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MED POL Focal Points Meeting  
Malta, 16-19 June 2015

Joint Session MED POL and REMPEC Focal Points Meetings  
Malta, 17 June 2015

**Agenda item 8: UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021**

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**1. Note by the Secretariat**

1. The present document represents the first draft of the 6 year Midterm Strategy 2016-2021 with regards to the strategic theme on pollution assessment, control and assessment. The Secretariat work is ongoing with the view to take into account the comments received at the MAP Focal Points meeting held on 19-21 May 2015 in Athens, Greece.
2. The purpose of presenting this part of the midterm UNEP/MAP strategy is to embark on in depth discussions with the MED POL Focal Points and receive their feedback and guidance for further work on its finalisation for submission to the MAP Focal Points meeting in October 2015.
3. The present draft has already taken into account the relevant comments made on this theme at the MAP Focal Points meeting held on 19-21 May 2015 in Athens, Greece.

## 2. LAND- AND SEA-BASED POLLUTION

4. The implementation of the 6-year Strategic Programme of Work of UNEP/MAP 2010-2015 resulted with several major outputs in the field of marine and coastal pollution control and prevention. In the course of the last biennium, MED POL and REMPEC undertook a number of assessments and evaluations, the findings and recommendations of which are pointing out that the Mediterranean region is still facing important challenges to prevent and control marine and coastal pollution.
5. The strategic theme “Land- and Sea-Based Pollution” was designed with the aim to provide effective support to the contracting parties to address the above challenges and enhance their capacities to effectively implement the five protocols related to pollution of the Barcelona Convention with a particular focus on legally binding commitments. In this respect, the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) has been incorporated in the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy and for the first time a comprehensive programme for the implementation of the Offshore Protocol is also presented in an integrated manner.
6. UNEP/MAP will be playing an important co-chairing role in the H2020 governance system for the two important sub groups on capacity building and monitoring and assessment, with UfM presidencies and the EEA respectively. This will contribute to a better and more efficient use of resources in the implementation of the 6-year UNEP/MAP strategy in synergy with H2020 Work Programme 2015-2020.
7. The strategic theme “Land- and Sea-Based Pollution” was developed as to:
  - i. Build on the results of the implementation of the 5-year strategy adopted in 2009;
  - ii. Focus on a priority basis on the work to support contracting parties to implement the programmes of measures envisaged in the updated National Action Plans (NAPs) to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) for the pollution related ecosystem approach Mediterranean ecological objectives. In this respect, developing and delivering a package of key technical implementation tools/ guidelines and provision of technical assistance and capacity building for their implementation remains a high priority;
  - iii. Support the updating and strengthening of national pollution monitoring programme to monitor environmental status, emerging pollutants as well as the effectiveness of programmes of measures/ NAPs in line with Art 26 of the Barcelona Convention, Art 13 of the LBS Protocol and Art 5 of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol;
  - iv. Further develop assessment methodologies to support setting where appropriate national, sub regional and regional GES targets, environmental targets, assessment criteria, thresholds and baseline values, as well as linking and integration with all the Mediterranean ecological objectives;
  - v. Enhance access to marine pollution information and data including hot spots and sensitive areas at regional, global and national levels based on SEIS principles;
  - vi. Take into account the need to benefit from the important relevant global and regional policy frameworks thus avoiding overlapping and ensuring where appropriate harmonisation with *inter alia*:
    - the Minamata, Basel and Stockholm Conventions and with the sustainable financial mechanism for chemicals established in the framework of UNEP;

- Rio+20 and the reports of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the General Assembly on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (2012 and 2011) which identify plastics and nutrient over-enrichment as emerging issues deserving global attention;
  - UNEA decision on Marine litter, GPML, GP WW and GPSW;
  - IMO conventions (MARPOL, OPRC, Dumping);
  - LRTAP Convention (UNECE) with regards to air pollutant inventories, related tools and modelling to assess impacts on marine environment.
- vii. Establish strong and complementary synergies with the work of other Regional Seas, Agreements and relevant EU bodies for the implementation of the Regional Plans and Strategies in a coordinated manner;
- viii. Strengthen and contribute to the partnership with H2020 and related programmes/ projects and governing institutions.
8. The strategic theme is designed in an integrated manner with all the other themes of the Mid-Term Strategy. It is detailed in an ambitious programme that will be implemented under MED POL and REMPEC leadership in close collaboration with SCP RAC as per their mandates, and in partnership with regional and global partners including the NGOs. Efforts are ongoing to ensure mobilization of the required external resources to complement the MTF funding as appropriate (GEF, EU, H2020, UNEP/GPA, IMO, private sector).

