAP Focal Points meetings in autumn 2023, for final consideration by COP 23 in 2023.

- Designation of the Mediterranean Sea as SO_x Emission Control Area

18. The joint and coordinated proposal on the designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides (Med SO_x ECA), as set out in the Annex to Decision IG.25/14, was submitted on 4 February 2022, by France, on behalf of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and the Member States of the European Union, to the seventy-eighth (78th) session of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)'s Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 78) (London, UK, 6-10 June 2022). In view of the finalization of this submission, the Secretariat was in contact with Egypt since COP 22 for the provision of the coordinates of the waiting area of the Suez Canal corresponding to the map submitted by Egypt at COP 22 and approved at that meeting. Thanks to the timely response of Egypt, the coordinates were shared with France to enable the full submission to IMO.

19. Needs of Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, and Libya, are being assessed, and the work plans and timetables related to their ratification and effective implementation of Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) as well as their implementation of the Med SO_x ECA, are being developed in consultation with the respective countries. A draft regional fund-raising strategy to support Mediterranean coastal states in relation to the ratification and effective implementation of MARPOL Annex VI as well as the implementation of the Med SO_x ECA and linked compliance measures, was shared with the IMO Secretariat and the Coordinating Unit prior to onward transmission to the Contracting Parties, which have not yet ratified MARPOL Annex VI. REMPEC initiated contacts with relevant stakeholders to provide technical support, through technical cooperation and capacity-building activities, including financial support and resource mobilisation activities, to address Contracting Parties' needs. The promotional video on the Med SO_x ECA was updated following the adoption of the related decision.

- Regional Plans under Article 15 of the LBS Protocol

Regional Plans adopted at COP 22

20. COP 22 adopted through Decision IG.25/8 and IG25/9 the Regional Plans on Urban Wastewater Treatment and Sewage Sludge Management, and the Amendments to the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, respectively. These Decisions included the workplans and timetables for implementation of the legally binding measures, and called for the Contracting Parties to effectively implement the Regional Plans, requesting at the same time the Secretariat to provide, upon request and subject to availability of funds, the necessary assistance to the Contracting Parties for the implementation of the measures in these Regional Plans, as well as sharing best practices.

21. In accordance with the provisions of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol, the Coordinator sent a letter to the MAP Focal Points on 26 January 2022, aiming at recalling the procedure to be followed to make the Plans' measures and timetables legally binding. In this respect, the Contracting Parties were notified that the Regional Plans' measures and timetables shall enter into force and become binding on the 180th day following the day of notification by the Secretariat, for the Parties to the LBS Protocol which have not notified the Secretariat of an objection within 179 days from the date of notification (Article 15, paragraph 3 of the LBS Protocol); it was also recalled that the Parties which have notified an objection within the set deadline shall inform the meeting of the Parties of the provisions they intend to take, it being understood that they may at any time give their consent to these measures or timetables (Article 15, paragraph 4 of the LBS Protocol). To date, no objection has been notified to the Secretariat by any Party to the Protocol.

22. The Secretariat noting the difficulties that Contracting Parties expressed during the discussions leading to the adoption of these Regional Plans, specifically regarding the timelines for implementation of the specific measures which constitute legally binding thresholds on emissions and discharges, and those entailing significant investments, particularly for wastewater treatment and sewage sludge management facilities; is developing technical guidelines for wastewater treatment and sewage sludge management to enable the Contracting Parties to effectively fulfil their legally binding

commitments. The Secretariat will continue to promote the adopted Regional Plans in International Financing Institutions (IFIs) and regional fora with the aim of coordinating and streamlining national development programmes and for securing sustainable financing to meet the commitments of the Regional Plans. The Secretariat will also support the Contracting Parties with capacity building activities aiming to build the skills and competencies of national authorities overseeing the implementation of these Regional Plans. This includes organizing best practices meeting to share success stories and promote good management practices among the Mediterranean Countries. Projects such the EU-financed Marine Litter MED and the GEF-funded MedProgramme are a sample of such supporting mechanisms entailing national and regional activities aiming to achieve these objectives.

Three new Regional Plans mandated by COP 22

23. The Secretariat is proceeding with the implementation of Decision IG.24/10 adopted by COP 21 (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019) adopting the “Main Elements of the Six Regional Plans to Reduce/Prevent Marine Pollution from Land-Based Sources of the Barcelona Convention” and further to upgrading the elaborated “Main Elements” based on the outcomes of three assessments endorsed by the MED POL Focal Points in the biennium 2020-2021 on the status of management practices of agriculture and aquaculture activities, as well as urban storm water in the Mediterranean. Based on the past experience gained in the establishment and functioning of Working Groups composed of experts designated by the Contracting Parties to develop the Regional Plans, as called for in Decision IG.24/10 on the basis of Terms of Reference and timeline endorsed by the Bureau in the biennium 2020-2021, the Secretariat proposes the establishment of three “Working Groups” composed of Contracting Parties’ designated experts to develop the three new Regional Plans on Agriculture, Aquaculture and Urban Stormwater Management based on the terms of reference and timetable proposed in Annex I to this Report, following a similar process and approach to that implemented in the biennium 2020-2021 for the development of the three Regional Plans adopted at COP 22. The “Working Groups” are planned to meet in mid-September 2022 and in February 2023, prior to submitting the final draft to the MED POL Focal Points Meeting, planned to be held in mid-2023.

