UNITED NATIONS

EP

UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.421/Inf.5

UNEP

UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

11 September 2015
Original: English

Meeting of the MAP Focal Points

Athens, Greece, 13-16 October 2015

Agenda item 3: Progress report on activities carried out during the 2014-2015 Biennium

Progress Report by the Secretariat on Activities Carried Out in the Period January-June 2014 (Rev1) (Bur 78); July-December 2014 (Rev1) (Bur 79); January-June 2015 (Rev1) (Bur 80)

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2015

Progress Report of the 78th Meeting of the Bureau, 3-4 September 2014, Istanbul, Turkey

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. This report covers the activities and outputs carried out in the period between 1 January 2014 and 30 June 2014. The Report by the Secretariat on Financial and Administrative Issues is provided as a separate document (UNEP/BUR/78/5) for the consideration of the Bureau.
2. The progress report is composed of a narrative part that highlights results and progress achieved during this period under the 6 themes. Annex I provides the status of signatures and ratifications of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols as of June 2014.

II. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

3. The entry into force of UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention legal instruments has made new progress during the last months with the ratification by Israel of the ICZM Protocol (2008) which has thus entered into force in a record time for international law processes. Details of status of ratifications are provided both in the Annex I and also in the Secretariat's Report on Specific Issues (UNEP/BUR/78/4).
4. The process for 2012-2013 reporting kicked-off with a reminder letter by the Secretariat and the call for official list of users to prepare national reports in the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS). As of 15 July, users from 8 countries received authorization to access the BCRS. A reminder letter was sent to MAP Focal Points on 28 July 2014.
5. Due to delays in recruitment of the external evaluators by UNEP Evaluation Office, the planned roadmap for the development of the 2016-2021 Mid-term Strategy needed to be reviewed. The two consultants who will carry out the external evaluation started working in July 2014. A revised roadmap for external evaluation and development of 2016-2021 Mid-term Strategy is provided in the Secretariat's Report on Specific Issues (UNEP/BUR/78/4) for guidance by the Bureau.
6. The review process of the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD) was launched on 14 February 2014, by Maltese Minister for Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Change. In April 2014, a wide stakeholder consultation was launched on the basis of a consultation document aiming at eliciting stakeholder feedback on the set of issues to be addressed in the strategy, as well as the vision for the new strategy. Detailed responses were received from 60 organizations and individuals, which included the key stakeholders from the region. The Steering Committee (SC) of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) had its meeting on 11th-12th June in Malta, and a provisional vision and structure for the reviewed MSSD were recommended.
7. Following the adoption by COP 18 of the decision on Marine Litter Regional Plan in the Mediterranean, the Secretariat, in accordance with Article 15 paragraph 2 of the 1996 LBS Protocol, notified the Contracting Parties on 9 January 2014. No Contracting Party has raised any objection. Therefore the measures and timetables adopted in accordance with paragraph 1 of the LBS Protocol became binding on 8 July 2014, on the one hundred and eighth day following the day of notification.
8. Key progress has taken place in order to achieve an agreement on an Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme in the context of Ecosystem Approach implementation in the Mediterranean by the end of 2015, as common indicators were agreed upon and their specific monitoring needs were discussed at expert level based

on the Secretariat's draft Monitoring Guidance. During February-June 2014 four specific meetings dedicated to this subject were organized.

9. The Mediterranean Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSA) was co-organized between CBD, UNEP/MAP, Duke University, IUCN-Med and SPA/RAC. It resulted in 17 EBSAs that were presented to the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) in June 2014 and accepted by the meeting to be further proposed for adoption to the CBD COP in September 2014. SPA/RAC attended the SBSTTA meeting in Montreal in June to facilitate approval of the 17 EBSAs as well as conducting and participating in 3 side events.

10. The Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem (MedPartnership) project is in its fifth year of implementation. The activities under the project's four components are well on track and co-executing partners are fully involved and committed to deliver on time and efficiently. Major results already have been achieved so far (period 2009-2014), in developing ICZM strategies and joint river basin and coastal management plans, in the industries that have successfully reduced their resource uses (energy and water) and pollution loads, in the inventories of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) now established, in a number of new MPA's created and increased capacity of existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), in terms of management plans and tools, and personnel, among many others.

11. Following the Decision on Cooperation Agreements (Decision IG.21/14), adopted during COP 18 in Istanbul in December 2013, initial discussion was held between UNEP/MAP and ACCOBAMS. The results of these discussions are reflected in a Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), submitted for Bureau's endorsement in the Secretariat's Report on Specific Issues (UNEP/BUR/78/4). Initial discussions have taken place for official cooperation with the Convention on Biodiversity Secretariat, Black Sea Commission, OSPAR and HELCOM.

12. The consultation process for the preparation of one of the key outcomes of this biennium, the Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Action Plan for the Mediterranean kicked-off. Being led by SCP/RAC, the SCP Toolkit for Policy makers has been reviewed and published; capacity building activities on different SCP or pollution prevention and control were conducted and the web platform and the social action network for the Mediterranean SCP Networking Facility have been launched.

13. The draft Offshore Protocol Action Plan was discussed, reviewed and amended during the 3rd Offshore Protocol Working Group Meeting which was held in Malta on 17 - 18 June 2014. The draft Action Plan was sent to the Contracting Parties in July 2014 for their comments.

14. The Guidelines for National Action Plans (NAPs) update was agreed by MED POL Focal Points in May 2014. This agreement creates a sound basis for a high consultative process at national and regional level during updating process. The guidelines highlight that the main purpose of a NAP is to support achieving Mediterranean good environmental status (GES) with regards to pollution-related ecological objectives.

15. In the context of MedPartnership Project, national workshops on PCB management and inventory were held in Albania and Egypt by MED POL and SCP/RAC. The inventory of PCB for disposal purposes was concluded and 800 tons of PCB were identified in Turkey, Egypt and Bosnia and Herzegovina . Expert missions were organized in the respective countries to conclude the inventory of PCB. The disposal process is expected to be carried out from September 2014- February 2015.

III. OUTPUT PERFORMANCE

16. The 2014-2015 Biennium is the closing period for the current Strategic Programme of Work. The level of achievements of targets set for each output under thematic themes will also be a performance indicator of its accomplishment. Additionally, the expected results of the PoW will help UNEP/MAP to deliver the Decisions of COP18. The below table shows the interconnections between the operational paragraphs of COP 18 Decisions and the 6 thematic priorities of the PoW 2014-2015.

Table 1. The operational paragraphs of COP 18 Decisions and the 6 thematic priorities

DECISIONS	THEMES					
	Governance	ICZM	Biodiversity	Pollution Control and Prevention	SCP	Climate Change
IG.21/1 – Compliance Committee						
IG.21/2 – Reporting format						
IG.21/3 - EcAp						
IG.21/4 – SPA/BD Action Plans						
IG.21/5 – identification of sites						
IG.21/6 – Annexes II and III SPA/BD Protocol						
IG.21/7 – Marine Litter						
IG.21/8 – Offshore Action Plan						
IG.21/9 - Network of Law Enforcement Officials						
IG.21/10 – SCP Action Plan						
IG.21/11 – MSSD Revision						
IG.21/12 – MCSD Reform						
IG.21/13 - Governance						
IG.21/14 – Cooperation Agreements						
IG.21/15 – Financial Rules						
IG.21/16 – MAP III						
IG.21/17 – PoW and Budget						

17. As requested by France, the Secretariat has also prepared a color coded progress table of “Status of Execution on COP18 Decisions and Timetable for Implementation” (UNEP/BUR/78/7)

18. The sections below explain the progress made under each output of the 6 thematic priorities, as adopted in the Programme of Work and Budget 2014 – 2015 (Decision IG.21/17).

3.1 Governance (Theme I)

Output 1.1. - Strengthening Institutional Coherence, efficiency and accountability

a) Meetings of Policy Making bodies

19. The Fifteenth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development was held on 11-12 June 2014 in Floriana, Malta. The Steering Committee provided guidance on the vision and structure of MSSD 2.0

20. MED POL had two important meeting held during the reporting period:

- MED POL Focal Points reviewed the NAP Update/Guidelines and technical annexes (26-28 March 2014, Athens, Greece)
- Regional experts meeting to review the progress achieved on the establishment of Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) in the Mediterranean countries, as well as a list of potential indicators on the implementation of the NAPs. (16-17 June 2014, Ankara, Turkey)

b) Strategic Planning and Programming

21. Due to delays in recruitment of the external evaluators, the planned roadmap for the development of the 2016-2021 Mid-term Strategy needed to be reviewed. The two consultants who will carry out the external evaluation started working in mid-July 2014. A parallel process will convene while the External Evaluation is taking place. The consultation and structuring of the Strategy will take place between September 2014 and March 2015, and the Secretariat with the support of MAP Components will prepare the Draft Mid-term Strategy. A revised roadmap for external evaluation and development of 2016-2021 Mid-term Strategy is provided in the Secretariat's Report on Specific Issues (UNEP/BUR/78/4) for Bureau's guidance.

c) Partnerships and Resource Mobilization

22. Following the Decision on Cooperation Agreements (Decision IG.21/14), adopted during COP 18 in Istanbul in December 2013, the Secretariat initiated contacts with the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS), Convention on Biodiversity Secretariat (CBD) and neighboring seas. A detailed explanation is provided in the Secretariat's Report on Specific Issues (UNEP/BUR/78/4) for Bureau's guidance.

23. A Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) was signed between Mediterranean Protected Areas Network (MedPAN), Conservatoire de l'Espace Littoral et des Rivages Lacustres (Conservatoire du littoral), WWF European Policy Programme (WWF MedPO), and Specially Protected Areas/Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC), Plan Bleu / Regional Activity Centre (Plan Bleu). The objective of the MoC is to develop cooperation, synergies, economies of scale and joint initiatives within the framework of "Management Models of Coastal, Insular and Marine Areas in the Mediterranean" project.

24. UNEP/MAP through MED POL will co-chair together with Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Presidency and European Environment Agency (EEA) the Capacity Building and Review, Monitoring and Research (RMR) sub groups established under the H2020 Initiative. UNEP/MAP and UfM Secretariat will work together to draft the workplan for the second phase of the H2020.

25. MED POL has extended the cooperation with EEA and UfM H2020 MEP initiative in delivering SEIS Project outputs including: an EEA/UNEP/MAP joint Mediterranean report on the progress of H2020; contributing to the UfM report on the implementation of the investment portfolio of NAPs; contributing to the smooth preparation of the Regional Workshop on Marine Litter held in Athens, May 2014; ensuring that NAP implementation remains a strategic key priority for the second phase of H2020.

26. Fundraising efforts are being carried out to scale-up implementation of the 2014-2015 Programme of Work. Project concepts are being developed in order to achieve at least two finalized project proposals for submission to donors.

27. PAP/RAC and Plan Bleu were invited by the EC (DG MARE) to submit a proposal for hosting their Mediterranean Virtual Knowledge Centre on Marine/Maritime issues. A proposal was prepared and submitted in May 2014. PAP/RAC also cooperated with Egyptian authorities regarding a concept note for the development of an integrated management plan for the Nile delta and the Northern Lakes.

d) MedPartnership

28. The activities of the Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem (MedPartnership) are consolidated in Expected Result 1.1.7 under Output 1.1 of the Governance theme. Therefore the progress made in the MedPartnership is explained in details as a sub-item here.

29. The MedPartnership Project Steering Committee (PSC), which was held in Hammamet (Tunisia) on 17-20 of February 2014, approved the 2014-2015 work plans and budgets both for the MedPartnership and Climate Variability projects and the replication strategy to the Mid-term Evaluation. This includes the no-cost extension of the project till the end of 2015 (with activities on ground finalized by the end of June 2015), and the application of quarterly reports that co-executing partners have to send. Moreover the PSC approved three replication projects with the relevant budgets.

30. With the support of the new work plans and budgets, the co-executing partners delivered at full speed during the first semester of 2014. Overall expenditure was around 65% with most of the activities planned to be concluded by the end of 2014 (forecast expenditure is 85%). Main outcomes were:

    - Activity 1.1 Management of Coastal Aquifer and Groundwater: 5 of the 12 national reports on assessment of risk and uncertainty related to the Mediterranean coastal aquifer were validated by MedPartnership Project Focal Points; Characterization of 29 coastal wetlands are in progress in 13 countries, and 5 of the 11 national reports on the policy/legal/institutional aspects of coastal aquifers management were validated by MedPartnership Project Focal Points.

    - Activity 2.1 Facilitation of policy and legislation reforms for pollution control (a) Industrial pollution pilot projects: SSFA with Tunisia to develop a concrete policy reform on Phosphogypsum slurry management including the respective demonstration sites was signed.

    - Activity 2.3 Environmentally Sound Management of equipment, stocks and wastes containing or contaminated by PCBs in national electricity companies of Mediterranean countries: 800 tons of PCBs contaminated oils and equipment were inventoried including their locations, selection of the company for PCB disposal was made and contract of the PCB disposal company is being finalized.

    - Activity 3.1.2 Identification and planning of new MPAs to extend the regional network and enhance its ecological representativeness: Ecological study and a socio-economic study reports of the Porto Palermo Bay area (new MPA) were finalized and translated into Albanian; characterization of priority marine sites suitable to become MPAs in Croatia in the special reserve Prvic and Grgurov

Kanal and habitats (Posidonia and Coralligenous) monitoring activities in the southern and western parts of the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County were carried out, and a draft Toolkit on Stakeholders Participation in Marine and Coastal Protected Areas establishment in Libya was outlined and submitted to the Libyan Environment General Authority for review and comments.

