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Agenda item 9: MED POL programme of work 2016-2017

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Note by the Secretariat

The present document summarizes the activities proposed to be implemented during the biennium 2016-2017 in the framework of UNEP/MAP Mid Term Strategy (MTS) currently under discussion with MAP focal points.

Being the first biannual cycle of the MTS, the 2016-2017 biennium will focus on key deliverables bearing also in mind the need to create a strong basis for delivering the future outputs of the MTS beyond 2017.

The proposed programme of work is designed to ensure:

- Full alignment with the proposed Mid Term Strategy 2016-2021;
- Support to the Contracting Parties to enhance their capacities to effectively implement the five pollution-related protocols of the Barcelona Convention with a particular focus on legally binding commitments;
- Special focus on a priority basis on the work to support Contracting Parties to start the implementation and/ or prepare themselves 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;
- Support to the Contracting Parties to update and continue their marine pollution monitoring programmes (loads and levels), strengthen their reporting as well as to develop and use common assessment criteria, thresholds and baseline values as appropriate;
- Better harmonization and synergies as appropriate with pollution related global and regional Conventions, UNEP/GPA, EU MSFD and Water Framework Directives;
- Common synergies and complementarities with the work of EU Regional Seas in particular for the implementation in a coordinated manner of the Regional Plans on Marine Litter as appropriate;
- Efficient delivery of UNEP/MAP responsibilities vis a vis the UfM H2020 initiative governing bodies and related programmes/ projects.

Therefore the proposed programme envisages a number of main activities addressing the need to:

- Analyze the need for and identify and prioritize potential measures required to achieve GES;
- Update existing guidelines to further take into account SCP, BAT, BEP and GES;
- Update monitoring and assessment programmes at national level, enhance best practices and related supporting tools;
- Update and strengthen as appropriate the existing national policy and legislative framework required to implement the updated NAPs;
- Strengthen public participation and access to information and support the Contracting Parties to enhance access to marine pollution information and data based on SEIS principles and in line with relevant COP decisions;
- Further strengthen institutional structures at regional and national levels that should support the implementation and enforcement of pollution reduction legislation;

- Update technical guidance documents to foster national implementation of common standards and best practices for key SAP/MED-Regional Plan and updated NAP sectors;
- Undertake pilot projects at small scale to implement selected measures (if funding becomes available) envisaged under the Regional Plans on Marine Litter and Mercury.

The proposed programme is built around 6 strategic outcomes and 15 key outputs to be delivered through the implementation of 36 main activities. A set of indicators to be populated by the Secretariat is suggested to assess the performance of the programme of work implementation associated with some key targets. The proposed programme is presented as Annex I to the present document.

A description of the proposed strategic outcomes and the rationale behind main activities is presented below for easier reference.

Strategic Outcome 1.1

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.

The implementation of the proposed activities would enable the MED POL focal points in 2017 to review and consider the possibility to ask for a mandate, if deemed necessary and useful, to update and align during the 2018-2019 biennium the annexes of the HW Protocol with the relevant developments under the Basel Convention. This would help in ensuring and maximizing the synergies between UNEP/MAP and Basel Convention work. A similar analysis can be made for the Dumping and LBS Protocols, as appropriate.

The Contracting Parties have agreed on a number of common standards, measures and timeframes as a part of the adopted Regional Plans. However, other sectors and contaminants may be considered for elaborating common regional measures, including an update of the existing ones as appropriate to facilitate the implementation of the Protocols to achieve GES. For this purpose, an in-depth analysis should be made for review and discussion by the MED POL FP meeting in 2017. In addition, it is expected to continue the work to negotiate and agree upon a number of EAC/ BAC or thresholds values for some contaminants and other pollutants, as appropriate.

With regards to technical guidelines, it is proposed to continue the work started during the current biennium to update the Dredged material guidelines, to start the update of the Guidelines on artificial reefs under the Dumping Protocol and update the Desalination guidelines under the LBS Protocol that were approved in 2003 and 2004. The updated guidelines will be reviewed by expert meetings before their submission to the MED POL FP meeting in 2017 for their consideration and approval.