- COP 22 Thematic Regional Strategies’ way forward

Post-2020 SAP BIO and Post-2020 Regional Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs

24. Ensuring a sustainable financial support has a capital importance for a realistic operational implementation of the Post-2020 SAPBIO supported by the Post-2020 Regional Strategy for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs). To this end, a fundraising strategy to implement the new strategies will be established for: (i) Maintaining the efforts made and the momentum gained so far by the Mediterranean countries and regional bodies for the conservation of marine and coastal species and ecosystems, and (ii) Supporting the implementation of the 42 identified actions of the Post-2020 SAPBIO, including those targeting area-based conservation and monitoring, as specifically detailed in the Post-2020 Strategy for MCPAs and OECMs and the EcAp/IMAP process agenda.

25. After the Third meeting of the Ad hoc Group of Experts for Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (AGEM) anticipated on 1 March 2022, SPA/RAC will be starting the development of the Evaluation and monitoring framework for the Post-2020 Regional Strategy for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean, with the technical support of AGEM.

26. Within the spirit of these COP 22 Decisions and considering that these new strategies provide for national implementation activities, the Coordinator sent a letter to all Contracting Parties to encourage them to streamline these regional strategies in their relevant national and sectorial strategies and action plans as appropriate. The effective implementation of these strategies and the achievement of their objectives relies largely on action by all Contracting Parties, with a view to streamlining their region-wide adopted targets and priorities at national level. Under the Post-2020 SAP BIO, the Contracting Parties are invited to prepare or revise their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans by fully incorporating the relevant elements of the Post-2020 SAP BIO; maximise their efforts for their timely implementation; and further review their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans according to the Post-2020 SAP BIO mid-term assessment, to ensure the achievement of the Post-2020 SAP BIO objectives by 2030. In parallel, the Regional Strategy on marine and coastal protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures calls upon the Contracting

Parties to take effective measures to implement the Strategy, thus enhancing the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol in the Mediterranean region. It is therefore very important to streamline provisions of the above-mentioned strategies into respective new or updated national strategies, plans and measures.

Mediterranean Strategy for Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031)

27. Decision IG.25/16 setting out the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, Preparedness, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) and its comprehensive Action Plan translating the Strategy into 190 specific actions is being implemented with the collaborative, coordinated and collective support from relevant regional stakeholders in the Mediterranean. A consultation process with the countries (drafting of National Action Plans for the implementation of the Strategy) and relevant stakeholders (on-going and planned activities relevant to the implementation of the Strategy) will shortly be launched. A dedicated website on the Strategy, including monitoring/reporting tools for Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders, will be developed. The 1st Coordination Meeting on the Strategy is planned for 29 November-1 December 2022.

28. The Coordinator's letter mentioned in the paragraphs above, is also encouraging Contracting Parties to streamline the Mediterranean Strategy for Marine Pollution from Ships in their relevant national and sectorial strategies and action plans. Under this strategy, Contracting Parties are expected to take effective measures in their national policies and legislations for its full implementation, as defined in the Strategy's Action Plan, with a collaborative, coordinated and collective support from relevant regional stakeholders in the Mediterranean.

Ballast Water Management Strategy (2022-2027)

29. The Secretariat (REMPEC and SPA/RAC) will provide technical support for the implementation of the Ballast Water Management Strategy for the Mediterranean Sea (2022-2027), in synergy with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), through technical cooperation and capacity building activities, including resource mobilisation (internal and external). In particular, a resource mobilisation strategy (and possibly a project proposal) to implement the Strategy will be developed in 2022 by REMPEC, in cooperation with SPA/RAC. Harmonised procedures for exemptions under Regulation A-4 of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004, including regional protocols (to the extent that they relate to exemptions) for port surveys and risk assessment, will be developed in 2022, as well as reviewed and validated by a Regional Expert Meeting in 2023. Activities related to the 2011 Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species will be implemented within the framework of Memorandum of Understanding between the UNEP and the Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea Protection (IMELS), with support from the Project Coordinating Team of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-International Maritime Organization (IMO) GloFouling Partnerships Project.

MSSD 2016-2025

30. The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025 was adopted at COP 19 in 2016 (Decision IG.22/2) and its mid-term evaluation was carried-out in 2020-2021, with the aim of making the Strategy implementation, at its second phase, more efficient, focusing on gaps, shortcomings and opportunities, and of further aligning its objectives, strategic directions and actions with the 2030 Agenda and SDGs in the post-COVID era. Following this review, the follow-up of the MSSD is also relevant for this biennium. Under its Strategic Direction 7.2/Action 7.2.5, the MSSD plans that "the Strategy will be reviewed after ten years, taking into consideration global developments, and a new Strategy will then need to be defined by 2025". While the initial MSSD came to its end at the same year (2015) with the Millennium Development Goals (2000-2015), the MSSD 2016-2025 is expected to come to its end in 2025, at the end of the next biennium (2024-2025), namely five years prior the deadline of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. The UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system, including the Secretariat, the Bureau and the MAP Focal Points, and the MCSDD and its Steering Committee, may engage during this biennium in a reflection on the MSSD Review process, considering the regional (2025) and global (2030) milestones of the sustainability agendas and the ongoing work and outcome of the MED2050 Foresight Study, in view of possibly aligning the regional process with the global one and enhancing efficiency.

