

1. Compliance Committee membership and rules of procedure

1.1 Amendment to paragraph 6 of the procedures and mechanisms on compliance concerning the renewal of its members

Paragraph 5 of the Procedures and mechanisms on compliance adopted by Decision IG.17/2 prescribes that at each ordinary meeting thereafter, the Contracting Parties shall elect for a full term new members and their alternates to replace those whose period of office is about to expire. The full term is four years. Paragraph 6 of these Procedures and mechanisms imposes an important restriction with regard to the conditions for renewal of members of the Committee by introducing the principle that regular and alternate members may not serve for two consecutive terms. This clearly means that, after his/her term expires, a member of the Committee may not be re-elected for a second consecutive term and that he/she has to wait for two years before seeking a new term.

Since the Procedures and mechanisms on compliance came into force, it has been noted that this prohibition on a second consecutive term was too strict in terms of the Committee's satisfactory functioning. The Chair of the Compliance Committee is therefore in favor of the proposed amendment to paragraph 6 of the Procedures and mechanisms on compliance and has decided to put it before members for their examination at the Committee's next meeting. It should be noted that Paragraph 35 of the Procedures and mechanisms on compliance empowers the Meeting of the Contracting Parties to regularly review the implementation and effectiveness of the compliance mechanism and to take appropriate action.

The following should be noted when considering the proposed amendment:

Firstly, and without under-estimating the need to allow all 22 Contracting Parties to sit on the Compliance Committee, it should be pointed out that the current number of 14 Committee members (seven regular members and seven alternate members) allows 14 Contracting Parties to be "represented" on the Committee. Pursuant to Decision IG.17/2, the 17th Meeting of the Contracting Parties will have before it the question of the partial renewal of the Compliance Committee members, whose current composition is as follows:

Group 1 – Contracting Parties from the southern and eastern Mediterranean

- 3 regular members (Egypt, Syrian Arab Republic, Morocco)
- 3 alternate members (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Tunisia, Algeria)

Group 2 - Contracting Parties from the European Union

- 2 regular members (Greece, Cyprus)
- 2 alternate members (Italy, Malta)

Group 3 – Other Contracting Parties

- 2 regular members (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey)
- 2 alternate members (Croatia, Montenegro)

This composition takes into account the election by the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2009 of three regular members for a four-year term (Morocco, Cyprus, Bosnia and Herzegovina) and three alternate members, also for a four-year term (Tunisia, Malta, Montenegro). The terms of the other regular and alternate members of the Compliance Committee elected by the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007 for four-year terms will end at the 17th Meeting of the Contracting Parties. These members are four regular members (Egypt, Syrian Arab Republic, Greece and Turkey) and three alternate members (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Italy and Croatia).

Pursuant to Decision IG.17/2, the 17th Meeting of the Contracting Parties will therefore have to elect eight new members (four regular members and four alternate members), whose terms will expire at the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2015. This renewal must take into account the fact that, pursuant to Decision IG.17/2, each regional group in succession has two additional members (regular and alternate) for four years. As these four years have ended, regional group 1 will therefore have to return to four members and regional group 2 will have six members instead of four.

Secondly, experience has shown that enlarging the pool of competent legal and technical experts to sit on the Committee is complex. With a view to the renewal of eight members of the Committee at the 17th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, on 30 June 2011 the Secretariat sent a letter to the Focal Points of the aforementioned three regional groups calling on them to undertake the necessary consultations for the nomination of eight candidates who could be proposed to the 17th Meeting of the Contracting Parties. To date, however, the Secretariat has only received one proposed candidature from a Contracting Party and has had contacts with another Contracting Party, which is considering putting up a candidate. This situation shows clearly the real problems faced in finding competent experts to renew the Committee with so much frequency. Accordingly, the fact that a member of the Committee with the recognized competence is prevented from being re-elected for a second consecutive term, for statutory reasons, obviously constitutes a loss for the Committee, which it should be emphasized usually meets only once a year.

