UNITED NATIONS

EP

UNEP/MED WG.620/Inf.18

UN environment programme

Mediterranean Action Plan
Barcelona Convention

25 July 2025
Original: English

Meeting of the MAP Focal Points

Athens, Greece, 16-19 September 2025

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

Report of Independent Mapping Exercise with a view to define the mandate and integrate the newly established CC/RAC within the UNEP/MAP system

For environmental and cost-saving reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2025

Governance Study on Climate Change in the Mediterranean

Draft Proposal

For the Mandate of the Newly Established Climate Change Regional Activity Centre CC/RAC – Tasks 7 and 8

Ray Purcell (International Consultant)

30 May 2025

Table of Contents

1. Introduction 3

2. The Context for the Preparation of the Draft CC/RAC Mandate 4

UNEP/MAP Guidance for Component Mandates 4

Mandates of MAP Regional Activity Centres and UNEP Climate Change Division 5

Climate Activities of the RACs 6

3. Comparative Analysis of Climate Change in RAC Mandates and Activities 8

4. The Draft CC/RAC Mandate Proposal 10

Appendix 1: Consultant Terms of Reference 13

Appendix 2: RAC Mandates 15

Appendix 3: Climate Activities of PB, PAP and SPA/RACs 19

Appendix 4: Preliminary Terms of Reference for the CC/RAC Offered by Türkiye . 21

1. Introduction

1. This assignment has been commissioned by the MAP Secretariat as part of a mapping exercise of UNEP/MAP institutional mandates and activities to support the further integration of climate change into MAP systems and processes. It follows the adoption of Barcelona Convention Decision IG.26/12 (COP 23, Portoroz, Slovenia, 5-8 December 2023) regarding the establishment of the new MAP Regional Activity Centre on Climate Change (CC/RAC).

2. This stage of the assignment has been preceded by reviews of:

a) the mandates and activities of external Mediterranean climate change actors (Task 2 of the assignment)

b) the climate change mandates and activities of the organisational Components comprising the MAP/UNEP system (Task 3).

c) the UNEP/MAP system and its Components in relation to addressing climate change gaps, needs and responses for the Mediterranean, with recommendations on how to address the key outcomes of recent global and regional climate processes (Task 6).

3. The output from this phase of the assignment addresses Tasks 7 and 8 of the Consultants TORs (Appendix 1) and is to:

"Prepare a draft proposal on the mandate of the newly established CC/RAC, including the integration/synergies within the UNEP/MAP system, taking into account all governance, legal, financial and administrative aspects and ensuring full complementarity and share with the Secretariat for review and submission to the MAP Focal Points meeting".

4. This report draws on the outputs of Tasks 2 and 3 which deal with the mandates and activities of external and MAP component actors in the context of climate change. The Task 6 report provides MAP climate change gap and needs analyses and recommendations for future directions which assist with the preparation of the new CC/RAC mandate.

2. The Context for the Preparation of the Draft CC/RAC Mandate

UNEP/MAP Guidance for Component Mandates

5. The original guidance for preparing mandates of MAP components was provided by the Governance Paper issued at the Barcelona Convention COP 15 convened in Spain in January 2008, Decision IG.17/10. The Governance Paper aimed at "ensuring an effective MAP governance based on stronger cooperation and integration among MAP Components, result oriented programming and planning, increased ownership of the Contracting Parties and higher visibility of MAP and the Barcelona Convention in the region".

6. *Inter alia,* the Governance Paper provided Governance goals and principles. In particular, "the MAP governance system should ensure two crucial aspects:

I. Strong and cooperative relationships among MAP Components and key actors, and

II. A MAP organizational system that is:
1. Consistent with the intent and obligations of the Barcelona Convention, its protocols and strategies;
2. Responsive to contemporary needs and priorities;
3. Efficient and effective (in terms of good governance principles and measures) to meet future goals;
4. Structured to optimize the use of resources".

7. The Governance Paper included a section dedicated to mandates for Programmes and Regional Activity Centres (RACs):

"The mandate for each RAC should include at a minimum:

- Long-term and horizontal goals and objectives, clearly identifying its role and the contribution to the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and Strategies;
- Scope of work including governing principles by which the RAC will operate with clear reference to cooperation with other RAC's, coordination by the MAP Coordinating Unit and the roles of the Focal Points' meetings, the MCSD and the Meetings of the Contracting Parties."

8. Decision IG.19/5 of the COP 16 (Marrakesh, Morocco, 2009) determined that the activities of all the MAP Components should be governed by the following operational principles as per the box below:

1. The Five-Year and biennial Programmes of Work are developed in accordance with the Governance Paper, approved by the meeting of the Contracting Parties and implemented under the guidance of the Coordinating Unit.

2. With a view to increasing efficiency, maximizing results, avoiding duplication and improving the overall coherence of MAP system, consultation and collaboration with all MAP components will be sought.

3. Technical and scientific programmes, plans and other mandated outputs will be steered and carried out in close consultation with the MAP components' Focal Points and formally reviewed at their meetings every two years.

4. MAP partners will be consulted in the planning of activities and involved in their implementation, as appropriate.

5. Additional source of funding should be sought through the development and implementation of a MAP joint resource mobilisation plan.

6. Regardless of the source of funding, activities should focus on MAP priorities and emerging challenges of MAP relevance, as decided in consultation with the Coordinating Unit and the Bureau.

7. Transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness shall guide planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all activities.

Mandates of MAP Regional Activity Centres and UNEP Climate Change Division

9. The mandates for MAP Components including the RACs, set out the Background, Objectives and Scope of Activities and were approved by the 16th COP meeting in Marrakesh 2009 (Decision IG 19/5 – IG 19/8).