Strategic Outcome 1.2

Strengthening and implementation of marine pollution prevention and control legislation and policies at national level, including through enforcement

The main objectives of the activities envisaged under this strategic outcome are to support the updated NAPs implementation addressing in particular the regulatory framework and the investment portfolio. Therefore the main proposed activities are:

- Assess NAP priorities and its operational targets against the GES and SAP MED targets at national, sub regional and regional levels. The report will be submitted to MED POL FP meeting in 2017;
- Support streamlining NAP operational targets and related measures in the national legal and/ or regulatory systems upon country request (focus to support setting up ELV/ EQS/ GES and Marine Litter Mercury measures);
- Develop and test common criteria as appropriate for NAP project prioritization and development in collaboration with UfMS.

Enhancing the financial sustainability of NAP implementation remains a high priority. In this context there is a need to promote best practices related to the use of economic instruments and support the countries to design and implement appropriate instruments to prevent and control pollution and secure efficient external funding for investment projects. The following activities are proposed to this end:

- Assess the use of relevant economic instruments related to pollution prevention and control, promote best practices and develop capacities for effective application of these policy instruments;
- Assess and promote the use of instruments and incentives to reduce the single-use of plastic bags;
- Assess and promote the application of charges at reasonable costs and No-Special-Fee system for the use of port reception facilities.

Finally during the 2014-2015 biennium, the Contracting Parties at the Regional meeting addressing environmental inspectorate issues held in November 2014 and at the Regional Meeting on combatting illegal traffic of HW held in April 2015, requested the Secretariat to support and provide updated tools to strengthen the permitting system and support coordination at country level between different bodies to enhance enforcement. In this respect the following activities are proposed:

- Develop checklist to enhance permitting system to review BAT and BEP proposed by industries and suggest the right emission values;
- Support the existing country mechanisms to strengthen coordination with customs to obtain HW export import data and with other enforcement authorities.

Strategic outcome 1.3

Monitoring and assessment of marine pollution, including through inventories of pollutant loads to marine and coastal environment

This package of activities is based on the ongoing work of the Contracting Parties in this field and aims at further advancing monitoring and assessment practices taking into account the ecosystem approach. In addition, the SEIS and EcAp projects are expected to support the activities listed below:

- Support the Contracting Parties to update their national pollution monitoring programme in line with the MAP integrated monitoring programme (EO 5, 9, 10, 11);

- Undertake coordinated monitoring programme quality assurance programme (eutrophication, contaminants and litter at regional and national levels) including quality assured reporting and related trainings;
- Develop new/ update existing common monitoring protocols on ML, biological effects and eutrophication;
- Strengthen NBB and PRTR reporting in a number of countries including quality assurance control of reported data;
- As a follow up of the current work under the NAP update process, update and publish pollution assessment maps at sub regional and regional levels;
- Update thematic assessments on eutrophication, contaminants and dumping activities taking into account analysis of trends;
- Develop and update fact sheets negotiated with the countries for at least 10 indicators, including related data set dictionaries. Prepare the first assessment fact sheets at sub regional and regional levels for the consideration of the MED POL focal points meeting in 2017.

Strategic outcome 1.4

Technical assistance and guidance on priority sectors

The purpose of proposing the activities described below is to provide common technical guidance to the Contracting Parties at expert level based on existing best practices and available technics. The Regional Plans adopted in the framework of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol provide for a large number of sectorial guides or technical guidelines to be developed or updated and for support to be provided to the Contracting Parties for their implementation. During the first biennium of the MTS, the following activities are proposed pending external resource mobilization:

- Develop PRTR guidelines and common emission factors as one of the key recommendations of the PRTR component of the SEIS project implemented in 2014;
- Share best practices on waste management including prevention and landfill bans of high caloric wastes (esp. for plastics) to support the implementation of the Marine Litter Regional Plan (if external funding becomes available);
- Promote fishing best practice in relation to marine litter (covering all relevant aspects including e.g. dolly rope, waste management on board, waste management at harbours and operational losses/ net cuttings (if external funding becomes available);
- Develop a risk assessment tool for identifying where accumulations of ghost nets pose a threat to the environment and should be removed (if external funding becomes available);
- Collect and disseminate successful case studies of companies and initiatives providing solutions to waste generation ending up as marine litter and alternatives to POPs and toxic chemicals.

Pending funding availability, all the activities related to marine litter will be implemented in collaboration with the UNEP/GPA and its global partners. Special efforts will be made to harmonize the work with European Regional Seas respectively OSPAR, Black Sea and HELCOM Commissions.