Thirdly, it should be noted that the restriction imposed by paragraph 6 of the Procedures and mechanisms on compliance is an isolated example in the compliance mechanisms currently in force. For example, neither the Aarhus Convention, the Espoo Convention, the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol nor the Kyoto Protocol prohibits a second consecutive term as far as renewal of the members of their respective compliance committees is concerned.

Lastly, it should be recalled that the possibility for a member to seek a second consecutive term had been recommended by the group of legal and technical experts on negotiation of compliance procedures and mechanisms at its fourth meeting in Istanbul (Turkey, 23-25 May 2007). This group considered that two consecutive terms constituted a good compromise between the need to ensure sufficient continuity in the functioning of the Committee and the need to ensure regular renewal of its members. Following re-election for a second consecutive term, the expert concerned would have to wait four years before being eligible again.

Recommendations

- 1. The Bureau is invited to give its opinion regarding the proposal to amend paragraph 6 by removing the ban on a second consecutive term and incorporating such a proposal in the draft Decision on the Compliance Committee to be adopted by the 17th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.**
- 2. In this connection, the Bureau may want to underline that the adoption of this amendment must not affect the principle of equitable geographical distribution or the rotation of members within the Committee. To this end, the Contracting Parties from the three regional groups should undertake the necessary consultations to enable renewal of the terms of those of the members who so wish while at the same time proposing new candidates for election to the Committee.**

1.2 Amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the Compliance Committee

By Decision IG.19/1, the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties adopted the Compliance Committee's Rules of Procedure. Adoption of these Rules completed the institutional mechanism introduced by Decision IG.17/2 adopted by the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties on Procedures and mechanisms on compliance under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

The purpose of the Rules of Procedure is to set out the conditions for the Compliance Committee's operation, for which principles are laid down in the aforementioned Decision IG.17/2. They concern, respectively, drawing up the Committee's agenda, the status of regular and alternate members of the Committee, distribution and consideration of information, public access to documents and information, the conduct of the Committee's work, and voting procedures, as well as general procedures for submissions to the Committee.

At the 4th meeting of the Compliance Committee, held in Athens on 5 and 6 July 2011, the Committee's Chair expressed his wish to introduce amendments to the Rules of Procedure. These proposed amendments will be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee on 10 and 11 November 2011 for adoption.

The various amendments proposed to the Rules of Procedure are, to a large extent, of a formal nature and greatly help to improve the French text of the Rules. On the other hand, certain proposals concern changes to the actual operating conditions of the Committee, for example, that on replacing the maximum time limit of six weeks for dispatch of the Committee's working documents prior to the meeting by one month.

Recommendation

In exercise of its competences pursuant to rule 32 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure, the Bureau may express its views regarding the amendments to the Rules of Procedure proposed by the Compliance Committee and their submission to the 17th Meeting of the Contracting Parties for adoption.

2. Cooperation with other Organizations

The Five-year Programme of Work of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) stresses the importance of establishing close collaboration and coordination mechanisms between MAP and relevant international organisations. In this context, the Secretariat had contacts with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Secretariat of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) with the view of exploring ways and means for closer cooperation and synergy in the activities developed under the MAP Secretariat and its components, and those carried out by these Organisations.

Both Organisations welcomed MAP's initiative and agreed to establish cooperation agreements to serve as framework for the collaboration. In addition, the Secretariat has launched efforts to more closely coordinate with Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) with a view to facilitate Contracting Parties coordination, reporting and compliance.

2.1 Collaboration with GFCM

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) is one of the regional fishery management organisations (RFMOs) created under the auspices of the FAO. GFCM was established by an agreement signed in 1949 and entered into force in 1952. Twenty two

(22) countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea are Parties to the GFCM's Agreement along with the European Union and Japan. Membership to GFCM is open to United Nations member states whose vessels engage in fishing in Mediterranean waters.