10. The Mandates for the three RACs most closely associated with the prospective work of the new CC/RAC are in Appendix 2. The mandates are structured around three headings:

- Background
- Objectives and mission statement
- Scope of action and key issues,

11. The mandates of the RACs are aligned with their Protocols. Only the PAP/RAC mandate mentions climate change and this fleetingly as one of multiple sector issues to be addressed. As well as the climate reference in its mandate, the PAP/RAC mandate was exceptional for its reference to use of specific action tools such as pilot and demonstration projects.

12. The 2011 ICZM Protocol which (unusually) came after the preparation of the PAP/RAC mandate is unique among the Protocols with its climate orientation and with a primary goal (Article 5) being to prevent and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

13. The Government of Türkiye submitted a comprehensive proposal for the innovation and establishment of the new CC/RAC in October 2022. This provided for Türkiye's prospective hosting and financing of the new Climate Change CC/RAC. Its proposal included a Terms of Reference which is in Appendix 4.

14. The 23rd meeting of the Portoroz COP (December 2023) , Decision IG.26/12, accepted "with gratitude the generous offer of Türkiye to cover all the establishment costs of the CC/RAC as its Host Country." At the same time it requested the governance mapping exercise of which this review is a part.

15. The current direction of climate travel pursued by MAP is reflected in the MAP Plan of Work for 2024-2025 (Decision IG.26/14). Of seven Thematic Programmes, Thematic Programme 3 is dedicated to a Climate Resilient Mediterranean. Of its eight envisaged areas of climate change activity, three are for nature based solutions (NbS) and biodiversity, two are for ICZM, one for reducing shipping GHG emissions, one on the circular economy and one on developing science based assessments.

16. At UNEP HQ level, the objective of its new Climate Change Division (CCD) is to deliver effective strategic guidance and high-impact action in support of the transition towards climate stability. Its work is guided by ambition, innovation, credible science, alignment to global climate goals and needs of individual countries.

17. The new CCD works with Member States and Partners to accelerate and support a just transition by addressing:

- CC mitigation and adaptation through enhancing implementation capacity,
- Provision of data information and knowledge,
- Access to finance and technology,
- Building resilience.

18. The Climate Change Adaptation Unit (CCAU) is an active part of the new Division dealing with the following adaptation areas which are all key for MAP:

- Science, Analysis & Partnerships
- Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)
- Early Warning Systems (EWS) & Climate Services
- Adaptation Finance
- Supporting National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)
- Water Services and Security
- Cities and the Built Environment

Climate Activities of the RACs

19. This section presents climate activities that have or are being undertaken by RACs and complements the the formal mandates of the existing RACs. Significant climate activities are undertaken by three RACs at the moment: PB, PAP and SPA. The range of climate change activities carried out by PB, PAP and SPA RACs are presented in Appendix 3 and is summarised below.

PB/RAC

20. PB/RAC's mandate approved in 2009 is centered on the science and analytics of environmental, economic and social issues affecting the Mediterranean. Its missions now include "climate change as a priority" and its climate work has benefitted from hosting the MedECC Secretariat and MedECC's landmark scientific work. PB/RAC currently works with MedECC on temperature and precipitation monitoring for the MSSD.[1]

21. During 2020-2024, under the GEF MedProgramme, PB/RAC has been involved with other RACs on "facilitating local adaptation planning by engaging researchers, decision makers, local communities and the private and financial sectors to support climate change adaptation solutions".

22. PB/RAC's publication listings include aspects where it has developed or sponsored climate change expertise:

- On gender, gender-sensitive climate risk assessments produced for pilot ICZM sites in Morocco and Montenegro in 2022.
- On climate finance and fiscal issues in 2024, "Catalyzing coastal adaptation finance in Montenegro - Rapid Capacity Assessment", and "The Impact of Environmentally Harmful Subsidies in the Mediterranean" which covered the fisheries, water management, fossil fuels, and tourism sectors.
- "Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Mediterranean Cities 2024", and PB/RAC has also worked on carbon storage.

23. It has worked with SCP/RAC on the link between SCP, the circular economy and climate change. And like PAP and SPA RACs, has links with the Med branches of IUCN, GWP and WWF.

24. In the future, PB/RAC's leadership expresses interest in working on adaptation for "new and gap" areas dealing with Med cities, tourism, water, biodiversity especially for forests, agriculture and behavioural change.

PAP/RAC

25. PAP/RAC's mandate centres on assisting the Contracting Parties in formulating and implementing national strategies for action planning. Its mandate is reinforced by its ICZM Protocol (2011) which, unlike the other Protocols, explicitly requires climate change prevention and mitigation actions and specifies the conduct of climate change baseline studies including vulnerability and hazard assessments.

26. PAP/RAC has expertise in disaster risk management, vulnerability assessment and coastal setback zones and an historical and current portfolio of climate change related activities going back to 2008. Climate change is now integral to all projects, primarily focused on adaptation but also taking mitigation into account. Its initial work was carried out in the context of ICZM, through joint Italian-Croation activity entirely focused on adaptation. PAP/RAC collaborated with the Regional Government in Croatia to develop the first coastal zone adaptation plan in 2016.

[1] MedECC (Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change) is an open and independent network of scientists founded in 2015 with financial support from the Union for the Mediterranean and hosted by Plan Bleu (UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Center) which provides logistical and operational support. It assesses the best available scientific knowledge on climate and environmental change and the associated risks in the Mediterranean basin to make results accessible to decision-makers, stakeholders and citizens. It published the first-ever Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1) in 2020.

