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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

UNEP/MAP GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem

Fourth Steering Committee Meeting of the Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine
Ecosystem (MedPartnership)

17-20 February 2014, Hammamet, Tunisia

DRAFT REPORT

FOURTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM (MEDPARTNERSHIP)

Together for the Mediterranean Sea

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**FOURTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA LARGE MARINE
ECOSYSTEM (MEDPARTNERSHIP)**

Hammamet (Tunisia), 17-20 February 2014

Introduction

1. The Fourth Steering Committee Meeting of the UNEP/MAP GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (MedPartnership) was held, at the kind invitation of the Government of Tunisia, at the Sol Azur Hotel, Hammamet (Tunisia) from 17 to 20 February 2014.

Participation

2. The following Steering Committee members were represented: Algeria, , Croatia, Egypt, , Lebanon, Montenegro, , Tunisia, Turkey, UNEP/MAP, UNEP/DEPI, FAO, UNESCO-IHP, MEDPOL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, CP/RAC, BP/RAC, WWF MedPO, MIO-ECSDE, GWP-Med.

3. The following observers were represented: MedPAN, MedSEA, .

4. The full list of participants is attached as Annex I to the present report.

Opening of the meeting and welcome addresses

5. Mr. Kais Blouza, Director General of the Tunisian National Agency for the Protection of the Environment and Interim Director of SPA/RAC opened the meeting by welcoming participants to the Fourth Steering Committee Meeting of the UNEP/MAP-GEF MedPartnership. He noted the importance of the project due to the large number of participating countries and institutions and above all to its objectives of legal and institutional reforms and concrete actions to reverse the trend of degradation of Mediterranean ecosystems. He acknowledged the efforts undertaken by SPA/RAC and closed by thanking UNEP/MAP for organizing the Meeting in Tunisia.

6. Prof Mehmet Emin Birpınar, President of the Bureau of the Barcelona Convention, expressed his sincere appreciation to the Government of Tunisia for hosting the Meeting. He referred to the Project as a special example of regional cooperation which also facilitates the implementation of the decisions adopted by the Contracting Parties under the Barcelona Convention. He expressed concern with the deterioration of the state of natural resources not only in the Mediterranean but on the planet as a whole and stressed that the adoption and implementation of the ecosystem approach is extremely important to protect natural resources. He noted that successful projects have implemented in Turkey under the Partnership, including PCB removal. He elaborated on the role of the Barcelona Convention in protecting the Mediterranean environment and focused on the decisions of the latest COP held in Istanbul, including the Istanbul Declaration, the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, the 2 Memorandums of Understanding signed between UNEP/MAP and UfM and IUCN respectively, and the introduction of the Environment Friendly City Award. He closed by wishing successful outcomes of the Meeting.

7. Ms. Maria Luisa Silva Mejias, Coordinator of the Barcelona Convention Secretariat Welcome to SC4 begun by thanking the Tunisian government for the support in organizing the meeting. She noted that the Region is in a transitional period with impacts beyond its shores and went on to congratulate the Tunisian people for mentioning the protection of the environment in the new constitution. She then followed up Prof Birpınar on the recent COP

decisions, which also included a monitoring & assessment programme to reach targets, a legally binding marine litter plan, measures to implement the ICZM Protocol and the MSSD, an improved synergy and cooperation with the Union for the Mediterranean, links made with donors to launch new Partnerships. She closed by noting that Steering Committee meetings generally assess the project's progress, ensure results are met and explore the needs for future partnerships.

8. Mr Mounir Majdoub, Tunisia's State Secretary for Sustainable Development gave a presentation on the status of the environment in the Mediterranean Sea. He begun by presenting some biophysical, demographic and economic data and indicators for the Mediterranean. He then moved on to environmental indicators such as water availability per capita, sea level rise, energy sources and consumption and sea pollution. He also noted the socio-political characteristics of the region including the economic crisis, the poverty and unemployment rates, the armed conflicts, the arab revolutions, and closed by mentioning the objectives and priorities of the MSSD.

Key note presentations on Climate Variability adaptation and policy framework relevant for the Mediterranean

9. Mr. Jean-Pierre Ceron, Scientific Deputy Director of Climatology in Météo-France & RA VI RCC Network, gave a presentation on the information issues which are necessary for the implementation of adaptation policies. He begun by describing the difference between the natural and the forced anthropogenic climate variability and noting that adapting to the current climate variability is the first step of the adaptation to climate change. Disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change are interlinked with common information requirements, common scientific needs and common goals. He presented the latest climate predictions based on the scenarios ("Radiative Concentration Pathways") used in the recent IPCC report and more specifically projected changes in annual rainfall and temperature, in the length of extended dry spells and in the number of heatwaves. The importance of tailored information for coastal regions was presented through the example of the project to assess the climate change impacts on the Spanish coasts. He then presented the information that is available from the operational centres on both sides of the Mediterranean and closed by mentioning scientific issues for adaptation such as the downscaling problem and stressing that the quality of shared data is crucial for the quality of decisions.

10. Ms Maria Snoussi, Professor at the Mohammad V-Agdal University, Rabat, gave a presentation on the existing climate policy and governance frameworks in the Mediterranean Region. She begun by outlining the common impacts and challenges that the Mediterranean region faces, and more specifically its coastal zones. In all Mediterranean ecoregions, the climatic drivers are the ones with the highest cumulative impact score. After outlining the history of Euro-Mediterranean political processes and initiatives, she presented the articles of the ICZM Protocol that refer to climate change-related issues. Article 8 ("Protection and sustainable use of the coastal zone"), Article 22 ("Natural hazards") and Article 23 ("Coastal erosion"). She presented the existing national networks of observation stations in the Balkans, North Africa and the Middle East. In order to address the maritime dimension of climate change, she recommended supporting scientific research, establishing a common information clearinghouse and Regional Monitoring Programme to enhance synergy and minimize duplication, assessing the predicted economic impacts and supporting the creation of a Mediterranean marine science partnership for a concerted dialogue between the scientific community, the industry and policy makers.