The GFCM has as objectives to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilization of living marine resources, as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture. Its zone of competence is the Mediterranean Sea, the Black Sea and their connecting waters.

Because of its objectives and its area of competence, the GFCM is of high relevance to UNEP/MAP, since its decisions may interact with the conservation of key habitats and may have an impact on the species listed in Annex II and Annex III to the SPA/BD Protocol. During the past years, the collaboration between UNEP/MAP and the GFCM was mainly ensured through RAC/SPA and included exchange of information and data and consultation about the conservation status of fish species. While maintaining the cooperation with RAC/SPA, the application of the Ecosystems Approach calls for a broader cooperation between GFCM and UNEP/MAP.

During recent contacts between the Secretariat and the GFCM Secretariat, the following areas of cooperation were identified and could be included in a Letter of Agreement (LoA) aimed at strengthening the collaboration between the two organisations:

- Development and participation in the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean region, including exchange of information and development of indicators;
- Participation of the GFCM in the MCSD;
- Promoting consultation and exchange of information at country level between the national authorities in charge of Fisheries and the MAP Focal Point;
- Identification of site of conservation interest and consultation regarding SPAMIs and the proposals of Fisheries Restricted Areas, including collaboration to improve the management of these sites;
- Formulation of sustainable development frameworks and guidelines for coastal areas management ;
- Joint elaboration of assessments regarding the status of habitats and endangered or threatened species;
- Development and reinforcement of communication partnerships and links between the marine environment and fisheries in the Mediterranean.

The LoA is expected to be ready for signature in the beginning of 2012.

2.2 Collaboration with CBD

The CBD Secretariat and the MAP had the opportunity to collaborate at several occasions. A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed by the two organisations in 2000, it included joint activities addressing issues of common interest, in particular, invasive species and the development of marine and coastal protected areas. Given the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, SPA/RAC played, on behalf of MAP a significant role in the collaboration with the CBD. Following recent contacts with the CBD Secretariat, priority issues of relevance for MAP and the CBD were identified and a Memorandum of cooperation is being elaborated. The objective of the Memorandum of cooperation is to enhance cooperation between the Secretariat of the CBD and the Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention and its relevant

Protocols, in particular the SPA/BD Protocol and the ICZM Protocol. Particular attention will be paid to facilitating the implementation in the Mediterranean region of the 2011 – 2020 Strategic Plan for biodiversity adopted by the CBD COP in Nagoya (Aichi Strategic Plan). Although it includes objectives of a global scope, the Aichi Strategic Plan provides a flexible framework for the elaboration of national and regional objectives.

The following collaboration themes will be proposed for inclusion in the Memorandum of cooperation:

- Ensure that the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity be duly considered in national strategies on biodiversity;
- Assistance to the Mediterranean countries in achieving the Aichi Strategic Plan targets of relevance for marine and coastal biodiversity;
- Apply collaborative approaches with regard to assistance to countries;
- Exchange of experience and knowledge (know-how) regarding biodiversity indicators in particular those related to ecosystem approach roadmap currently under implementation by UNEP/MAP;
- Ensure to the extent possible the harmonisation of reporting on the implementation of CBD and SPA and biodiversity protocol particularly in the context of the participation of both Secretariats in the *InforMEA*, taking into account the need to report on the achievement of the Aichi and SAP BIO targets;
- Provide support to the EBSA process of identification and nomination with the view to ensure recognition at global level of Mediterranean sea areas of conservation interest and Mediterranean importance and jointly mobilise resources for their protection and conservation;
- Collaborate in the process of socio economic analysis and valuation of ecosystem services of the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment;
- Collaborate in policies and measures to address climate change impacts and biodiversity issues relevant for the Mediterranean
- Collaborate in strengthening the network of protected marine and coastal areas in the Mediterranean and its representativity;
- Collaborate in the development of activities related to the monitoring and mitigation of negative impacts of invasive species

The proposed means of collaboration include:

- Exchange of information on policy issues and activities of common interest;
- participate at each other events and meetings subject to fund availability;
- invite UNEP/MAP in any regional consultation process organised by CBD secretariat regarding Mediterranean as a region or sub regions or group of Mediterranean coastal states;
- explore options for joint meetings/events on issues of common interest;
- Coordinate activities in the field of training, research public awareness, and publications where appropriate;
- Support efforts for resource mobilisation for project of common interest in the Mediterranean.