Strategic outcome 1.5

Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels for monitoring, pollutant inventories, policy implementation, authorization and inspections, and compliance with national legislation

The activities proposed under this strategic outcome aim at finalizing the work carried out during the current biennium with regards to the state of play of management of a number of key sectors at country and regional level as well as undertaking trainings. The proposed activities are:

- Finalize country fact sheets on lube oil, lead batteries, PCB and Mercury and training /capacity building on relevant guidelines implementation;
- Strengthen country capacity on monitoring, investigation, and inspection and enforcing legislation related to HW transboundary movement and management;
- Organize at least one meeting of the informal Mediterranean network on compliance and enforcement (LBS Protocol) and ensure its collaboration with other relevant enforcement networks;
- Contribute to two CAMP projects to take into consideration pollution prevention and control in line with UNEP/MAP Programme of Work;
- Undertake awareness raising on dental fillings containing mercury to general population and capacity building to dental clinics on safe mercury fillings removal and proper waste management.

Strategic Outcome 1.6

Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels to prevent and control marine pollution

The main activities under this strategic outcome will be presented under the Governance strategic theme in particular the institutional collaboration with key partners such as UN pollution related conventions, collaboration with UNEP/ Regional Seas and GPA, UfM H2020, EU Regional Seas, NGO/MAP partners, EEA, UNECE, etc.

These activities include:

- Establish a regional ML coordination mechanism under UNEP/MAP leadership with partner organizations, private sector and civil society the main objective of which should be to promote a coordinated action of stakeholders to efficiently support the Contracting Parties to implement the Regional Plan on ML;
- Delivery of responsibilities that UNEP/MAP has assumed with regards to H2020 Initiative;
- Establish collaboration and contribute to the implementation of major external projects addressing marine pollution assessment and policies in the Mediterranean with the view to benefit from their deliverables and experience in particular those related to research aspects; undertake joint activities and assessment with relevant RACs.

Under the pollution strategic theme, the following activities are proposed:

- Support Contracting Parties in developing material for ML education programmes, including micro litter, for professionals (if external funding becomes available);

- Training and support programme to promote entrepreneurship in selected SMEs and CSO to implement innovative solutions to prevent the generation of waste ending up as marine litter and the shift to safe alternatives to POPs and toxic chemicals.

Annex I – Proposed Programme of Work 2016 - 2017

Theme 1: LAND- AND SEA-BASED POLLUTION**2016-2017 Targets:**

1. Four regional regulatory/policy tools developed/updated
2. Four countries supported to update their regulatory national system on pollution control and prevention
3. 21 countries supported to provide pollution monitoring and inventory data including PRTR
4. Four technical guidelines updated and submitted to MED POL Focal Points meeting
5. Three integrated projects identified based on prioritization criteria

2016-2017 Indicators:

1. Number of marine pollution prevention and control regulatory instruments and policies updated or developed,
2. Number of countries submitting reports on annual pollution loads and levels for agreed pollutants.
3. 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.
4. Number of projects identified and or prepared to eliminate pollution hot spots.
5. 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.

Strategic Outcome 1.1:

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.

No.	Key Outputs	Main Activities	Means of Implement'n	Lead: CU or Component	Other: CU and/or Components	Partners
1.1.1	Adopted pollution related Regional Strategies and Action Plans implemented	1. Prepare a policy paper on potential future pollution prevention and control programmes of measures required to achieve GES taking into account the updated list of contaminants as well as existing studies of prospective related sectors and drivers development	Consultancy& Regional Meeting/MED POL FP meeting	MED POL	SCP/RAC, Plan Bleu	H2020 GEF EEA, UNIDO
		2. Update two Dumping Protocol Guidelines	Regional Meetings& Consultancy/ SSFA	MED POL	REMPEC	IMO, OSPAR, HELCOM