27. Its past adaptation work on coastal zones has included green and grey solutions such as NbS, fisheries, infrastructure projects such as dykes, sea walls, jetties, groynes, and societal solutions such as coastal plans, early warning systems and enhanced governance. The first coastal adaptation plan was developed by PAP/RAC in in 2016.

28. Important recent climate change publications include:

- Guidelines for Adapting to Climate Variability and Change along the Mediterranean Coast (2015),
- Guidelines for Implementing EbA in MSP (2021)
- The Coastal Resilience Handbook for the Adriatic (2022),
- Guidelines for the Integration of Socioeconomic Impacts in MSP (2023),
- Climate Smart Trends and New Technologies in MSP (2024)

29. It has established the knowledge platform on adaptation for the Adriatic. It has also been instrumental in the recent preparation of Cost Benefit Analyses for the pilot ICZM sites in Morocco and Montenegro, and has hosted the preparation of a legal study to align coastal legislation with the ICZM protocol.

SPA/RAC

30. There is little reference to climate change in its foundation documentation or on its website presentation. The Post-2020 SAPBIO (Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region) has integrated climate change in its diagnostics and marks an important step for strengthening the climate change work of SPA/RAC. SPA/RAC has developed some climate change capacity through its mitigation and adaption activity focusing on sea grass development working in association with IUCN on NbS.

Conjoint Working of PB/RAC and PAP/RAC

31. PAP/RAC and PB/RAC have worked together on the development of adaptation measures to be mainstreamed into Morocco (Tetouan) and Montenegro's (Kotor Bay) local ICZM plans. They have scaled up work in the pilot sites in Morocco and Montenegro, and organised two participatory Climagine workshops to support the development of the countries' regional Coastal Plans.

3. Comparative Analysis of Climate Change in RAC Mandates and Activities

RAC Human Resources

32. PB/RAC, PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC and SCP/RAC have developed varying degrees of climate change expertise ranging from relatively developed for PAP and PB RACs, to moderate for SPA/RAC, limited for SCP/RAC and MED POL, and no climate experience for INFO/RAC though its leadership is very keen to engage.

RAC Funding

33. Most MAP Components (with the exception of INFO/RAC) receive operational funding from MTF and rely on project funding for development of new activities such as climate change.

RAC Mandates

34. The original MAP Component mandates and scope of activities were prepared in 2009 (Decision IG 19/5 – IG 19/8). They are generally well customised to their Barcelona Convention Protocols. However, the Protocols with the exception of that for ICZM which was produced in 2011, were mostly prepared before climate change was identified as a MAP priority.

35. Among the mandates ascribed for the MAP RACs, as mentioned earlier, **only the 2009 PAP/RAC Mandate and Activities explicitly mentions climate change.** It also stands out for its slightly more action orientation. In its Scope of Action, it advises the use of action tools "such as ….. the implementation of demonstration /pilot coastal management projects".

36. **The related 2011 ICZM Protocol is unique in reinforcing its PAP/RAC climate-action orientation** with a primary goal of the ICZM Protocol (Article 5) being to prevent and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Strategically, the Protocol requires Contracting Parties to integrate climate change considerations into their national strategies and plans. Operationally, it calls for the establishment of a coastal setback zone, and marine-related climate adaptation. It encourages Contracting Parties to undertake basic climate change analytical tools of vulnerability and hazard assessments for coastal zones, and the implementation of prevention, mitigation, and adaptation measures to address the effects of climate change. This approach could perhaps provide a model for any future revisions of MAP Protocols.

37. In 2008-2009, the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (SAPBIO) was updated with the assistance of SPA/RAC to include its Climate Change component. In 2019, the Barcelona Convention COP 21 requested the Post-2020 SAPBIO to be harmonised with the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD/GBF). The resultant Post-2020 SAPBIO provides for strong integration of climate change and is an important supplementary to the Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity Protocol and to the work of SPA/RAC.

38. Despite the lack of climate change integration into MAP Components' formal mandates, climate change is strongly positioned in the MAP Plan of Work for 2024-2025. Thematic Programme 3 is dedicated Towards a Climate Resilient Mediterranean, with three activities for NbS and biodiversity for SPA, PB and PAP RACs; two for ICZM and PAP/RAC; one for GHG mitigation by reducing shipping GHG emissions for REMPEC; one each on the green and circular economy for SCP/RAC; and one on developing science-based assessments for MedECC and PB/RAC.

RAC Climate Change Activities

39. Till now, the most substantial climate change work is carried out by two RACs, PB and PAP. It can be seen from Appendix 3 that both have developed institutional portfolios and capacities for climate change, particularly for adaptation.

40. Both PB and PAP RACs have extensive experience of dealing with climate change. Between 2020 and 2024, the two RACs have collaborated under the GEF supported MedProgramme in the context of supporting ICZM sub-national development. Pilot adaptation planning has been carried out in two districts, one each in

Morocco and Montenegro. The caveat is that the work has been limited to two countries only, compared with six originally envisaged. A follow-on to the GEF project will be important for further mainstreaming in those currently-involved countries and rolling out in other countries.

41. A financial proposal for a successor stage has been submitted to the GEF. Having recently come to an end, the MedProgramme is to be assessed by a post-project evaluation. This will be important for having an independent view of the programme's overall effectiveness.

42. An impressive number of side activities have taken place in the last couple of years associated directly or indirectly with the MedProgramme. PB/RAC led on gender-sensitive climate risk assessments (2023), on coastal adaptation finance in Montenegro (2024), on the impact of environmentally harmful subsidies (2024), and on NbS for Mediterranean Cities (2024). PAP/RAC has been instrumental in introducing Cost Benefit Analyses for the pilot ICZM sites, and has hosted a legal study to align coastal legislation with ICZM protocol. Recent climate related publications include Climate Smart Trends and New Technologies in MSP; Guidelines for the Integration of Socioeconomic Impacts of MSP and Guidelines for Implementing EbA in MSP.