The secretariat will work during the coming months with the Secretariat of the CBD on the finalisation of the Memorandum of cooperation.

Recommendation

The Bureau is invited to provide its views and guidance about the proposed elements for the Letter of Agreement with the Secretariat of GFCM and the Memorandum of Cooperation with the CBD Secretariat.

2.3 Participation in InforMEA

The *United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreement* (InforMEA) is a UNEP/DELC initiative bringing together 13 Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) Secretariats representing 17 global Agreements. It provides a search facility across MEA COP decisions, news, events, national focal points, and - soon to come - national reports and implementation plans. The material can be retrieved through a combination of free text search and a search according a set of 200 hierarchical terms jointly identified by MEAs. The information is harvested directly from participating MEA secretariats who remain the custodians of the data. This collaboration amongst MEA and UNEP also works towards the development of an MEA College (which seeks to provide an overview of capacity building as well as academic training materials) and collaborates on improving on-line reporting systems.

InforMEA provides a platform for strengthening coordination with other multilateral environmental agreements thus enhancing coherence in multilateral action and harmonization of reporting obligations. Such coordination also offers opportunities for improving compliance, fostering innovation and enhancing overall relevance of the multilateral environmental system.

The Second Meeting of the Steering of *the InforMEA* which took place in Switzerland in July 2011 invited UNEP/MAP to be the first Regional instrument to participate in the initiative, which means that UNEP/MAP will become the 14 Secretariat of the InforMEA. If the Bureau endorses this initiative, UNEP/MAP reporting system and the InforMEA would be linked through the automated harvesting mechanism chosen by the initiative which INFO/RAC considers is possible. The MAP legal Officer would suggest ways to propose where the Barcelona Convention terms should be placed on the semantic groups that participating MEAs have decided to organize the legislation and propose additions, as need be.

Recommendation

The Bureau is invited to provide its views and guidance about the proposed participation in InforMEA and consider whether a presentation of the InforMEA system on the sides of the Meeting of Focal Points would be useful.

3. Communication Strategy

At the meeting of the Bureau held in Rabat in 2010, the Secretariat reported on the process followed for the preparation of a MAP- wide forward looking assessment with regard to information and communication. The report proposed a series of “quick-win” actions to be undertaken in the short-term; with the existing resources to communicate more effectively MAP issues as well as the finalization of an updated MAP Communication Strategy.

The ECP Meeting held in July 2010 in Barcelona Spain endorsed the draft assessment report presented, which focused on the concept of Unify-Mobilise-Inspire, and nominated focal points for communication with the RACs with the view to conclude on a list of short-term

outputs in cooperation with MAP programme officers and RAC' communication focal points. It has to be noted that in terms of developing key issues and target groups; success stories; platforms etc., it was the first time that such exercise was successfully conducted in a coordinated manner with the active input of MAP components and Coordinating Unit. The work further continued with the preparation of a MAP communication and information strategy with consultant assistance. ECP Meeting in Athens in July 2011 endorsed the final draft presented as an information document.

The new MAP Information and Communication Strategy builds on the groundwork achieved over the recent years and consolidates key achievements and outlines new structures, approaches and tools necessary to increase MAP's visibility and maximize the impact of common policies, strategies, action plans and analysis designed to advance the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in the Mediterranean region and internationally.

