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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Rabat, Morocco, 5-6 May 2010

REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT ON SPECIFIC ISSUES

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1. UNEP/MAP Governance

1.1. *Implementation of Programme of Work 2010-2011 in relation to the Five-Year Strategic Programme of Work*

1. The MAP Programme of Work 2010-2011 adopted by the 16th Contracting Parties Meeting provides for implementing the Governance paper (Almeria, Spain 2008) with regard to integrated planning, monitoring and reporting on progress achieved on the implementation of MAP Programme of Work, including cost benefit analysis, impact of activities and their effectiveness as well as efforts made to mobilize resources.

2. With the view to implementing the above ambitious and demanding tasks, the Secretariat prioritized its work and advanced in four main directions during the period under review:

- a. Identifying strategic and key priorities/outputs around which the implementation of the whole work plan will be built during the biennium by the Coordinating Unit and Components. The proposed priorities are presented in Annex I to this report.
- b. Defining the leading and engaged MAP component(s) for each output of the biennial Programme of Work as well as their role:

Lead component:

- *Coordinate implementation and reporting;*
- *Recommend management actions;*
- *Ensure programmatic coherence.*

MAP-engaged component(s):

- *Design and deliver the output/outcome;*
- *Implement its project document and programme of work;*
- *Ensure that staff allocation is aligned to the need of the programme of work.*

- c. Elaborating a consolidated progress monitoring/reporting template that takes into account:
 - *The requirements for different reporting in terms of content, timelines and bodies (Bureau, Component focal point, MAP focal points meetings, UNEP etc);*
 - *The need to ensure coherence between the two and five-year MAP Programmes of Work;*
 - *The need to highlight convergence and or divergence from goals, obstacles, successes and if need be, precise technical details as well as committed funds for implementing output/activities.*

- d. Planning well in advance a number of key MAP meetings, the deliverables of which would affect the implementation of key outputs of the Programme of Work. While preparing this list, given in Annex II to this report, the Secretariat has considered all possibilities to combine and hold them back-to-back, organize joint meetings or hold some of them by video-conference so as to ensure effectiveness to the extent possible and when appropriate.

3. The Secretariat has also outlined the approach to be followed for implementing the other planning/monitoring and reporting tasks during the forthcoming six months the outcome of which will be shared with the next Bureau meeting. In this respect the Secretariat will be working on the following issues:

- *Identification of necessary linkages between budgetary allocations and outputs, including staff time items, so as to better analyze cost effectiveness of the implementation of the Programme of Work;*
- *Prepare a joint resource mobilization plan;*
- *Outlining programming process for the next biennium.*

Recommendation

The Bureau is kindly invited to exchange views on the above considerations by the Secretariat and provide feedback and guidance as it may deem useful on:

- a) Identified strategic priorities, the approach followed by the Secretariat to focus on key system-wide priorities and the assignment of lead/engaged roles as a way to promote integration in the work of components;***
- b) Proposed major MAP meetings calendar, and agree as appropriate;***
- c) Approach followed for building the six month monitoring/reporting template to UNEP/MAP bodies, UNEP HQ;***
- d) Proposed priorities/activities related to planning and monitoring, in particular, on the preparation of the joint resource mobilization plan and programming process for the next biennium.***

1.2 Draft Country Agreement template for Regional Activity Centers

4. As previously communicated to the Bureau of the Contracting parties, the draft Country Agreement Template has been finalized by MAP Coordinating Unit in consultation with UNEP Headquarters and the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, following the 16th Meeting of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols held in Marrakesh, Morocco from 3 to 5 November 2009 (Decision UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG 19/18).

5. The Secretariat, following the advice of the Bureau, sent the draft template to the Ministers of the Environment of the host countries for feedback and negotiation. The Officer-in-Charge has paid official visits to Spain, Italy, Croatia and Tunisia; these visits were also used to initiate a first exchange of views on the draft template. Dates for a visit to France are being negotiated. The Secretariat will submit to the Bureau any additional information on this matter, or comments received by the concerned Contracting Parties during the time leading up to the Bureau meeting.

6. The added value of this exercise should in fact be to ensure coherence within the MAP Secretariat system and allow the RACs to effectively discharge their regional role and implement the MAP Programme of Work for the benefit of UNEP/MAP as a whole and for the Mediterranean region.

7. The Country Agreement Template has two key features: it is based on a number of common elements and is flexible in order to take into account, as appropriate, specificities of national legal systems.

8. In terms of content the draft template provides for:

- a. RACs as national entities, which are part of the MAP system, but independent from the UN and UNEP;
- b. Clear relationship of the RAC with the Coordinating Unit, MAP system bodies and organs;
- c. RAC functional autonomy with regard to their work performance and delivery taking into account the critical requirement to preserve the efficiency and independency of the RAC, while carrying out regional tasks and role;
- d. Formalization of the relationship of the Secretariat with the Governments of the Contracting Parties where RACs are established, through the establishment of RAC Steering Committee and Management Board, where appropriate.

9. The Secretariat has prepared an organigramme, attached as Annex III to this report that shows in a simple manner the different tasks to be carried out by the UNEP/MAP governance structures, the proposed RAC management bodies and their relationship and interaction.

Recommendation

The Bureau is invited to provide its views on the Country Agreement template as well as guidance on ways and means to accelerating the ongoing negotiation with the concerned Contracting Parties.

1.3 Information Communication Assessment

10. As a first step to complete the Review and updating of the MAP Information and Communication Strategy, the Secretariat has entered into a forward-looking assessment of the current situation, future needs and challenges in the field of information and communication. Its main expected outcome will be a detailed report, including strategic framework options to support the development of MAP information communication strategy during 2010-2011. The report is also expected to propose a series of “quick-win” actions to be undertaken in the short-term, with the existing resources to communicate more effectively MAP issues including the Strategic Partnership GEF/UNEP MAP project, pending the finalization of the reviewed MAP Communication Strategy.

11. The Secretariat identified four priority themes to be addressed during the assessment:

- *UNEP/MAP's impact, visibility and leadership in the region on environmental issues;*
- *The effectiveness of UNEP/MAP's existing partnerships;*
- *Perceptions on how UNEP/MAP is structured;*
- *The future environmental trends for the region and how UNEP/MAP can contribute.*

12. The Secretariat hired the services of a Public Affairs and Communication Agency - Weber Shandwick, through a call for tender that was shared with all MAP focal points, through diplomatic channels in Greece, by email and published in the UNEP/MAP website.

13. A steering committee has been established to guide and support the assessment process, composed of MAP Officer-in-Charge, MAP Information Officer, Strategic Partnership GEF/UEP MAP Project Manager and INFO/RAC Director. Three Contracting Parties are supporting the process with advice to the steering committee: Morocco, EU and Slovenia.

14. A draft report on preliminary findings will be provided to the Coordinating Unit at the end of April. The final report is scheduled to be delivered at the end of May 2010. Preliminary findings from the draft report will be presented to the Bureau members by the Coordinating Unit upon arrival, either orally during the meeting or in the form of an addendum to this Report.