- **MAP Knowledge Management Strategy**

31. The MAP Knowledge Management Strategy will be aimed at sharing and providing information, policies and data on the Mediterranean relying on digital technologies to support scientific communication and technical-scientific dissemination in the Mediterranean basin. The MAP Knowledge Management Strategy will be fully in line with the UNEP Knowledge Management Strategy and will have close linkages to the MAP Operational Communication Strategy. The MAP Knowledge Management Strategy will support the implementation of the Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022 -2027 of UNEP/MAP and facilitate the awareness on the MAP-Barcelona Convention system to partners and institutional actors at local, national and international level, both among citizens and local communities on which strategic decisions impact.

32. The development of the strategy is being based on three key pillars: (a) Knowledge Management, as the management of the set of processes and practices to generate, identify, collect, update and disseminate knowledge and awareness and best practices internally and externally to the MAP-Barcelona Convention System, through textual, multimedia, interactive contents and visuals; (b) Knowledge Platform, as an operational tool for consultation, dissemination of content that includes databases, publications, visualization material, digital maps, digital storytelling products and tools for interacting with the public such as dashboards, infographics, surveys and questionnaires that require user input actions; (c) Knowledge Hub, as an internal section of the Knowledge Platform for easy access to technical and specialist contents (technical reports, scientific publications), integrating ease of reading with the immediate reception of information for experts and non-experts using interactive and personalized content navigation tools for a quick link to the official documentation.

33. The development of a Knowledge Management Strategy tailored for the MAP-Barcelona Convention system and at the same time integrated into the Mediterranean Sea knowledge framework, needs to carry out a gap analysis and a review of what is already existing. The main gaps and challenges identified is the lack of a unique platform for the collection and dissemination of data and information on the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment, relating not only to the MAP-Barcelona Convention System knowledge heritage but also to those of other institutional actors working in the Mediterranean. A baseline scenario will be developed exploring all the available resources of the Mediterranean Sea basin, integrating the overview already performed in the framework of the MedProgramme and exploring a possible synergy with what is developed within the UNEP World Environment Situation Room (WESR) platform.

34. The development and implementation of the Knowledge Platform as an operational tool of the Knowledge Management Strategy will constitute the fulcrum of the existing documentation of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system and a broader network of institutional actors operating in the Mediterranean Sea. In the framework of the bilateral agreement between UNEP/MAP and MiTE, the development of a pilot Knowledge Platform with a specific focus is foreseen.

- Implementation of National Activities under PoW and Externally Funded Projects

35. The effective implementation of national activities supported both by the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and externally-funded projects, i.e. IMAF MPA, ECAP MED III, ML MED II and MedProgramme (Child Projects), is key to support Contracting Parties in their efforts for implementing different aspects of the Convention and Protocols. There are important achievements and success stories. There are also important challenges, which may hinder their effective execution and the achievement of expected outputs and targets within the timeline of POW and projects workplans.

36. Difficulties encountered vary among countries but are mainly relating to low level of response from the relevant national authorities, compliance with the reporting obligations in a timely manner, which are often due to lack of effective coordination and involvement and to some extent long administrative and authorization processes at the national level, stricter management of UN administrative processes and systems, legal constraints in the absorption of external funds, and limited resources for the follow-up and implementation of national activities, as well as socio-economic instabilities that some countries are facing. In addition to the risk imposed on the effective implementation of the Programme of Work and projects, such difficulties may lead to requests from the donor for reallocation of projects funds, and may affect efforts for enhanced resource mobilization. Therefore, the Secretariat has been following up with countries on regular basis to support them to overcome these challenges which to some extent has put additional burden on its work and staff.

- Potential Impacts of Covid-19

37. The Secretariat is closely monitoring the situation of COVID-19 in coordination with MAP Components, with a view to foresee and mitigate as appropriate any risks in the implementation of PoW 2022-2023 activities. For the moment, there is no major COVID-19 related challenge anticipated which would hinder activities' implementation. With regards to the implementation modalities, currently the majority of meetings in the first semester of 2022 are planned as virtual meetings, while it is expected that, shortly, the organization of physical meetings will be made possible.