Although the UNEP-MAP goals remain ambitious, they are set against the backdrop of financial realism. The formulation of this strategy has been guided by an understanding that UNEP-MAP financial and human resources are finite. Practical and budgetary feasibility has therefore been taken into account when developing this 5-year strategy and focus has been placed on the approaches which can be implemented with MAP's current resources.

The 3-year Action Plan outlines the tasks and activities designed to support the 5-year Information and Communications Strategy. It is a guiding framework for all internal stakeholders with an active role in communications. It additionally reflects the agreed priorities and strategies and takes into consideration resources, ambition levels and structural prerogatives. It acts as a tool against which progress can be measured and the strategy calibrated while it is sufficiently flexible to welcome bottom-up approaches.

Recommendation

The Bureau is invited to provide its views and guidance to the Secretariat

4. Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

The Mediterranean Region benefits from a long-established cooperation on the protection of the marine and coastal environment under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. The Contracting Parties at their Meeting in Athens (1996) decided to strengthen their cooperation by establishing the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) with the participation of representatives from the civil society. Contracting Parties at their Meeting in Portoroz (2005) adopted the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) an innovation in regional environmental cooperation.

The MSSD is a framework strategy with the purpose to adapt international commitments to regional conditions, to guide national sustainable development strategies and to initiate a dynamic partnership between countries at different levels of development.

Over the last five years the MCSD provided guidance and assistance to a number of Contracting Parties to develop their NSSD. In addition, the MCSD discussed and came up with proposals for action on key thematic issues: water demand management, energy, sustainable management of coastal areas, tourism and sustainable development, agriculture and rural development, urban development, transport and urban mobility and climate change, among others. A number of priority indicators for measuring sustainable development have also been developed.

At the 14th Meeting of the MCSD in Budva (Montenegro) on May 29 to June 1, 2011 it was recognized that the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development provides a guiding framework for activities at the regional and national levels and incorporates contemporary and future challenges, as evidenced by an interim assessment. It was also recognized that MCSD can provide a useful platform to support MAP activities and provide input to global concerns on sustainable development issues from a Mediterranean perspective. The basic orientations for a programme of work for 2012-2013 for MCSD were discussed within 5 categories:

1. Implementation
 - a. lessons learned from NSSD formulation
 - b. implementation and monitoring
 - c. incorporation of NSSDs into national policies and plans
 - d. contribution of MAP and its components
 - e. contribution of new initiatives
 - f. capacity-building
 - g. monitoring of MSSD
2. Enhancement
 - a. Climate Change adaptation needs to be considered and framework finalized. Provisions made in the Programme of Work along these lines.
3. Revision
 - a. A process of revision of the strategy itself is proposed to be launched after Rio+20 for adoption by 2015 as provided by the strategy itself. To that end it is necessary to start early relevant activities and actions. In the meantime, the process of updating the indicators should take place as agreed by the MCSD.
4. Information and Communication
 - a. There is a need to develop further and improve communication about MSSD and NSSDs
 - b. The MCSD highlighted the importance of contributing with the Mediterranean experience to Rio+20. If the Bureau so agrees, a draft paper could be finalized in cooperation with the steering Committee of the MCSD. The Government of Montenegro as Chair of the MCSD is considering a side event to present the Mediterranean experience.
5. Stakeholders involvement
 - a. A 'white paper' on the MCSD role was discussed at the MCSD meeting (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 358/5 - The Roles and Modalities of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development) underlining the need to revise the role and modalities of MCSD.

The above underline the necessity for improvements in mobilization and organization, including resources, of MCSD in the future. Key considerations include:

- a. Streamlining of MCSD and MAP activities taking advantages of the newly developing context of five-year cycles (provided for example in the MSSD, the ecosystem approach, etc.) and the priority setting by the global/international and regional agenda
- b. Enhancing stakeholder participation through improving structures and the capacity to mobilize resources

Support was expressed for the proposal to expand the work of the MCSD to include other stakeholders, thus giving the Barcelona Convention broader appeal.