- Activity 3.2 Promotion of the sustainable use of fisheries resources in the Mediterranean through the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries: First drafts of the reviews of the legal and management frameworks in Croatia, Montenegro and Tunisia were produced to facilitate application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries.
- The inception report of the Climate Variability and ICZM has been approved by the PSC. Work plan of this project is under implementation with the first reporting period set for September 2014.

Output 1.2 -	Implementation gap filled: Contracting Parties supported in meeting the objectives of Barcelona Convention, protocols and adopted strategies

a) Legal progress/compliance and reporting

31. The number of Parties reporting on measures taken to implement the Barcelona Convention has slightly decreased as compared to 2008-2009. A total of 14 Contracting Parties (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, European Union, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Monaco, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey) have submitted reports pursuant to Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention on measures taken to implement the Convention and its Protocols for the 2010-2011 biennium.

32. In accordance with Decision IG.21/2 of the COP 18, related to the reporting format of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and the new reporting format for the ICZM Protocol, the Contracting Parties were requested to submit to the Coordinating Unit reports, using the online form, on measures taken for the biennium 2012-2013 by October 2014 at the latest.

b) Implementation of Ecosystem Approach (EcAp)

33. The Contracting Parties mandated the Secretariat at COP 18 to submit an Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme for their consideration in 2015. In order to achieve this aim, the Secretariat organized an additional Integrated Correspondence Group Meeting on GES and Targets in February, 2014. The meeting agreed on a list of common indicators, applicable all over the Mediterranean, which will form the core of the EcAp Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme to be implemented by the Contracting Parties from 2016.

34. Three monitoring expert group meetings were held (CORMON Pollution and Litter, CORMON Coast and Hydrography and CORMON Biodiversity and Fisheries) during May-June 2014. In these meetings the draft Monitoring Guidance documents, which were prepared by the Secretariat related to their specific topics, Fact Sheets regarding the area in question, assessment needs, monitoring methodologies and data availability were discussed. The outcomes of these monitoring expert group meetings will be reflected in the next version of the draft Monitoring Guidance, to be presented to the EcAp Coordination Group in October 2014.

35. SPA/RAC facilitated the development of a regional monitoring system by the preparation of a guidance document on monitoring for the Ecological Objective 1: Biodiversity and its common indicators 3-5 i.e. Species distributional range; Population abundance of selected species (marine mammals, seabirds, marine reptiles and monk seals); and Population demographic characteristics.

36. In addition, close cooperation has been established with the Secretariats of General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and ACCOBAMS, with both foreseen to give presentations regarding fisheries and marine noise monitoring in the upcoming EcAp Coordination Group.

37. The Second Meeting of the Correspondence Group on Economic and Social Analysis (COR ESA) was held in Sophia-Antipolis on 4-5 June 2014. To strengthen synergy needs among different scales of analysis, the meeting also presented preliminary outcomes of three national pilot cases, i.e. Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia, conducted in the framework of the Regional – Governance and Knowledge Generation Project (ReGoKo). Funded by the GEF, the ReGoKo Project is intended to foster integration of environmental issues into sectoral and development policies of the beneficiary countries of the South and East of the Mediterranean basin. The draft Socio-Economic Analysis Report was presented to the second COR-ESA meeting in June 2014. Recommendations were received and will be further discussed in the EcAp Coordination Group in October 2014.

38. While the EcAp Measures Gap Analysis was foreseen to be undertaken in 2015, based on the request of various Contracting Parties, the Secretariat is aiming to present an early draft of the analysis already in October 2014. The analysis is based on the relevant measures under the Barcelona Convention (Regional Plans, National Action Plans) and on their links to the EcAp targets of the common indicators.

39. Work has continued supporting establishment of a joint network of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) in the open seas, including the deep seas, by initiating national and sub-regional consultation processes in countries showing interest. The three priority sites for engagement are: the Alboran Sea, the Adriatic Sea and the Sicily Channel/Tunisian Plateau. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with IUCN-Mediterranean (IUCN-Med) to facilitate these processes and to produce reports of the Alboran Sea. A consultation meeting for the Alboran Sea between Alboran neighbor countries was conducted in Malaga in December 2013. Consultation meetings between the neighboring countries of the Adriatic Sea (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia) and the Sicily Channel/Tunisian Plateau (Italy, Libya, Malta and Tunisia) are planned to take place in the second half of 2014.

c) Development of new and revision of existing Regional Strategies and Action Plans

40. The review process of the MSSD was launched on 14 February 2014, by Malta's Minister for Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Change. In April 2014, a wide stakeholder consultation was launched on the basis of a consultation document aiming at eliciting stakeholder feedback on the set of issues to be addressed in the strategy, as well as the vision for the new strategy. Detailed responses were received from 60 organisations and individuals, which included the key stakeholders from the region. The consultation revealed that many of the critical issues affecting the Mediterranean region were captured well in MSSD 1.0, and should be retained in its revision, while new themes were highlighted.

41. The Fifteenth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development was held on 11-12 June 2014 in Floriana, Malta. The Steering Committee initially discussed the proposed vision for MSSD 2.0. In light of the discussions, the following vision, to be inserted in the draft MSSD 2.0, was agreed:

> *"A prosperous and peaceful Mediterranean region in which people enjoy a high quality of life and where sustainable development takes place within the carrying capacity of healthy ecosystems. This is achieved through common objectives, cooperation, solidarity, equity and participatory governance."*

42. The Steering Committee also discussed the proposed structure for MSSD 2.0. It was recalled that COP18 Decision IG.21/9 on MCSD reform had indicated that the MCSD should focus on the interface between the environment and development. It was agreed that a set of guiding principles for the MSSD 2.0 are required to direct the strategy under each of the axes. The guiding principles would include concepts such as: integrated approach, balanced development and openness to a plurality of future development models. On this basis, the members of the Steering Committee agreed on following axes for MSSD 2.0:

    1. Seas and coasts; including efforts towards reaching Good Environment Status of Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems;
    2. Natural resources, rural development and food; including links not only to marine and coastal, but also terrestrial habitats, and to fresh waters;
    3. Climate; including the impacts of climate change on natural resources and socioeconomic sectors and possible responses;
    4. Sustainable cities; including coastal urbanization and Integrated Coastal Zone Management, land transport, waste management, infrastructure, housing and energy;
    5. Transition towards a green economy; including sustainable consumption and production, circular economy;
    6. Governance; including financing, Aarhus Convention–related issues such as public participation, and cooperation.

43. With the agreement on a provisional vision and structure, Phase 2 of the MSSD Review has commenced. Based on the provisional structure, multi-stakeholder thematic working groups, whose responsibility will be the drafting of the specific axes of the reviewed strategy, will be convened. Organisations interested in participating in the thematic working groups are kindly requested to contact Plan Bleu. A first draft of the revised strategy is expected by December 2014. Phase 3 of the Review process will start at the beginning of 2015 and will constitute a wide consultation process on the first draft of the MSSD 2.0, culminating in the approval of the revised Strategy by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at their 2015 meeting.

44. Regarding the development of the SCP Road Map for the Mediterranean, the baseline report for the preparation of the SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean, table of contents of the SCP Action Plan, the consultation document for the SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean, and the first draft of the SCP Action Plan are under review and development.

45. The draft Offshore Protocol Action Plan was prepared by REMPEC on the basis of the best practices consultancy study. The draft Action Plan was disseminated to the Contracting Parties well in advance of the 3rd Offshore Protocol Working Group Meeting which was held in Malta on 17-18 June 2014. The draft Action Plan was discussed, reviewed and amended and sent to the Contracting Parties in July 2014 for their comments. The draft Action Plan will be submitted to the MAP Focal Point Meetings for their comments and approval in 2015.

46. During the period under review, 49 existing pollution related indicators were pre-selected based on relevant decisions of COP 16 (MAP effectiveness indicators), COP 17 (ECAP indicators); H2020 Indicators, 2005 MED POL Indicators; and Basel and Stockholm Conventions indicators. A set of prioritisation criteria was discussed at MED POL FP meeting in March 2014 and on this basis work is ongoing to score the indicators. The objective was to better define the indicators based on agreed criteria and come out with a proposal of a core and restricted number of pollution indicators (10-15). The set of indicators will be used to measure the progress towards the implementation of the LBS protocol/NAPs/Regional Plans and H2020. Additionally, the meeting of PRTR and Indicators held in Ankara in June 2014 provided substantive feedback on the definition and scoring of the list of proposed indicators.

Output 1.3 - Knowledge and information effectively managed and communicated

a) Information Systems

47. The System User requirements for the on-line National Baseline Budget (NBB) system were drafted, reviewed by the MED POL Focal Points and agreed for further implementation. Work is ongoing to build the system for testing the on line NBB info system in late autumn 2014 and for NBB data upload by the contracting parties in early 2015. The new NBB on line system would ensure full compatibility with Pollution Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) which would enable that the Contracting Parties with a strong PRTR system in place would be in a position to upload their annual PRTR data thus avoiding duplication of reporting efforts. The work is carried out with support from INFO/RAC.

48. The joint EEA/UNEP/MAP Mediterranean report was delivered, launched at UfM Ministerial conference in May 2014 in Athens and published in MAP and EEA websites. The Report was distributed to MAP and MED POL Focal Points.

b) Communications and Knowledge Management

49. The existing UNEP/MAP website is being updated regularly in three languages. Regarding revamping of the website, contacts were made with UNEP Headquarters to explore the possibility of having technical support for the design. Content of official documents and publications database is being updated regularly and improvements in structure and indexing to facilitate research is ongoing.

50. News items and press releases were prepared and disseminated regularly, and shared with press, stakeholders, focal points and partners, as well as other information and communication networks. The MAP news were featured in major news outlet websites and print versions as well as in institutional newsletters and websites such as MED solutions, UNIMED, IWLearn.

51. A media/communication plan was prepared for the MSSD revision and implementation started.

52. A proposal for the 40th Anniversary of the Mediterranean Action Plan was prepared by the Secretariat and provided in the Secretariat's Report on Specific Issues (UNEP/BUR/78/4) for Bureau's guidance.

3.2 Integrated Coastal Zone Management (Theme II)

Output 2.1 - Coastal zone management achieves effective balance between development and protection (sustainable development of coastal zone)

a) Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

53. The draft Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)Strategy for Algeria was prepared and discussed with relevant stakeholders. The draft document was submitted for validation to the competent national authorities. The diagnostic phase of the Reghaia coastal plan in Algeria was finalised including the selection of indicators; several working meetings of the national expert team with local stakeholders were held; and the planning phase has started.

54. An analysis of key coastal problems and their root causes was prepared as a part of the ICZM Strategy for Montenegro. Series of interviews, focus groups and workshops with relevant stakeholders to verify the findings of the analysis took place. An in-depth

analysis of the institutional and legal framework with proposal of the ICZM governance framework was undertaken and its findings verified through direct interviews and at the stakeholder workshop. Several expert meetings as well as meetings with the Ministry and its Contractor for the preparation of the Coastal Area Spatial Plan were held in order to ensure the harmonisation of all these processes. With the support of PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC and MED POL, the Workshop on "Ecotourism as an Opportunity for Sustainable Development" was organized in Boka Kotorska Bay (Montenegro) in the framework of Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) Montenegro.

55. The Socio-economic Study for the Croatian Marine and Coastal Strategy was drafted and presented to the National Committee; several working meetings with experts and national representatives were held to discuss thematic issues.

56. The agreement for CAMP Italy was signed in April 2014; a national coordinator was engaged as of May, in consultation with the Italian NFP; the preparation of the inception Report is on-going.

57. Negotiations related to CAMP France continue. After a positive feedback from the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the agreement was submitted to the legal division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France for its opinion.

58. As requested by two subsequent MAP National Focal Points meetings, the assessment processes of CAMPs initiated and experts recruited.

59. The MedOpen virtual training course in ICZM in the Mediterranean, which aims at assisting Mediterranean countries in building capacities for coastal management, had its annual run in English. The French version was updated and one run held. The regular updating of the English version is on-going.

3.3 Biodiversity (Theme III)

Output 3.1 -	Ecosystem services provided by the marine and coastal environment identified and valued

60. Activities regarding case studies on Ecosystem Services provided by marine and coastal ecosystems will commence in the next reporting period.

Output 3.2 -	Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use (strategic vision, new objectives in the post 2010 context, including fisheries, ballast, non-indigenous species), endangered and threatened species

a) Revision and implementation of Regional Action Plans, species list and other biodiversity policies

61. The Mediterranean Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSA) was co-organized between CBD, UNEP/MAP, Duke University, IUCN-Med and SPA/RAC. It resulted in 17 EBSAs that were presented to the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) in June 2014 and accepted by the meeting to be further proposed for adoption to the CBD COP in September 2014. The SPA/RAC represented UNEP/MAP in the SBSTTA meeting in Montreal in June 2014 to facilitate approval of the 17 EBSAs as well as conducting and participating in 3 side events.

b) Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

62. RAC/SPA has participated in GFCM meetings to give technical input to discussions on sustainable use of high seas fisheries and by-catch reduction and in the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee meeting where progress on MPA, cetacean by-catch reduction, stranding and climate change were presented.

63. USD 25,000 were mobilized and secured from IMO's Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP) for the organisation of a National Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention Twinning Workshop in Morocco during the last quarter of 2014.