38. Proposed Recommendations:

- (a) The Bureau notes with appreciation the information provided on the key mandates of COP 22 and their implementation, and requests the Secretariat and the respective MAP components to ensure all steps are undertaken for their effective and timely implementation;**
- (b) Contracting Parties are encouraged to raise awareness on and maximize visibility of the Antalya Ministerial Declaration at national, regional and global fora;**
- (c) The Bureau encourages the Contracting Parties that have not yet done so, to take necessary actions for ratifying MARPOL Annex VI to facilitate the designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides Pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI, and requests the Secretariat and REMPEC, in collaboration with IMO, to support these processes upon request;**
- (d) The Bureau encourages the Contracting Parties to actively participate, in line with a pre-agreed common approach, in the deliberations on the proposal and on the draft amendments to regulation 14 of, and Appendix VII to MARPOL Annex VI, related to the designation of the proposed Med SOx ECA, at MEPC 78, as well as at the following sessions of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)'s Marine Environment Protection Committee, as appropriate, in line with the road map;**
- (e) The Bureau welcomes the efforts of the Secretariat in following up with countries for national activities implementation and draw the attention of the Contracting Parties benefitting support from these national activities to take all necessary measures to address the challenges mentioned in the Report of Specific Issues above and ensure proper execution of the activities;**
- (f) The Bureau also invites the Contracting Parties to streamline where appropriate commitments undertaken within the framework of the MAP-Barcelona Convention, and other MAP priorities into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) elevated by the UN General Assembly resolution 72/279 as "the most important instrument for planning and implementation of the UN development activities at country level in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda);**
- (g) The Bureau encourages the Contracting Parties to respond to the data calls issued by the Secretariat in June 2020 and October 2021, considering the primary importance of reporting monitoring data in line with several decisions of COP 19, COP 20 and COP 21 including the timeline of the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap. Contracting Parties are encouraged to prioritise their data submission and/or completion of the IMAP Info System validation process as a matter of urgency;**
- (h) The Bureau agrees with the approach for the evaluation of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) Roadmap/Policy implementation and acknowledges the importance of ensuring coherence with relevant regional and global developments, and urges Contracting Parties to actively contribute to this process;**
- (i) The Bureau agrees with the terms of reference including timelines prepared by the Secretariat for the Working Groups of Experts for development of the Regional Plans on Agriculture Management, Aquaculture Management and Storm Water Management as presented in Annex I to the Report on Specific Issues. The Bureau urges the Contracting Parties to nominate in a timely manner the members of the relevant Working Groups and to effectively contribute to these processes to ensure their successful and smooth completion;**
- (j) The Bureau encourages the Contracting Parties to foster and streamline the national implementation of the regional strategies adopted in the framework of UNEP/MAP, in particular those related to major global commitments.**

C. Collaboration and Partners

UNEA 5.2

39. Preparations are ongoing for UNEA 5.2, to take place in Nairobi, Kenya, on 28 February - 2 March 2022 (hybrid). On Tuesday, 1 March, a Leadership Dialogue with the MEAs will take place; UNEP/MAP participated in the preparation of its concept note with inputs and will also participate in this important session. Aa (fully virtual) side event will take place on 1 March 2022 entitled “A 'zero pollution ambition' to protect nature and people”, co-organized by the European Commission. The Coordinator will be a keynote speaker in this event.

40. Furthermore, the global UNEP data and knowledge platform will be officially launched during UNEA5.2. Videos describing a small number of regional or thematic uses of the WESR tools will be displayed during the event. The Mediterranean WESR component, which already includes the MSSD Dashboard indicators, the SCP Regional Action Plan indicators, and maps from SoED and MedECC MAR1, will be part of this sample.

The One Planet Summit for the Ocean

41. The MAP Coordinator and Plan Bleu/RAC President attended the One Planet Summit for the Ocean (Brest, France, 18 February 2022) and ensured high visibility of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system during the workshop dedicated to the Mediterranean Sea. Highlights of the discussions at the workshop included the COP 22 Decisions on SECA and the Post-2020 SAPBIO.

42. On the occasion of the Summit, SCP/RAC and “Fondation de la Mer” communicated on their collaboration on the Ocean Approved Label, that recognizes and supports companies committed to reduce their impact on the Ocean and SDG14. Through its Switchers Support Programme, SCP/RAC will support the development of the label in Mediterranean countries. Fondation de la mer is a french foundation created in 2015 to support stakeholders to strengthen and accelerate their positive impact on the Ocean.

2022 UN Ocean Conference (Lisbon) and Our Ocean Conference 2022 (Palau)

43. Preparations are ongoing for these two important conferences focusing on oceans. The Secretariat is preparing a concept note that will be shared with the Bureau once prepared, focusing on promoting the MAP-Barcelona Convention system and is following a proactive approach to ensure an active participation, including organization of side events. Contracting Parties, and in particular the Presidency of the Bureau, will be expected to contribute to this process.

44. On the occasion of the 2017 UN Ocean Conference, the Secretariat, Contracting Parties and partners submitted several SDG 14 Voluntary Commitments, which were followed by progress and final reports available in a dedicated online platform, the latter including more than 1,600 commitments in support of Ocean Action: <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/>. The SDG 14 voluntary commitments submitted by UNEP/MAP are well reflected in the recent UN DESA report on the impact that voluntary commitments have on the implementation of SDG 14: “Assessment of the Impacts of the United Nations Ocean Conference Voluntary Commitments”. In the context of the forthcoming 2022 UN Ocean Conference (Lisbon, Portugal, 27 June – 1 July 2022), the Secretariat is examining the possibility to renew or propose new SDG 14 voluntary commitments, based on the strategic and action-oriented Decisions adopted at COP 22. Contracting Parties, MAP Partners and MCSD Members are encouraged to register new voluntary commitments, which could be channeled by UNEP/MAP for ensuring more coordination and visibility, if relevant.