**Pollution, Litter and Noise related Ecological Objectives**

- Human-induced eutrophication is prevented, especially adverse effects thereof, such as losses in biodiversity, ecosystem degradation, harmful algal blooms, and oxygen deficiency in bottom waters.
  - Contaminants cause no significant impact on coastal and marine ecosystems and human health.
  - Marine and coastal litter does not adversely affect coastal and marine environments.
  - Noise from human activities causes no significant impact on marine and coastal ecosystems.
9. The proposed programme for the pollution related strategic theme encompasses 6 strategic outcomes supported by 17 key outputs which are aggregated to the extent possible. They cover several aspects of the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its pollution related protocols as described in the table below. A set of indicators has also been proposed to assess the implementation of the programme and its performance.

<b>Strategic Outcomes</b>	<b>Key Outputs</b>
<b>1. Facilitation and coordination of the implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and of programmes of measures in existing Regional Strategies and Action Plans.</b>	1.1 Adopted pollution related Regional Strategies and Action Plans implemented.
	1.2 Common standards developed or updated for key priority substances or sectors and areas of consumption and production.

<p><b>2. Strengthening and implementation of marine pollution prevention and control legislation and policies at national level, including through enforcement.</b></p>	<p>2.1 Adopted NAPs (Art. 15, LBS Protocol) implemented and major outputs timely delivered. Enhanced financial sustainability of NAP implementation. Support to identification and development and where appropriate implementation of projects for the implementation of NAPs provided on the basis of well-defined priority selection criteria.</p>
	<p>2.2 National policy and regulatory pollution prevention and control frameworks, including enforcement, strengthened, updated and integrated into national and sectorial processes (e.g. use of economic instruments).</p>
<p><b>3. Monitoring and assessment of marine pollution, including through inventories of pollutant loads to marine and coastal environment.</b></p>	<p>3.1 National pollution and litter monitoring programs updated to include the relevant pollution and litter EcAp indicators and implemented with regular quality assurance programmes at national and regional levels and data reporting.</p>
	<p>3.2 Inventories of pollutant loads (NBB, PRTR from land based sources, and from offshore and shipping) to marine and coastal environment regularly reported and updated at national, sub-regional and regional levels, and supported by quality assurance systems.</p>
	<p>3.3 Marine pollution assessment maps (load levels and hotspots) developed and updated to show trends at national, sub regional and regional levels.</p>
	<p>3.4 In-depth thematic assessment reports delivered at regional, sub-regional and national levels to feed NAP and SAP-MED implementation indicators, SoE reporting for the parts related to pollution.</p>
	<p>3.5 Fact sheets for marine pollution assessment, based on EcAp, NAP, Regional Plans and H2020 indicators, developed and updated to evaluate the effectiveness of management measures aimed at Good Environmental Status.</p>
<p><b>4. Technical assistance and guidance on priority sectors.</b></p>	<p>4.1 Guidelines and decision-support tools developed and updated for key substances and relevant sectors taking into account best available techniques and practices and SCP tools and practices. Priority sectors include marine litter, desalination, agriculture, industrial sector, hazardous waste, dumping, shipping and offshore, including up-to-date efficient authorization and integrated permitting and inspection systems.</p>
	<p>4.2 Methodological tools for SCP mainstreaming in priority areas of consumption and production such as tourism, food, housing and goods manufacturing implemented and new ones developed for other sectors.</p>

<b>5. Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels for monitoring, pollutant inventories, policy, implementation, authorization and inspections, and compliance with national legislation.</b>	5.1 Training programs and workshops held at regional and sub-regional levels in areas such as pollution monitoring, pollutant inventories, policy implementation, common technical guidelines, authorization and inspections bodies and compliance with national legislation.
	5.2 Pilot projects implemented on marine litter, POPs, mercury, and illicit discharges.
	5.3 Marine pollution prevention and control measures integrated in ICZM Protocol implementation projects, CAMPs and Strategic Environment Impact Assessments.
	5.4 Training and awareness-raising programmes on SCP solutions for alternatives to POPs and toxic chemicals and reduction of upstream sources of marine litter delivered to businesses, entrepreneurs, financial institutions and civil society.
<b>6. Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels to prevent and control marine pollution.</b>	6.1 Cooperation with stakeholders at all levels developed and strengthened through agreements, exchange of best practices and synergies.
	6.2 Networks and initiatives of businesses, entrepreneurs and civil society providing SCP solutions contributing to alternatives to POPs and toxic chemicals and to reduce upstream sources of marine litter supported and coordinated.

### **Proposed Performance Indicators**

- Number of marine pollution prevention and control regulatory instruments and policies, including cooperation agreements developed or updated at regional, sub-regional and national levels.
- Number of countries reporting non-increasing marine pollution trends for the priority sectors (land-based, shipping and offshore) of the relevant Regional Plans.
- Number of new and updated guidelines and other implementation instruments addressing pollution prevention and control, including SCP tools for key sectors and areas of consumption and production.
- [Number of pollution hot spots eliminated.]
- Number of businesses, entrepreneurs, financial agents and civil society organizations capacitated to promote SCP solutions alternative to POPs and toxic chemicals, and marine litter reduction.