Output 3.3 -	Network of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MPAs), including Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), extended, strengthened and effectively managed

a) Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

64. SPA/RAC is providing its assistance to several Mediterranean countries in establishing Marine and Coastal Protected Areas. Technical assistance and capacity building activities are also provided to MPA mangers and practitioners in order to enhance MPA management.

3.4 Pollution Control and Prevention (Theme IV)

Output 4.1 - Early warning of pollution (spills, dangerous/hazardous substances)

a) Assessments / Analyses

65. MED POL revised the list of hotspots, where validation and confirmation by the Contracting Parties is pending in the framework of NAP update.

66. MED POL Data base was updated with the new data provided by the countries

67. Egypt has submitted the inventory of pollutant loads referred to as National Baseline Budget (NBB). Work in other countries is ongoing. Financial and technical supports were provided to Albania, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey .

68. The MED POL Focal Points in their meeting in March 2014 reviewed the NBB methodology/guidelines and provided substantive feedback for their revision and homogeneity with regards to the geographical scope of NBB application and the relationship with PRTR.

69. A Letter of Agreement was signed between MED POL and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to support the implementation of a quality assurance programme for contaminants through inter-calibration exercise for MED POL monitoring designated laboratories as well as training courses for national experts. As of June 2014 only 14 countries have designed their laboratories to participate in contaminant monitoring proficiency test. The proficiency tests and training on organic contaminants and heavy metals are planned to be carried out in the second half of 2014.

70. Efforts are being made to revive the quality assurance programme for nutrient related parameters in the framework of Quality Assurance of Information on Marine Environmental Monitoring in Europe (QUASIMEME).

b) Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

71. REMPEC collaborated with UNEP Chemicals Branch for the involvement of several Mediterranean countries (, Albania, Croatia, Egypt, Lebanon and Montenegro) in the National Implementation Plan (NIP) updating project of the Stockholm Convention.

72. Within the framework of the MEDESS-4MS Project, the information shared in accordance with the MoU signed between SPA/RAC, Plan Bleu, REMPEC and partners of the project is being used to produce an environmental impact assessment related to maritime traffic. In addition, an operational GIS System aimed at supporting decision making process during oil spill incidents is being developed to integrate the data from the Contracting Parties and the above RACs (e.g. oil spill response equipment, accident data base, environment and socio-economical information). The Beta Version of the system was presented to the Contracting Parties on 4 June 2014 during the Information Day co-organized between REMPEC and the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Directorate-General (DG ECHO). The Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS) was also introduced to discuss its extension to the entire Mediterranean region and the possible synergies between MEDESS-4MS and CECIS. Discussions with the Italian Government have commenced to test the MEDESS-4MS System during the "Serious Game"(Sub-regional anti-pollution exercise) scheduled for mid-September 2014.

73. The Memorandum of Understanding between Sea Alarm and REMPEC in the framework of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit was extended for a period of two years in June 2014.

74. In March 2014, at the request of the Maltese authorities, REMPEC activated the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU) through MOONGOOS to run oil spill simulations in the event of the possible bombing of the MT MORNING GLORY which was loading oil in Libya.

75. REMPEC has liaised with IMO, UNEP/MAP and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to obtain detailed information on the Syrian Chemical Weapons Destruction Programme with a view to be able to respond accurately to requests from the media to allay the general public's fear on the Syrian Chemical Weapons Destruction Programme. REMPEC also attended the Information Day organised by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on 10 April 2014 in Rota, Spain.

76. REMPEC participated by correspondence in two exercises NEMESIS-2014, Israel, 10 April 2014 and SIMULEX 2014, Morocco, 18 June 2014.

77. REMPEC mobilized and secured funds from IMO's Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP):

- USD 25,000 for the organisation of a National Training on preparedness for oil-polluted shoreline clean-up and oiled wildlife interventions to be held in September 2014 in Algiers. The date of the event has been confirmed and trainers identified.
- USD 25,000 for technical assistance for the establishment of a National HNS Response System in Egypt. Contact has been established with the Egyptian National Competent authority to propose to implement the activity between October and December 2014.
- USD 150,000 for the organisation of a Regional Workshop on Capacity Building to Raise Awareness of IMO's Greenhouse Gas Action Plan in November 2014 in Istanbul, Turkey.

78. MED POL established cooperation with the University of Alessandria (Italy) to support countries and train national monitoring experts on biological effect monitoring for a number of biomarkers.

Output 4.2 - Lower levels of pollution in the Mediterranean marine and coastal environments

a) Regional Policy Implementation

79. NAP update guidelines were finalized. The guidelines are composed of: 1) the main body addressing policy, process and stakeholders as well as methodological aspects for NAP update; and 2) technical annexes: a) describing concrete commitments and targets under the Barcelona Convention, LBS Protocol, EcAp, and the Regional Plans b) suggesting updated criteria to assess hot spots and sensitive areas; c) identifying a shopping list of existing indicators for the selection of NAP implementation indicators; d) updated NBB of guidelines and links with PRTR; and e) criteria on economic aspects and cost benefit analysis (not fully developed).

80. The meeting of MED POL Focal Points held in March 2014 endorsed the main body of the Guidelines. Countries can now start working on their bases for updating the NAPs. The meeting also provided substantive feedback on the context of the technical annexes and requested the Secretariat to further work on them and reviews before the end of 2014.

81. MED POL collaboration with UNOPS for tendering and selection of the company for PCB disposal has been concluded. The disposal process is expected to be carried out from September 2014- February 2015.

82. The first draft of the guidelines on lead batteries was prepared and reviewed at a regional expert meeting held in Bratislava with support from the Basel Convention Centre in Slovakia. The final version reflects all comments and inputs given by the country experts. Some pilot projects were identified in Albania and Morocco to test the guidelines; their implementation is pending availability of resources.

83. The Mercury guidelines were updated based on comments received by the MED POL Focal Points meeting in March 2014 and will be submitted to the formal MED POL Focal Points meeting in Spring 2015 for their consideration and approval.

b) Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

84. Three national trainings were organized on “Sustainable management and governance of industrial areas” in Tunis, “Sustainable stone and marble Industry: clean production, waste management and eco-innovation” in Palestine and “Clean Technologies, eco-innovation and green production” in Algeria; and 1 sub-regional training on “Industrial areas: environmental management, green competitiveness and eco-innovation” in Lebanon (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine).

85. Two workshops were organized on PCBs management for national electrical companies of Albania and Egypt having equipment, stocks or wastes contaminated by PCBs under the subcomponent 2.3 of the MedPartnership Project.

86. MED POL mobilized regional consultancies; 5 national workshops were already held during the reporting period; more than 150 national experts were trained; PRTR software was uploaded in national servers; draft Guidelines on PRTR were prepared; and Regional Meeting of experts on PRTR was held on 16-17 June 2014.

3.5 Sustainable Consumption and Production (Theme V)

Output 5.1 -	Drivers affecting ecosystems addressed: economic activities, patterns of consumption, infrastructure and spatial development more sustainable

a) Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

87. A national training on “Green Economy & SCP: focus on skills, eco-tourism and agriculture” (Jordan) and 2 sub-regional trainings on "Green Finances: investment, tools and policy to promote eco-innovation, clean industry and green economy” in Jordan (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon), and on “Sustainable olive oil: clean production and eco-innovation in the olive oil production” in Jordan (Israel, Jordan, Palestine) were organized by SCP/RAC.

3.6 Climate Change (Theme VI)

Output 6.1 -	Mediterranean region able to face climate change challenges through a better understanding of potential impacts and ecological vulnerabilities

88. Terms of References for the preparation of the Climate Variability and Change (CVC) Project capacity building material were prepared and the selected consultants have started working.

89. Terms of References were prepared for the assessment of the CVC impact on the global insurance and banking sector; the preparation of the report is in progress by the selected consultant.

Output 6.2 - Reduced socio-economic vulnerability

90. Activities regarding reduced socio-economical vulnerability will take place in the next reporting period.

Output 6.3 -	Assess and provide information to reduce adverse environmental impacts of mitigation and adaptation strategies & technologies (e.g. Wind farms, ocean energy, carbon capture and storage)

a) Assessments / Analyses

91. SWIM project prepared the report on cumulative impacts of desalination activities in the Mediterranean as well as a policy paper. The reports were shared with MED POL Focal Points. The SWIM Project held a meeting on 23-24 June 2014 in Brussels to discuss the assessment report and a policy paper on desalination. The desalination assessment report and the policy paper will be submitted to the MED POL Focal Points meeting in 2015 for their consideration and follow up actions as appropriate.

92. Regular working meetings with the team of national experts were held; sectoral reports were established for all priority themes (water, land-use, climate, fires), GIS layers prepared and Diagnostic Analysis (DA) finalised to be presented at a meeting organised together with the Climagine workshop (June 2014). The DA was adopted by the project SC together with the Stakeholders Analysis. The later was prepared in the first months of the year on the basis of interviews with key stakeholders aiming to secure their inclusion in the process of the plan preparation and to obtain inputs for the communication strategy. An additional study on landscape analysis was contracted, and the numerical model for the sea level rise agreed.

Annex I
Status of signatures and ratifications of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols as of June 2014

Signatures and Ratifications of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols as at June 2014

Contracting Parties	1976 Barcelona Convention				1976 Dumping Protocol			1976 Emergency Protocol		
	Signature	Ratification	Acceptance of 1995 Amendments	Entered into force	Signature	Ratification	Acceptance of 1995 Amendments	Signature	Ratification	Entered into force
Albania		30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	09.07.04	-	30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	-	30.05.90/AC	29.06.90
Algeria		16.02.81/AC	09.06-04	09.07.04	-	16.03.81/AC	-	-	16.03.81/AC	15.04.81
Bosnia and Herzegovina		22.10.94/SUC	-	-	-	22.10.94/SUC	-	-	22.10.94/SUC	01.03.92
Croatia		12.06.92/SUC	03.05.99	09.07.04	-	12.06.92/SUC	03.05.99	-	12.06.92/SUC	08.10.91
Cyprus	16.02.76	19.11.79	18.07.03	09.07.04	16.02.76	19.11.79	18.07.03	16.02.76	19.11.79	19.12.79
Egypt	16.02.76	24.08.78/AP	11.02.00	09.07.04	16.02.76	24.08.78/AP	11.02.00	16.02.76	24.08.78/AC	23.09.78
European Union	13.09.76	16.03.78/AP	12.11.99	09.07.04	13.09.76	16.03.78/AP	12.11.99	13.09.76	12.08.81/AP	11.09.81
France	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	29.03.01	09.07.04	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	29.03.01	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	10.04.78
Greece	16.02.76	03.01.79	10.03.03	09.07.04	11.02.77	03.01.79	-	16.02.76	03.01.79	02.02.79
Israel	16.02.76	03.03.78	29.09.05	29.10.05	16.02.76	01.03.84	-	16.02.76	03.03.78	02.04.78
Italy	16.02.76	03.02.79	07.09.99	09.07.04	16.02.76	03.02.79	07.09.99	16.02.76	03.02.79	05.03.79
Lebanon	-	08.11.77/AC	*	*	-	08.11.77/AC	-	-	08.11.77/AC	12.02.78
Libya	31.01.77	31.01.79	12.01.09	11.02.09	31.01.77	31.01.79	-	31.01.77	31.01.79	02.03.79
Malta	16.02.76	30.12.77	28.10.99	09.07.04	16.02.76	30.12.77	28.10.99	16.02.76	30.12.77	12.02.78
Monaco	16.02.76	20.09.77	11.04.97	09.07.04	16.02.76	20.09.77	11.04.97	16.02.76	20.09.77	12.02.78
Montenegro	-	19.11.07	19.11.07	19.12.07	-	-	-	-	-	-
Morocco	16.02.76	15.01.80	07.12.04	06.01.05	16.02.76	15.01.80	05.12.97	16.02.76	15.01.80	15.02.80
Slovenia	-	16.09.93/AC	08.01.03	09.07.04	-	16.09.93/AC	08.01.03	-	16.09.93/AC	15.03.94
Spain	16.02.76	17.12.76	17.02.99	09.07.04	16.02.76	17.12.76	17.02.99	16.02.76	17.12.76	12.02.78
Syria	-	26.12.78/AC	10.10.03	09.07.04	-	26.12.78/AC	11.04.08	-	26.12.78/AC	25.01.79
Tunisia	25.05.76	30.07.77	01.06.98	09.07.04	25.05.76	30.07.77	01.06.98	25.05.76	30.07.77	12.02.78
Turkey	16.02.76	06.04.81	18.09.02	09.07.04	16.02.76	06.04.81	18.09.02	16.02.76	06.04.81	06.05.81