There are several principles which have to be considered while looking at the composition of MCSD in the future in order to fulfil its eventual roles as discussed above:

- Versatile composition to enable the advisory role and accommodate eventual extensions envisaged (forum and think tank)
- A flexible composition is required to reflect the particular role by enabling the participation of relevant key stakeholders depending on the particular issues discussed
- A core structure is necessary to ensure coherence and efficiency
- Representatives/participants have to be competent and/or represent sustainable development concerns or institutional structures.
- Mobilization of key stakeholders and specific bodies of representation (key sectors of Mediterranean interest)
- Linkages to National CSDs could be sought

Beyond roles, scope and modalities or composition the MCSD requires commitment from the key stakeholders (CoPs) and MAP as well as other members in the sense of the will to pursue activities supporting the priorities set for sustainable development in the Mediterranean. All major stakeholders and groups of both public and private sectors need to 'invest' their interest in addressing regional level concerns. MAP's institutional-legal foundations and long established cooperation enhanced by MCSD activities can provide a solid platform for seeking synergies as an inter-agency platform and a basis of improving governance particularly at these times of broader new challenges and financial crisis.

Recommendation

The Bureau is kindly invited to provide its views and guidance to the Secretariat about the future directions, roles, modalities and composition of MCSD to allow the Secretariat to prepare a draft decision for the consideration of the 17th Contracting Parties Meeting.

5. Organization of MAP Focal Points meeting

During their 16th Ordinary meeting, the Contracting Parties agreed to convene a MAP Focal Points Meeting in 2011 in advance of the Meeting of Contracting parties Meeting. As per the calendar distributed during the Bureau Meeting held in Athens 3-4 October, the Secretariat is planning to hold the next MAP Focal Points Meeting in Athens from 29 November to 2 December 2011. The meeting will examine the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Work 2010-2011 and will review the Programme of Work proposed by the Secretariat for the period 2012-2013. The MAP Focal Points Meeting will also review the Draft Decisions to be submitted to 17th Contracting Parties Meeting. The following Decisions are being prepared by the Secretariat:

1. Draft decision on the work and election of the new members and alternate members of the Compliance Committee;
2. Draft decision on the adoption of the Action Plan to implement ICZM Protocol;
3. Draft decision on Reporting on measures taken to implement the Convention and its Protocols and Reporting Format on ICZM Protocol;

4. Draft decision on the Ecosystem Approach: MAP initial integrated assessment, ecological and operational objectives, indicators and roadmap implementation timetable, update on policies including MAP data management and sharing policy;
5. Draft decision on the amendments to the Annexes II and III of the Protocol on SPA/Biodiversity;
6. Draft decision on the adoption of a new programme of work for the Action Plan for the conservation of marine vegetation;
7. Draft decision on the conservation of sites of particular ecological interest;
8. Draft decision on Regional Plans on Mercury, POPs and BOD in the food sector in the framework of the implementation of Article 15 of the Land Based Sources and Activities Protocol of the Barcelona Convention;
9. Draft decision on Criteria and standards for bathing water quality in the Mediterranean;
10. Draft decision on Marine litter Strategy;
11. Draft decision on the Regional strategy addressing ship's ballast water management and invasive species;
12. Draft decision on the Action Plan to implement the Offshore Protocol;
13. Draft decision on governance (MCSD/MSSD, Communication Strategy, Administrative Arrangements, etc);
14. Draft decision on Programme of work and budget 2012-2013.