2. Implementation of Decision IG 17/6 on Ecosystem Approach (ECAP)

Background and progress achieved so far

15. The Contracting Parties at their 15th meeting held in 2008, Almeria, Spain, decided that UNEP/MAP should gradually implement the ecosystem approach in view of an ecological vision for the Mediterranean as “a healthy Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems that are productive and biologically diverse for the benefit of present and future generations” (Decision IG 17/6). The Contracting Parties also adopted three strategic goals and a roadmap for the progressive and gradual implementation of the ecosystem approach by MAP that is presented in Annex IV to this report.

16. The Secretariat has now re-launched the inter-governmental process to continue the implementation of the ecosystem approach in the Mediterranean by following in particular the decisions taken by a Government Designated Experts meeting held in July 2008 with regard to assessment of marine environment.

17. In this respect, the Technical Experts meeting held in Rome, at ISPRA premises on 8-9 April 2010, attended by the representatives of all Contracting Parties, reviewed the preliminary draft assessment reports prepared by MED POL and SPA/RAC and provided guidance on the next steps, in particular the finalization of an integrated assessment report and commencing the work for defining the ecological objectives.

18. As a follow up to this meeting, the Secretariat would like to share with the Bureau its vision regarding three main issues:

- a. *The plan to advance the implementation of Decision IG 17/6 during this biennium, including the main respective expected outcomes of the 17th Contracting Parties meeting in 2011 with regard to ecosystem approach; (steps 3, 4, 5 dealing with the assessment and definition of ecological objectives, operational objectives, targets and indicators);*
- b. *The need to implement in synergy the MAP ecosystem approach and EU MSFD Directive for the Mediterranean part in the framework of the MAP Five and Two-year Programmes of Work;*
- c. *The possibility to use and advance the assessment reports under step 3 of ecosystem approach roadmap for building the 2011 SoE report for the Mediterranean.*

2.1. Work plan to advance during 2010-2011 biennium the implementation of Decision IG 17/6 on ecosystem approach

19. Based on a process owned and driven by the Contracting Parties, the proposal of the Secretariat is to focus its work on three main tasks during this biennium:

- a. *Finalize the integrated assessment reports for the 4 geographical areas also highlighting commonalities for the whole Mediterranean by July 2010;*
- b. *Launch the process and advance as much as possible, in developing the ecological and operational objectives as well as indicators and targets with the view to submitting them for consideration of the 2011 Contracting Parties meeting;*
- c. *Design the process for the full implementation of ecosystem approach for the consideration of the Contracting Parties in 2011 with the view to submitting them for the 2011 Contracting Parties meeting consideration and possible approval.*

20. With regard to implementing the above, pending assessment final outcome, it is proposed to focus on the following actions:

- a. *Ensure that the assessment information advances the ecosystem approach roadmap implementation;*
- b. *Define through an agreed methodology priority geographical areas by combining, , information on ecosystems values with analyses of state of marine environment and threats using tools such as GIS mapping;*
- c. *Use the findings of the assessment process to identify main types of threats affecting biodiversity and ecosystem function and determine trends in the pressures themselves, the ability of ecosystems to cope with these pressures, and/or the drivers behind pressures;*
- d. *Define the ecological objectives based on good environmental status that must be detailed and measurable, with clearly defined indicators and reasonable targets;*
- e. *Develop a clear and concrete timetable for implementing all remaining steps of the ecosystem approach.*

Detailed proposed work plan

Proposed Activity	Step	Timeline
Integrate information across pollution, biodiversity for each sub region	3	Mid-May 2010
Agree on the methodology and implement GIS tool, with support of INFO/RAC, to identify priority areas	3	Mid-May 2010
Finalize a consolidated assessment reports for the 4 areas highlighting common features for the whole Mediterranean	3	Mid June 2010
Begin analysis of ecosystem values and mapping exercise to identify priority sites and undertake threats assessment of sites so as to complete site prioritization	4	Aug-Dec 2010
Evaluate status of each priority/threatened site	4	Dec 2010 -Jan 2011
Develop list of ecological objectives	4	Jan-Feb 2011
Assess the list of ecological objectives according to feasibility	4,5	End Feb 2011
Begin process of preparing the operational objectives, indicators and targets	5	March 2011
Finalize the time table for implementing the other steps of ecosystem approach	5, 6,7,	June 2010-April 2011

21. The Secretariat would like to bring to the attention of the Bureau the necessity for ensuring a proper consultation process with the Contracting Parties for each step of the roadmap with a view to ensuring their drive and own process as specifically requested during the last technical meeting. As such, there is a need for additional resources the mobilization of which is being negotiated with the EC. Two meetings, the agenda of which has been already outlined in the last meeting in Rome, are agreed to be held respectively in July 2010 and April 2011. Additional meetings, subject to external funding, may be required to be held in autumn 2010 and early 2011 so as to reach consensus on the methodology for defining Priority areas and sites, defining ecological and operational objectives as well as their development including, as appropriate indicators and targets.

Recommendation

The Bureau is kindly invited to:

- a) Agree on the proposed detailed work plan for implementing and finalizing the implementation of the next steps of ecosystem approach roadmap and provide its views and guidance as it may deem appropriate;***
- b) Call upon the Contracting Parties to support the assessment process and play an active role in designing and contributing to the full implementation of ecosystem approach roadmap with a view to ensuring ownership over the process; and***
- c) Approve the use of MTF resources already agreed to pilot effectiveness indicators for the purposes of the ecosystem approach and encourage Contracting Parties to financially support this important process.***

2.2 Implementing in synergy the MAP ecosystem approach and EU MSFD Directive for the Mediterranean

22. The Secretariat would like to bring to the attention of the Bureau the process being established in the framework of implementing the EU Marine Strategy Directive adopted in 2008, by the seven Contracting Parties that are EU Member States. In the framework of MSFD, the concerned Contracting Parties have the obligation to make an assessment of marine environment by July 2012, on the basis of good environmental status indicators, currently under negotiation at EU level. Eleven common descriptors have been agreed and the work is ongoing to develop indicators to be applied by all European seas and the respective target levels.

23. By reason of the trans-boundary nature of the marine environment, the MSFD provides for cooperation and coordination with third countries concerned and using for this purpose, where practical and appropriate, existing institutional structures established in marine regions or sub-regions, in particular Regional Sea Conventions. In that context, the Mediterranean EU member states should, as far as possible, *build upon relevant existing programmes and activities developed in the framework of structures stemming from international agreements such as Regional Sea Conventions.*

24. The MSFD calls also upon the EU Member states to commit themselves to produce until 2015 programmes and measures, begin their implementation in 2016 and produce interim reports in 2018 with regard to the achievements of the agreed targets.