11. Mr Mohammed Sadeck Boulahya, Regional Adviser on Integrated Water-Climate Risk Management, gave a presentation on the challenges and best practices on coastal zone adaptation to climate change. He presented the interlinked components of risk management and how it can be of strategic support to ICZM policies. He presented WMO's Global

Framework for Climate Services and the Med-CORDEX Regional Climate Model. He closed by describing the experience from two relevant recent projects: the application of ICZM approach in the eastern Mediterranean coast of Morocco and the the preparation of Algeria's ICZM Strategy.

Election of officers

12. Following the provisions of the Project Document, the meeting was co-chaired by Prof Mehmet Emin Birpinar, President of the Bureau of the Barcelona Convention and Ms Maria Luisa Silva Mejias, Coordinator of the Barcelona Convention Secretariat.

Adoption of the agenda

13. The agenda (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.389/1) and the annotated agenda (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.389/2) were adopted. The agenda is attached as Annex II to the present report.

Introduction to the meeting: Objectives and structure

14. Mr. Lorenzo Galbiati, Project Manager of the MedPartnership, outlined the structure of the meeting and of the first day's session dedicated to the Climate Variability & ICZM project, and also briefly presented its rationale.

Introduction to the Inception Report, Work Plan and Budget, followed by general discussion

15. Ms Virginie Hart, Marine and Coastal Expert for the MedPartnership, presented the background and the history of the project from the PIF's preparation in 2009 and gave an overview of the project's Components and selected outputs. She closed by presenting the project's collaboration with other relevant projects and what the Steering Committee should consider regarding the project. Ms Kelly West, Task/Portfolio Manager from UNEP/DEPI/GEF IW requested to see the Revised Results Framework annexed to the Inception Report with clear indication of the targets and indicators changed from the original Project Document version. It was agreed to be presented before the end of the meeting with the changes highlighted.

16. Mr Galbiati presented the overall goals, objectives and components of the project and what had been achieved during its first two years. He then presented the milestones of the 2014-15 Work Plan and the project's main outputs. He closed by describing the Project Management Unit's activities. Mr. Christian Severin from GEF Secretariat commented on how information relating to the project could be more effectively shared and suggested that climate hotspots should be made more visible.

17. Mr. Antoine Lafitte, ICZM Programme Officer from Plan Bleu presented their activities under the project and the relevant timeline: the 7 national workshops on the assessment of national programs for monitoring and tracking climate variability and the identification of data availability and the drafting of the synthesis report on data sharing options; the development of the online multi-country Information Sharing Platform on climate variability and ICZM; the Climagine methodology to be used in the demonstration projects in Croatia and in Tunisia. He closed by stressing the countries' requirements relating to feeding the platform with the necessary information.

18. In the discussion that followed, MedSEA offered to provide information on the potential impacts of sea acidification to coastal ecosystems and MedPAN offered to contribute regarding the role of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Mr Boulaya mentioned the WMO's expertise on data sharing and stressed the importance of synergy between mitigation and adaptation which is addressed by the recent and relevant EU project Clima-South. FAO noted that the Platform needs to be developed in a way that supports the countries to use it for their own purposes. Responding to an enquiry on the hosting of the Platform, Ms Hart mentioned that it will be hosted for 2 years by UNEP/GRID-Geneva. In the meantime longer term options need to be addressed.

19. Ms. Daria Povh Skugor, Programme Officer at PAP/RAC presented their activities so far under the project: the DIVA model, how it will be implemented in the two demonstration projects and its expected outputs; the development of an ICZM plan for the Sibenik-Knin county. She also mentioned lessons learned so far and outlined the timetable for future activities under the project.

20. Ms. Sarra Touzi, Senior Programme Officer for GWP Med Tunisia, presented the preparation for the demonstration project in Tunisia's Kerkennah Islands, its timeline and its challenges. She also presented the organization's past and future activities under Component 3 which has to do with capacity building and support for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol.

21. Mr. Mohamed Ali Ben Temessek from Tunisia's Environment Ministry mentioned that fishing is a traditional activity in Kerkennah islands which is threatened by climate and special focus should be given on that under the demonstration project. He also suggested that an additional project with the participation of SPA/RAC and of APAL should be examined under the MedPartnership. SPA/RAC noted that a complementary pilot project is scheduled regarding the initiation of an MPA in north west of Kerkennah

22. Mr. Bruno Chatenoux, GIS Analyst in UNEP/GRID-Geneva described the characteristics and the objectives of the Data Platform as well as the goals and the contents of the training workshops where national experts will be trained how to set up a Spatial Data Infrastructure. He also presented the methodology to be implemented in Kerkennah islands regarding the role and threats of ecosystems through the relevant example of the western coast of Jamaica.

23. Mr Galbiati presented the project's budget proposal for 2014-15, the levels of expenditure and the main changes with respect to the budget approved in 2012 which had to do with the personnel, sub-contracting and training components.

Day 2 - Introduction to the MedPartnership session

24. The MedPartnership Project Manager opened the session by presenting the purpose, objectives, structure, organization, method of work and expected results of the meeting.

Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE), progress for 2012-13 and Project Implementation Review (PIR)

25. The UNEP/DEPI representative described the very serious evaluation process in UNEP projects in general and for the MedPartnership in particular. Two independent consultants were recruited and the draft evaluation report and then the final report were shared with countries in early 2013 and July 2013 respectively. The MedPartnership is a quite complex project involving many countries and partners and she is impressed with the

high quality of the report. However, the recommendations didn't challenge or push the partners far enough and there was no specific input to some comments, which is partly understandable given the hundreds of activities involved. She noted that specific things need to be addressed to make sure all aspects of the project are covered.

26. The MedPartnership Project Manager presented the 6 main recommendations of the MTE and how they were addressed by the PMU: The recommendations numbered 1, 2 and 6 had to do with the need for a fully-justified proposal for a project extension, the undertaking of a comprehensive budget revision and the provision of quarterly updates. The PMU, in coordination with all partners, requests a no-cost project extension until the end of 2015. Six months gap is envisaged between the finalization of the activities in June 2015 and the closure of the project, for administrative, documentation and dissemination issues to be addressed. A proposal for a consolidated budget is presented to the SC plus alternative activities to (eventually) reallocate unused funds. Co-executing partners will provide brief quarterly updates beginning from March 2014. Recommendation #3 had to do with the review of staffing needs. The PMU is now complete after the recruitment of the Project Manager, an administrative assistant and the contracting of a consultant based at UNEP/MAP premises. Recommendation #4 was about the unsatisfactory delivery of project sub-components 2.1 (industrial pollution) and 2.3 (PCBs). These sub-components had been affected by a range of factors including weaknesses in project design and preparedness, and disruption of activities as a result of the Arab Spring and other political events. With the project's extension more time will be available to finalize activities, a contract has been signed with UNOPS for the disposal of PCBs and two consultants (a pollution expert and an environmental economist) have been contracted to assist MEDPOL for the rest of the project. Recommendation #5 was about the national coordination mechanisms. Guidance will be developed for all Focal Points, to ensure that regular coordination meetings are held, and frequent communication is established with all national experts working on the project. A common database of all national experts involved in the project will also be developed. National reports on the status of inter-ministerial coordination for marine and coastal planning will be undertaken in 2014, including identification of gaps and recommendations. PMU/Partners will participate in most national coordination/inter-ministerial committee meetings in 2014. Support will be provided to those countries which express interest in establishing new (or enhancing existing), inter-ministerial committees for long terms implementation and coordination of coastal and marine plans (ICZM and IWRM, MPAs).

27. Egypt noted that an important problem is the cross contamination of PCBs and the maintenance of storage sites, and requested a relevant pilot project to be implemented in Egypt. This was well noted by MEDPOL and bilateral discussions will follow. UNEP/DEPI stressed that effort must be made to spend the project's remaining funds and that interministerial coordination needs to be pushed further. Success does not necessarily come from developing new interministerial committees but often when issues are integrated into existing ones. Algeria noted the importance of intersectoriality which includes NGOs and people from the field who know what the priorities are. GEF offered to facilitate to re-establish contacts with the World Bank Sustainable Med initiative and relevant Investment Funds.

28. The PMU's response to the Mid-Term Evaluation was approved subject to discussions with MEDPOL.

29. The Project Manager presented the 2012 and 2013 Annual Reports and the progress made during those years, including: regional assessment report on risk and uncertainty for the Mediterranean coastal aquifers; national reports on the status of coastal wetlands dependent on coastal aquifers; national ICZM Strategies and NAPs for Montenegro and Algeria; all 12 demonstration projects in an advanced state of implementation; policy reforms drafted for Phosphogypsum slurry management (Tunisia), Chromium and BOD control of tanneries (Turkey), Lubricating oil recycling and regeneration (Algeria) and Lead batteries

recycling (Syria); improved management of six Marine Protected Areas; assessment of SAP-MED NAP implementation including the finalization of a publication on the status of NAP implementation so far. The project's plan for 2014 was also presented: more than half of the project activities will be completed by the end of 2014; certain activities will continue until June 2015, including the replication projects; the pollution demonstrations were revised in line with MTE recommendations and are expected to be completed by June 2015.

30. Ms Hart presented the 2013 Project Implementation Review (PIR) which reviewed the progress towards objectives, implementation and risks of the project for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 and also presented the distribution of ratings for each sub-component. The overall rating was Marginally Satisfactory, down from Marginally Satisfactory / Satisfactory last year, mainly due to some delays in activities. The 5th Coordination Group meeting (26-27 November 2013, Athens) reviewed and discussed PIR ratings. In some cases indicators were overambitious relative to the activities. In other cases activities had been redesigned or delayed in order to include more results and consultations. The Revised Results Framework submitted to the Steering Committee has overall very minor changes: Indicators and targets have been made more accurate, some revisions were made where demonstrations changed (i.e. PCB disposal), additional activities (i.e. EC funds) have been included.

31. UNEP/DEPI appreciated the effort towards assembling this challenging submission which is frank, honest and of high quality, and noted that ratings normally improve during the project's timeframe and that there is plenty of time to address challenges. It is very positive that the results framework grew to accommodate additional funding. She noted that some targets are formulated as objectives and that some indicators are difficult to assess or measure. She encouraged to place a min-max range on the PCB indicator and suggested that the IMC target needs to be revised upwards. Country representatives noted that data are nowadays more reliable than in the past and raised the issue of a missing infrastructure-investments component.