43. The Executing Partners for the MedProgramme include IUCN Med, GWP Med, WWF Med, as well as PB/RAC, PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC and SPC/RAC. This linkage suggests that synergies between those MAP and non-MAP institutions can be exploited for climate change by CC/RAC in the future.

Conclusion

44. It is important to acknowledge the inherent institutional capacity and implementation progress made within MAP on climate change by the RACs. Clearly there is considerable experience and expertise in both PB/RAC and PAP/RAC. And there is evidence of conjoint RAC working in the context of the ICZM planning which has taken place under the GEF Med Programme in Montenegro and Morocco. These factors are taken account in the drafting of the CC/RAC mandate proposal.

45. However, gap analysis of climate action progress across the pillars of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework (RCCAF) indicates that the achievement of the RCCAF objectives is incomplete and still work in progress. The mandate of the CC/RAC will therefore need to be catalytic in providing support and momentum for achieving RCCAF objectives in the future. The institutional, capacity and implementation progress that has been made by the RACs and MedECC can be built on and reinforced with the activation of the climate change Regional Activity Centre (CC/RAC).

4. The Draft CC/RAC Mandate Proposal

46. Unlike other RACs, the CC/RAC does not have a related Barcelona Convention Protocol to provide a policy and institutional underpinning. The creation of the CC/RAC arose out of a detailed proposal for its establishment submitted by the Turkish Government in 2022, whose hosting and financing offer was accepted by the Contracting Parties at the Portoroz COP in 2023. Through the Portoroz Decision, the Contracting Parties requested "the Secretariat to develop an independent mapping exercise including a fully-fledged assessment of the UNEP/MAP system and its Components with a view to define the mandate and integrate the newly established CC/RAC within the UNEP/MAP system".

The mandate of the newly established CC/RAC intends for the RAC to play a central and catalytic role in taking forward the planning and implementation of the climate mitigation and adaptation measures needed to address the climate challenges across the Mediterranean Region.

The proposal below is based on the structure set out in MAP Governance documentation as used for the existing RACs.

Background

The adverse and worsening climate change context for the Mediterranean Region requires urgent and ambitious remedial action. A series of landmark scientific reports (IPCC 2020, PB/RAC 2020, MedECC 2020 and 2023) have confirmed the climate change fragility of the Mediterranean region. The Mediterranean region is warming 20 percent faster than the global average, confirming its "hot spot" reputation. Climate change impacts will exert further pressure on already strained ecosystems and on vulnerable economies and societies. And coastal zones face heightened disaster risks, including flooding and erosion, and the salinization of river deltas and aquifers that sustain food security and livelihoods.

The Barcelona Convention COP23 Portoroz meeting in December 2023 committed to "advance decarbonisation" and "enhance actions to address climate change in the Mediterranean and increase protection of the marine ecosystems against the detrimental impacts from climate change, and strengthen scientific knowledge and expertise in this area such as through the Network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change (MedECC)" (UNEP/MED IG.26/22). The Contracting Parties at the same meeting confirmed the establishment of the MAP Climate Change Regional Activity Centre (CC/RAC) in Istanbul by Decision IG.26/12.

In this context, the CC/RAC is expected to play a central and catalytic role in supporting the implementation of the 2026-2035 Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework (RCCAF), in alignment with the 2026-2035 Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD).

Objective and mission statement

The objective of CC/RAC is based on supporting the vision of the updated Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for 2026-2035:

"The CC/RAC will support the Mediterranean countries and their communities of the Marine and Coastal Areas to substantially increase their resilience to the adverse impacts of climate variability and change. This will be achieved through the application of co-working and cooperation, transparency, accountability, participatory governance and considerations of solidarity and equity."

The mission of CC/RAC will be "to provide the services which enable Contracting Parties to strengthen their climate-resilient capabilities to withstand the adverse effects of climate change on human and marine life and health, sea temperatures, acidification and deoxygenation of the sea, sea level rise, shifts in the abundance and distribution of marine species, and the increase of invasive alien species and degradation of marine biodiversity" (Portoroz COP 23 Ministerial Declaration).

Scope of action and key issues

To complement the work undertaken by other RACs of the MAP system, in particular on planning, assessment and socioeconomic issues, the CC/RAC mandated scope of action would include:

1. ***Strengthen the regional scientific climate knowledge base**, by facilitating two-way flows of technical, scientific, legal, financial and socioeconomic climate-related data and information across the region from research and monitoring.*

   Build on the climate change experience and expertise already within the MAP system by working conjointly with PB, PAP, SPA, SCP and INFO RACs.

   Synergise joint working with MedECC, and external partners including INGOs, academic, civil society and private sector bodies.

   Commission an early study for a joint MedECC - CC/RAC exercise to carry out a climate change policy, institutional and capacity gap study across contracting party countries to provide a baseline for planning the development of regional and national expertise and strategies to address the requirements of the updated RCCAF.

2. ***Increase Contracting Parties' and other regional and national stakeholders' awareness, engagement and cooperation with MAP climate activities** by intensifying CC/RAC and MedECC joint roles in north-south-east exchanges in order to reinforce national adaptation and mitigation policy responses to climate change by providing the interface with scientific evidence for relevant stakeholder bodies.*

3. ***Harness opportunities for climate change collaboration and partnering** through holding an annual two-day climate change workshop with MAP Components, MedECC, RACs and external partners to:*

   - *Share and take stock of where MAP Components and external collaborators are in terms of their latest climate change activities and plans for the future;*
   - *Brainstorm the diagnostics, prioritization and phased programming for developing the climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies for the 2026-2035 period, based on the updated climate change Strategic Objectives and Directions of the MSSD and RCCAF for 2026-2035.*

4. ***Develop guidance for Contracting Parties to strengthen the integration of climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, policies and programmes into national and local planning and budgeting systems** by inter alia drawing on the CC/RAC – MedECC policy, institutional and capacity gap study mentioned under mandate 1.*

   Collate and share information on relevant global and regional climate change processes.