25. The Secretariat has carefully followed the MSFD process so as to make sure that the agreed MSFD descriptors and indicators for assessing good environmental status of European seas are meaningful and applicable in terms of content to the Mediterranean, given its particular features as a semi-closed and larger sea compared to the other European seas, as well as in terms of the different economic capability of all Mediterranean states to build monitoring programmes for their assessment.

26. The table in Annex IV provides a general picture on both UNEP/MAP/Barcelona Convention and Decision IG 17/6 and EU MSFD processes with remarks and suggestions, the aim of which is for illustration and Bureau discussion facilitation purposes with regard to designing the timetable for full implementation of all steps of Decision IG 17/6 adopted by the 15th Contracting Parties meeting.

27. UNEP-MAP/EU-MSFD synergetic work on the application of ecosystem approach is an opportunity to enhance the efficient use of resources on the national and regional levels; mobilize

additional resources to address priority threats affecting key Mediterranean ecosystem as well as improve the coherence among processes driven by different institutions in the spirit of good regional governance as requested by the Marrakech Declaration.

28. In addition, during the annual UNEP/MAP-EC meeting held in January 2010, the need for a more systematic cooperation between all Regional Seas Conventions relevant for European Seas could better promote lessons learned and exchanges of experiences for the purposes of more accelerated progress in achieving good environmental status by each of the Regional seas, including the Mediterranean.

29. For this purpose, a meeting will be held under the European Commission auspices, end of April 2010 so as to agree on short term cooperation related to the coordination for MSFD implementation ("mutual benefit") and possibly governance (in particular reporting, compliance and enforcement issues), and identify medium and long term targets/topics. In any case, emphasis would be on avoiding duplication and fostering knowledge exchange. The Secretariat will be in a position to provide more information on the outcome at the Bureau meeting.

Recommendation

The Bureau is kindly invited to provide its views and guidance as it may deem appropriate on:

- a) Secretariat considerations, remarks and proposals with regard to the necessary linkages at technical level, as appropriate, between MAP and EU MSFD ecosystem approach related processes;***
- b) Elements to be taken into account by the Secretariat while developing a concrete timetable for fully implementing the ecosystem approach roadmap adopted by the 15th Contracting Parties meeting, 2008.***

2.3 Transforming the ecosystem approach integrated assessment report into a State of the Environment report 2011

30. The *State of the Environment* report in the Mediterranean report 2009, presented in Marrakesh was an important achievement and a joint effort of all MAP components under the coordination of BP/RAC.

31. According to the Five-Year Strategic MAP Programme of Work, a new *State of the Environment* report 2011 should be prepared by Secretariat. The last meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECP.8/6), addressed in-depth ideas on potential elements of table of content, features and template. The ECP agreed that two years is too short a timeframe for issuing a report with new information if the same structure was followed. Instead, a report on the state of ecosystem and environmental quality status indicators in the Mediterranean could be of an added value.

32. In this regard, the Secretariat would like to share with the Bureau its proposal for using the ongoing assessment process outcome in the framework of implementing the ecosystem approach for the purpose of producing the *State of the Environment* report 2010-2011. The added value of such a combination could be:

- *Use MAP GIS capabilities, with technical support of INFO/RAC, to their fullest potential to create new graphics on the State of the Environment in the Mediterranean;*
- *Punctuate the text of the report with a series of maps showing not only basic information on coastal and marine ecosystems of the Mediterranean, but graphic displays of human uses, and maps of ecosystem services clearly showing the still high values attributed to different areas of the Mediterranean;*
- *Draw attention to geographical areas and features of the Mediterranean ecosystems needing urgent attention with regard to reducing pressures and threats;*
- *Compel and tell a complex story to the public and decision makers;*
- *Use the consultation/intergovernmental process already in place for the ecosystem approach with the view to establishing a peer review process with the Parties on the State of the Environment report.*

Recommendation

The Bureau is kindly invited to discuss and provide guidance to the Secretariat as may deem it appropriate with regard to the preparation of the 2011 State of the Environment report as described above, as a follow up and further development of ecosystem assessment process based on the same inter-governmental consultation process with the Contracting Parties.

3. Biodiversity

3.1 SPAMI beyond national jurisdiction

33. With a view to implementing the Almeria Declaration and Articles 8 and 9 of the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol, SPA/RAC with financial support from the European Commission, is implementing since 2008 the project: "Identification of possible SPAMI in the Mediterranean areas beyond national jurisdiction". This project included a feasibility assessment to identify areas in open seas, including deep sea, that could be qualified as SPAMIs, on the basis of sound science. A steering committee is guiding the process, led by the SPA/RAC Director and composed of all imminent regional actors in the field of biodiversity as well as the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention Coordinating Unit.

34. The first phase of the project led to identifying thirteen priority areas in open seas, including deep seas, within which some SPAMIs might be established. Several of them are mostly in areas beyond national jurisdiction while others are located partially or wholly under different regimes of national jurisdiction.

35. The second phase aims to assist the Contracting Parties to launch the process of declaration of some sites as SPAMIs. With a view to sharing the results of the first phase of the project, there is a need to hold an extraordinary meeting of the SPA/RAC focal points and to discuss with the Contracting Parties the planning of the implementation of the second-phase of this project. The objective of the meeting is to engage the Contracting Parties in selecting some priority sites (among the thirteen identified in the first stage) and thus ensure carrying out on time the necessary activities for being potentially declared by the 17th Contracting Parties as SPAMIs.

36. Procedures and criteria regarding a SPAMI declaration, as provided for in the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol include the following: the legal analysis about the status of the proposed area; data collection in order to define their delimitation; and elaboration of the first presentation report for consideration by the ordinary SPA/RAC focal points meeting in 2011. In this respect, the extraordinary SPA/RAC focal points meeting is also expected to agree on the roadmap for implementing such activities until the next Contracting Parties meeting, 2011.

37. Being an extraordinary meeting, not included in the MAP Programme of Work for the biennium, the proposed meeting requires Bureau approval. With the view to reducing related costs it is also proposed to hold it back-to-back with the meeting of SAP BIO correspondents in Istanbul in early June 2010, which is meant to launch the biodiversity component of the Strategic Partnership GEF/UNEP/ MAP project. In addition, it will also enhance integration and coordination between the two projects and the interaction of SPA/RAC focal points for their successful implementation in the framework of SAP BIO and MAP Programme of Work on Biodiversity and the strengthening of the network of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean.

3.2 CBD COP 2010

a) MAP statement at CBD COP

38. The Secretariat would like to propose to the Bureau to mandate the President of the Bureau and/or MAP Coordinator to make a policy statement on behalf of MAP at the CBD COP in December 2010 in Nagoya, Japan.

39. This policy statement may address the contribution of the UNEP/MAP – BC to meeting the CBD 2010 biodiversity target, as well as the specific challenges encountered for its implementation. It

may also express the wish of the Contracting Parties to follow post 2010 developments and implement new expected global commitments with regard to marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean.