1.1.2	Common standards developed or updated for key priority substances or sectors and in areas of consumption and production	3. Develop and negotiate common standards (BAC and EAC) for a number of contaminants	Consultancy, Regional expert Meeting	MEDPOL	REMPEC	EU MSFD, EEA, OSPAR, HELCOM, JRC
		4. Assess the content of the annexes of the LBS, Dumping and HW Protocols in light of recent relevant global and regional developments for consideration and follow up by the MED POL FP meeting in 2017	Consultancy/Internship	MEDPOL		Basel& Stockholm Conventions, IMO London Dumping Protocol, UNEP/GPA, EU WFD, EU MSFD
		5. Update the MED POL Desalination Guidelines	Consultancy& Regional Meeting	MEDPOL	Plan Bleu and SCP RAC	EU SWIM, Relevant Regional Projects
Strategic Outcome 1.2						
Strengthening and implementation of marine pollution prevention and control legislation and policies at national level, including through enforcement						
1.2.1	Adopted NAPs (Art. 15, LBS Protocol) implemented and major outputs timely delivered	1. Assess NAP priorities and operational targets against the GES and SAP MED targets at national, sub regional and regional level. Report submitted to MED POL FP meeting in 2017	Consultancy, Regional meeting	MED POL	CU	H2020
		2. Support streamlining NAP operational targets and related measures in the national legal and or regulatory systems in 5 countries (focus ELV/EQS/GES and ML)	Consultancy, SSFA	MED POL	CU	UNEP/GPA, H2020
		3. Develop and test common criteria as appropriate for NAP project prioritization and development in collaboration with UfMS	Consultancy, Regional consultation/ Meeting	MED POL	CU, SCP/RAC and Plan Bleu	UfM, H2020, UNEP/GPA, UNIDO

1.2.2	National policy and regulatory pollution prevention and control frameworks, including enforcement, strengthened, updated and integrated into national and sectorial processes (comprising also development and implementation of policies on the use of economic instruments)	4. Develop checklist to enhance permitting system to review BAT and BEP proposed by industries and suggest the right emission values	Consultancy, Regional Meeting/Consultation	MED POL		UNIDO, EU IPPC, REACH, H2020
		5. Support national regulatory framework update to enhance marine pollution prevention, control tools and enforcement for key sectors and contaminants (POPs, PCB, obsolete chemicals, HW)	Consultancy, Regional Meeting, SSFA	MED POL		H2020, Stockholm, Basel, Minamata, Conventions, UNEP Chemicals
		6. Support two countries to develop Chlor Alkali decommission plans	SSFA, Consultancy	MED POL	SCP/RAC	UNEP Chemicals, Minamata Convention
		7. Support country mechanisms to strengthen coordination with customs to obtain HW export import data and with other enforcement authorities	National Meetings and Training	MED POL	SCP/RAC	Basel Convention, ENFORCE, IMPEL, H2020
		8. Disseminate best practices on the use of pollution prevention and control economic instruments through publications, exchange of experiences and capacity building; assist countries to establish legal frameworks for voluntary agreements and deposit refund systems	Consultancy, Regional meetings, study visits	MED POL	Plan Bleu and SCP RAC	H2020, TAIEX
		9. Assess and promote the use of relevant instruments and incentives to reduce the single-use of plastic bags	Sub Regional/National Meetings/ events, SSFA, consultancies	MED POL	SCP/RAC, Plan Bleu	H2020, OSPAR, HELCOM, Black Sea

		10. Disseminate best practices and promote the application of charges at reasonable costs and No-Special-Fee system for the use of port reception facilities and prepare a guidance document	Consultancy, Regional meeting	REMPEC	MED POL	IMO, OSPAR, HELCOM
Strategic Outcome 1.3 Monitoring and assessment of marine pollution, including through inventories of pollutant loads to marine and coastal environment.						
1.3.1	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	1. Support at least 10 countries to establish updated national monitoring programme including marine litter, and as appropriate micro litter, as well as noise on pilot basis	Meeting, SSFA	MED POL	CU	EEA, AIEA, Quasimeme, DISIT, OSPAR, HELCOM
		2. Undertake coordinated monitoring programme quality assurance programme (eutrophication, contaminant and litter at regional and national levels) including quality assured reporting	Meetings, LoA, SSFA	MED POL		AIEA, Quasimeme, DISIT, EEA (SEIS)
		3. Develop and update common monitoring protocols on ML, biological effects and eutrophication	SSFA/Meetings	MED POL	RAC/SPA	DISIT, Quasimeme, Medaset, OSPAR, MLTG, EU MSFD
1.3.2	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	4. Strengthen NBB and PRTR reporting in 10 countries including quality assurance control of data	Consultancies and Regional meeting	MED POL	InfoRAC	EPRTR, EEA, SEIS Project, UNECE LRTAP,
		5. Pollution assessment maps updated for key contaminants and litter with new data at national, sub regional and regional levels	Consultancies	MED POL	Plan Bleu	EEA, SEIS Project

