

Agreed set of common provisions for Host Country Agreements of Regional Activity Centers

- (1) **Identification of the Parties entering into the Host Country Agreement (HCA):** The potential HCA text would identify the parties entering into the HCA, which are the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the designated representative of the Host Country Government.
- (2) **Purpose for entering into the HCA:** The potential HCA text would set out the terms and conditions under which RACs will deliver their regional mandate pursuant to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and related decisions of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.
- (3) **Regional Role of RACs:** The potential HCA text would set out the regional role for the relevant RAC as per COP 16 Decision IG.19/5 on the Mandates of the Components of MAP.
- (4) **Financial Resources:**
 - The potential HCA text would make provisions establishing the separate management and accounting of Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) transfers and would refer to the requested reporting and audit requirements in line with Project Cooperation Agreements or any other legal instruments signed between UNEP and RACs for the transfer of financial resources.
 - The potential HCA text would describe the source of funding including the contribution of the Host Country Government.
 - The share of MTF transfers to RACs is a decision which rests with the COP.
- (5) **Contribution of the Host Country Government:** The potential HCA text would address the contribution of the Host Country Government (financial and in-kind), including specification whether the RAC premises are provided at no cost.
- (6) **Personnel of RACs, including the Director:** Establishing a special regime taking elements of the General Convention for the personnel of RACs, including the Director does not seem to be an option, unless, as in the view of a Host Country Government, RACs are accorded the status of international or intergovernmental entities and to the extent permissible under national laws.
- (7) **Meetings and Conferences convened by RACs:** Rendering equivalent privileges and immunities to representatives of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention participating in meetings convened by RACs is not a viable option unless, as in the view of a Host Country Government, RACs are accorded the status of international or intergovernmental entities and to the extent permissible under national laws.
- (8) **Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs):** It seems that including standard procedures and criteria dealing with the conclusion of MOUs in the potential HCAs is not advisable.
- (9) **Final Standard Clauses:** The potential HCA text would address the Settlement of Disputes/Entry into Force/Duration/Amendment provisions.