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Meeting of the MAP Focal Points

Athens, Greece, 16-19 September 2025

Agenda Item 5: Specific Matters for Consideration and Action by the Meeting, including Draft Decisions

Summary Analysis of existing situation of MAP Components

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Summary Analysis of existing situation of MAP Components based on the Questionnaire

(1/4/2024, as revised on 14/8/2024)

Existing situation

1. Three RACs are national public entities, one national NGO, one national institution with regional mandate, one international entity. Only three RACs have HCAs (REMPEC, SPA/RAC and PAP/RAC). REMPEC's HCA was updated recently and signed in 2022.

2. Two RACs do not have functional and financial autonomy, since this authority is given to the head of their host institution; in these two RACs the approval of recruitment is made by the host institution. In the case of REMPEC, IMO runs the recruitment process, but approval of recruitment is done by UNEP/MAP CPs; IMO cannot start the recruitment process unless position is approved by COP. In the other three RACs recruitments are approved by the director of the RAC (except for his/her post).

Contracts are signed by the RAC director in four RACs, and by the host institution Director in two RACs.

National legislation applies in all RACs (and Catalan legislation in the case of SCP/RAC), except REMPEC (UN/IMO rules).

3. Appropriate and differentiated financial management mechanisms exist for four RACs (in case of REMPEC it is the IMO Project Implementation Document process). Two RACs follow the financial management mechanisms of their host institutions, which are public owned.

4. In all RACs the Host Country makes the appropriate provisions to cover operating and recurrent costs of the RAC and provides RAC premises at no cost (in Plan Bleu/RAC premises are provided by the Ville de Marseille (in kind) that covers partially the rent of the premises; while for SCP/RAC it is the Government of Catalunya).

5. The organizational structure is appropriate for the fulfilment of the RACs regional mandate in all cases according to inputs provided. REMPEC mentioned that it lacks appropriate resources.

Organizational chart is approved by the RAC director in three RACs (and by the Bureau in Plan Bleu/RAC), by COP in REMPEC and by the host institution in two RACs.

6. Staff recruitment process lasts between one and a half months until up to more than 6 months; consultant recruitments between one/two weeks until up to more than 6 months; select/sign contract between three weeks and six months.

7. For all RACs national rules apply for MoUs with Partners, except for REMPEC where UNEP/MAP and IMO rules apply. Plan Bleu/RAC and SPA/RAC note that both national and UNEP/MAP rules apply.

8. On travel, SPA/RAC and REMPEC apply UNEP/MAP rules; other RACs have to apply national rules (for Plan Bleu/RAC it is not very clear if national or UNEP/MAP rules apply for DSA). For SCP/RAC and Plan Bleu/RAC foreign participants' travel expenses are covered by the DSA and national participants' travel expenses are reimbursed at actual costs.

Challenges

9. Three RACs mentioned challenges in submitting financial and progress reports: lack of personnel/ frequency and demands of reporting; reporting in two different currencies; harmonization of the UMOJA classes (personnel and contractual) with RACs' procurement procedure.

10. Challenges/gaps in staffing: REMPEC refers to two posts (P3-Offshore Protocol related activities; P2 – Pollution Prevention activities); SCP/RAC noted that the remuneration of consultants is very high in comparison with the staff salaries; PAP/RAC noted that one more Programme Officer (in ICZM-related fields) and one Communication Officer would mean a lot.

11. Challenges by the request that Meetings by RACs should be in accordance with the relevant national rules and procedures of the RAC/entities hosting the RAC: not possible to pay DSA/terminals for RAC FP meetings (INFO/RAC); national travel rules (incl. DSA) different than UN rules (PAP/RAC), which may result in meeting participants self-funding some expenses, while it may happen that the total cost of travel even exceeds the UNEP/MAP DSA limit; sometimes it's difficult to get 3 proposals from 3 different suppliers (Plan Bleu/RAC); timely issuance of visas for SPA/RAC staff (SPA/RAC follows UNEP/MAP rules on DSA etc, so no problem there).

12. Other challenges: One RAC note that “settlement of disputes” provisions can potentially be a problem if national rules are applied and that such issues should be clarified with the host country.