Collaboration with FAO/GFCM

45. Since the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNEP/MAP and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) in 2012, both Secretariats have significantly increased their interaction, exchange of information, expert knowledge, and cooperation on topics of common concern, including on marine litter, having in the spotlight a healthy Mediterranean including for its living resources. The cooperation between UNEP/MAP and GFCM and the relevant mechanism of regular bilateral cooperation that is established, is now showcased as an example of successful inter-regional collaboration, and also at Regional Seas Convention level. The later has been reiterated recently during COP 22, particularly through Annex II of Decision IG.25/3 with which both Secretariats have updated in the most formal way the activities relating to the areas of

cooperation of the 2012 MoU. An informal GFCM – UNEP/MAP – Plan Bleu/RAC meeting took place at the highest level in Brest, France on 10 February 2022, on the occasion of the One Planet Summit for the Ocean. Specific areas of cooperation were discussed, including the further development of Ecological Objectives under Ecosystem Approach related to food web and fisheries, their contribution to MED 2023 QSR, the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (SoED Report), aquaculture, ecosystem restoration, subsidies in the fisheries sector, spatial management, including other effective spatial conservation measures (OECMs), marine litter and the recent update of the joint Memorandum of Understanding.

46. In the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED II Project (2020 – 2023), Outcome 3 of the Project aims to “Maximize synergies on marine litter actions in the region with a focus on the collaboration with the Black Sea Commission and GFCM, and other regional partners”. This outcome has been structured to further strengthen the cooperation of UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat with other European Regional Seas Programmes and Conventions, in priority areas for cooperation including with GFCM, towards supporting and aiming to further streamline marine litter issues into the fisheries agenda as well as to support the development of the GFCM Adaptation Strategy on Marine Litter. This includes the drafting and preparation of a joint workplan linking the work of UNEP/MAP and GFCM on marine litter. The later will be further discussed and approved during a bilateral working meeting to be organized within 2022 in the framework of the Marine Litter MED II Project. A letter by UNEP/MAP has been already dispatched to GFCM Executive Secretary since December 2021 aiming to initiate the bilateral exchange on this matter and collaborate more closely.

Collaboration with the EU MSFD implementation framework

47. The Coordinating Unit, MED POL and MAP Components are actively engaging in the European Union Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) processes, at several levels i.e. participating in the work and the meetings of the Working Groups on Data, Information and Knowledge Exchange (WG DIKE) and WG Good Environmental Status (WG GES); contributing to the development of documents such as the new Assessment Guidance for assessing good environmental status, towards alignment with UNEP/MAP’s IMAP, and considering proposals for assessment criteria, scales of assessment and thresholds. The Coordinator engages at the higher decision-making levels of the Marine Strategy Coordination Group and Marine Directors and participated in the EU’s Future Of Our Seas conference in December 2021. Furthermore, in 2021-2022 the MSFD is undergoing a review process and the Secretariat joined a Regional Seas Focus Group meeting in December 2021 to comment on ways to share a harmonised vision on MAP ecosystem approach roadmap/policy and MSFD. MAP Components have also responded to several online questionnaires for the MSFD review. The EC funded projects, EcAp Med III, IMAP-MPA and Marine Litter II, are providing valuable support to the beneficiary countries in their implementation of national IMAPs, implementing monitoring programmes and submitting data to the IMAP Info System. Lastly, UNEP/MAP is a member of the EU4Ocean initiative and in December 2021 the Secretariat participated in meeting to help steer the agendas of the Working Groups on Food from the Ocean, Healthy & Clean Ocean, and Climate & Ocean.

Implementation of Agreement with Italy-Collaboration with MITE

48. With the view to continuing and strengthening the successful cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition (MiTE) established through the 2016 Bilateral Cooperation Agreement, a new Agreement was signed in November 2021, to support the implementation of a number of activities included in the UNEP/MAP PoW 2022-2023, through a significant financial contribution of 2.8 million Euros. Following the previous practice, this support was fully integrated into the COP 22 Decision IG.25/19 approving the MAP PoW and Budget 2022-2023 as well as in the respective Project Document and Legal Instruments, in order to ensure integration and enable streamlined monitoring of PoW 2022-2023 implementation. *Inter alia*, the bilateral MiTE funds provide essential support for the ecosystem approach (EcAp) and implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) as well as for further strengthening the implementation of the updated Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean

Action Plan “The Mediterranean: a model sea by 2030” (PAMEx)

49. UNEP/MAP continues to participate in the implementation of the Action Plan entitled “The Mediterranean: a model sea by 2030 - PAMEx”. As provided for in the governance structure of the Action Plan, France will second a Technical Expert in the UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit to support the coordination of the Action Plan implementation ensuring synergies with the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention as well as with the work of other regional instruments and initiatives and provide an additional expertise on marine litter in the Coordinating Unit. The administrative processes are ongoing and the expert is expected to be on board in March 2022. The implementation of the Action Plan, which incorporates key objectives of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system, is expected to support the implementation of the UNEP/MAP MTS 2022-2027 and other key MAP regulatory and strategic documents, i.e. the 2021 Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management, the post-2020 SAP BIO, the Regional Strategy on pollution from ships, etc.