Detailed presentation of Component 1 activities

32. Mr. Matthew Lagod, consultant to UNESCO/IHP, presented UNESCO activities' progress to date, the plan for 2014-15 and the lessons learned: 12 national reports and a regional synthesis report on the quality and risks of coastal aquifers, including recommendations have been developed, an online geo-referenced information has been developed, vulnerability mapping was implemented on 3 coastal aquifers; groundwater management was integrated in ICZM and IWRM plans in 3 case studies; 11 national and one regional assessment reports were produced on groundwater and coastal aquifer management. For 2014-15 activities envisaged are a coastal aquifer supplement to the TDA-MED and a regional action plan, a regional overview report on wetland status and trends, a map of representative coastal wetlands, a coastal wetland management case study in Morocco, and the promotion of the use of spatial technology applications for coastal aquifer management. Improved coordination with partners and national institutions is required to finalize case studies in Gabes oasis, Tunisia and in Martil River, Morocco. He pointed out that improved coordination between Ministries in charge of Water Resources and Environment is essential and recommended replication activities on vulnerability mapping in other coastal aquifers as well as on mapping of groundwater dependent wetlands in other areas.

33. Ms. Daria Povh Skugor, Programme Officer at PAP/RAC, presented the organization's activities regarding the preparation of the National ICZM Strategy for Algeria, the ICZM Strategy with Management plan and Action plan for Montenegro, the socio-economic assessment of the use and of the cost of the degradation of the Croatian sea and

coast, the Coastal Plan in Reghaia, the integrated management plan for Buna/Bojana, and also presented the timeline of the remaining activities. She pointed out that participatory approaches highly increase the chances for policy implementation and contribute to awareness raising which is a prerequisite for long-term sustainability, that wide governmental involvement is possible only when dealing with the key actual, relevant and important national issues and that National ICZM Strategies should secure recommendations for sustainable institutional framework with relevant financial requirements.

34. Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos, Programme Coordinator and Ms. Anthi Dionysia Brouma, Senior Programme Officer at GWP-Med, presented the organisation's activities including the preparation of National IWRM assessments in 3 countries, the organisation of the Water Governance in the Mediterranean event at the Sixth World Water Forum, the strengthening of national institutions for IWRM in 4 countries, the development of the Integrated Resources Basin Management (IRBM) plan in the Buna/Bojana River Basin. Activities remaining under the project are the completion of the work on Water Governance & Financing nexus in Tunisia, the initiation of work on financing aspects of the Water Governance Programme in Palestine and the replication of ICZM/IWRM activity in Lebanon (suggested). They pointed out that it crucial to involve from the beginning of the activities a wide range of stakeholders, representing different sectors and to link interventions to ongoing national policy processes and plans/strategies. Finally, they mentioned synergies with two key EU supported projects, the Sustainable Water Integrated Management (SWIM) and the Capacity Building component of the Horizon 2020 to De-Pollute the Mediterranean.

35. Countries representatives declared their satisfaction with the progress of the activities, noted the importance of strengthening national capacities and suggested that more synergy between ICZM and marine strategy is necessary. Montenegro's request for a replication activity in the country was noted but it cannot be addressed under the project.

Detailed presentation of Component 2 activities

36. Mr. Habib El Habr, UNEP/MAP Deputy Coordinator, presented MEDPOL's activities. Policy reform was promoted in Algeria (Lube Oil management), in Tunisia (Phosphogypsum sludge), in Syria (Lead batteries) and in Turkey (Tanneries). ELV/EQO Model was elaborated for a large range of pollutants, nutrient riverine inputs were finalized and scenarios developed. Albania, Montenegro and Morocco were selected for strengthening their Environmental Inspectorate. Regarding the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of equipment, stocks and wastes containing or contaminated by PCBs in (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Egypt and Turkey, the work-plan plan was modified to prioritize PCB inventory, an agreement was signed with UNOPS to procure PCBs screeners, analysers were delivered to Egypt, Turkey, Bosnia & Herzegovina in 2013 and to Albania in 2014, dynamic PCBs Inventories were developed in three countries. By February 2014, 712 tn PCBs declared by three countries were ready for export and 159 local experts had been trained to audit transformers/capacitors in four countries. Preparation of PCB ESM Guidelines will start soon. Remaining activities have to do with the drafting of National Policy reforms for Algeria and Tunisia, the conclusion of four Regional guidelines, updating of the NAPs, national and regional trainings on up to date environmental inspectorate tools and ESM disposal of 712 tn PCB. He also noted that updating of the NAPs is a key activity to ensure Medpartnership sustainability at the national level in the forthcoming 10 years and that the implementation of the project generated the need for additional activities, subject to funding availability.

37. Mr Manolo Clar, SCP/RAC Project Manager, presented the organisation's activities under Component 2.3 in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Egypt and Turkey. No activities could be implemented in Libya and Syria. The "PCBs in the Mediterranean" website has been developed and is being updated, a PCB brochure has been produced and a PCB awareness

video as well as a toolkit for PCB owners and policy-makers are under development. Four joint MEDPOL-SCP/RAC training courses on PCBs management, sampling and disposal are also under development. Joint MEDPOL-SCP/RAC PCBs inventory missions have taken place in each participating country. Regarding the technical capacity for ESM of PCBs equipment, four SCP/RAC awareness workshops and four additional training courses on PCBs management are under preparation. He also suggested that further activities should take place for the development of PCB and Asbestos Management Guidelines in order to know how to address them in construction and demolition works as well as ship/vessel dismantling.