   Prepare national climate change planning and management guidelines for National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs); and for integrating climate change into national and subnational development planning and budgeting processes.

5. ***Support Contracting Parties in testing, piloting and demonstration adaptation processes** at national and subnational levels, which processes are key enablers for scaling up actions especially for livelihoods adaptation.*

6. ***Mobilise climate finance opportunities for mitigation and adaptation*** *by assessing the international climate finance landscape and support CPs with guidelines and practical support where needed to access domestic and international climate finance opportunities.*

   Coordinate closely with the UNEP Climate Change Division and its Climate Change Adaptation Unit on climate finance.

7. ***Pursue opportunities for internal and external institutional synergies*** *which can help ensure effective climate change mitigation and adaptation implementation. These include synergies through joint knowledge sharing and learning with other RACs and with regional climate adaptation programmes such as IUCN, WWF, GWP and with the UNEP Climate Change Division and its Climate Change Adaptation Unit.*

8. ***Consolidate the profile, brand and role of the CC/RAC across the region*** *through a "big bang" publicity launch.*

   Further strengthen Contracting Parties engagement in regional climate change activities by emphasising the opportunity to establish strong collaborative links with CC/RAC and provide the organic glue that holds the other mandates together.

   Develop a communication strategy to help deepen the engagement of stakeholders at national level – government, NGOs, civil society, the private sector, local organisations, women and youth networks and academia.

Appendix 1: Consultant Terms of Reference

1 TERMS OF REFERENCE OR WORK ASSIGNMENT
PURPOSE: & BACKGROUND
The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the United Nations system's designated entity for addressing environmental issues at the global and regional level. Its mandate is to coordinate the development of environmental policy consensus by keeping the global environment under review and bringing emerging issues to the attention of governments and the international community for action. UN Environment's ecosystems Division works with international and national partners, providing technical assistance and advisory services for the implementation of environmental policy, and strengthening the environmental management capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The assignment is for the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), Athens, Greece.

The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, at their 23rd Meeting (COP 23, Portoroz, Slovenia, 5-8 December 2023) adopted Decision IG.26/12 on the Establishment of Regional Activity Center on Climate Change. Through this Decision, the Contracting Parties requested "the Secretariat to develop an independent mapping exercise including a fully-fledged assessment of the UNEP/MAP system and its different components with a view to define the mandate and integrate the newly established CC/RAC within the UNEP/MAP system, the results of which shall be submitted in a timely manner to all Contracting Parties for consideration of the MAP Focal Points Meeting of the biennium 2024-2025, then for decision at COP24 in order to operationalize the CC/RAC. Such assessment should be developed in a transparent and inclusive way, taking into account all governance, legal, financial, and administrative aspects and should ensure full complementarity and synergies, for the benefit of the Mediterranean region and the implementation of global and regional commitments".

Furthermore, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, at COP 23, adopted Decision IG.26/14 on Programme of Work and Budget for 2024-2025, which includes under key output 5.2.3 an expected deliverable (j) relevant to the implementation of Decision IG.26/12.

Following the above, the UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit-Barcelona Convention Secretariat needs the services of a consultant/regio7nal expert to support the MAP Secretariat with the preparation of an independent mapping exercise including a fully-fledged assessment of the UNEP/MAP system and its different components with a view to define the mandate and integrate the newly established CC/RAC within the UNEP/MAP system.

The overall objective of this consultant, in line with COP Decisions IG. 26/12 and IG.26/14, is to support the MAP Secretariat with the preparation of an independent mapping exercise including a fully-fledged assessment of the UNEP/MAP system and its different components with a view to define the mandate and integrate the newly established CC/RAC within the UNEP/MAP system, for the Secretariat to review and further submit for approval to all Contracting Parties for consideration of the MAP Focal Points Meeting of the biennium 2024-2025, then for decision at COP24 in order to operationalize the CC/RAC.

ULTIMATE RESULT OF SERVICES:
The ultimate result of services is the delivery of the main text of the independent mapping exercise including a fully-fledged assessment of the UNEP/MAP system and its different components with a view to define the mandate and integrate the newly established CC/RAC within the UNEP/MAP system, so that the Secretariat and the Contracting Parties are provided with substantial inputs for their review, and for possible decision at COP 24 in order to operationalize the CC/RAC.

TASKS:

Under the overall guidance of the UNEP/MAP Coordinator and under the direct supervision of the UNEP/MAP Programme Management Officer (Governance), the Consultant will be responsible for the following overall tasks:
1. independent mapping exercise of the climate change related mandates and activities in the Mediterranean, including a fully-fledged assessment of the UNEP/MAP system and its different components in this respect;
2. a proposal on defining the mandate and integrating the newly established CC/RAC within the UNEP/MAP system, taking into account all governance, legal, financial, and administrative aspects and ensuring full complementarity and synergies, for the benefit of the Mediterranean region and the implementation of global and regional commitments.