50. UNEP/MAP is also involved in the discussions for the establishment of the PAMEx 2030 Local Invest Finance Facility (PLIFF), aiming to support investments and financing of actions under the PAMEx Action Plan implementation. To date, a non-legally binding Joint Declaration of Intent for the Preparation Phase of the PLIFF has been drafted and was opened for signature in the Forum des mondes méditerranéens held in Marseille, France, on 7-8 February 2022. UNEP/MAP involvement will aim at ensuring that its development and operationalization will fully take into account and contribute to the obligations and priorities under the MAP-Barcelona Convention system. An initiative is also under consideration to set up a Local Investors Financing Facility to secure funding from the private sector for local Mediterranean projects relevant to this Action Plan. The Coordinating Unit and Plan Bleu/RAC are following up on this initiative.

Cooperation with United Nations Country Teams in the Mediterranean region

51. The Coordinator has approached the United Nations Resident Coordinators in eleven Mediterranean countries, namely Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey with a proposal to establish a formal collaboration between the MAP-Barcelona Convention system and the UN Country Teams (UNCT) serving the aforementioned countries in coordination with the respective UNEP Regional offices. The proposed collaboration focuses on the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), an agreement between the United Nations and the host government, which constitutes the main instrument for the delivery of the UN support to the implementation of the SDGs at the national level. The UNSDCF guides the members of the UN Country Team (comprising all the UN agencies and entities serving the country either through a country presence or from a regional office) in the planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of their support to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

52. The MAP proposal calls for the integration of the commitments undertaken by Mediterranean countries in the context of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system into UNSDCFs. This would maximize efficiency, increase complementarities, and streamline efforts, while also alleviating the burden placed on usually overstretched national institutions. There are several “low-hanging fruits” to be seized through tighter collaboration, including in the attainment of relevant targets under SDG 14, but also SDGs 3, 6, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 17. Similarly, the findings of monitoring and assessment of the state of marine and coastal ecosystems—an important part of the UNEP/MAP mandate— can contribute to the evaluation of the environmental dimension of UNSDCFs. The responses received from several Resident Coordinators are promising. The Coordinating Unit is in the process of organizing individual meetings with designated representatives of each UNCT. The Head of the relevant Regional UNEP office and MAP Focal Points have been invited to attend.

MAP Partners

53. Following the call for new MAP Partners issued by the Secretariat during the previous biennium and its promotion through news items and outreach, the Secretariat has already received a new application from a non-governmental organizations for accreditation as MAP Partners, namely the “Turkish Shipbuilders' Association (GISBIR)”, a national NGO operating in Turkey.

54. The Secretariat has reviewed the documentation submitted in line with Decision IG.19/6 on “MAP/Civil Society cooperation and partnership” and found that the above organization meets the criteria for such accreditation. The results of the evaluation of the application are presented in Annex II to the present report for the Bureau’s consideration.

55. In relation to the renewal of accreditation of existing MAP Partners, the Secretariat will -as per established practice- prepare a letter, to be disseminated in spring 2022, to MAP Partners endorsed at COP 20, reminding these organizations that they need to renew their accreditation in line with Decision IG.19/6 “Every 6 years, NGO observers ask the Secretariat to renew their accreditation”.

56. Proposed Recommendations:

(a) The Bureau welcomes the work of the Secretariat on enhancing ocean governance and on strengthening cooperation and partnerships with global and regional organizations for joint impact on the ground;

(b) The Bureau welcomes the work by the Secretariat to strengthen participation and involvement in global processes, and encourages the Secretariat to further work in this direction to increase the impact of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system and to effectively promote its mandate;

(c) The Bureau also invites all Contracting Parties, the Bureau President and Members of the Bureau and the Secretariat to use the relevant global fora, such as the UN Ocean Conference, the Our Ocean Conference 2022, the UN CBD and UN FCCC COPs, as an opportunity, in a proactive manner, to raise the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system’s profile, its work and its contribution to the implementation of the SDGs and global commitments with a particular focus to Antalya Ministerial Declaration and the outcome of COP 22;

(d) The Bureau endorses the results of the evaluation conducted by the Secretariat of the new application submitted by the “Turkish Shipbuilders’ Association (GISBIR)” for accreditation as MAP Partner and requests that the Secretariat submit it to the MAP Focal Points and to COP 23 for consideration and endorsement.

D. Outreach, Communication and Advocacy

57. The first year of this biennium (2022) will see a succession of major meetings, including UNEA 5.2, Our Ocean Conference 2022, CBD COP 15 (Part II), Stockholm+50, 2022 UN Ocean Conference, 9th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference and UNFCCC COP 27. This sequence of important events taking place after the Barcelona Convention COP 22 presents great visibility and outreach opportunities. With the support of the Secretariat, the Bureau may wish to encourage all Contracting Parties to use the platforms that the aforementioned events offer to provide increased visibility to the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system and to the key outcomes of COP 22, including the Antalya Ministerial Declaration. This may include references to specific items of the COP 22 outcome (as, for example, the post-2020 SAPBIO, in relation to the CBD COP 15 and the SECA Decision in relation to the ocean summits and UNFCCC) in official statements, media encounters and other outreach activities (e.g., side-events). Such activities would recognize the role of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system as a regional integrator for global MEAs and relevant intergovernmental frameworks, and as a framework facilitating effective implementation of global commitments at the regional and national levels.