Recommendation

The Bureau is kindly invited to:

- 1. Provide its views and guidance to the Secretariat about the organisation of the next MAP Focal Point Meeting and the dates of the Meeting.**
- 2. Review and discuss the List of draft Decisions proposed by the Secretariat.**

6. Main directions from the Programme of Work

The 2012-2013 Programme of Work is the second biannual Programme of Work prepared in the context of the Five-Year Strategic priorities adopted by the Contracting Parties meeting in Marrakesh on 3-5 November 2009. It is being developed based on the processes established in the Governance paper (Decision IG.17/5) and the indications received by the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at their meetings in Zagreb and Athens on 8-9 November 2010 and 3-5 October 2011, particularly as it refers to indicative planning figures. Process and format wise it includes three major innovations: iterative consultations were carried out with MAP focal points and Component Focal Points and results added to the draft; all activities and resources implemented by MAP Components have been included; and, a new budget format which adds transparency, results-orientation and comprehensiveness has been added.

Since the Bureau in Zagreb concluded that the strategic vision of the Five-Year Programme of Work was relevant and flexible to accommodate evolving priorities, the focus of the 2012-2013 Programme of Work is to advance in delivering remaining priority activities in the Programme of Work. At the same time, the following emerging issues of MAP relevance have been given particular attention in the current biennium programme of work.

1. The demands associated with the achievement in the Mediterranean of the strategic objectives (2011-2020) adopted by the Conference of the parties (COP 10) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Nagoya (Japan) regarding marine and coastal biodiversity;
2. evolving global and regional reflections such as those in preparation to the Rio+20 Summit (2012) on the transition towards a Green Economy and on effective global and regional institutional arrangements which accelerate the path towards sustainable development;
3. the need to continue enhancing synergies and cooperation with other global processes for increased protection of the marine and coastal environment such as the UN Regular Process for Global Reporting and the demands for completing the first integrated assessment by 2014 as well as UNEP Regional Seas initiatives for ex. the Inter-Governmental Review of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA-3) and the Global Framework for the Prevention and Management of Marine Debris;
4. the implications of the progress achieved and the forthcoming steps in the Implementation of the Ecosystems Approach road-map adopted by the Conference of the Parties in 2008 and considered an over-arching principle in the Five-year Programme of Work (2010-2015). This includes developing targets and defining Good Environmental Status for the proposed Ecological Objectives; developing an integrated monitoring system for the selected indicators; ensuring an integrated assessment policy; developing common data-sharing policies; adopting priority sectoral measures; deepening the understanding of key services delivered by our marine and coastal ecosystems; and, assessing in-depth the socio-economic drivers affecting the status of our ecosystem;
5. the strategic and operational requirements necessary to set up effective Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Off-Shore systems now that the unique ICZM and Off-Shore Protocols have entered into force on 24 March 2011;
6. with all seven Protocols in force, attention shifts from standard setting to challenges affecting implementation. In this context, issues such as enhancing the capacity of mechanism that support compliance, as well as strengthening cooperation and partnership with global and regional actors for the purposes of catalyzing finance and technical assistance to MAP priorities become also more relevant; and,
7. the need to further enhance the coherence, efficiency, accountability and transparency of UNEP/MAP operations as well as to strengthen its synergies with relevant regional and global partners as required by a context of diminishing MTF resources and fiscal constrains in many countries in the region.

Recommendation

The Bureau is invited to provide comments and guidance to the Secretariat with a view to finalize the Programme of Work in advance of the next Meeting of Focal Points

7. Administrative arrangements governing UNEP's action as Administrator of the Barcelona Convention

The Extended Bureau Meeting held in Athens on 3-5 October 2011 acknowledged UNEP's proposal to cooperate with the Contracting Parties to clarify and updating the administrative arrangement governing its action as Administrator of the Barcelona Convention and requested that information be provided on this regard at the next Bureau meeting. The Secretariat has circulated document (UNEP/BUR/73/Inf.5): "Memorandum of Understanding between the Standing Committee of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme concerning Secretariat Services to and Support of the Convention" as an info document that can be a model for elaborating a specific MOU between UNEP and the Barcelona Convention.

The current arrangement is based on a decision of the Contracting Parties to request UNEP to provide the Secretariat to the Convention.

Recommendation

The Bureau is kindly invited to provide its views and guidance to the Secretariat about the way forward in this regard.