SPECIFIC TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:
1. Prepare an inception report with a detailed work plan and timetable;
2. Perform a desk review of related mandates and activities of main actors and initiatives/programmes dealing with climate change in the Mediterranean, including an assessment of gaps and needs, considering both global (e.g. new Climate Change Division in
UNEP, work under UNFCCC, etc.) and regional evolutions;
3. Perform a fully-fledged desk review for the assessment of the UNEP/MAP system and its different components in relation to mandates and activities on climate change;
4. Hold consultations/interviews with the Secretariat, including MAP Components, on mandates and activities related to climate change;
5. Hold consultations/interviews with relevant external actors, as appropriate, in complement to task 4 above;
6. Based on the outcomes of specific tasks 2-5 above, prepare an analysis (report) on the assessment of the UNEP/MAP system and its different components as well as on gaps and needs related to climate change action in the Mediterranean, with concrete recommendations on how to address the key outcomes of the recent global and regional documents and processes, including through synergies with key identified actors;
7. Hold consultations on the analysis report with the Secretariat, including MAP Components;
8. Prepare a draft proposal on the mandate of the newly established CC/RAC, including the integration/synergies within the UNEP/MAP system, taking into account all governance, legal, financial, and administrative aspects and ensuring full complementarity and share with the Secretariat for review and submission to the MAP Focal Points meeting;
9. Support the Secretariat in revising the proposal, as appropriate, following consultation with the Contracting Parties (MAP Focal Points Meeting) before final submission for decision at COP24.
10. Preparation of the final report.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS:
1. Detailed work plan and timetable (Task 1);
2. Analysis of mandates and activities of main actors and initiatives/programmes dealing with climate change in the Mediterranean (Tasks 2 and 5);
3. Assessment of the UNEP/MAP system and its different components in relation to climate change as well as on gaps and needs related to climate change action in the Mediterranean, with concrete recommendations on how to address the key outcomes of the recent global and regional documents and processes, including through synergies with key identified actors prepared (Tasks 3, 4, 5 and 6);
4. Document delivered with a proposal on the mandate of the newly established CC/RAC, including the integration/synergies within the UNEP/MAP system, taking into account all governance, legal, financial, and administrative aspects and ensuring full complementarity and share with the Secretariat to review and further submit to the MAP Focal Points meeting (September 2025) for approval (Tasks 7 and 8);
5. Finalized document prepared for the Secretariat to review before final submission to COP 24 (Task 9);
6. Final report of the consultancy prepared (Task 10).

REPORTING LINES:
Under the overall guidance of the UNEP/MAP Coordinator, the consultant will work under the direct supervision of the UNEP/MAP Programme Management Officer (Governance).

Appendix 2: RAC Mandates

Mandate of Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre (BP/RAC)

Background

The Blue Plan was established in 1977 by the decision of an Inter-governmental Meeting (UNEP/IG.5/7) as a regional cooperation programme with the aim of "putting at the disposal of political leaders and decision-makers all information that will enable them to develop plans likely to ensure sustained optimal socio-economic development without degrading the environment" and "helping governments of coastal states in the Mediterranean region to increase their knowledge of the joint problems they have to face, both in the Mediterranean Sea and in their coastal areas". In 1979, the Contracting Parties nominated MEDEAS, the organization that was in charge of implementing the Blue Plan programme, as a MAP regional activity centre that became the Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre of MAP in 1984. In light of global and further MAP environmental challenges, especially those relating to sustainable development, the focus of the Blue Plan/RAC evolved as a Mediterranean observatory for environment and sustainable development and a centre for prospective studies.

Objective and mission statement

The objective of the Blue Plan/RAC is to contribute to raising awareness of Mediterranean stakeholders and decision makers concerning environment and sustainable development issues in the region, by providing future scenarios to assist in decision-making. In this respect and through its dual functions as an observatory of the environment and sustainable development and a centre for systemic and prospective analysis, the BP/RAC's mission is to provide the Contracting Parties with assessments of the state of the environment and development of the Mediterranean and a solid basis of environmental and sustainable development data, statistics, and indicators to support their action and decision making process.

Scope of action and key issues

The effective protection of the marine and coastal environment and the sustainable development of the region require a long-term approach to decision-making for which a firm basis of reliable and comparable data offering a realistic assessment of the state of the environment and development is needed.

Within this context and in the framework of the implementation of article 4 of the Barcelona Convention, 1995, and of the MSSD, 2005, the BP/RAC's main fields of action are:

1. ongoing identification, collection and processing of environmental, economic and social data and statistics for the use of stakeholders and decision-makers;
2. assessment of the interaction between the environment and economic and social development, and the building of relevant indicators and tools to measure progress towards sustainable development;
3. preparation of analyses and prospective studies to assist in constructing visions of the future as an aid to decision-making;
4. dissemination of the findings of this work in the various appropriate forms and channels, including the regular publications of state of environment and development reports and environment and development outlook for the Mediterranean region; and
5. assistance to the Contracting Parties in assessing the implementation of the MSSD in their National Sustainable Development Strategies.

The main themes and areas covered by BP/RAC are consistent with the priority fields of action of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD). The activities are designed to facilitate its implementation and follow up.

Mandate of the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)

Background

The Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) was established in Split in 1980 by the decision of the Intergovernmental Meeting (UNEP/IG.5/7, paragraph 54) of 1977 to assist in the implementation of the Integrated Planning Component of the Mediterranean Action Plan adopted in Barcelona in 1975. Its original mandate was broad in scope and encompassed ten priority actions in six fields of activity that required immediate action. With the further development of MAP, and in light of the challenges of the global environmental context, especially those relating to coastal areas, the focus of PAP/RAC's operations was subsequently repositioned to respond to the need for the sustainable development of the region's coastal areas, particularly through Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). The adoption of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean (the "IZCM Protocol") in 2008 formalized the role of PAP/RAC with regard to the implementation of the ICZM protocol.