58. Each biennium, several Civil Society Organizations from around the Mediterranean basin apply for the status of “MAP Partner”. If adequately harnessed, this expression of commitment of the MAP mandate offers an immense potential for public outreach. The Coordinating Unit is planning to approach MAP Partners with a request to include outreach activities on MAP priority themes in their annual programmes, including the observance of Mediterranean Coast Day and the newly established SPAMI Day (*inter alia*, beach-cleaning events, local awareness-raising campaigns on single-use plastics, presentations in schools, workshops with fishers, awareness-raising on endangered species in fish markets). In addition to offering the participation of speakers and experts from the MAP-Barcelona Convention system in local events and other outreach activities, the Coordinating Unit will provide a generic slide deck and a video presentation of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system, as well as a list of useful resources including thematic factsheets, reports and the recently published “Young Person’s Guide to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols”.

59. Proposed Recommendations:

(a) The Bureau welcomes the efforts of the work on information and outreach, implementing also the relevant Programme of the new MTS, and requests the Secretariat to further progress in this direction based on the objectives of the MAP Communication Strategy and the relevant

decision of COP 22, and invites Contracting Parties to actively participate in the SPAMI Day and Mediterranean Coast Day celebrations.

Annex I

Proposed Terms of References including timelines for the Working Groups of Experts for development of the Regional Plans on Agriculture Management, Aquaculture Management and Storm Water Management

Proposed Terms of References including timelines for the Working Groups of Experts for development of the Regional Plans on Agriculture Management, Aquaculture Management and Storm Water Management

1. Objective

The objective of the work of the individual Working Groups of Experts is to deliver the corresponding Regional Plans on Agriculture Management; Aquaculture Management; and Urban Storm Water Management for consideration of the MED POL Focal Points Meeting tentatively planned to be held in May/June 2023.

2. Composition

Three individual Working Groups composed of experts designated by the Contracting Parties are recommended for developing the three corresponding Regional Plans:

A) Regional Plan on Agriculture Management:

The designated experts to this Working Group should have technical knowledge of different aspects of agriculture management including discharge of nutrients from intensive agriculture; fertilizers management; pesticides management; and manure management. In addition, experts should also have a good understanding of applicable legal and institutional structures governing the aforementioned aspects.

B) Regional Plan on Aquaculture Management

The designated experts to this Working Group should have technical knowledge of different practices common to onshore and offshore aquaculture in the Mediterranean including culture practices in onshore and offshore aquaculture. Experts should also have a good understanding of applicable legal and institutional structures regulating the aforementioned aspects, particularly with regards to discharge of nutrients and contaminants from onshore and offshore aquaculture facilities into the Mediterranean.

C) Regional Plan on Storm Water Management

The designated experts to this Working Group should have technical knowledge about storm water management plans, collection systems for surface water runoff, sustainable urban drainage systems, and maintenance of storm water systems. Experts should also have a good understanding of applicable legal and institutional structures regulating the aforementioned aspects, particularly with regards to urban storm water pollution and downstream effects of urban storm water in the Mediterranean.

3. Tasks

The individual Working Groups will review the First Draft Regional Plans elaborated specifically for their first Working Group Meeting. The Working Groups should refer to the annex to Decision IG.24/10 adopted by COP21 which includes a set of measures for each of the three Regional Plans. These measures are further elaborated in the three assessment documents (UNEP/MED WG.509/38, WG.509/39 and WG.509/40) presented to the Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points in the biennium 2020-2021 and recommended by the Meeting for use in preparing the three Regional Plans. As part of their tasks, the Working Groups should take into account the need to elaborate the Regional Plans with feasible measures and appropriate timetables for implementation by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

4. Proposed Timeline

- ✓ Establishment of the three individual Working Groups, March/April 2022.
- ✓ First Working Groups Meetings to review the first drafts of their corresponding Regional Plans on Agriculture, Aquaculture and Urban Storm Water Management, mid-September 2022.
- ✓ Second Working Groups Meeting to review the second drafts of the three Regional Plans, early February 2023.
- ✓ Review of the final drafts of the Regional Plans by the MED POL Focal Points Meeting, May/June 2023.
- ✓ Review of the final draft decision of the three Regional Plans by the MAP Focal Points Meeting, September 2023.
- ✓ Submission of the Draft Decision of the three Regional Plans to COP 23, December 2023.