40. The Secretariat is willing to provide support to the preparation by the Bureau of the draft policy statement, a first draft of which could be shared through email in June for discussion and agreement by the second Bureau meeting.

b) Proposal to organise a side event at CBD COP

41. The Secretariat would like to propose holding a side event in cooperation with WWF and IUCN, aimed at sharing the efforts of the Mediterranean region under the aegis of UNEP/MAP concerning the creation of SPAMIs with the view to:

- *Promoting the Mediterranean region visibility among other regions of the World;*
- *Showing the cooperative dynamics set up among all biodiversity conservation active organisations in the Mediterranean region;*
- *Strengthening cooperation and synergy among various regional organisations.*

42. The side event would consist of introduction speeches by all regional concerned actors through an integrated presentation led by UNEP/MAP and SPA/RAC, discussions and distribution of brochures, leaflets, CD-ROMs and reference documents. Information will be shared in advance with focal points and partners to ensure the side event is well attended by the representatives of the Contracting Parties at the CBD COP and other regional partners and civil society.

43. In addition, MAP is also planning to present a joint stand on its work on marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean as well as that of its partners.

44. It would be highly positive if the Contracting Parties in their progress reports in implementing the CBD, could also consider to include key work carried out in the framework of MAP and in particular the SPA and Biodiversity protocol implementation for the protection of endangered species, implementation of the SAP BIO and marine protected areas.

Recommendation

The Bureau is kindly invited to consider the above proposals by the Secretariat and advise as it may deem useful to:

- Approve the Extraordinary SPA/RAC focal points meeting;***
- Agree on the preparation of a political policy statement by UNEP/MAP at CBD COP in close consultation with the Bureau and the President, for approval by the next Bureau meeting;***
- Mandate the President and/or the UNEP/MAP Coordinator to deliver the policy statement at CBD COP on behalf of MAP;***
- Support the Secretariat efforts to organize a side event at CBD as a joint effort with the other regional partner organizations;***
- Invite the Contracting Parties to use the CBD COP as an opportunity to show progress achieved and challenges encountered by the Mediterranean region with regard to marine and coastal biodiversity conservation and protection with a view to better linking global and regional concerned processes.***

4. Implementation of Marrakech Declaration

45. Aware of the need for regional action with regard to adaptation to climate change, the Governing bodies of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)/Barcelona Convention have for the first time adopted a Programme of Work (2010-2014) which includes climate change among its priorities. The "Marrakech Declaration" concluded that adaptation to climate change in the marine coastal zone is a major priority for the Mediterranean region and requires regional guidance and coordination. As such it mandated the MAP Secretariat to explore the possibility of enriching the Mediterranean

Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), adopted in 2005, with action on adaptation to climate change as well as to integrate adaptation into development policies at the national and regional level.

46. In carrying out this mandate, and in full cooperation with partners, the Secretariat should develop work identifying measures that:

- a. *Help building climate resilience of vulnerable marine and coastal ecosystems and economies;*
- b. *Support efforts to ensure that adaptation policy setting and planning are fully integrated into sustainable development strategies at the regional and national levels;*
- c. *Prioritize concrete actions to address particularly vulnerable areas of regional relevance;*
- d. *Exchange experience and disseminate knowledge, information and best practices throughout the region.*

47. In terms of process, two activities seem of particular priority:

- *Stock-taking of knowledge, actors and measures undertaken in the Mediterranean on adaptation to climate change with a view to identifying major partners as the mandate was to work with partners and networks; and*
- *Definition of a list of issues and geographical areas in the region which are particularly vulnerable to climate change that could lead to identifying key objectives and priority "hot spots".*

48. The progress made and results achieved, will be presented to the Bureau of the Contracting Parties for advice and guidance on follow up actions.

49. This process will be carried out in parallel with MSSD assessment process and the GEF newly approved grant for a project on climate variability which will soon start implementation and could technically complement this initiative as its objectives are to:

- a. *Analyze available data and identify gaps and needs for climate change knowledge management and network;*
- b. *Identify the needs for capacity building to adapt to climate change on national and regional levels;*
- c. *Prepare the template for a framework on adaptation to climate change in the Mediterranean (content and road map for its implementation);*
- d. *Prepare a full size project, the implementation of which as of 2012, would contribute to the establishment of monitoring programmes and networks and propose and implement adaptation measures.*

50. The Secretariat is working to mobilize the necessary resources through external sources to start implementing the first phase of the project namely: the initial stock-taking exercise and the expert/stakeholders discussion. In addition there is also a need to strengthen the Secretariat capacity to cope with the implementation and coordination of such a project. The proposal of the Secretariat would be to use for this purpose some of the savings from Coordinating Unit unspent budget lines.

Detailed Work Plan

1) Sharing process with the Bureau of the Contracting Parties	May 2010
2) Preparation of stock taking on adaptation to climate change and vulnerability assessment	May –October 2010
3) Technical regional workshop to share with countries and partners the findings of the stock taking and of the quick vulnerability assessment	Oct/Nov 2010
4) Sharing and discussing the outcome of the technical workshop with the Bureau of the Contracting Parties	December 2010
5) Intergovernmental meeting to discuss template regional framework adaptation and its roadmap	March- April 2011
7) Linkage to MSSD assessment process	April– June 2011

Recommendations

The Bureau is invited to have an exchange of views on the above proposal and provide guidance as appropriate with regard to the proposed objectives of the Mediterranean adaptation framework, its process and milestones. The Bureau is also invited to authorize the Secretariat to use some of the savings from unspent budget lines, as need be to strengthen the Secretariat to engage on this priority.

4.1 Enhancing Regional Governance

51. In accordance with the Marrakech Declaration, it is important to achieve in the Mediterranean a high degree of coherence among key environmental and sustainable development issues at policy, programme and, where necessary, at project levels. This will ensure that the relevant institutions carry out their work in synergy.

52. In this regard, the Secretariat would like to share with the Bureau some ideas concerning the strengthening of cooperation and ensuring synergies with Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), European Union and World Bank at policy, governance and programme/project outcome levels.

4.1.1 Enhancing cooperation at policy and institutional levels

a) Union for the Mediterranean

53. The Paris Summit for the Mediterranean of July 2008 agreed the *Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)* would build on the Barcelona process and included sustainable development as one of its priorities. A series of Ministerial meetings have been held to advance the objectives of the *UfM*, including on Environmental Protection the latest of which, planned to take place in Dubrovnik late April was cancelled due to the ash crises affecting European skies.

54. An institutional structure contributing to the goals of the initiative has been recently established in Barcelona, led by a Secretary-General who is assisted by six deputies responsible for specific subjects. Those of relevance for MAP priorities are: environment and water including de-pollution (Palestinian Authority), transport (Turkey), energy, including renewable energies sources (Greece) and project funding coordination (Italy).

55. Under the guidance of their political bodies, the main tasks of the Secretariat are of a technical nature, designed to gather project initiatives for Ministerial consideration as well as promote agreed projects while searching for partners for their implementation.