Accession = AC Approval = AP Succession = SUC

* pending notification from Depository Country

Contracting Parties	2002 Emergency Protocol			1980 Land-Based Sources Protocol				1982 Specially Protected Areas Protocol		
	Signature	Ratification	Entered into force	Signature	Ratification	Acceptance of 1996 Amendments	Entered into force	Signature	Ratification	Entered into force
Albania	-	-	-	-	30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	11.05.08	-	30.05.90/AC	29.06.90
Algeria	25.01.02	-	-	-	02.05.83/AC	-	-	-	16.05.85/AC	23.03.86
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	-	-	-	22.10.94/SUC	-	-	-	22.10.94/SUC	01.03.92
Croatia	25.01.02	01.10.03	17.03.04	-	12.06.92/SUC	11.10.06	11.05.08	-	12.06.92/SUC	08.10.91
Cyprus	25.01.02	19.12.07	18.01.08	17.05.80	28.06.88	18.07.03	11.05.08	-	28.06.88/AC	28.07.88
Egypt	-	-		-	18.05.83/AC	-	-	16.02.83	08.07.83	23.03.86
European Union	25.01.02	26.05.04	25.06.04	17.05.80	07.10.83/AP	12.11.99	11.05.08	30.03.83	30.06.84/AP	23.03.86
France	25.01.02	02.07.03	17.03.04	17.05.80	13.07.82/AP	29.03.01	11.05.08	03.04.82	02.09.86/AP	02.10.86
Greece	25.01.02	27.11.06	27.12.06	17.05.80	26.01.87	10.03.03	11.05.08	03.04.82	26.01.87	25.02.87
Israel	22.01.03	-	-	17.05.80	21.02.91	19.06.09	19.07.09	03.04.82	28.10.87	27.11.87
Italy	25.01.02	-	-	17.05.80	04.07.85	07.09.99	11.05.08	03.04.82	04.07.85	23.03.86
Lebanon	-	-	-	17.05.80	27.12.94	-	-	-	27.12.94/AC	26.01.95
Libya	25.01.02	-	-	17.05.80	06.06.89/AP	-	-	-	06.06.89/AC	06.07.89
Malta	25.01.02	18.02.03	17.03.04	17.05.80	02.03.89	28.10.99	11.05.08	03.04.82	11.01.88	10.02.88
Monaco	25.01.02	03.04.02	17.03.04	17.05.80	12.01.83	26.11.96	11.05.08	03.04.82	29.05.89	28.06.89
Montenegro	-	19.11.07	19.12.07	-	19.11.07/AC	19.11.07	11.05.08	-	-	-
Morocco	25.01.02	26.04.11	26.05.11	17.05.80	09.02.87	02.10.96	11.05.08	02.04.83	22.06.90	22.07.90
Slovenia	25.01.02	16.02.04	17.03.04	-	16.09.93/AC	08.01.03	11.05.08	-	16.09.93/AC	15.03.94
Spain	25.01.02	10.07.07	09.08.07	17.05.80	06.06.84	17.02.99	11.05.08	03.04.82	22.12.87	21.01.88
Syria	25.01.02	11.04.08	11.05.08	-	01.12.93/AC	11.04.08	11.05.08	-	11.09.92/AC	11.10.92
Tunisia	25.01.02	-	-	17.05.80	29.10.81	01.06.98	11.05.08	03.04.82	26.05.83	23.03.86
Turkey	-	03.06.03	17.03.04	-	21.02.83/AC	18.09.02	11.05.08	-	06.11.86/AC	06.12.86

Accession = AC Approval = AP Succession = SUC

Contracting Parties	1995 SPA & Biodiversity Protocol				1994 Offshore Protocol		
	Signature	Ratification	Entered into force	Amendments to Annexes II & III Entered into force	Signature	Ratification	Entered into force
Albania	10.06.95	26.07.01	25.08.01	30.03.14	-	26.07.01	24.03.11
Algeria	10.06.95	14.03.07	13.04.07	30.03.14	-	-	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	-	-		-	-	-
Croatia	10.06.95	12.04.02	12.05.02	30.03.14	14.10.94	-	-
Cyprus	10.06.95	18.07.03	17.08.03		14.10.94	16.05.06	24.03.11
Egypt	10.06.95	11.02.00	12.03.00	30.03.14	-	-	-
European Union	10.06.95	12.11.99	12.12.99	30.03.14	17.12.12/AC	29.03.13	29.03.13
France	10.06.95	16.04.01	16.05.01	30.03.14	-	-	-
Greece	10.06.95	-	-		14.10.94	-	-
Israel	10.06.95	-	-	30.03.14	14.10.94	-	-
Italy	10.06.95	07.09.99	12.12.99	30.03.14	14.10.94	-	-
Lebanon	-	22.04.09	22.05.09	30.03.14	-	-	-
Libya	-	-	-		-	16.06.05	24.03.11
Malta	10.06.95	28.10.99	12.12.99	30.03.14	14.10.94	-	-
Monaco	10.06.95	03.06.97	12.12.99	30.03.14	14.10.94	-	-
Montenegro	-	19.11.07	19.12.07	30.03.14	-	-	-
Morocco	10.06.95	24.04.09	25.05.09	30.03.14	-	01.07.99	24.03.11
Slovenia	-	08.01.03	07.02.03	30.03.14	10.10.95	-	-
Spain	10.06.95	23.12.98	12.12.99	30.03.14	14.10.94	-	-
Syria	-	10.10.03	09.11.03	30.03.14	20.09.95	22.02.11	24.03.11
Tunisia	10.06.95	01.06.98	12.12.99	30.03.14	14.10.94	01.06.98	24.03.11
Turkey	-	18.09.02	18.10.02	30.03.14	-	-	-

Contracting Parties	1996 Hazardous Wastes Protocol			2008 Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol		
	Signature	Ratification	Entered into force	Signature	Ratification	Entered into force
Albania	-	26.07.01	18.01.08		04.05.10/AD	24.03.11
Algeria	01.10.96	-	-	21.01.08	-	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	-	-	-	-	-
Croatia	-	-	-	21.01.08	29.01.13/R (*)	28.02.13
Cyprus	-	-	-	-	-	-
Egypt	01.10.96	-	-	-	-	-
European Union	-	-	-	16.01.09	29.09.10/AP	24.03.11
France	-	-	-	21.01.08	29.10.09/AP	24.03.11
Greece	01.10.96	-	-	21.01.08	-	-
Israel	-	-	-	21.01.08	08.04.14/R (*)	-
Italy	01.10.96	-	-	21.01.08	-	-
Lebanon	-	-	-	-	-	-
Libya	01.10.96	-	-	-	-	-
Malta	01.10.96	28.10.99	18.01.08	21.01.08	-	-
Monaco	01.10.96	-	-	21.01.08	-	-
Montenegro	-	19.11.07	18.01.08	21.01.08	09.01.12	08.02.12
Morocco	20.03.97	01.07.99	18.01.08	21.01.08	21.09.12	21.10.12
Slovenia	-	-	-	21.01.08	01.12.09	24.03.11
Spain	01.10.96	-	-	21.01.08	22.06.10	24.03.11
Syria	-	22.02.11	24.03.11	21.01.08	22.02.11	24.03.11
Tunisia	01.10.96	01.06.98	18.01.08	21.01.08	-	-
Turkey	01.10.96	03.04.04	18.01.08	-	-	-

* Pending notification from Depository Country

Adhesion= AD Approval = AP Ratification = R

STATUS OF ENTRY INTO FORCE

Legal instruments	Place and date of Adoption	Entry into force date	Place and date of adoption of amendment	Entry into force of amendments
Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, amended as **Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean** **(Barcelona Convention)**	16 February 1976, Barcelona	**12 February 1978**	—	—
	—	—	10 June 1995, Barcelona	**9 July 2004**
The Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (Dumping Protocol), amended as **The Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft or Incineration at Sea** **(Dumping Protocol)**	16 February 1976, Barcelona	**12 February 1978**	—	—
	—	—	10 June 1995, Barcelona	**Not yet in force**
The Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency **(Emergency Protocol)**	16 February 1976, Barcelona	**12 February 1978**	—	—
The Protocol concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea **(Prevention and Emergency Protocol)***	25 January 2002, Malta	**17 March 2004**	—	—

* According to paragraph 2 of Article 25, this Protocol as from the date of its entry into force (17 March 2004) shall replace the Emergency Protocol (of 1976) in the relations between the Parties to both instruments.

Legal instruments	Place and date of Adoption	Entry into force date	Place and date of adoption of amendment, if any	Entry into force of amendments
The Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution from Land-based Sources, amended as	17 May 1980, Athens	**17 June 1983**	—	—
The Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities **(LBS Protocol)**	—	—	7 March 1996, Syracuse	**11 May 2008**
The Protocol Concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas **(SPA Protocol)**	3 April 1982, Geneva		Not applicable	Not applicable
The Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean **(SPA & Biodiversity Protocol)****	10 June 1995, Barcelona	**12 December 1999**	Not applicable	Not applicable
Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil **(Offshore Protocol)**	14 October 1994, Madrid	**24 March 2011**	Not applicable	Not applicable
Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal **(Hazardous Wastes Protocol)**	1 October 1996, Izmir	**18 January 2008**	Not applicable	Not applicable
Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management **(ICZM Protocol)**	21 January 2008, Madrid	**24 March 2011**	Not applicable	Not applicable

** According to paragraph 2 of Article 32, this Protocol as from the date of its entry into force (12 December 1999) shall replace the SPA Protocol (of 1982) in the relations between the Parties to both instruments.

Progress Report of the 79th Meeting of the Bureau, 3-4 February 2015, Antalya, Turkey

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. This report covers the activities and outputs carried out in the period between 1 July 2014 and 31 December 2014. The Report by the Secretariat on Financial and Administrative Issues is provided as a separate document (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/5) for the consideration of the Bureau.

2. The progress report is composed of a narrative part that highlights results and progress achieved during this period under the 6 themes of the Programme of Work 2014-2015 (Governance, Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Biodiversity, Pollution Control and Prevention, Sustainable Consumption and Production, Climate Change). Annex I provides the status of signatures and ratifications of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols as of 19 December 2014.

II. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

3. The 4th Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group (EcAp CG) met in Athens, Greece on 9-10 October 2014, with the aim to provide recommendations on the further development of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Guidance; and to give early inputs and recommendations towards the development of an EcAp Measures Gap Analysis, based on the Secretariat's initial analysis, on the draft Socio-Economic Analysis, and on the draft Offshore Action Plan. The meeting gave initial reactions on the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) proposed common indicators regarding Ecological Objective (EO) 3 (Fisheries) and also on the ACCOBAMS' proposed recommendations on common indicators regarding EO11 (Marine Noise).

4. The 9th Meeting of the Compliance Committee was held in Split, Croatia on 27-28 November 2014. In accordance with Article 6 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee unanimously elected Ms. Daniela Addis as Chairperson and Ms. Selma Cengic and Mr. Michel Prieur as Vice-Chairpersons. The Committee provided recommendations on non-compliance with obligations regarding the submission of reports as per Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention as decided by COP 18; discussed criteria for the evaluation of reports by the Secretariat and the Compliance Committee to establish compliance; and considered the revision process of the Barcelona Convention reporting format.

5. The Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) met three times in person (August, October, December), and several times by teleconference. It was the first time that such frequency of meetings was achieved since ECP was established, which enhanced coordination among MAP Components and the Coordinating Unit. One of the indicators of this progress is the established and functioning Task Forces on Administration, Communications, Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD) and Ecosystem Approach; and also the participatory work on the preparation of the issues paper that defines the framework for the Midterm Strategy 2016-2021.

6. The main achievements on pollution prevention and control in this reporting period involved delivering updated guidelines related to hot spot assessment, national budget baseline of pollutants (NBB), economic analysis of programmes of measures, polychlorinated biphenyl compounds (PCB) management, lube oil management, tannery and control of Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) from industrial resources; collecting pollution monitoring and pollutant loads data from the contracting parties; progress on the National Action Plans (NAP) update process; establishment of virtual groups with experts nominated by the Contracting Parties to define thresholds and Environmental Assessment Criteria (EAC) on a number of pollutants; preparation for disposal of 800 tons of PCB in an environmental sound manner by March 2015 at the latest; developing tools to support decision making at national level such as the link between pollutant Emission Limit Values (ELV) and Good Environmental Status/Environmental Quality Standards

(GES/EQS); and enhancing collaboration with key partners and initiatives in the region and at the global level.

7. Progress has been significant in all fields of implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp), with the assistance of the EU funded EcAp-MED project, reaching the following milestones: (i) the development and presentation of an EcAp Monitoring and Assessment Methodological Guidance during the EcAp CG in October 2014; (ii) the finalization of the Socio-Economic Reports, (iii) the presentation of the draft Offshore Action Plan to the EcAp CG; (iv) and the drafting and first discussion of an initial gap analysis of existing Barcelona Convention/Protocols measures relating to the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in the EcAp CG (the Initial Gap Analysis).

8. The higher role that was given to UNEP/MAP within the Union for the Mediterranean Horizon 2020 Initiative (UfM H2020) governance in accordance with the UfM Ministerial Declaration, May 2014, was institutionalized in two meetings of the UfM H2020 groups on Review and Monitoring and on Capacity Building. The meetings were held in November 2014 in Athens, Greece and Brussels, Belgium respectively. The invitations were co-signed by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator, while both meeting documents were prepared in consultation and with UNEP/MAP contribution. The outcomes of these meetings were submitted to the UfM H2020 Steering Group meeting held jointly with MED POL focal points on 17 December 2014 in Barcelona, Spain.

9. The presentation of 17 Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in the Mediterranean at the meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (COP12, October 2014) resulted in 15 EBSAs adopted by the CBD.

10. The Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem (MedPartnership) and the Integration of Climate Variability and Change into National Strategies to Implement the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Protocol in the Mediterranean (ClimVar & ICZM) project activities are on track with well-defined work plans and budgets which allow the achievement of the projects' objectives. The MedPartnership, now in its fifth year of implementation, reached an overall 77% of expenditure, while the ClimVar &ICZM, now in its second year of implementation, reached an overall 40% of expenditure and deliverables. The last Project Implementation Report (PIR), covering the period July 2013 – June 2014, rated highly satisfactory or satisfactory on 42 indicators out of 54 for the MedPartnership and 8 indicators out of 13 for the ClimVar & ICZM.