38. In the discussion that followed, country representatives congratulated the work done, declared their interest in any replication activity on capacity building and training, including asbestos management, and stressed the importance of NAP revisions. Libya explained that they couldn't be involved in the activities because of the political situation and wondered if and how they could be involved again. Egypt suggested that Libyan experts could be invited in the training and awareness workshops that will take place in Egypt, suggested that a regional training of trainers take place and requested if more funds could be made available for PCB disposal in their country. MEDPOL offered to provide to Libya the 2 analysers that have been set aside for Syria and said they would try to find means for regional training sessions. They also clarified that two consultants have been identified for recruitment and will be onboard in the next months.

Detailed presentation of Component 3 activities

39. Ms. Souha El Asmi, MedMPAnet Project Officer and Mr. Atef Limam, MedMPAnet Project Backstopping Officer, presented SPA/RAC's activities which include: 3 Legal and Institutional framework Assessments for the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity and the MPA establishment ; a National Strategy for the Development of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in Libya; a Draft Law on Protected Areas in Libya; Stakeholder Participation Toolkit for identification, designation and management of marine protected areas; Ecological Assessments of 16 priority marine sites suitable to become MPAs; a study for the identification of 8 priority marine sites suitable to become MPAs; 6 Ecological studies; 7 Socio-economic / fisheries studies and 2 Management Plans of new MPAs; 23 training activities for 250 trainees; a Regional Capacity Building Strategy to Enhance the Management of MPAs in the Mediterranean Sea; an 'MPA Training Portal' (www.mpatraininginthemed.org); one Regional Study and 6 Guidelines for MPA Managers; Production of videos in partnership with national authorities. Remaining activities under the project include: 2 Ecological studies, one Socio-economic / fisheries study and 4 Management Plans for new MPAs; a Study and a Regional Workshop on Sustainable Financing of MPAs in the Mediterranean region, in collaboration with MedPAN; 5 Business Plans for new MPAs and a feasibility Study on Ecotourism in a site in Montenegro; Regional trainings on Ecological Monitoring in MPAs and on Climate Change and MPAs. A replication activity envisaged pending SC approval is the initiating of the establishment of a new MPA in Northern Kerkennah Islands in Tunisia. Among lessons learned is that follow-up activities should be encouraged after training workshops, that linking activities that are fundamentally different should be avoided and that MPA establishment processes are very long and complex processes taking at least 5 years. Finally, it was recommended that potential project partners at national level should be involved since the very early stages of project design, that the PMU and partner countries work on a 'follow-up plan' and that capacity-building approaches be revolutionized.

40. Mr. Sami Dhouib, Tunisia Marine Programme Manager of the WWF Mediterranean Programme gave a presentation on the project's activities to effective management in Mediterranean MPAs. 6 management plans were developed, around 150 practitioners were

trained on MPA management, a petition on new and better managed Mediterranean MPAs was launched and reached more than 25.000 signatures, a booklet on best practices and lessons learned was published to promote replication. Among the reports prepared and published were a Capacity building strategy to enhance the management of MPAs in the Mediterranean Sea, a Feasibility study for a potential trust fund to support MPAs and Guidelines for addressing climate change in MPAs. Challenges identified in participating countries include the lack of specific MPA law or legislation, jurisdictional conflicts among authorities, weak policy frameworks/non-binding agreements, limited capacity of managers and limited decision-making. Future activities mentioned are the developing of the management plan for 2 MPAs in Libya, supporting nature-dependent sectors to adopt sustainable practices and improve local economies in Tunisia, the development of a eco-tourism management plan and the promotion of sustainable tourism development in the whole Wilaya in Algeria and to support the development and implementation of a sustainable tourism management plan in Croatia, Albania and Turkey.

41. Mr. Pedro de Barros, Fishery Resources Officer at FAO, presented the organization's activities under the project. Fisheries management capacity was developed and key staff from Fisheries Institutions of all countries are now able to include Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) considerations in their everyday work; patterns of bycatch were identified along with potential technical solutions which were discussed with stakeholders; Fisher's Association from Badés, Morocco now ensure their own monitoring of the fisheries. Future activities include the completion and presentation of the reviews of the legal/management systems, providing support to countries for putting the EAF approach into practice, reinforce the engagement of industry stakeholders in the reduction of bycatch in the Gulf of Gabes bottom trawl fishery, and reinforcement of the fisher-led fisheries monitoring programme in Al-Hoceima, Morocco. Lessons learned from the activities include that capacity development is about take-up, not delivery of training, that building trust takes a long time and that fishers are willing to participate in management and be part of the process. Among the difficulties identified were the unstability in the political systems, the difficulty in making commitments, the strong tradition of top-down hierarchical decision-making. Long-term sustainability requires focus on community participation, national and local authorities leading the process, regional Centres of Excellence as tools to train and exchange experience.

42. In the discussion that followed, countries congratulated everyone involved and highlighted the importance of continuity and of replication, even with mini-projects. Speakers among other things noted that ecotourism guidelines could be produced in collaboration with MedPAN, who offered to help spread the best practices and support replication activities. SPA/RAC said bilateral discussions with Lebanon can be held for the possibility of specific replications, outside the scope of the MedPartnership programme. GEF noted that other projects on economic evaluation of MPAs already exist and that synergies should be sought.