Objective and mission statement

The specific objective of PAP/RAC is to contribute to sustainable development of coastal zones and sustainable use of their natural resources. In this respect, PAP/RAC's mission is to provide assistance to Mediterranean countries in the implementation of Article 4(i) of the Barcelona Convention, meeting their obligations under the ICZM Protocol and implement the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), 2005, and by carrying out, in particular, the tasks assigned to it in Article 32 of the ICZM Protocol, 2008.

Scope of action and key issues

PAP/RAC's main fields of action for the achievement of the sustainable development of coastal zones consist of:

1. assisting the Contracting Parties in formulating and implementing national strategies for action plans under the ICZM protocol;

2. assisting countries in the region in strengthening their capacities with a view of facilitating the sustainable development of coastal zones by ensuring that environment and landscapes are taken into account in harmony with economic, social and cultural development; preserving coastal zones and their integrity; ensuring the sustainable use of coastal natural resources; and achieving coherence between public and private initiatives and between all decisions by the public authorities at all levels that impact the coastal zones;

3. assisting countries in the implementation of demonstration/pilot coastal management projects (such as Coastal Area Management Programme - CAMP) in selected local Mediterranean coastal areas to demonstrate the application of ICZM as a major tool, with a view to implementing specifically the ICZM Protocol. CAMP projects have the goal to develop relevant implementation instruments and procedures for sustainable development in project areas; to identify and apply relevant methodologies and tools; to contribute to capacity building at the local, national and regional levels; and to secure the broad use of the results achieved;

4. developing regional cooperation in the field of capacity building and awareness raising of the importance of the integrated management of coastal zones through the organization of training, education and awareness–raising activities, networking, publications and the dissemination of information;

5. developing ICZM methodologies and tools as well as addressing specific sectoral issues with a coastal focus in the framework of ICZM, such as urban development, natural resources management, sustainable tourism, landscape and heritage protection, coastal and soil erosion, infrastructure and transport, pollution and waste, climate change, and specific coastal ecosystems.

Mandate of the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC)

Background

The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) was established in Tunis in 1985 by the decision of the Contracting Parties (UNEP/IG.23/11), which entrusted it with responsibility for assessing the situation of natural and scenic heritage and assisting countries to implement the 1982 Geneva Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas in the Mediterranean. In 1993, the Contracting Parties indicated their determination to make the Mediterranean a pilot region for application of the Convention on Biological Diversity through the amendment of the Barcelona Convention and the adoption of the 1995 Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (the "SPA/Biodiversity Protocol"), which came into force in 1999.

Objective and mission statement

The specific objective of SPA/RAC is to contribute to the protection and preservation and sustainable management of marine and coastal areas of particular natural and cultural value and threatened and endangered species of flora and fauna.

In this context the mission of SPA/RAC is to provide assistance to the Contracting Parties in meeting their obligations under Articles 4 and 10 of the Barcelona Convention, 1995, and under the Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity Protocol (SPA/BD Protocol); and implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Biodiversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO), adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2003, as well as the MSSD and by carrying out the tasks assigned to it in Articles 9, 11(7), and 25 of the SPA/BD Protocol.

Scope of action and key issues

The SAP/BIO specifies the policy and provides the operational basis for actions by the Contracting Parties to protect marine and coastal biodiversity through an extensive platform for collaboration with international and national organizations, NGOs, donors, and all other stakeholders. In this respect, the SPA/RAC's main fields of action are as follows:

1. facilitating and encouraging the development of research to complete the knowledge base and fill in knowledge gaps on marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean region;
2. facilitating and contributing to inventorying, mapping and monitoring Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity and Specially Protected Areas;
3. facilitating and contributing to the assessment and mitigation of the impact of threats on marine and coastal biodiversity, including from unsustainable fisheries practices;
4. contributing to and assisting countries in the conservation of sensitive habitats, species and sites;
5. promoting the establishment of Specially Protected Areas (SPAs) and Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance in the Mediterranean (SPAMIs) including areas beyond national jurisdiction in conformity with the international legal framework, ensuring their networking and synergies with all relevant regional networks, particularly with Natura 2000 network, with the aim of preventing and reducing the loss of marine and coastal biodiversity; and
6. contributing to capacity-building and technical support and assisting the countries to mobilize additional financial resources to implement the SPA/ Biodiversity Protocol.

In this regard, taking fully into account of the objectives identified by the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002), within the context of the principles and approaches identified in the introductory section covering all MAP components, particular emphasis is placed by SPA/RAC in its work on the responsible fisheries principle.