11. Under the ClimVar & ICZM, the UNEP/MAP Project Management Unit (PMU), together with the co-executing partners boosted the development of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework. Moreover both projects implemented several trainings and workshops during the reporting period to enhance the capacity building of the participating countries.

12. Within the framework of SPA/RAC's work on establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in areas beyond national jurisdiction or areas where the limits of national sovereignty or jurisdiction have not yet been defined, SPA/RAC has held two consultation meetings in Gammarth, Tunisia, on the development of SPAMIs for the neighboring countries of the Sicily channel/Tunisian plateau and the Adriatic open seas respectively. Both meetings resulted in roadmaps in the process of declaration of SPAMIs in the two areas' open seas. The second round of meetings will be held in Rome, Italy in April 2015.

13. SPA/RAC initiated a regional programme aiming at assisting some Mediterranean countries (Tunisia, Morocco, Montenegro, Libya, and Slovenia) in mapping key marine habitats and promoting their conservation through the establishment of SPAMIs and is pursuing its support to several countries in establishing new MPAs and enhancing the management of existing ones. The activities within the countries concerned by the project were identified and Memorandums of Cooperation were signed.

14. The MSSD Review process had an ambitious roadmap in this reporting period. On-line and face-to-face consultations took place between September and November 2014. The process was supported by a number of experts, in addition to MSSD Task Force, the Chairperson of the

MCSD Steering Committee and the Secretariat team. The first draft of the reviewed Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development – MSSD 2.0 was prepared and shared with the MCSD Steering Committee for clearance, before it is submitted to a wide group of stakeholders, including MCSD members, who will gather in the MSSD Review Conference on 17-18 February 2015 in Malta, with generous hosting by the Maltese Government.

15. The elaboration of the SCP Action Plan is on track, with scheduled activities for the period July – November 2014 being conducted as planned. In particular, a broad consultation process, involving regional stakeholders as well as the Contracting Parties, has started, with the Extraordinary SCP/RAC focal points meeting (Barcelona, Spain, 25-26 November 2014) in which the first draft of the Action Plan has been presented, and the French version of the SCP Toolkit for Policy-Makers was published.

16. The period under review is a transition period for REMPEC during which the decisions adopted by the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Istanbul, 3-6 December 2013) and their resulting consequences on REMPEC's structure and operations started to be implemented. Although every effort was done to ensure that this transition is as smooth as possible, this has no doubt had some effect on the implementation of the activities particularly in view of the fact that as from 1 July 2014 the Director of REMPEC and two support staff had their contract terminated.

17. The draft Offshore Protocol Action Plan, prepared by REMPEC, and as adopted by the 3rd Offshore Protocol Working Group Meeting (17-18 June 2014, Attard, Malta) was submitted to the 4th Meeting of the EcAp Coordination Group (9-10 October 2014, Athens, Greece) which provided a set of recommendations. The revised Draft Offshore Action Plan will be reviewed by REMPEC and MAP focal points before it is finalized.

18. REMPEC organized the Regional Workshop (3-5 November 2014, Istanbul, Turkey) where the most recent amendments to Annex VI of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), namely its new Chapter 4 (regulations on energy efficiency for ships), and the responsibilities of Parties under the Convention were discussed.

19. In this reporting period three draft monitoring manuals on seabirds, sea turtles and marine mammals were prepared by SPA/RAC; the feasibility study "Ecotourism for local development in Boka Kotorska (Montenegro) was published by SCP/RAC; and the "Guidelines on Best Environmental Practices of Environmental Sound Management (ESM) of mercury polluted sites" was completed by MED POL.

III. OUTPUT PERFORMANCE

3.1 Governance (Theme I)

Output 1.1. - Strengthening Institutional Coherence, Efficiency and Accountability

a) Meetings of Policy Making Bodies

20. The Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) met three times in person during the reporting period in August, October and December 2014. Discussions focused on coordination, cooperation and accountability within the MAP system; implementation of COP 18 decisions and delivery of the Programme of Work; partnerships and resource mobilization; outreach, information and communications; and in-depth substantive work on the Midterm Strategy Development Process. These in-person meetings improved the ownership and joint working culture of the MAP system, providing an efficient participatory platform for an integrated effort on PoW delivery and midterm strategy development.

21. The 4th Meeting of the EcAp Coordination Group (EcAp CG) met in Athens, Greece on 9-10 October 2014, and discussed at MAP focal points level key outstanding issues, political

directions in relation to EcAp, building on the expert level work of various EcAp related meetings of the previous semester.

22. Based on the guidance provided by the MED POL focal points (FP) meeting held on 26-28 March 2014, Athens, Greece on NBB and NAP update, the Secretariat has organized a second thematic meeting of the MED POL FP on 18-19 December 2014, the objective of which was to review the following documents:

    - Draft guideline on hot spot and sensitive areas assessment
    - Draft guideline on national pollutant load budget (NBB) assessment
    - Proposed candidate indicators to assess implementation of the LBS, Dumping, HW protocols as well as Regional Plans and the NAPs
    - Draft Guidance on cost-effectiveness and cost–benefit analyses of measures

    This meeting provided strong impetus for the NAP update process at country level.

23. The 16th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) took place in Athens, Greece, from 29 September to 1 October 2014, hosted by UNEP/MAP. The objectives of the meeting were to: discuss the role of the RSCAPs in the process of developing a sustainable development goals (SDG) on oceans within the post-2015 development agenda; present progress in the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2013-2016; discuss the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) and regional actions on marine litter; and discuss the development of a roadmap for implementing the visioning priorities for the next 10 years. Around 50 participants attended the meeting. Participants were representatives of 16 regional seas conventions and action plans, of UN organizations and intergovernmental organizations, and the media.

b) Partnerships and Resource Mobilization

24. Fundraising efforts are being carried out to scale-up implementation of the 2014-2015 Programme of Work.

    - Two project concepts have been prepared to be submitted to UNEP and EU to support the implementation of Marine Litter Regional Plan.
    - Twelve project concepts have been prepared and presented by SPA/RAC to potential donors at the IUCN World Park Congress in Sidney, November, 2014. The project concept notes support SPA/RAC's aim to strengthening the implementation of the Protocol concerning Specially Protocol Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol).
    - The project proposal by Plan Bleu "Evaluation économique des services écologiques rendus par les zones humides dans le cadre du changement climatique en Méditerranée" has been accepted by MAVA Foundation and Fondation Prince Albert II.
    - A new project concept on Ecosystem Approach was submitted to European Commission's Thematic Programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (ENRTP) Programme Steering Committee, where it was reviewed and accepted. It was quoted by the EC Co-Chair as a model for cooperation.
    - In addition the above-listed ones, several calls for proposal have been reviewed and responded to.

25. The partnership with UfM has been enhanced by meetings with the UfM Deputy Secretary-General for Energy and with the one for Environment. Discussions continue on the implementation plans of the Memorandum of Understanding and on future cooperation.

26. The partnership with UfM H2020 has been strengthened. Two meetings of the H2020 group on Review and Monitoring and the H2020 group on Capacity Building were held respectively on 12 November 2014 in Athens and on 17 November 2014 in Brussels. The invitations were co-signed by UNEP/MAP Coordinator while both meeting documents were prepared in consultation and with UNEP/MAP contribution. In addition, the Secretariat collaborated with UfM Secretariat in preparing the programme of work on pollution prevention and reduction component of H2020 (investment component). UNEP/MAP through the MED POL programme attended the meeting on 18 November 2014 held in Brussels, Belgium and co-chaired by UfM Secretariat and the European Investment Bank (EIB). The UfM Secretariat has prepared a data base information system for investment projects of UfM H2020/NAPs currently under the testing process by some contracting parties.

27. The collaboration with the European Environmental Agency (EEA) is ongoing. A high-level meeting between EEA and UNEP/MAP took place in November 2014, and the development of a renewed Joint Work Plan, following the one that expired in 2008, to better harmonize and integrate the respective activities was agreed. This would be framed around the different political mandates and obligations of the two organizations, to deliver a common goal on specific themes. The process of developing such Work Plan would involve all MAP Components. The joint implementation of the current Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) project will be concluded at the end of 2014. UNEP/MAP through the MED POL Programme has attended the SEIS project Steering Committee and participated in several consultation sessions with SEIS project partners to ensure successful finalization of all activities as well as to design the project second phase expected to start in Spring 2015.

28. The collaboration with several projects funded by the EU addressing pollution and marine litter was strengthened during this period, such as with the project on Coordination & Alignment meeting (CAM) for the technical support of the MSFD, Project on the Removal of Marine litter from Europe's four regional seas (MARELITT); Project on Marine Litter in European Seas - Social Awareness and Co-Responsibility (Marlisco), Project on policy-oriented marine environmental research in the Southern European Seas (Perseus).

29. The MED POL programme initiated the collaboration with the Quality Assurance of Information in Marine Environment Monitoring in Europe (QUASIMEME) and University of Alessandria, Italy regarding quality assurance of eutrophication and biological effect of pollution monitoring.

30. At global level, collaboration was established with UNEP/ Global Programme of Action (GPA) on marine litter and waste water management and with the Basel Convention Secretariat to carry out a joint training activity to combat illegal traffic of hazardous waste including PCBs in the Mediterranean.

31. A coordination meeting was held in Stralsund, Germany in October 2014 between the four European seas with the view to ensure synergy in implementation of the Regional Plans on Marine Litter.

32. A Memorandum of Collaboration for six years was signed between MedPAN and SPA/RAC in September 2014.

33. SPA/RAC has contributed with technical expertise at international meetings on biodiversity and fisheries indicators organized by the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES), the Convention for the Protection of the marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) and the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (HELCOM) on behalf of UNEP/MAP Secretariat.

34. Following the commitment made by Malta during the COP 18 to make a one off voluntary contribution to fund REMPEC activities, the Centre has managed to secure a €32,000 voluntary contribution from the Government of Malta to co-fund REMPEC activities during the current biennium.

c) MedPartnership

35. The main progress of the project's components during this period is summarized below:

- Component 1. Integrated approaches for the implementation of the SAPs and NAPs: ICZM, IWRM and management of coastal aquifers:
  The first draft of the regional report on coastal wetlands dependent on groundwater in Morocco was prepared, the first draft of the ICZM Strategy in Montenegro was prepared, the second draft of the national ICZM strategy was approved by the Ministry of Environment in Algeria. A new Directive on integrated marine and coastal strategy was discussed and adopted by the Government of Croatia. Legal and institutional analysis was prepared in the Buna/Bojana river basin (Albania-Montenegro) for the development of an Integrated Resources Basin Management (IRBM).

- Component 2. Pollution of land based activities, including persistent organic pollutants: implementation of SAP-MED and related NAPs:
  Three Small Scale Fund Agreements (SSFAs) were signed with Tunisia, Turkey and Algeria. Related projects on the facilitation of policy and legislation reforms for the control of industrial pollution started, namely: project on Phosphogypsum slurry management started in Tunisia, Chromium and BOD control of tanneries effluent in Turkey, Lubricating oil recycling and regeneration in Algeria. The correlation tool between the Emission Limit Values (ELV) and Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) was finalized and a workshop to train the countries' experts in its used was organized in November 2014 in Athens. A regional training workshop to provide practical guidance and uniformity on inspecting on the most commonly polluted and industrial facilities of the country was held in Athens in November 2014. The disposal of more than 800 tons of Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs) started in Egypt, Turkey and Bosnia Herzegovina. After the collecting phase the PCBs will be destroyed. This process is planned to be finished by March/April 2015.

- Component 3. Conservation of biological diversity: implementation of SAP BIO and related National Action Plans (NAPs):
  The first draft of a Management Plan for the Porto Palermo Bay (Albania), based on the ecological and socio-economic studies and discussions was finalized in September 2014 and presented together with a draft decision by the Albanian Government for the MPA creation on 12 November 2014. The draft study on socio-economic and fisheries activities and identification of local stakeholder participation mechanism in the Réghaia future MPA was endorsed by the Algerian Ministry of Environment. The Croatian environmental authorities approved the monitoring protocols for *posidonia* and c*oralligenous habitats* in order to identify marine sites suitable to become MPAs in Croatia. The final versions of the National Strategy for MPA establishment and the draft Law on Protected Areas in Libya have been submitted to the Libyan Environment General Authority for their endorsement. In Montenegro, the report on marine biodiversity status together with the final feasibility study on ecotourism in Boka Kotorska were finalized in September 2014, and submitted to the Montenegrin environmental authorities for endorsement. An SSFA was signed between SPA/RAC and UNEP/MAP in late July 2014 to develop a replication activity in Tunisia to run ecological and socio-economic studies in view of the creation of an MPA in the North-Eastern part of Kerkennah Islands (Tunisia). Training courses in Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) were held for staff of the main fisheries institutions in Turkey (Antalya, 8-12 September 2014), Croatia, Montenegro and Tunisia (Rome, 22-26 September 2014).

- Component 4. Project Co-ordination, NGO Involvement, Replication and Communication Strategies, Management and M&E
  All the countries appointed national NAP coordinators and initiated the process to develop a sustainable financial mechanism for the long term implementation of NAPs. Technical annexes to the NAP update guidelines were developed, including guidelines on the assessment

of cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit of measures to contribute to NAP financial sustainability. Cooperation with H2020 strengthened to ensure adequate support to the NAP update process. During the reporting period 37 regional and national experts and consultation workshops, conferences, trainings and events have been organized in the framework of the MedPartnership.