Annex II
MAP Partner Applications Evaluation Table

INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANTS / INFORMATIONS SUR LES CANDIDATS

ACRONYM/ ACRONYME	FULL NAME/NOM COMPLET	COUNTRY /PAYS	AIMS/OBJECTIFS
	Turkish Shipbuilders' Association - GISBIR	Turkey	Improving the Turkish shipbuilding industry, helping the Turkish shipyards to take place in the world market; finding solutions for problems of industry through relevant authorities, associations and organizations; representing the Turkish Shipbuilding Industry in national and international areas; developing solutions in the field of activities according to social needs (including environmental and occupational health and safety needs).
	Turkish Shipbuilders' Association - GISBIR	Turquie	L'amélioration de l'industrie turque de la construction navale, en aidant les chantiers navals turcs à prendre place sur le marché mondial ; trouver des solutions aux problèmes de l'industrie par l'intermédiaire des autorités, associations et organisations compétentes ; représenter l'industrie turque de la construction navale dans les domaines nationaux et internationaux ; développer des solutions dans le domaine des activités en fonction des besoins sociaux (y compris les besoins environnementaux et de santé et sécurité au travail).

EVALUATION / ÉVALUATION

Part I: General conditions for accreditation / Partie I : Conditions générales pour l'accréditation

Two categories of NGOs are eligible for observer status / Deux catégories d'ONG sont éligibles pour le statut d'observateur

GISBIR	
International and regional NGOs / ONG internationales et régionales	
National and local NGOs from Mediterranean riparian states / ONG nationales et locales des États riverains de la Méditerranée	√

Both categories of NGOs should satisfy the following general conditions:

GISBIR	
be representative in the field(s) of their competence and fields of action by the Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / être représentatives dans leur(s) domaine(s) de compétence et leurs champs d'action dans le cadre du Plan d'action pour la Méditerranée (PAM) / Convention de Barcelone et de ses Protocoles ;	√
be able, through their work, to support the achievement of the objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / être capables, au travers de son travail, d'appuyer la réalisation des objectifs du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
be able to make known the work of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in the region and/or their respective countries / être capables de faire connaître le travail du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles dans la région et / ou dans leurs pays respectifs ;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific project or programme, to the implementation of MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols programme of activities / être capables de contribuer, au travers d'un projet ou d'un programme spécifique, à la mise en œuvre du programme d'activités du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
be able to contribute, through a specific event or manifestation linked to a Mediterranean Action Plan field of activity, to public awareness-raising / être capables de contribuer, au travers d'un événement ou d'une manifestation spécifique associée à un champ d'activité du PAM, à la sensibilisation du public ;	√
be able to provide, through their specific activity or experience, expert advice on the definition of Mediterranean Action Plan policies, programmes and actions / être capables de fournir, au travers de leur activité spécifique ou de leur expérience, un avis d'expert sur la définition de politiques, programmes et actions pour le PAM ;	√
be able regularly to disseminate information to their members, where applicable, on the standards, activities and achievements of the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention in their own field(s) of competence / être capables de diffuser régulièrement des informations à leurs membres, le cas échéant, sur les normes, activités et réalisations du PAM / Convention de Barcelone dans leur(s) propre(s) domaine(s) de compétence ;	√

be able to furnish, either spontaneously or at the request of the Mediterranean Action Plan's different bodies, information, documents or opinions relating to their own field(s) of competence / être capables de fournir, spontanément ou à la demande des différents organes du PAM, des informations, documents ou opinions relatifs à leur(s) propre(s) domaine(s) de compétence.	√
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Part II: Specific accreditation criteria and procedures / Partie II : Critères et procédures d'accréditation spécifiques

Accreditation / Accréditation

The following criteria apply to international and national/local NGOs:

Les critères suivants s'appliquent aux ONG internationales et nationales / locales :

GISBIR	
to have legal status; terms of reference, objectives and scope of activities related to one or more of MAP's areas of activity and to the scope of the Convention and its Protocols / disposer d'un statut légal ; le mandat, les objectifs et le champ d'application des activités du candidat doivent être en rapport avec un ou plusieurs domaines d'activité du PAM et avec le champ d'application de la Convention et ses Protocoles ;	√
to have existed for at least 4 years / exister depuis au moins 4 ans;	√
to submit financial and activity reports from the last two years / soumettre les états financiers et rapports d'activité des deux dernières années ;	√
to operate democratically / avoir un fonctionnement démocratique ;	√
to have their regional office or headquarters in a Mediterranean country / disposer d'un bureau ou d'un siège régional dans un pays méditerranéen ;	√
to demonstrate proof of general or specialised, technical or scientific competence on issues related to the activities of MAP, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / justifier sa compétence générale ou spécialisée, technique ou scientifique sur des questions associées aux activités du PAM, de la Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles ;	√
to demonstrate what contributions the NGO could make to MAP and the Convention and its Protocols / démontrer quelles contributions serait à même d'apporter l'ONG au PAM ainsi qu'à la Convention et ses Protocoles.	√

The following specific criteria apply to national/local NGOs:

Les critères suivants s'appliquent aux ONG nationales / locales :

GISBIR	
NGO objectives genuinely related to the marine environment and coastal zones / Les objectifs de l'ONG sont véritablement associés à l'environnement marin et aux zones côtières ;	√
NGOs participating or wishing to participate in specific national or local programmes or projects on the implementation of the objectives of the MAP/Barcelona Convention and its Protocols / ONG participant ou souhaitant participer à des programmes ou projets nationaux ou locaux sur la mise en œuvre des objectifs du PAM / Convention de Barcelone et ses Protocoles.	√