43. Ms Thomais Vlachogianni, Programme Officer at MIO-ECSDE, talked about NGO and community-based organizations (CBOs) involvement in the MedPartnership activities and how their participation and role was enhanced. In that context, an NGO Involvement Plan was developed and implemented, visibility related activities were implemented, networking meetings and capacity building workshops were held and efforts were made to link the MedPartnership with the GEF Small Grants Programme. Among lessons learned are that NGOs need to be engaged already from the planning phase, their capacities need to be enhanced, an atmosphere of cooperation and trust is essential to be created, outputs should be sought to be jointly developed and that experience should be exchanged among NGOs at the national and regional level. Identified as key challenges were the weak collaboration between NGOs, and the insufficient funding for involvement, communication and small scale activities. Remaining steps envisaged until the end of the project are the development of a publication to disseminate the MedPartnership's 'stories', the development of a handbook presenting different public participation case studies from the MedPartnership and beyond,

the evaluation of the involvement of NGOs in the project activities, the organization of the 11th Meeting of the COMPSUD and 11th Mediterranean Regional Dialogue of Parliamentarians, NGOs and other stakeholders and building synergies with other major Mediterranean projects such as the H2020 CB/MEP, SWITCH – MED, the implementation of a follow-up project in the Drin River Basin, entitled 'Living well in harmony with the Drin', etc.

44. In the discussion that followed, Tunisia and Libya noted that after the 2011 revolts, the number and the level of engagement of NGOs has dramatically increased. MIO-ECSDE noted that they want to identify and involve new actors depending on their level of expertise, and that they are willing to provide support upon request. Furthermore, Egypt, Tunisia and Libya requested some for support with regards to awareness raising on new POPs. MIO-ECSDE, expressed their willingness to explore such a possibility with the PMU.

Day 3 – Communication Strategy, National Coordination

45. Ms. Hoda El Turk, Information Officer at UNEP/MAP, presented the Communication Strategy under the project. Regarding the internal communication, templates in line with the visual identity guidelines were developed and a collaboration portal acts as a valuable tool for executing partners and focal points. Regarding the external communication, the project's website and social media sites are maintained, ad hoc news bulletins are circulated in 3 languages, Annual Reports and a project brochure were published, i-Pad and i-Phone applications were developed and a documentary was produced. However, not everyone has yet registered with the portal and information sharing needs to be enhanced, as well as the feeling that we are all partners in one project. Next steps include the updating of the i-Pad and i-Phone applications, the updating and translation of the website, the publication of lessons learned and good practices, and the development of relevant country maps and e-learning modules.

46. Ms Vlachogianni talked about the development of 2 e-learning modules which need to be attractive, easy to use, engaging, accessible and effective. The modules are targeted to civil servants, local authorities staff, NGOs, etc. The first module is dedicated to the issue of stakeholders involvement and the second one will be on the ecosystem approach. They comprise of an intro, ~20 lessons, exercises, glossary, references, audio presentations of around 15 minutes with animated slides being shown in parallel. Next steps include the drafting and reviewing of the content, setting up the e-learning platform and developing the e-learning modules.. The draft content of the first module is expected to be ready by the end of May 2014.

47. In the discussion that followed, partners and Focal Points were invited to register with the collaboration portal and to constantly update information and results. GEF were happy with the communication strategy and urged the production of 2-page Results Notes, similar to the ones produced by IW-Learn, possibly at national or demonstration level. The development of an online tracking tool posted on website was also suggested, through which visitors could be able to see for each activity the progress and links to relevant documents. UNEP/DEPI noted that communication in such a project with so many issues and partners was indeed daunting and recommended to think of the next Steering Committee meeting as a large communication opportunity which should present all 66 project outputs but highlight the top 10 of them and give them a bigger life.

48. Dr Salvatore Carrubba, consultant to UNESCO/IHP, presented the vulnerability mapping demonstration project at the Ghar El Melh coastal aquifer. He elaborated on the issue of coastal aquifer vulnerability and its vertical and horizontal dimensions and then presented the integrated vulnerability maps of the specific aquifer.

49. Mr Galbiati presented ideas to reinforce national coordination and inter-ministerial committees. With the aim of enhancing national coordination, a database of national experts will be compiled and circulated, national Factsheets will be prepared, regular communication on activities from executing partners is required, Focal points need to arrange national coordination meetings and provide news items and stories for dissemination. He also noted that resources are estimated to be sufficient for 4 countries to implement coordination activities, depending on expressions of interest.

50. In the discussion that followed, countries presented their experience with the establishment of and inter-ministerial committees and their role and responsibilities. GEF noted that it is important to try to implement IMCs in all countries. GWP-Med noted that such initiatives are firstly in the interest of the countries themselves and that it is a good opportunity to bring together the management of water and environment issues.

2014-2015 Work Plan and budget

51. Ms Hart and Mr Galbiati presented the Work Plan for 2014 and 2015 and for each project component the remaining activities to be implemented and the respective timeframe. An overview of planned expenditures was also presented, including quarterly targets for each component.

52. Ms. Kumiko Yatagai, Fund/Administrative Officer at UNEP/MAP presented an overview of the financial delivery of the project by Component for the years 2012 and 2013 and a breakdown by co-executing partners. She also noted that overall delivery is keeping a pace with GEF fund delivery and elaborated on co-financing delivery.

53. In the discussion that followed, UNEP/DEPI noted that it is quite ambitious to disburse such a significant share of Component 2 budget until mid-2015. The Project Manager noted that the work already done under the PCBs sub-component cannot be abandoned and that the cut-off date for any reallocation proposals is June 2014. Proposed changes will be sent to SC members for virtual adoption.