36. The "ClimVar & ICZM" project**,** being a complementary initiative of MedPartnership, provides a unique opportunity for a coordinated Mediterranean wide approach to assessing and adapting to climate change variability. The main outputs of the project components are the following:

- Component 1. Data and information gathering on climate variability.
  Five of the national multi-stakeholder workshops for the gathering of information and updating national reports have been conducted, which will form the basis of a regional analysis. The platform for climate variability and change data and information has been designed, as a more ambitious platform that will link to national institutions who will provide (through Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI)) key data to the platform, from which then data can be downloaded (depending on the institutions policies for sharing) interrogated and mapped. This is the first time such a platform is being created at the Mediterranean wide level.

- Component 2. Analysis and climate variability impacts to the marine and coastal zone.
  The two demonstrations within this component have begun, in Croatia (Šibenik-Knin) and in Tunisia (Kerkennah islands). Both demonstration are advancing well with initial participatory workshops, and will result in a coastal management plan including climate variability considerations adopted.

- Component 3. Capacity building and integration of climate variability into ICZM planning and policy reforms
  The two demonstration projects under the component 2 are cross-cutting over the three components of data gathering, analysis and policy, the main activity under the component 3 focused on the development of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean marine and coastal zones (RCCAF). The RCCAF, based on the request of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, to be presented at COP 19 is on track. The first consultation of the RCCAF took place in the framework of the MSSD review process and the first draft of the table of contents and the consultation calendar were presented at the Climate Change Expert Group held in Barcelona in September 2014. The first meeting of the advisory panel to the RCCAF in the Mediterranean was held on 18 December 2014 with the aim to provide technical expert input to the elaboration process.

Output 1.2 -	Implementation gap filled: Contracting Parties supported in meeting the objectives of Barcelona Convention, protocols and adopted strategies

a) Legal progress/compliance and reporting

37. The entry into force of UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention legal instruments has made new progress during the last months with the ratification by Israel of the Emergency Protocol (2002). The overall situation is described in the following paragraphs. In addition, the amended Convention is pending ratification of only two countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Lebanon) while most of its legal instruments have entered into force. Contacts are on-going with those two countries to achieve the universal ratification in the course of 2015.

38. Regarding the number of Contracting Parties having reported on measures taken to implement the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the Secretariat received as at 10 December 2014 reports of 9 Contracting Parties (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, European Union, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Montenegro, Morocco, and Turkey) pursuant to Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention on measures taken to implement the Convention and its Protocols for the 2012-2013 biennium.

39. The Compliance Committee held its ninth Meeting in Split on 27-28 November 2014. The agenda of the meeting was dedicated to the definition of specific actions for the implementation of the recommendation on non-compliance with obligations regarding submission of reports as per Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention, the finalization of criteria for the evaluation of reports by the Secretariat and the Committee to establish compliance, and the assessment of the three reports submitted by Bosnia & Herzegovina, European Union and Turkey. The Compliance Committee recalled that repeated failure to comply with this obligation is a potential situation of non-compliance and requested the Secretariat to send a new reminder letter to the Contracting Parties to submit, in accordance with Decision IG.21/2 of the 18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, their national report, using the online form without delay.

40. In accordance with Decision IG.21/2, the Secretariat launched in June 2014 a process for the elaboration of a simplified and practical draft of the reporting format of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. At the Ninth Meeting of the Compliance Committee the Secretariat presented an explanatory note on the draft revised reporting format related to the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. The Compliance Committee made its preliminary comments on this document and decided to follow up the assessment of this draft revised format at its next meeting scheduled at the end of March 2015.

41. In accordance with Decision IG.21/2, the Secretariat has prepared the draft of the operational section of the reporting format of ICZM Protocol. The Secretariat held a meeting on 26 November 2014 with PAP/RAC for the assessment of this draft operational section before its submission for consideration by the next MAP focal points meeting. As a follow-up of the letter sent by the Secretariat to the Contracting Parties which have ratified or signed ICZM Protocol to submit on a voluntary basis a report on its implementation, three Contracting Parties (Montenegro, Morocco and Spain) which have ratified or signed ICZM Protocol have submitted their reports.

b) Implementation of Ecosystem Approach (EcAp)

42. Building on the work of the monitoring expert group meetings of the earlier semester (CORMON meetings, held between May-June 2014), the Secretariat prepared and presented the draft Monitoring and Assessment Methodological Guidance to the 4th Meeting of the EcAp Coordination Group (EcAp CG) in Athens, Greece on 9-10 October 2014. In addition, in close cooperation with the Secretariats of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Sea (ACCOBAMS), additional common indicators and methodological specifics for their monitoring on fisheries and noise related targets were proposed at the EcAp CG.

43. The EcAp CG set up specific online expert working groups, with the aim to further specify monitoring requirements and address outstanding issues in relation to monitoring and assessment both in these online groups and in the upcoming Integrated CORMON (25-27 February 2015, Rome, Italy).

44. While the EcAp Measures Gap Analysis was foreseen to be undertaken in 2015, based on the request of various Contracting Parties, the Secretariat has prepared an early draft of the analysis and presented it in October 2014 at the EcAp CG. Contracting Parties were requested at this EcAp CG meeting to send their written comments on the Initial Gap Analysis, to enable the Secretariat to further develop it in a timely manner. In line with the discussions undertaken at the EcAp CG, a more detailed EcAp Measures Gap Analysis will be discussed in March-July 2015 at MAP focal points meetings .

45. Building on the June 2014 expert-level meeting on socio-economic elements of EcAp (COR ESA), at the EcAp CG in October 2014, both the "Economic and Social Analysis of the uses of the coastal and marine waters in the Mediterranean" and the "Scoping study of the assessment of

the costs of degradation of the Mediterranean marine ecosystems" were presented to the Contracting Parties. Written comments were asked from the Contracting Parties by 31 October 2014, however no comments were received on the above two studies, thus they will be presented in their same formats to the MAP focal points meeting in 2015.

46. Building on the outcomes of the 3rd Offshore Protocol Working Group meeting of June 2014, the draft Offshore Action Plan was presented and discussed (with a focus on links with EcAp monitoring) at the EcAp CG. Contracting Parties were encouraged to send comments on this draft Action Plan by 31 October 2014. Based on the comments received an updated draft Offshore Action Plan was prepared and will be presented at the MAP focal points meeting in 2015.

47. In addition to EcAp CG meeting (Athens, Greece on 9-10 October 2014), to ensure overall coordination between the UNEP/MAP components in the implementation of EcAp, informal EcAp Task Force meetings are held on bi-montly basis. Furthermore, the Secretariat aims to ensure synergy with key partners and EcAp relevant initiatives in the Mediterranean, thus it attends and presents developments on EcAp in the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (EU MSFD), GFCM and other EcAp related scientific meetings.

48. SPA/RAC facilitated the initiation to develop a regional monitoring system by the preparation of a guidance document on monitoring for the EO1: Biodiversity and its common indicators 3-5 i.e. Species distributional range; Population abundance of selected species (marine mammals, seabirds, marine reptiles and monk seals); and Population demographic characteristics.

49. The Secretariat and PAP/RAC prepared a concept note for an EcAp implementation pilot project on land-use change in the Adriatic region focusing on testing the common EcAp indicators on the coast. The project is planned to start in early 2015, with a limited time-frame, aiming to present its results in the 2015 PAP/RAC focal points meeting.

50. The GES definitions and targets were taken into account in the guidelines to assess pollution hot spots and sensitive areas, to estimate National Baseline Budget (NBB) and economic analysis of programmes of measures. The MED POL programme led the establishment of the virtual on line groups to assess and propose thresholds and Environmental Assessment Criteria (EAC) for a number of contaminants and nutrient as well as baselines for marine litter related indicators.

c) Development of new and revision of existing Regional Strategies and Action Plans

51. During the period under review, REMPEC prepared templates assessing the level of implementation of the Specific Objectives of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships for each Contracting Party. Where possible, the Centre completed parts of the assessment template from information available on the Country Profile pages on REMPEC's website and the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS). REMPEC's Operational focal points (i.e. Prevention and OPRC focal points) were requested to review jointly their respective national specific template. The assessment of the implementation of the Specific Objectives by REMPEC as identified in the Regional Strategy has also been carried out. The new revised Draft Regional Strategy will be presented to the ad hoc meeting of the Representatives of the Contracting Parties scheduled for March 2015 and also during the REMPEC focal points meeting prior to its submission to the MAP focal points and Contracting Parties meetings.

52. The draft Offshore Protocol Action Plan as adopted by the 3rd Offshore Protocol Working Group meeting (17-18 June 2014, Attard, Malta) was submitted to the 4th meeting of the EcAp Coordination Group (9-10 October 2014, Athens, Greece) which provided a set of recommendations. With a view to submitting the Reviewed Draft Offshore Action Plan and a document compiling all related comments to the MAP focal points meeting scheduled for March 2015, Offshore and MAP focal points were requested to forward their comments to REMPEC by the end of November 2014.

53. Regarding the development of the SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean, the following activites were carried out in the reporting period:

    - The following documents were developed: **(i)** the table of contents of the SCP Action Plan; **(ii)** the Consultation document for the SCP Action Plan consultation processes; and **(iii)** the first draft of the SCP Action Plan.
    - In the framework of the consultation process on the SCP Action Plan, SCP/RAC: **(i)** organised on 1-2 October 2014, in Marseille (France) a Regional Stakeholders' Consultation meeting held back to back with the Expert Workshop on Green Economy in the framework of the Review of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), organised by Plan Bleu in collaboration with SCP/RAC; **(ii)** conducted an online consultation process, which was open from 16 October until 4 November 2014 through the SWITCH-Med platform; **(iii)** two face-to-face meetings of the Mediterranean SCP Independent Expert Group (MSEG), on 9 September and 27-28 October 2014 respectively, Barcelona, Spain; **(iv)** organised the Extraordinary National Focal Points meeting on the SCP Action Plan on 25-26 November 2014 in Barcelona, which aimed at consulting the countries on the first draft of the SCP Action Plan. The meeting was organised following green event guidelines and the organising team took care of communicating all the applied measures to the participants.
    - During this semester SCP/RAC has published the French version of the SCP Toolkit for Policy-Makers[1]. Furthermore, hard copies of the English and French versions were sent to the Mediterranean countries.

54. A more restricted number of indicators, which represent an integrated package to measure the progress towards the implementation of the LBS protocol/ NAPs/ Regional Plans and H2020 were discussed at the MED POL focal points meeting in December 2014. These indicators based on the prioritisation criteria recommended at the MED POL focal points meeting in March 2014, in which 49 listed existing indicators underwent a prioritization scoring exercise.

d) Review of Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD)

55. Following the Steering Committee meeting in June 2014 in Malta, a Core Group consisting of the Maltese MCSD Steering Committee Presidency, Plan Bleu and the UNEP/MAP Secretariat has been set up and is holding weekly teleconferences to manage the review process. The process is also supported by the MSSD Task Force, composed of representatives of UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit and Regional Activity Centers, which holds teleconferences on a monthly basis.

56. For each of the six themes recommended by the MCSD Steering Committee (Seas and coasts; Natural resources, rural development and food; Climate; Sustainable cities; Transition towards a green economy; and Governance) a Thematic Working Group (TWG) has been established. MCSD members, MAP focal points, MAP Partner institutions and major stakeholders in the region have been invited to participate and/or nominate experts to contribute to the work of the TWGs. At the same time, in September 2014, a team of thematic experts was engaged to support the work of each TWG. A senior expert has also been engaged to supervise the process, collect the output of TWGs and draft the new strategy.

57. In line with the methodology provided by the Steering Committee, inputs were collected on issues, strategic directions, actions (national and regional) and flagship initiatives for MSSD 2.0. A series of face-to-face meetings of TWGs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 took place on 19-20 November 2014, in Sophia-Antipolis, France, immediately after the conclusion of the online consultation process. TWG5 has had a face-to-face meeting at the end of September 2014, during an event of Plan Bleu, SCP/RAC and the Secretariat. The outcome of all these meetings are being consolidated by

[1] French version of the SCP Toolkit for Policy Makers: http://www.cprac.org/fr/media/etudes/manuels-methodologiques

the senior adviser and the draft MSSD 2.0 will be available for the preliminary comments of the Contracting Parties and stakeholders before the MSSD Review Conference, which will take place in Malta with kind hosting of Maltese Government on 17-18 February 2015.

Output 1.3 - Knowledge and information effectively managed and communicated

a) Information Systems

58. The InfoMAP Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) is the component of InfoMAP intended to manage and make available data services on spatial data, providing services such as searching, browsing and downloading services. During the period, INFO/RAC proceeded to installation and configuration of a new software suite, i.e. GeoPlatform, entirely based on open source software.

59. The Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS) is the component of InfoMAP Data Centre devoted to management of compliance information on Barcelona Convention and its protocols has been operational for 2012-2013 biennium reporting cycle. INFO/RAC assured the functionality of servers and software, the issues of credentials for authorised users designed from CPs, and the helpdesk both for Countries' users, Secretariat and other RAC's users.