56. Strong synergies could be established between the UNEP/MAP-BC and the *UfM* based on each other comparative advantages. The UNEP/MAP-BC provides an advanced legal, institutional and operational framework for marine and coastal environmental issues as well as broader linkages with sustainable development while the *UfM* is conceived to operate at the political and project funding levels. The *UfM* has a much broader scope which could be particularly relevant for issues on which multisectoral approaches are necessary. In this context, the *UfM* could reinforce at the highest political level the priorities agreed for the UNEP/MAP-BC at the meeting of Contracting Parties. At the same time, UNEP/MAP- BC could benefit from the project mobilization and funding approach of the *UfM*. The UNEP/MAP- BC would provide the *UfM* priorities and projects which require broader mobilization and funding.

57. UNEP/MAP is planning to pay a formal visit to the Secretariat of the *UfM* in Barcelona to initiate cooperation based on priority cooperation fields, comparative advantages and complementarities.

Recommendation

The Bureau is invited to have an exchange of views on the establishment of a cooperation platform with the UfM.

b) European Union

58. In addition to being a Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention/MAP, the EU engagement in issues of relevance to UNEP/MAP is growing due to the development of its “droit communautaire” on marine and maritime issues as well as the processes of EU enlargement (now seven Contracting Parties) and its neighboring policy. The Secretariat has worked on strengthening its relationships and build synergy with relevant EU policies and initiatives. Concretely, MAP cooperation with the EU is organized around three main priorities:

- *Marine Strategy Framework Directive;*
- *Integrated Maritime Policy;*
- *Implementation of H2020 initiative established in the framework of EU neighboring policy.*

59. The cooperation MAP/EC with regard the implementation of ecosystem approach and MSFD is elaborated in depth in Chapter 2 of the present report. Information on MAP contribution to H2020 initiative is presented in Progress Report UNEP/BUR/70/3.

60. As such, the Secretariat would like to bring to the attention of the Bureau some recent development with regard to EU maritime policy.

61. In the framework of EC Communication for an integrated maritime policy in the Mediterranean, a consultation process has started under the aegis of EC (DG MARE) that is closely followed by MAP Secretariat as an observer. An important study has been commissioned by the EC (DG MARE) with regard to governance for the Mediterranean and which has reviewed the legal and institutional systems set up in the region.

62. With regards to UNEP/MAP, the study recognized that it is an important achievement for the region based on an advanced legal framework and considered as *a dynamic body capable of being subject to re-examination and improvement, whenever appropriate.*

63. With regards to the regional governance, the study acknowledges that there are gaps and in this respect, it proposed to establish, based on existing institutions, a specific Forum for Governance of the Mediterranean Basin as a core initiative for better management of the Mediterranean marine space, based on tools such as the ecosystem approach and marine spatial planning which would ensure:

- *Avoidance of duplication of action carried out by different international institutions, how to optimize the use of the limited resources available and how to co-ordinate the work carried out in different contexts;*
- *Participation by all stakeholders, namely States, State entities, including local authorities, international organizations active in the region and non-governmental organizations coming from the civil society and the economic sector*

64. Finally, the study has made some suggestions on taking advantage of the regional existing institutions for playing the role of the proposed forum as MCSD and the IUCN informal consultation process on the governance of high seas.

Recommendation

The Bureau is invited to support the Secretariat's efforts to link EU Maritime policy with MAP priorities with a view to strengthening the Mediterranean integrated maritime governance and in this context the potential role of MCSD.

4.1.2 Enhancing cooperation at project level

65. GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (UNEP/MAP MedPartnership) is the pivotal regional project for UNEP/MAP in terms of regional cooperation. While overall coordination of the MedPartnership and of the Regional Component is the responsibility of the UNEP/MAP's Project Management Unit (PMU), the other component – the Investment Fund (concrete projects to be partially funded through GEF grants), is managed by the World Bank. The MedPartnership Coordination Group is overseeing the implementation of the Investment Fund.

66. The full implementation of UNEP/MAP MedPartnership started in mid 2009. During the first Steering Committee meeting in Budva (February 2010), the Inception Report was adopted by the participating countries and full support was given to the activities that all partners in this endeavour are undertaking.

67. The World Bank is developing "Sustainable Med", one of their three programmes in the Mediterranean Environment and Water cluster (other two being water resources policies and management, and environmental economic valuation). Sustainable Med programme is supposed to deal with 5 topics: legal framework, environmental financing and green business; environmental economics; SEA; and capacity building. In addition to that, and very important for UNEP/MAP, in Sustainable Med there are two other "topics" that deserve full attention of the Bureau, as they are directly linked to the UNEP/MAP MedPartnership:

- The Investment and Technical Assistance Projects. Formerly known as Investment Fund (see above), this group of projects is now contained in Sustainable Med, but still remains the constitutive element of the MedPartnership. Among 11 projects, three country projects are already in implementation (Croatia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Egypt), while five projects are in very early stage of development (Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Libya and Morocco). Among 3 regional level technical assistance projects, the project "Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to Implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean" (mentioned in sections above) was already approved to be executed by UNEP/MAP. The total amount of GEF funds allocated for these projects is 70 million USD, while the project in climate variability is to receive grant of 2.6 million USD.
- Enhanced Governance and Knowledge Management ("KnowMed"). This project could be considered as the cross-cutting programme of the Environment and Water cluster. The PIF for this project was approved by GEF in June 2009 (3 million USD grant), but it was not reviewed by UNEP/MAP, although it is the co-executing agency of the project. Subsequently, the request for PPG (reviewed by UNEP/MAP, but no feedback was received from the World Bank yet) was sent to GEF and decision is pending.

68. UNEP/MAP and the World Bank had two meetings to facilitate coordination between UNEP/MAP MedPartnership and Sustainable Med (November 2009 and April 2010). During the latter, an agreement was reached that development of all Sustainable Med investment projects (see point 1 above) in future will be done in close cooperation between the World Bank and UNEP/MAP. Among the operational decisions taken was agreement on the organization of a meeting at the end of May to utilize the experiences of on-going investment projects in the UNEP/MAP MedPartnership's Replication Strategy

Recommendation

The Bureau is invited to take note of the progress made in discussing the cooperation with the World Bank with a view to ensuring synergy with other regional projects aimed at advancing the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

4.1.3 MCSD/MSSD

69. The renewed interest in environmental mainstreaming in the Mediterranean is a consequence of activities on the part of major actors and/or relevant programmes as described above but also from broader global level new developments and priorities such as on biodiversity or climate change. These

provide a strong impetus for further building on UNEP/MAP – BC activities but also highlight two important aspects:

- a. *Beyond the stronger environmental focus it is necessary to link environmental issues to development and strengthen the environmental dimension in sectoral policies, an approach already adopted in MSSD;*
 - b. *Environmental and development issues are complex and in view of the mobilization of several actors in this context it is necessary to seek efficiency by building on complementarities and synergies among the various activities and programmes by building partnerships.*
70. These developments call for two important considerations in the context of MCSD/MSSD:
- a. *The necessity of a common framework of reference which is already provided for by MSSD and the need to review and adapt it;*
 - b. *The need to assess and revise the role of MCSD as a platform of discussing environment/ development related issues in the Mediterranean.*
71. The MSSD calls for an in-depth assessment every five years, the first of which is in 2010. It is also foreseen in the approved Five-Year Programme of Work 2010-2014 that an initial assessment should be presented at the Rio+20 Conference.(IG 19/8)
72. As a first step in the assessment process, the Secretariat has revised the draft ToR to assess progress towards MSSD and provide recommendations on the objectives and priorities of the Strategy in view of existing and anticipated broader changes in the conditions, context and activities by major stakeholders in the region. The revised ToR have been considered and approved by the Steering Committee.
73. The objectives of MSSD assessment are to:
- a. *Assess the relevance and impact of the strategy;*
 - b. *Adapt the strategy to contemporary and anticipated major issues on environment/development in the region;*
 - c. *Identify means to expand its role and improve its efficiency and effectiveness especially at the policy making level in the field of sustainable development;*
 - d. *Promote and intensify implementation in the field, in cooperation with other regional initiatives.*
74. The assessment is expected to last 7 months, not including the periods of review and approval. Consultations with MAP components, MCSD members and a multitude of actors are envisaged. A presentation of the findings is foreseen to the MCSD through the Steering Committee.
75. The Call for Expression of Interest will be launched in the next 30 days.

Proposed Timetable

Call of interest	May 2010
Start of work by Consultant	Mid June 2010
Preliminary findings	End November 2010
MCSD Steering Committee Review	December 2010
Sharing key findings with the Bureau of the Contracting Parties	December 2010
Final Report	February 2011
Presentation at MCSD meeting	June 2011
Discussion at MAP focal points meeting	September 2011
Transmission for Contracting Parties meeting consideration	November 2011
Possible revision and adaptation of MSSD	Pending assessment outcome

76. Concerning the role of MCSD in enhancing regional dialogue on environment/development issues it is evident that this has to be examined in the context of the MSSD assessment. It would involve broadening discussions with major actors and stakeholders on how to introduce key environment/development issues in National Strategies and strengthening capacity to incorporate environmental issues into sectoral policies. Broadening participation in MCSD by including new members has been already decided, however their selection has to be linked to the particular themes discussed by MCSD (the representatives of IGO's have been already identified),

77. The Secretariat would like to bring to the attention of the Bureau that MTF funds for the MSSD assessment and MCSD reform are not sufficient and efforts are being made to mobilize external resources. In addition there is also a need to strengthen the Secretariat capacity to cope with day to day with management of both processes. As such the Secretariat would highly appreciate if the Bureau would also authorize the use of some of the savings from unspent budget lines for strengthening the capacity of the Coordinating Unit to support during this biennium, as appropriate, the implementation of the ad hoc MCSD/MSSD challenging processes.

Recommendation

The Bureau is invited to:

- a) Discuss the revised ToR for MSSD assessment;***
- b) Exchange views on the role of MCSD as a platform of ideas to expand environmental concerns and incorporate them into sectoral policies;***
- c) Authorize the Secretariat to use some of the savings from unspent budget lines to support the work of the Secretariat in regard to MCSD/MSSD.***

5. Preparation of legally binding plans and programmes as part of the LBS Protocol

78. The new implementation strategy for the application of the LBS Protocol foresees:

- a. To adopt a list of priority substances for which pollution reduction plans and programmes should be prepared as priority, on the basis of the international developments and a number of technical and policy assessments. This list is a dynamic one and the integration of new substances in the list would be always based on the results of the relevant risk assessments;*
- b. To adopt a differentiation process for the implementation by the countries of measures for the reduction of the inputs of pollutants described in (A), based on temporal differentiation, on the basis of the socio economic and technical assessments.*

79. The first list of priority substances agreed by the Contracting Parties meeting in Marrakech in 2009 decided on the following regional plans:

- a. Reduction of BOD5 from municipal waste water treatment plants considered as the most important source of pollution in the Mediterranean, which provides for 2015 and/or 2019 as a timetable for its implementation;*
- b. Phasing out of DDT;*
- c. Elimination of Aldrin, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Endrin, Heptachlor, Mirex and Taxophene.*

80. The plans will become legally binding by 17 June 2010 for the Contracting Parties that would not submit any objection by that time. For the time being, only one Contracting Party has notified the Secretariat.

81. MED POL, if need be and according to the availability of resources, will provide technical assistance to the countries which might face difficulties in the implementation of their plans.

82. The 16th Contracting Parties Meeting in Marrakech, November 2009, requested MEDPOL, in cooperation with CP/RAC, to prepare additional regional plans and programmes for substances/sectors included in the list of priorities namely:

- a. *Mercury: to streamline the negotiations on regional measures with the global negotiations on legal instruments to regulate the use of Mercury;*
- b. *Food sector: as an important source of pollution in the Mediterranean;*
- c. *9 new chemicals included in the Stockholm Convention: to streamline the regional efforts to reduce the production and use of these chemicals with the global efforts (Stockholm Convention).*

83. The Secretariat (MED POL and CP/RAC) have prepared the ToRs regarding the process and content for implementing the above decision:

Step I: State-of-the-art/assessment process

- state-of-the-art analysis regarding production, use and disposal of the new 9 chemicals recently included under the provisions of Stockholm Convention; for this assignment all Contracting Parties were contacted;
- jointly launching the preparation of an assessment of the regional state-of-the-art for mercury, the 9 chemicals and the following food sectors: sugar manufacturing, vegetable oil processing, breweries, fruit and vegetable processing, dairy industry, slaughtering and meat processing, canning and preserving processes, fish processing (to be completed by November 2010).

Step II: Development of regional plans

84. In order to reach the target of having the new regional plans submitted to Contracting Parties for adoption at the next meeting in 2011, the following is planned:

- preparation of the first draft of the regional plans by January 2011 with consultancy assistance;
- hold two meetings of Government Designated Experts to review the draft plans (February, March, April 2011), the second one to be held back-to-back with the MED POL Focal Points Meeting;
- Meeting of MED POL Focal Points to review and approve the regional plans;
- MAP Focal Points Meeting, Contracting Parties Meeting to review and adopt the regional plans (November 2011).

85. In terms of content, when developing the regional plans, due consideration will be given to advanced international trends and work in this respect, including BAP, BET and SCP, MAP integrated reporting system and clear relationship between the legally binding measures and the compliance procedures and mechanisms, capacity building needs of the Contracting Parties and the necessary assistance programmes to be developed in the future for enabling Contracting Parties to undertake the commitment and implementation of the regional plans.