Day 4 – Replication Strategy, Investment modalities

54. Ms. Hart presented the rationale for replication activities and noted that there is a need for taking stock of regional experiences in addressing critical issues, identifying those that best apply to the regional natural, socio-economic and cultural contexts, and leveraging political commitment and new and additional funding for a region-wide effort to replicate regionally tested and validated cost-effective practices. The 3rd SC in 2012 had approved joining with other initiatives (H2020 and SWIM). Moreover, after a call for replication proposals in February 2013 eight proposals were received and reviewed, three of which met majority of criteria, were further developed and proposed for inclusion in the 2014-2015 work-plan to be discussed and adopted in the Steering Committee: preparation of a National ICZM Strategy in Croatia; establishment of a shared vision among stakeholders for the management of the Damour River basin area in Lebanon and creation of the conditions for development of an integrated IWRM/ICZM Plan; preparatory ecological and socio-economic studies in view of the creation of a marine and coastal protected area in the North-Eastern part of Kerkennah Islands, Tunisia. Should there be a strong request for new proposals, the PMU may coordinate a 2nd call open to all executing partners and participating countries for short concepts, that the PMU will seek additional funding to support in the near future, if not within the MedPartnership, then perhaps as part of a follow up project or projects to the MedPartnership. She closed by proposing that the 5th Steering Committee double as a final “event” to showcase the lessons learned of the MedPartnership.

55. In the discussion that followed, countries expressed their gratitude for the project's activities. UNEP/DEPI noted that replication and upscaling of activities provide influence to the project, and that she is supporting and hopeful for the three proposals. GEF recommended that new ideas should involve partners from the private sector as well.

56. After a brief discussion, the Steering Committee gave official approval to the Work Plan and the Budget of the ClimVar & ICZM project and to the Work Plan and the Budget of the MedPartnership.

57. Mr. Christian Severin, Senior Environmental Specialist at UNEP/GEF, gave a short presentation on GEF's investment modalities. He noted that focus is gradually given to «revolving» or non-grant instruments and that producing results doesn't have to be complex and that simple methodologies are often more effective. In the discussion that followed, countries thanked GEF for the project oversight, stressed the need to find support to continue and expand the work done under the project and noted the advantages of the established structure and the coordination between partners.

58. Mr. Rachid Nafti, National Coordinator of the MedTEST Project, gave a presentation on the experience, the lessons learned and the next steps of the project. It is important to design a bankable project and in parallel to educate bankers and government official on how to prioritise and finance projects. Management and management accounting procedures need to be introduced in projects. Impacts need to be anticipated and it is much more economical to have a “clean fund” rather than paying to depollute.

Conclusions and recommendations of the meeting and closure of the meeting

59. The Steering Committee examined a set of conclusions and recommendations prepared by the Secretariat for both the MedPartnership and the ClimVar & ICZM projects, which it adopted with the necessary modifications. The complete text of the conclusions and recommendations is attached as Annex III to this report.

Closure of the meeting

60. Following the usual exchange of courtesies, the meeting was closed at 1 p.m. on Thursday 20 February 2014.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Monday, 17 February: **STEERING COMMITTEE DAY 1:**

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 08:45 – 09:30 | Registration of participants |
| 09:30 – 09:45 | Opening of the meeting and welcome address by the Minister of Environment of Tunisia (to be confirmed). |
| 09:45 – 10:00 | Welcome by the president of the Bureau of the Barcelona Convention Prof. Dr. Mehmet Emin Birpınar (to be confirmed) |
| 10:00 – 10:15 | Introduction of the meeting by Ms. Maria Luisa Silva Mejias, Coordinator of the Barcelona Convention Secretariat |
| <u>10:15 – 10:45</u> | <u>Coffee break</u> |
| 10:45 – 12:45 | Climate Variability adaptation and policy framework relevant for the Mediterranean. Key note presentations and discussion. |
| <u>13:00 – 14:30</u> | <u>Lunch break</u> |
| 14:30 – 14:45 | Election of officers |
| 14:45 – 15:00 | Adoption of the agenda of the meeting |
| 15:00 – 15:15 | Introduction to Climate Variability session: Objectives, structure of the session, method of work, expected results |
| 15:15 – 15:45 | Introduction to the Inception Report of the project “Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to Implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean” |
| <u>15.45 – 16:15</u> | <u>Coffee break</u> |
| 16:15 – 17:45 | Presentation of the Activities: Plan of work and budget of the Climate Variability sister project: activities and demonstration. |
| 17:45 – 18:15 | General discussion and recommendations of the Steering Committee |
| 18:15 – 18:30 | Announcements |

An evening dinner in Hammamet will be organized by the MedPartnership for the participants

Tuesday, 18 February:

STEERING COMMITTEE DAY 2:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 09:00 – 09:15 | Introduction to the MedPartnership session: Objectives, structure of the meeting, method of work, expected results. |
| 09:15 – 10:00 | Presentation of Mid-Term Evaluation and Management Unit response. |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Introduction to the MedPartnership progress for 2012 and 2013, followed by general discussion. |
| <u>10:30 – 11:00</u> | <u>Coffee break</u> |
| 11:00 - 11:30 | Presentation of the 2013 Project Implementation Review. |
| 11:30 – 13:00 | Component 1: Integrated approaches for the implementation of the SAPS and NAPS: ICZM, IWRM ad management of coastal aquifers. |
| <u>13:00 – 14:30</u> | <u>Lunch break</u> |
| 14:30 – 15:30 | Component 2: Pollution from land based activities, including persistent organic pollutants: implementation of SPA-MED and related NAPS. |
| 15:30 – 17:00 | Component 3: Conservation of biological diversity: implementation of SAP-BIO and related NAPS |
| <u>17:00 – 17:30</u> | <u>Coffee break</u> |
| 17:30 – 18:00 | Component 4: Project co-ordination, NGO involvement, replication and communication strategies, management and monitoring and evaluation (M&E). |
| 18:00 – 18:30 | General discussion and recommendation of the Steering Committee |

Wednesday, 19 May:

STEERING COMMITTEE DAY 3

09:00 – 09:30 Communication Strategy: Results and discussion on future focus.