60. Within the CAMP programme, INFO/RAC provides the CAMP-Italy project with technical solutions and assistance to cross-cutting activities such as information, communication, participation and awareness raising, on the basis of its mandate and internal expertise; within this project, INFO/RAC will develop the InfoMAP participatory platform, thus implementing the infromation and communication technolgy (I&CT) component of the Agorà project, using the ICZM as a pilot topic. In the period under consideration the web-site of the project, which is an important building block of the information exchange platform, was designed and made operational.

61. MED POL, in collaboration with INFO/RAC, prepared the NBB infosystem, which a demonstration was made at the MED POL focal points meeting in December 2014. The system will be tested in January 2015. NBB/PRTR data upload is expected by the Contracting Parties in early 2015.

62. The new NBB on line system will ensure full compatibility with PRTR which would enable that the Contracting Parties with a strong PRTR system in place would be in a position to upload their annual PRTR data thus avoiding duplication of reporting efforts.

b) Communications and Knowledge Management

63. Following the ECP decision, a Communications Task Force was established. The Task Force is composed of one representative from each MAP Component. It has a role to create synergies on improving visibility of MAP; operationalize the communication strategy as adopted in COP17; design a communication plan for the 40th Anniversary of MAP; prepare a joint media list containing the contacts of each Component and the Coordinating Unit; and develop and maintain calendar of relevant national, regional and global events that could be of media interest. The Task Force will have its meetings bi-monthly, either in person when possible or through on-line means.

64. The 2014 celebration of the Mediterranean Coast Day, focused on climate change issues, was held in Tunisia on 25 September 2014 with the participation of more than 150 local, national and international representatives at both: the technical workshop and the forum of NGOs and civil society associations. A promotional video was produced and shown during the celebration. The video is accepted to be presented at the Think Forward Film Festival in Venice, in December 2014.

65. Together with partners from the Šibenik-Knin County a local Coast Day celebration was organised in Croatia on 19 September 2014, in connection with the ICZM & Climate Variability and Change (CVC) Plan that is being prepared for this county.

3.2 Integrated Coastal Zone Management (Theme II)

Output 2.1 -	Coastal zone management achieves effective balance between development and protection (sustainable development of coastal zone)

a) Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

66. PAP/RAC supported interested Contracting Parties in their efforts to develop National ICZM Strategies:

- The second Draft of the ICZM Strategy for Algeria was prepared and discussed with competent national authorities. Three regional consultation workshops (Centre, East and West) were held in order to discuss the second draft and get inputs for the finalisation of the Strategy.
- Following a series of meetings with national and local authorities and other stakeholders, the ICZM Strategy for Montenegro has been finalised for adoption by the Government and presentation at the CAMP Montenegro final conference, together with the results of the CAMP itself and the Coastal Area Spatial Plan that actually makes a unique document with the strategy (Budva, 18 December 2014).
- Following several working meetings, the final draft of the Socio-economic Analysis for the Croatian Marine and Coastal Strategy was prepared, translated and submitted for public consultation. The comments received are being processed.
- A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed with the University of Thessaly for the implementation of a pilot project on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in Greece.

67. The reporting period has been an active time for CAMPs:

- All thematic reports within CAMP Montenegro are prepared and ready for presentation at the CAMP Final Conference in Budva, on 18 December 2014. SCP/RAC, together with the SPA/RAC, developed the Feasibility Study "Ecotourism for local development in Boka Kotorska (Montenegro)". The study has been published in SCP/RAC website.
- The Inception Report for CAMP Italy was prepared and the Inception Workshop organised in Alghero, Italy, on 12 November 2014.
- The Agreement for CAMP France was signed and the arrangements are being made for the engagement of the national project coordinator.
- The Inception Report for the assessment of CAMPs was prepared and the Inception meeting held in Split, on 25-26 November 2014. Desk study has started and visits to countries agreed, the first one being to Montenegro at the occasion of the CAMP Final Conference on 18 December 2014.

68. Regarding the implementation of ICZM Protocol, the following progress has been achieved:

- The Steering Committee for the finalisation of the Réghaïa coastal plan and its implementation was officialised by a decree of the Wali of Algiers. A meeting was held in RéghaÏa (20 November 2014) to validate the action plan and find financing options for the actions proposed.
- The Buna/Bojana Integrated Management Plan (IMP) has been drafted and submitted to national experts for comments.

- Furthermore, a feasibility study and a training workshop on Ecotourism for local development in Boka Kotorska, Montenegro, was elaborated to support CAMP Montenegro on sustainable development topics.

3.3 Biodiversity (Theme III)

Output 3.1 -	Ecosystem services provided by the marine and coastal environment identified and valued

69. SPA/RAC works with Plan Bleu and Slovenian SPA/RAC Focal Point to organize a training workshop in Slovenia at the end of January 2015. Ten countries are concerned by this training (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Lebanon, Turkey, Albania, Montenegro, Croatia, Slovenia). Three cases will be developed; on three pilot site concerned by the MedMPAnet project, by participants and the trainers in their respective countries. This activity is planned to be finalized by April 2015.

Output 3.2 -	Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use (strategic vision, new objectives in the post 2010 context, including fisheries, ballast, non-indigenous species), endangered and threatened species

a) Revision and implementation of Regional Action Plans, species list and other biodiversity policies

70. A replication activity, within the MedPartnership Programme, concerning the running of ecological and socio-economic studies in view of the creation of an MPA in the North-Eastern part of Kerkennah Islands (Tunisia) kicked-off. A detailed work-plan was set out and the experts were identified jointly by SPA/RAC and the Tunisian Coastal Protection and Planning Agency.

b) Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

71. The meeting of the Contracting Parties of the CBD (COP12, Pyeongchang, South Korea, October 2014) adopted 15 Mediterranean EBSAs, which had been initially proposed by the Mediterranean Regional Workshop to facilitate the description of EBSAs, co-organized by SPA/RAC (Malaga, Spain, April 2014). This formal international recognition of the ecological and biological importance of these Mediterranean areas will send strong signals to decision-makers and the Barcelona Convention in its work on marine conservation. Two EBSAs were unfortunately withdrawn from the list but are still valid as priority areas for potential SPAMI candidate sites.

72. SPA/RAC collaborated with ACCOBAMS to organise the Third Biennial Conference on Cetacean Conservation in South Mediterranean Countries which was held in Jounieh (Lebanon), from 21 to 23 October 2014.

73. A national training session on the monitoring of Loggerhead turtles nesting in Kuriat Islands (Tunisia) was held during August 2014. This activity was jointly organised with APAL (National Agency for the protection managment of the Littoral) and INSTM (National Institue on marine and technology sciences).

74. SPA/RAC initiated a regional programme (MedKeyHabitats Project) aiming at assisting some Mediterranean countries in mapping key marine habitats and promoting their conservation through the establishment of SPAMIs and is pursuing its support to several countries in establishing new MPAs and enhancing the management of existent ones. The activities within the countries concerned by the project were identified and a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed.

75. Within the framework of the MedKeyHabitats Project implementation the following activities were undertaken:

    (i) A Mediterranean training session on mapping of key habitats was organised in Kuriat Islands, Monastir, Tunisia, from 18 to24 August 2014.

    (ii) A preliminary field Mission was organised in Djbel Moussa (Morocco, 13-20 September 2014) in order to identify the main marine key habitats and their distribution where mission for mapping will be implemented during 2015.

    (iii) Four sites were identified, where mapping activities are planned:

    - Montenegro: Platamuni and Ratac
    - Morocco: Djbel Moussa
    - Tunisie: Cap Negro - Sidi Mechreg
    - Libya: El kouf: (only capacity building will be done for Libyan experts outside the country).

    (iv) SPA/RAC organised in collaboration with the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature conservation symposia on marine key habitats in Portoroz from 27 to 31 October 2014. The event was composed of three symposiums :

    - The 5th Mediterranean symposium on marine vegetation (27 - 28 October 2014)
    - 2nd Mediterranean symposium on coralligenous and other calcaresous bio-concretions (29 - 30 October 2014)
    - 1st Mediterranean symposium on the dark habitats (31 October 2014).

76. The National Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention Twinning Workshop was held in Morocco, 25-26 November 2014 in close co-operation with IMO's GloBallast Project Coordination Unit and the national Moroccan competent authorities, thanks to the USD 25,000 mobilised and secured from IMO's Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP). The Workshop was the first concrete example of the twinning concept under the GloBallast Project, in which a Lead Partnering Country (i.e. Turkey), experienced in the development of national BWM assessments and strategy, assisted a country from the region (i.e. Morocco) to establish a national task force for the management of ballast water and explained the benefits and importance of adopting a national strategy for a smooth implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention.

Output 3.3 -	Network of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MPAs), including Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), extended, strengthened and effectively managed

a) Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

77. The ongoing work on the creation of Specially Protected Areas for Mediterranean Interest (SPAMIs) in the open seas including in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJs) has made progress through the implementation of two consultation meetings for the neighbouring countries of the two priority areas: Sicily channel/Tunisian plateau and the Adriatic open seas. Major key results were two roadmaps for each respective area indicating the way forward in the process to identify, establish and declare SPAMIs in the open seas. For each priority area, thematic reports on the status of conservation of seabirds, fisheries and cetaceans together with a general ecology report were presented and they are currently under review by the involved countries (i.e. Sicily channel/Tunisian plateau: Italy, Libya, Malta, Tunisia; and Adriatic Sea: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia). There were announcements of the second round of meetings to be held in Rome, Italy, April 2015. Additionally, an international

conference will be organised in June 2015 in order to discuss the SPAMI process (representativeness, coherence, management effectiveness, etc.) in the framework of the MedKeyHabitats project.

b) Assessments / Analyses

78. Regarding the identification and planning of new MPAs to extend the regional network and enhance its ecological representativeness, vast number of activities took place in the reporting period:

- **Albania:** Ecological and Socio-economic study reports of the Porto Palermo Bay area were finalized (in English) and translated into Albanian. The process of elaboration of a Management Plan for the Porto Palermo Bay, based on the ecological and socio-economic studies and discussions with different stakeholders, started in June 2014. The first draft was ready in Albanian language by late September 2014 and has been presented to local authorities during a workshop held on 12 November 2014.
- **Algeria:** The complementary ecological survey in the Réghaia area, as well as the elaboration of a Management Plan kicked-off. Data collection started during August 2014 and field work by late September 2014. The draft study on socio-economic and fisheries activities and identification of local stakeholder participation mechanism in the Réghaia future MPA was reviewed and endorsed by the Algerian Ministry of Environment. SPA/RAC is expecting to receive the final document soon.
- **Croatia:** The Croatian environmental authorities approved the Monitoring Protocols for Posidonia and Coralligenous habitats. The field work planned as part of the addendum was completed before the end of September 2014. The final field survey reports on Posidonia, Coralligenous, and Fisheries, integrating the results of 2013 and 2014 were prepared.
- **Lebanon:** The ecological assessment report of the three priority marine sites (Naqoura, Sidon, Tyre) suitable to become MPAs in Lebanon was finalized. Discussions with the Ministry of Environment of Lebanon led to the decision to run the final presentation workshop of the ecological assessments made in Naqoura, Sidon and Tyre sites in the beginning of 2015 in Beirut.
- **Libya:** The draft Law on Protected Areas in Libya is pending consideration and adoption by the Libyan Government, including the final version of the National Strategy for MPA establishment in Libya for stakeholders review. The Toolkit on Stakeholders Participation in Marine and Coastal Protected Areas establishment in Libya is under finalization.
- **Montenegro:** The report on "Legal and institutional framework assessment for the conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity and the establishment of MPAs in Montenegro" is under finalization.The report on marine biodiversity status and the feasibility study on ecotourism of Boka Kotorska were finalized in September 2014, and endorsed by the Montenegrin environmental authorities.
- **Morocco:** The diagnostic-assessment phase was finalized and a second workshop will be held in Nador, early October 2014, in order to present the assessment results and discuss the management vision and objectives with the various stakeholders of the Cap des Trois Fourches future MPA.
- **Tunisia:** The first draft of the Management Plan of the Kuriat Islands MPA has been submitted for the Tunisian Coastal Protection and Planning Agency for comments, before being finalized and presented during a stakeholders' public workshop.The first draft of the Report on local stakeholder participation mechanism for the Kuriat Islands MPA has been submitted to SPA/RAC for comments.

c) Elaboration of MPA creation guidelines and teaching packages

79. The technical tool "Monitoring Mediterranean Lesser Crested Terns Thalasseus Bengalensis Emigratus' was electronically published (in English) and disseminated through the web. Additionally, an advanced draft of the Manual on Coastal Biota and their Environmental Monitoring in Mediterranean MPAs was prepared in Spanish. Also, the annotated contents and structure of the Teaching Package on Ecological Monitoring in Mediterranean MPAs was prepared and agreed upon.

d) Improved MPA management

80. SPA/RAC supported the Tunisian APAL and INSTM in running the summer turtles monitoring campaign in Kuriat Islands and also providing training to a number of Tunisian and non-Tunisian young scientists in turtle nesting sites monitoring techniques.

81. SPA/RAC organized, from 22 to 27 September 2014 in Santa Pola and Nueva Tabarca Marine Reserve (Spain), the 4th Regional training session on ecological monitoring in MPAs protected areas, in collaboration with CIMAR (University of Alicante). Ten MPA managers and practitioners, and marine researchers, from Algeria, Croatia, Egypt, Lebanon, Montenegro and Tunisia, took part to this session.