Recommendation

The Bureau is kindly invited to:

- a) ***Provide guidance and advice on the proposed process and content for developing the legally binding measures and programmes for mercury, food industry and POPs as it may deem appropriate;***
- b) ***Request Contracting Parties to fully support the process and contribute actively so as to ensure full ownership over it.***

6. Med Globallast Strategy

86. The Mediterranean region is one of the six high priority regions included in the GEF/UNDP/IMO Project “Building Partnerships to Assist Developing Countries to Reduce the Transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms in Ships’ Ballast Water” (“GloBallast Partnerships” Project), the objectives of which are to promote the ratification of the 2004 International Convention for the Control and Management of

Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (referred to hereunder as the Ballast Water Management Convention), to which five Mediterranean coastal States are Parties (Albania, Egypt, France, Spain and Syria), and to assist countries in taking policy, institutional and legal measures to implement and ensure compliance with the Convention. Croatia and Turkey were identified as lead countries under the project and as such are hosting and facilitating the activities.

87. Since the implementation project started in January 2008, a Regional Task Force is operational with a view to developing a regional strategy to address the problem of invasive species introduced into the marine environment via ships' ballast water, impacting the marine biodiversity. Acknowledging the advanced status of implementation of the *GloBallast Partnerships Project* in the Mediterranean, and particularly the work undertaken by the Regional Task Force towards the development of a regional strategy on ships' ballast water management and invasive species in the Mediterranean, the 16th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties decided to continue developing a regional strategy within the Mediterranean Action Plan (Decision IG 19/11) for possible adoption by its following Ordinary Meeting in 2011.

88. In January 2010, all contributions by the Focus Groups were final and the Secretariat (REMPEC), with the help of experts, started preparing a consolidated version of the Strategy, on the basis of the work produced by the Focus Groups. The Second Meeting of the Regional Task Force is to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, between 1-3 June 2010, with the objective to review and possibly adopt the draft consolidated Strategy. The meeting will also serve as a Regional Harmonization Workshop, where common issues of concern are expected to be discussed, including possible voluntary arrangements on ships' ballast water exchange applicable to ships sailing in or through the Mediterranean Sea.

89. A pilot Regional Training Course on the Legal Implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention has successfully taken place (Istanbul, Turkey, 2-3 December 2009). This activity targeted lawyers/legal persons, or officials well versed in issues related to the ratification of international instruments and to their consequent transposition of international into national legislation. A comprehensive Training Manual as well as Guidelines for Legal Reform in the Context of the Ballast Water Management Convention and a model legislation were delivered to the participants.

90. During the same period, activities were also carried out at national level to assist countries in starting the process of developing appropriate national strategies and policies in the field of invasive species and in addressing institutional and legal issues in order to implement and ensure compliance with the Ballast Water Management Convention. Such activities, entirely financed by the International Maritime Organization's Technical Cooperation Division, were carried out in Montenegro (November 2009) and in Syria (February 2010). Both activities resulted in commitments by each country that they would establish national task forces with all ministries and authorities concerned, to work efficiently on the issue of ballast water and invasive species.

Recommendation

The Bureau is kindly requested to encourage the Contracting Parties:

- a) To make their outmost effort to attend the Second Meeting of the Regional Task Force in order to actively contribute to the finalization of the regional strategy currently under development, with a view to its consideration for adoption by the Contracting Parties in 2011;***
- b) To establish national legal task forces/cross-cutting committees involving all relevant national authorities, scientific institutions and other stakeholders, in order to foster the implementation of policy, legal, institutional and operational measures to be taken at national level for the mitigation of the threat posed to the marine biodiversity by the introduction of invasive species via ships' ballast water and facilitate the ratification and implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention.***

ANNEX I

LIST OF PRIORITIES

The meeting agreed to focus on the following major achievements during the biennium:

Coordinating Unit

- Important progress with regard to the application of ecosystems approach
- Climate change Adaptation framework
- Implementation of Programme of Work
- MSSD assessment process and MCSD reform
- Compliance Committee addresses general issues of non-compliance, including an operational reporting system
- Revised country agreement
- Information communication strategy

MED POL

The key priorities within the very large MEDPOL programme, will be on:

- Providing assistance to the implementation of the legally binding measures adopted in Marrakesh
- Developing new legally binding measures together with CP/RAC
- Publication and Assessment: A major outcome will be a status quality report on marine environment for the 17th Contracting Parties meeting

REMPEC

- Globallast strategy for the next COP 2011
- Strengthening of the ports state control capacities
- Establishment of a regional network for automatic identification of ships

BP/RAC

Programme of Work as scheduled and agreed by the Contracting Parties

PAP/RAC

Countries efforts to ratify and implement the ICZM Protocol are facilitated through:

- Explanatory guide
- Stocktaking on ICZM in order to establish the baseline
- CAMP projects
- Special spatial planning systems in the Mediterranean
- GEF project: ICZM plan for Algeria and ICZM transboundary for Albania, Montenegro

SPA/RAC

2010 as biodiversity year is influencing the RAC SPA priorities in 4 directions:

- Protection of endangered species with particular focus on two or three species
- Establishment of SPAMIs
- Status of biodiversity in the Mediterranean: 2010 targets A report for the Contracting Parties meeting in 2011
- Communication/awareness: joint presentation with other regional organizations at CBD

CP/RAC

Although the business plan is quite broad the focus will be on six major outputs in the framework of greening the economy:

- Streamlining SCP in national policies Target two Contracting Parties
- Capacity building on NAP sectors (BATs and BEPs)
- Enhance green competitiveness
- Promoting green procurement policies
- Legally binding measures Hg and POPs
- All this through the application of low carbon methodology

INFO/RAC

- Inherit the outcome of the previous biennium and make it fully operational
- On line MAP reporting system and training to enable countries to submit their reports on line by autumn 2010
- Important outputs in the framework of GEF that could be used by INFO RAC in a sustainable manner for the benefit of all MAP components (e learning model, clearing house etc)
- Work together with different components: CP RAC with communities on sustainable life style; REMPEC to develop tool for real time data and GIS to support emergency cases; to establish RAC SPA info system for protected areas; with PAP RAC Establishment of an ICZM info system