Appendix 3: Climate Activities of PB, PAP and SPA/RACs

PB/RAC	PAP/RAC	SPA/RAC
• PB/RAC's main webpage presents a set of six missions including "climate change as a priority". • PB/RAC's hosting the MedECC Secretariat has given it prominent climate change entry points via its role in the milestone MAR1 and the Environment and Development Reports. • It has worked with PAP and SPA/RACs on the USD42 million GEF MedProgramme 2020-2024, It currently works with MedECC on temperature and precipitation monitoring for the MSSD. • Under the GEF MedProgramme Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), it has been involved with the other RACs on "facilitating local adaptation planning by engaging researchers, decision makers, local communities and the private and financial sectors to support climate change adaptation solutions". • More specifically, PB/RAC carried out "Gender-sensitive climate risk assessments 2023" produced for pilot ICZM sites in Morocco and Montenegro. • On the finance side, it published the "Edited Volume – Unraveling the Impact of Environmentally Harmful Subsidies in the Mediterranean" in October 2024 which covered the fisheries, water management, fossil fuels, and tourism sectors. • Also in 2024, it published "Catalyzing coastal adaptation finance in Montenegro – Rapid Capacity Assessment". This was to be followed by an online training webinar and a Regional Roundtable on Coastal Adaptation Finance in October 2024 in Athens, organised jointly with GWP-MED, as a joint SCCF project/WES-Med event.	• PAP/RAC has an action-oriented mandate (2009) which specifies implementation support through demonstration and pilots and identifies specific focus sectors. This is reinforced by its ICZM Protocol (2011) which, unlike the other Protocols, explicitly requires climate change prevention and mitigation actions and specifies the conduct of CC baseline studies including vulnerability and hazard assessments. • PAP/RAC has dedicated CC expertise in DRM, vulnerability assessment and coastal setback zones and an impressive historical and current portfolio of CC related activities going back to 2008. • CC is now integral to all projects, primarily focused on adaptation, but also taking mitigation into account. PAP/RAC has carried out five big projects funded by the GEF in the last fifteen years, two of which were fully focused on adaptation along the Mediterranean coasts. • PAP/RAC had two joint Italian-Croation projects entirely focused on adaptation to CC which provided an online knowledge platform on adaptation (www.adriadapt.eu) providing a knowledge overview on adaptation in coastal zones including 43 adaptation options, covering green, grey and societal solutions, such as NbS, fisheries, grey infrastructure projects such as dykes, sea walls, jetties, groynes, and societal solutions such as coastal plans, early warning systems (EWS) or enhanced governance. • The First coastal adaptation plan was developed by PAP/RAC, in collaboration with the Regional Government and adopted by the County Assembly in 2016, and awarded by MedAward in 2019; followed by two city and two regional coastal	• There is little reference to climate change in its foundation documentation or on its website presentation. • The Post-2020 SAPBIO (Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region) has integration of climate change in its diagnostics and marks an important entry point for strengthening the climate change work of SPA/RAC. • In practice, there is some climate change capacity through its mitigation and adaption activity with a particular focus on its work on sea grass development and association with IUCN on NbS. • SPA/RAC's vision for CC/RAC hilites the need for supporting climate data.

• Working closely with PAP/RAC, PB/RAC has been intensively involved with the development of adaptation measures to be mainstreamed into Morocco Tetouan) and Montenegro's (Kotor Bay) local ICZM plans as agreed with project stakeholders under the Child Project 2.1. • It published work "Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Mediterranean Cities 2024" and is also working on carbon storage. • It has mobilised the participatory processes of Climagine to support its Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) efforts in the Mediterranean. • It has also worked with SCP/RAC on the link between SCP, the circular economy and climate change, and, like PAP/RAC, has links also with the Med branches of IUCN, GWP and WWF. • PB/RAC's leadership has expressed interest in working in the future on adaptation for "new and gap" areas dealing with Med cities, tourism, water, biodiversity especially for forests, agriculture and behavioural change.	plans, which have only been facilitated by PAP/RAC. Currently, PAP/RAC leads the preparation of two more coastal plans for Moroco and Montenegro focused on adaptation (under the GEF MedProgramme CP 2.1 and SCCF), • Past outputs have included Guidelines for Coastal Climate CCA and a General Resilience Handbook for the Adriatic and the knowledge platform on adaptation. • It is playing a lead role in integrating adaptation into the Montenegro and Morocco local ICZM local plans. Together with PB/RAC, it has scaled up work in the pilot sites in Morocco and Montenegro, and organised two participatory Climagine workshops to support the development of the countries' regional Coastal Plans. It has prepared a guidance document on possible Nature based Solutions (NbS) solutions for different coastal typologies. It has also been instrumental in the recent preparation of Cost Benefit Analyses for the pilot ICZM sites, and has hosted the preparation of a legal study to align coastal legislation with the ICZM protocol. • Recent climate related publications include Climate Smart Trends and New Technologies in MSP (Nov 2024); Guidelines for the Integration of Socioeconomic Impacts of MSP Oct 2023 and Guidelines for Implementing EbA in MSP (Sept 2021).	

Appendix 4: Preliminary Terms of Reference for the CC/RAC Offered by Türkiye

A preliminary set of Terms of Reference of the proposed RAC is detailed hereafter:

- to provide focal point's functions to the MAP-Barcelona Convention system on climate change issues and work;
- to contribute from an expert position to the definition of strategies, policies, programmes and activities of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system in the field of climate change, including through cooperation with relevant institutions and organizations;
- to review and evaluate global and regional processes of relevance to the MAP-Barcelona Convention system's work of climate change, and ensure consistency with global commitments and strategies;
- to support strong and cooperative relationships with UNEP/MAP Components and with key actors in the field of climate change;
- to incorporate the ecosystem approach adequately in the response to climate change;
- to supervise and coordinate the implementation of climate change related projects consistent with the mandate of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and support technical activities on climate change, including those executed by other MAP Components;
- to promote and support coordinated action at the national, regional, and global levels for the implementation of climate change obligations;
- to support Contracting Parties and Partners in developing and executing such action and strengthening commitments on climate change;
- to develop a strategic approach to climate adaptation research in the region involving academic, industry and government bodies and their partnership;
- to enhance the knowledge regarding effects of climate change on the Mediterranean Sea and its coasts;
- to provide a forum for the exchange of information on operational, technical, scientific, legal, and financial matters and support a platform to enhance sharing of knowledge, technical expertise and experiences on climate among Contracting Parties;
- to liaise with NGOs, the academic and scientific community and socioeconomic actors concerned with climate change related issues;
- to train experts;
- to conduct fundraising activities from the public and private sectors to support the activities, projects and programmes to be developed or carried out in the context of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system;
- to bring to the attention of the Coordinating Unit and MAP Components relevant contacts, programmes, networks, innovations, etc., that could assist the system in its activities and mandate;
- to support the efficient work of the proposed RAC/Thematic Focal Points.