09:30 - 10:15 National coordination and inter-ministerial committees.

10:15 - 10:45 Replication activities to promote long term sustainability.

10:45 – 11:15 ***Coffee break***

11:15 – 12:30 2014-2015 work plan and budget

12:30 – 13:30 ***Lunch break***

**Afternoon (13:30 – 18:30): Field visit at Gar El Melah
Coastal Aquifers Management Demonstration project**

Thursday 20 February

STEERING COMMITTEE DAY 4

09:00 – 10:30 Looking ahead: GEF VI strategy. Ideas for the follow up of the MedPartnership and tour-de-table with the countries.

10:30 – 11:00 Proposals for the final Steering Committee meeting and final event for the conclusion of the MedPartnership

11:00 - 11:30 ***Coffee break***

11:30 – 11.45 Any other business

11:45 – 12.30 Conclusions and recommendations of the meeting

ANNEX II

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Annex III

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Fourth meeting of the MedPartnership Steering Committee held in Hammamet, Tunisia, 17 – 20 February 2014, commending the efforts made by UNEP/MAP Project Management Unit (PMU), all executing partners (UNESCO/IHP, FAO, UNEP/MAP's MEDPOL, PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC, SCP/RAC, WWF-MedPO, MIO-ECSDE and GWP-Med) and all participating countries, made the following recommendations:

1. *Takes note* of the request of the Libyan representative that whilst Libya was previously unable to participate in all activities of the MedPartnership for the last 2 years (with the exception of activities under component 3), that consideration and effort be made to include Libya in the activities for the remainder of the project. This would include provision of two PCB auto-analyzers for the purpose of updating their national PCB inventories, and other support to be defined.
2. *Recognizes* the importance of inter-ministerial committees for the long term implementation of marine and coastal planning, as requested by the countries, in particular ICZM, IWRM and coastal aquifers and welcomes the proposal of UNEP/MAP MedPartnership PMU to provide financial support for this purpose and requests further details to be submitted for consideration.
3. *Welcomes* the efforts made by UNEP/MAP PMU and co-executing partners to respond to the main findings, conclusions and recommendations raised by the Mid Term Evaluation (MTE) of the MedPartnership.
4. *Acknowledges* with appreciation the 2012 and 2013 Annual Reports.
5. *Acknowledges* with appreciation the high quality results achieved by the MedPartnership in its fourth year of implementation and recommends UNEP/MAP PMU and all executing partners to maintain the quality and the visibility and accelerate the delivery of results and outputs under the ambitious 2014 - 2015 work plan.
6. *Notes* the need to ensure synergy between the various activities under the ambitious 2014-2015 work plan, and other initiatives/projects, in particular with the focus on Green Economy.
7. *Notes* the need for regular updating on national activities, to ensure the dissemination of good practices and results throughout the region.
8. *Agrees* on the electronic approval of the 2014 -2015 budgets of WWF-MedPo and SPA/RAC after negotiation with European Commission and AECID is concluded and a final decision on the funds availability is taken.

9. *Welcomes* the efforts of UNEP/MAP PMU and co-executing partners to enhance the replication of good practices within the MedPartnership and agrees on the inclusion of the three replication proposals in the work plan.
10. *Agrees that* UNEP/MAP should send a request to UNEP-GEF as implementing agency to approve no cost extension of the project until December 2015.
11. *Agrees* to review and adopt electronically the revised results framework once final comments of Steering Committee have been included.
12. *Adopts* the revised overall 2014 – 2015 work plan and budget, taking into consideration the need to meet the quarterly expenditure targets as presented by the UNEP/MAP PMU (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 389/8 and 389/9).
13. *Agrees* that if quarterly expenditure targets are not met alternative activities will be submitted by the UNEP/MAP PMU and approved electronically.
14. *Extends* special thanks to the government of Tunisia, the Agence Nationale de Protection de l'Environnement, and the Ministry of Equipment, Land Planning and Sustainable Development of Tunisia for their hospitality and contribution to the organization of the meeting.

Conclusions and Recommendations

"Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to Implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean"

The Fourth meeting of the MedPartnership Steering Committee which also served as the Steering Committee for the Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to Implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean (ClimaVar & ICZM), during the special session devoted to the project, which was held on 17 February 2014, made the following recommendations:

1. *Recognizes* the importance of regional coordination in addressing the increasing environmental and socioeconomic impacts of climate variability and change in the marine and coastal environment of the Mediterranean
2. *Recognizes* the needs of integrating climate variability and change considerations into ICZM planning
3. *Welcomes* the Mediterranean Integrated Climate Information Platform (MedICIP), and *recommends* that efforts are made to integrate fully the results and data from relevant regional and national initiatives and institutions
4. *Acknowledges* with appreciation the progress undertaken by UNEP/MAP PMU, Plan Bleu, PAP/RAC and GWP-Med in 2012 and 2013 to implement activities and finalize the Inception Report (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 389/3)
5. *Adopts* the Inception Report (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 389/3) with the detailed revised activities
6. *Adopts* the revised results framework presented in-session which will be annexed to the Inception Report (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 389/3)
7. *Adopts* the revised 2014-2015 work-plan and budget (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 389/4 and 389/5), taking due considerations of the recommendations made, and urges UNEP/MAP PMU and executing partners to maintain the quality and accelerate the delivery of results and outputs under the ambitious work plan.