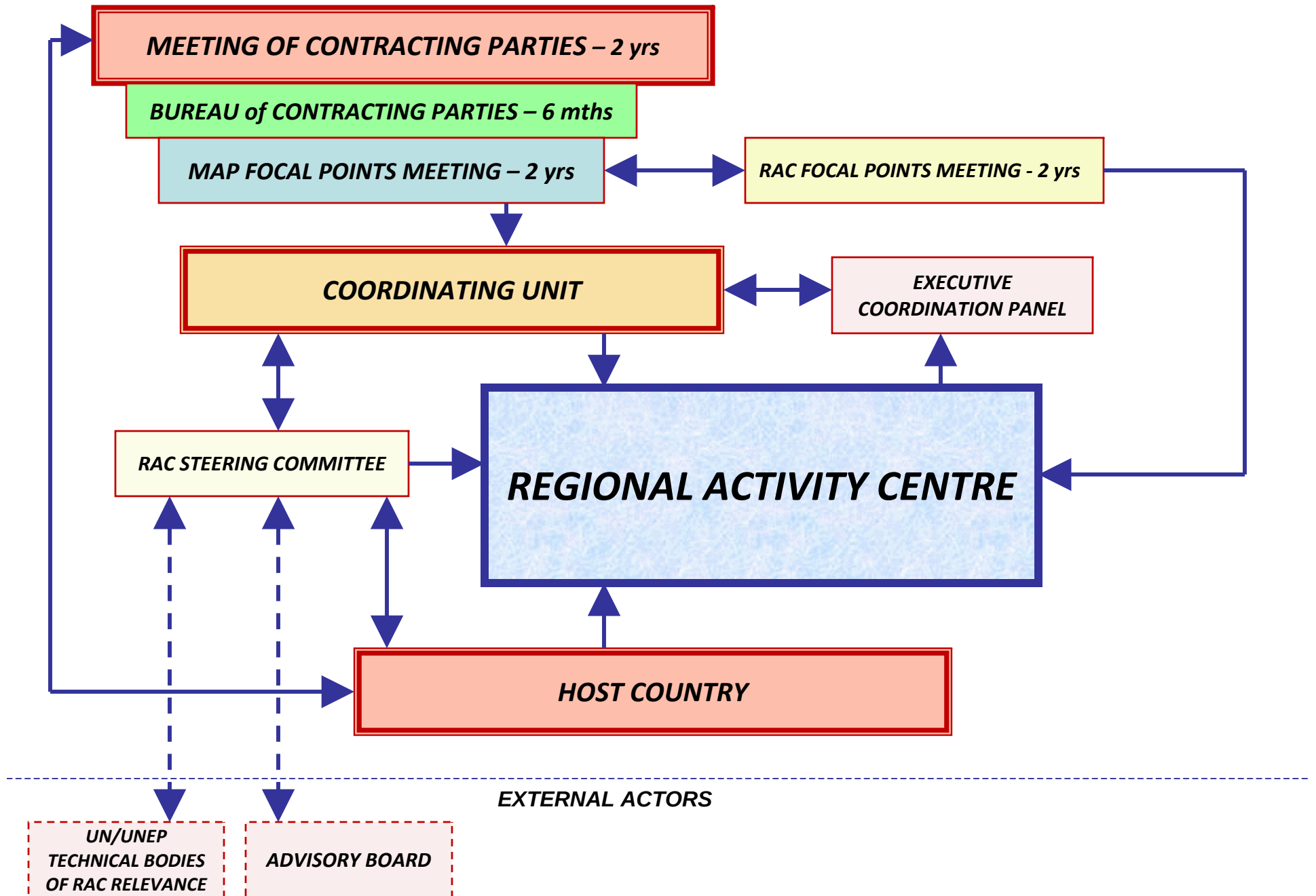
ANNEX II
KEY MAP MEETINGS PLANNED 2010-2011

MEETINGS	2010												2011											
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CONTRACTING PARTIES																							1	
BUREAU																								
MAP FOCAL POINTS																								
MCSD																								
MCSD STEERING COMMITTEE				2																				
RAC FOCAL POINTS																								
EXECUTIVE COORDINATION PANEL (ECP)																								
COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE																								
WORKING GROUP ON LIABILITY & COMPENSATION																								
MSSD: -ASSESSMENT PROCESS, INCLUDING ADAPTATION TO CC																								
CONSULTATION MEETINGS ON EFFECTIVENESS & INDICATORS																								
ECAP MEETINGS																								
GEF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP STEERING COMMITTEE INC. CLIMATE VARIABILITY PROJECT																								
GEF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP COORDINATION GROUP																								
MEETING ON GLOBALLAST STRATEGY																								
EXTRAORDINARY SPA/RAC MEETING																								
MEETING ON LEGALLY BINDING MEASURES																								

1. Pending negotiations with the Host Country
2. Held through electronic consultations

3. External resources to be mobilized
4. Back-to-back with MED POL Focal Points Meeting

ANNEX III – UNEP/MAP RAC GOVERNING BODIES



ANNEX IV

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH BY MAP and relationship with EU MSFD implementation

Actions for implementing MAP IG/17/6 and EU MSFD	MAP Decision IG 17/6, January 2008; MAP Programme of work	MSFD, 2008	Remarks/suggestions
Steps	Time frame MAP	Time frame MSFD	Remarks
APPLICATION OF ECOSYSTEM APPROACH AGREED AS A KEY PRIORITY FOR BOTH MAP AND MSFD			
<i>Step 3 Identification of important ecosystem properties and assessment of ecological status and pressures</i>	<u>By July 2010</u> <i>to finalize the assessment for 4 areas</i>	<u>By July 2010</u> <i>to finalize the initial individual assessment on marine waters</i>	MAP process should assist the concerned EU countries to conclude in the framework of the MSFD their assessment in terms of methodology, priority areas and data collection and analysis
<i>Steps 4 Development of a set of ecological objectives / Good Environmental Status GES</i>	<u>During 2010-2011 biennium</u> <i>to develop the ecological, operational indicators and targets</i>	<u>By July 2012</u> <i>To define GES based on 11 descriptors</i>	It is important to ensure synergy at technical level in order to avoid the application of different methodologies and indicators for different parts of the Mediterranean sea.
<i>Steps 5 Development of operational objectives with indicators and target levels</i>		<i>To determine comprehensive environmental targets and indicators for achieving GES</i>	
<i>Steps 6 Revision of monitoring programmes for ongoing assessment and regular updating of targets</i>	<u>During 2012-2013 biennium.</u> <i>To adopt an integrated MAP monitoring and assessment policy</i> <i>- to evaluate MAP/MEDPOL monitoring programme Phase IV 2005-2013</i> <i>- to start designing the new monitoring programme based on ecosystem approach for the period 2013-2018</i>	<u>By July 2014,</u> <i>to establish and implement coordinated monitoring programmes for assessing the on going environmental status of their marine waters</i>	Adopting a MAP integrated monitoring policy 2013 -2018 based on ecosystem approach would help the contracting parties, including the concerned EU member states to revise their national monitoring programme accordingly As of 2013, Contracting parties might need to revise their national monitoring programme accordingly
<i>Step 7 Development and review of relevant action plans and programmes</i>	Under implementation <i>As of 2013 or 2015 the approach for designating management actions/measures should be based on ecosystem approach.</i>	<u>By 2015 to plan measures¹.</u> <u>by 2016 implement them.</u> <u>by 2018 interim report on the achievement of GES.</u>	As of 2013 or 2015 the regional plans in conformity with article 15 of the LBS protocol, other management actions in line with the requirements of other MAP protocols addressing pollution, ICZM protocol; the MAP regional action plans on endangered species and management plans of SPA or SPAMI areas should be based on ecosystem approach.

¹ In this respect it is crucial that measures to be taken by the concerned EU members states are compatible and comply with MAP agreed relevant action plans and programmes that are based on legally binding obligations of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.