1.3.3	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	6. Updated thematic assessments on eutrophication, contaminants and dumping activities	Consultancies/SSFA	MED POL	REMPEC	EEA, H2020, London Dumping Protocol, EU MSFD, EU WFD
		7. Assessment Fact sheets developed/ updated and negotiated with the countries for at least 10 indicators, including related data set dictionaries	Consultancies, Regional meeting	MED POL	Plan Bleu and INFO RAC	EEA/SEIS, H2020, UNEP/Regional Seas Programme, EU MSFD, EU WFD
Strategic Outcome 1.4 Technical assistance and guidance on priority sectors.						
1.4.1	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	1. Develop PRTR guidelines and common emission factors	SSFA, Consultancy/ Meeting	MEDPOL		H2020, SEIS Project, EEA, UNIDO
1.4.2	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	2. Share best practices on waste management including prevention and landfill bans of high caloric wastes (esp. for plastics)	Sub Regional and Regional Meetings and events, SSFA	MEDPOL	SCP/RAC	SWEEPNET, H2020, OSPAR, HELCOM, Black Sea
		3. Promote fishing best practice in relation to marine litter (covering all relevant aspects including e.g. dolly rope, waste management on board, waste management at harbours and operational losses/ net cuttings)	Sub regional/ National meetings SSFA	MED POL	SCP/RAC, RAC SPA, REMPEC	GFCM, Accobams, UNEP/GPA, DefishGea3, OSPAR, HELCOM

		4. Develop a risk assessment tool for identifying where accumulations of ghost nets pose a threat to the environment and should be removed	SSFA	MED POL	RAC/SPA, REMPEC	GFCM, Accobams, UNEP/GPA, DefishGear
		5. Collect and disseminate successful case studies of companies and initiatives providing solutions to waste generation ending up as marine litter and alternatives to POPs and toxic chemicals	SSFA	SCP/RAC	MEDPOL	Stockholm Convention, H2020
<p>Strategic Outcome 1.5 Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels for monitoring, pollutant inventories, policy implementation, authorizations and inspections, and compliance with national legislation.</p>						
1.5.1	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	1. Finalize country fact sheets on lube oil, lead batteries, PCB and Mercury and training/ capacity building on relevant guidelines implementation	SSFA, Regional/Sub regional meetings	MEDPOL	SCP/RAC	H2020, Basel Convention, IMPEL, REACH, ENFORCE
		2. Strengthen country capacity to combat illegal trafficking including monitoring, investigation, inspection and enforcement	SSFA, Regional/Sub regional meetings/ Consultancies	MEDPOL	CU	Basel Convention H2020, IMPEL, REACH, ENFORCE
		3. Strengthen the informal Mediterranean network on compliance and enforcement (LBS Protocol)	Regional Meeting, Consultancy	MEDPOL	CU	H2020, INARE, IMPEL, ENFORCE
1.5.2	Pilot projects implemented on marine litter, POPs, mercury, and illicit discharges	4. Replicate pilots projects on lube oil and lead batteries in 2 countries	SSFA, National meeting, consultancies	MED POL	SCP/RAC	H2020, REACH, Stockholm and Basel Conventions,
		5. Undertake ML removal/reduction and ML prevention pilot projects	SSFA, National meeting, consultancies	MED POL	SCP/RAC	GFCM, Accobams, GPA, DefishGear, Plastic Buster

1.5.3	Marine pollution prevention and control measures integrated in ICZM Protocol implementation projects, CAMPs and Strategic Environment Impact Assessments	6. Contribute to two CAMP projects to take into consideration pollution prevention and control	SSFA	MEDPOL	REMPEC	Relevant ICZM and MSP initiatives and projects
1.5.4	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	7. Awareness raising on dental fillings containing mercury to general population and capacity building to dental clinics on safe mercury fillings removal and proper waste management	SSFA	SCP/RAC	MED POL	H2020, UNEP Chemicals, Minamata Convention
Strategic Outcome 1.6 Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels to prevent and control marine pollution.						
1.6.1	Cooperation with stakeholders at all levels developed and strengthened through agreements, exchange of best practices and synergies	1. Support Contracting Parties in developing material for ML education programmes, including micro litter, for professionals	SSFA	MED POL	SCP/RAC	H2020, EU RSC
1.6.2	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	2. Training and support programme to promote entrepreneurship in selected SMEs and CSO to implement innovative solutions to prevent generation of waste ending up as marine litter and the shift to safe alternatives to POPs and toxic chemicals	SCP RAC	MED POL	SWEEPNET	