82. SPA/RAC is providing its support to 9 marine scientists and MPA practitioners (from Albania, Croatia, Montenegro, Morocco, and Spain), to attend the SPA/RAC-convened Symposia on the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine Key Habitats (Portorož, Slovenia, 27-31 October 2014) and present the results of the MedMPAnet project habitat-related field assessments.

3.4 Pollution Control and Prevention (Theme IV)

Output 4.1 - Early warning of pollution (spills, dangerous/hazardous substances)

a) Assessments / Analyses

83. The MED POL Monitoring Data base was updated with the 2012 data provided by Cyprus, Israel, Tunisia, and Turkey. However the reporting of monitoring data from all the countries remains a challenge.

84. Based on the new data provided, the Secretariat has started the work for defining assessment criteria for contaminants. With regards to the inventory of pollutant loads per country referred to as the National Baseline Budget (NBB) only two countries have submitted the 2013 NBB (Egypt and Israel). The work in other countries is ongoing and expected to be finalized by January 2015. During the period under reporting, financial and technical support was provided to Lebanon in addition to the five countries (Albania, Egypt, Montenegro, Morocco and Turkey) supported in the first six months of the biennium.

85. The International Atomic Environmental Agency (IAEA) has supported the implementation of a quality assurance programme for contaminants through inter-calibration exercise for the MED POL monitoring designated laboratories as well as training courses for 12 national experts. Fourteen countries designated their laboratories to participate in contaminant monitoring proficiency test. The proficiency tests and training on organic contaminants and heavy metals were carried out in September and October 2014.

86. Efforts are being made to initiate the quality assurance programme for nutrient related parameters in the framework of Quasimeme, pending funds availability. Collaboration was also initiated with

the University of Alessandria, Italy, to support countries and train national monitoring experts on biological effect monitoring for a number of biomarkers, pending funds availability.

b) Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

87. With regards to strengthening of environmental inspection, two back to back regional training workshops were held in Athens, Greece on 25-27 November 2014 addressing up-to-date pollution control assessment tools as well as compliance and enforcement in line with Land Based Sources and Activities (LBS) Protocol of the Barcelona Convention.

88. Three virtual expert groups were established with clear terms of reference with more than 10 representatives from the contracting parties on marine litter, contaminants and eutrophication.

89. Within the framework of the MEDESS-4MS Project, REMPEC co-organised the Sub-Regional End User Meeting for Western Mediterranean and Tyrrhenian (La Seyne-sur-Mer, France, 8 July 2014) and the MEDESS-4MS "Serious Game"(SG) carried out between 16 and 17 September 2014, in the framework of the annual RAMOGEPol Exercise. The test carried out during the SG showed promising results, as the trajectory of the buoys corroborated with the predictions of the forecasting models.

90. Discussions on the extension of the MoU between the Mediterranean Oceanography Network for Global Ocean Observing System (MONGOOS) and REMPEC in the framework of REMPEC's Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU) were initiated. MONGOOS was activated during the above mentioned RAMOGEPol Exercise.

91. A project proposal submitted by the "Centre de documentation de recherche et d'expérimentations sur les pollutions accidentelles des eaux" (CEDRE) for the extension of the two year project for Preparedness for Oil-Polluted Shoreline Cleanup and Oiled Wildlife interventions (POSOW) to the Southern Mediterranean region (Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey) entitled POSOW 2 was approved for funding by the European Commission's Civil Protection Financial Instrument.

92. An IMO ITCP funded National Training on preparedness for oil-polluted shoreline cleanup and oiled wildlife interventions was organised by REMPEC in Algiers, Algeria, between 27 and 29 October 2014, in close co-operation with the Algerian national competent authorities. Thirty participants attended the training.

Output 4.2 - Lower levels of pollution in the Mediterranean marine and coastal environments

a) Regional Policy Implementation

93. With the view to raise the political profile of NAP update as a legally binding requirement under the LBS Protocol of the Barcelona Convention a letter was sent by the Secretariat to the Ministers of the Environment of all countries highlighting the importance of this process and the benefits for ensuring a well coordinated process at national and regional levels. Five Contracting Parties have established the National coordination structures for the NAP update while other Contracting Parties are in a process of identifying key local experts to support the process. In addition the Secretariat mobilized important external resources through UfM H2020 to support the NAP update process in the southern Mediterranean countries.

94. Collaboration with UNOPS for the tendering and selection of PCB Disposal Company was concluded in June 2014. The contract was signed in July 2014. The contractor has visited 3 countries to audit the project sites. Some delays have occurred for the site visit in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The PCB disposal process is expected to be carried out by February - March 2015 at the latest. Egypt and Turkey have requested to dispose 60 and 99 additional tons of PCBs respectively.

b) Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

95. The setting up of the national institutional structure at national levels for NAP update progressed through secured financial and technical assistance in agreement with UfM H2020 capacity building component for southern Mediterranean countries as well as through the UNEP/MAP-GEF Medpartnership project for the other eligible countries.

96. Several technical assistance missions were organised and held in southern Mediterranean countries co-organised with INFO/RAC to support SEIS implementation and data quality assurance programmes on pollution monitoring in accordance with Article 12 of the Convention and Article 8 of the LBS protocol.

97. Two training courses on monitoring techniques concerning organic contaminants and heavy metals were held and organised in Monaco by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in collaboration with the MED POL Programme for 12 participants appointed by the Contracting Parties. In addition 14 countries participated in the Inter-calibration exercise organised by IAEA on contaminants monitoring techniques.

98. The Regional Workshop on Environmental Inspectorate was held in Athens, Greece on 25-27 November 2014. The workshop delivered a number of recommendations on ways and means to enhance compliance and enforcement in the Mediterranean as well as on key priorities of Secretariat's work in this field. Two national workshops on environmental inspectorate in Egypt and Morocco were supported with financial and technical assistance. Both workshops were held in December 2014 in Alexandria, Egypt and Rabat, Morocco.

99. With the objective of increasing the technical support to countries on the sound management of chemicals and the use of alternatives to toxic chemicals SCP/RAC has developed: (i) a collaboration agreement with the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention to review an electronic toolkit on environmental sound management of industrial chemicals and organization of a technical meeting with experts from 17 countries; (ii) SCP/RAC prepared the project proposal "Promotion of non-chemical alternatives in the Mediterranean" with the aim to promote non-chemical alternatives in six Mediterranean countries that are members of SAICM (Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia) and submitted it to the SAICM QSP (Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management / Quick Start Programme).

100. In the framework of the Regional Plan of Marine Litter, SCP/RAC has prepared, per request of MED POL, a list of priority prevention measures and associated indicators according to their expected direct impact in the reduction of plastic litter in the short and medium term.

101. SCP/RAC has reviewed and completed the final version of "Guidelines on Best Environmental Practices for ESM of Mercury Polluted sites in the framework of the implementation of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol".

102. A portfolio of project concepts for SCP pilot activities has been sent to Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia to implement elements of existing/on-going national SCP or Green Economy related processes. Some of the suggested activities have a special focus on POPs, toxic chemicals, food sector and marine litter. Lebanon has requested to implement a pilot activity on the Life Cycle Management in cattle slaughterhouses or wineries and Tunisia has identified a pilot activity on organic waste in the Djerba Island.

3.5 Sustainable Consumption and Production (Theme V)

Output 5.1 -	Drivers affecting ecosystems addressed: economic activities, patterns of consumption, infrastructure and spatial development more sustainable

a) Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

103. As part of its collaboration with UNEP/DTIE under the framework of SWITCH-Med, SCP/RAC organised a traning session on mainstreaming SCP within key economic sectors in Jordan, one of the SWITCH-Med beneficiary countries. The session, based on the SCP Policy Toolkit, took place during the two days technical workshop - kick off meeting- which was organized by the Jordanian Ministry of Environment (Amman, 22-23 October 2014) with the support of the SWITCH-Med programme.

104. Regarding the training and support programme for green entrepreneurs SCP/RAC has developed scoping missions to Morocco, from 27-30 October 2014, and Algeria, from 17-20 November 2014. In parallel, the process for the local partner selection in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia was launched. Likewise, under the Small Grant Project Proposal "Supporting Green Entrepreneurs for a POPs free Mediterranean" through which SCP/RAC was awarded by the Stockholm Convention Secretariat with 40,000 Euros to increase actions in support to the use of alternatives to toxic chemicals, the centre has developed a training Module on Green Entrepreneurship & Hazardous Chemicals Substitution Process, that will be used as complementary training tool in the green entrepreneurs training programme. The Centre organised also a training workshop in Algeria (18-19 November 2014) on hazardous chemicals substitution process, with the participation of approximately 50 people.With regard to the training programme for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), the above mentioned scoping missions developed in Algeria and Morocco have enabled the Centre to start mapping potential local organizations that may be involved in the training and support programme for CSOs planned for 2015-2017.

105. A portfolio of project concepts has been sent to Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia to implement elements of existing/on-going national SCP or Green Economy related processes, with special focus on sustainable public procurement, tourism and ICZM.

106. Regarding the Mediterranean SCP Networking Facility, SCP/RAC has continued the development of the already on-going activities and has initiated new ones:

- The sections dedicated to various stakeholders/communities of the SWITCH-Med platform are continuously updated and maintained and each week at least one news item is posted on the web platform. It was published and sent the first newsletter in October[2]. Furthermore, the professional social network[3] has grown reaching to 150 members.
- A fact sheet was prepared with initial information on the regional networking event of the SWITCH-Med Programme that will be held on 28-30 October 2015 in Barcelona.
- Following workshops and side events have been organised: **(i)** session titled "Sustainable production and use of alternative chemicals" within the 34th Dioxin Conference (1st September, 2014 in Madrid, Spain)); **(ii)** workshop titled "Building Ecosystem for Sustainable Entrepreneurship" within SEED Africa Symposium, (10-11th September 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya); **(iii)** workshop "Joint SWITCH-Med and SWITCH-Asia Workshop: An overview of leveraging approaches for scaling-up green industry and green entrepreneurship efforts" within the European Roundtable on Consumption and Production (ERSCP) 2014 (15-17 October 2014 in Portoroz, Slovenia); **(iv)** webinar "Opportunities for the Circular Economy in the Mediterranean" within the Disruptive Innovation Festival of Ellen Mac Arthur Foundation (13 November 2014 - online); **(v)** workshop "Financing pathways for green business and sustainable entrepreneurs" within the Global Eco Forum, which is part of the Mediterranean Week of Economic Leaders (28 November 2014 in Barcelona, Spain).
- Based on a collaboration agreement with the Catalan Waste Agency, SCP/RAC hosting Agency, SCP/RAC is contributing to the support to Mediterranean countries to promote eco-design through the dissemination of the Catalonia Award on Eco-design funded by

[2] First SWITCH-Med newsletter: http://bit.ly/1yJPC2k
[3] Professional social network of SWITCH-Med: http://www.switchmed.eu/en/join-the-action-network

that Agency and that is open to companies, designers and students from Mediterranean countries.

107. In the framework of the 2nd Mediterranean Water Forum (Murcia, Spain, 25-27 November 2014), Plan Bleu, Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and Marseille Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) organized a workshop on water demand management (WDM). The overall objective of the workshop was to support the Mediterranean countries in water demand management policies' development and adaptation. This workshop draws on the previous regional workshops on WDM organized by Plan Bleu and its partners. The workshop was structured around 4 thematic issues:

- Monitoring of the progresses achieved, promoting of the WDM policies in the Mediterranean and the difficulties experienced;
- WDM economic tools. On this occasion, the synthesis report drafted on this issue in the framework of CMI WDM programme was made public;
- Intersectoral water efficiency, allocation choices and virtual water;
- Groundwater and aquifers management as common resources.

And the specific objectives were as follows:

- Sharing knowledge and analysis from the CMI programme on WDM economic approach;
- Disseminating the solutions and good practices on WDM and facilitating regional cooperation in this field;
- Identifying these works potential contribution to the implementation of the "Water" component to the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) and the achievements of the MED1.14 and MED1.25 targets adopted during the 6th World Water Forum;
- Promoting the Mediterranean Approach at international scale;

3.6 Climate Change (Theme VI)

Output 6.1 -	Mediterranean region able to face climate change challenges through a better understanding of potential impacts and ecological vulnerabilities

108. The draft Climate Variability and Change learning material was prepared and submitted to PAP/RAC for comments in late November 2014. The preparation of the report on the assessment of the CVC impact on global insurance and banking sector is in progress.

109. To define a regional core set of indicators to monitor climate variability and change in coastal zones, Plan Bleu organized a technical workshop to discuss and agree on a regional core set of indicators in its premises, in Sophia Antipolis, France, from 20 to 21 November 2014. The objectives of this regional workshop were to:

- Comment the common issues (at regional level) identified by Plan Bleu through previous activities,
- Select indicators related to the issues and make suggestions about the core set,
- Discuss about national data availability and providers.

110. A presentation of the Mediterranean Integrated Climate Information Platform (MedICIP) developed within the frame of this project in order to share information and data among (first) participating countries, was done by Plan Bleu.

111. The first UfM Climate Change Expert Group meeting (CCEG) held in Barcelona the 13 and 14 October 2014 and attended by the MAP Coordinator and the MedPartnership Project Manager. During the meeting the role of MAP in the climate change management in the Mediterranean Sea was highlighted, the Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and

Coastal Zones (RCCAF) was presented, several bilateral meetings with the UfM Management and EC DG CLIMA were held and roles and cooperation details on the basis of the UNEP/MAP-UfM Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in 2013 were clarified. The role and unique nature of the Barcelona Convention as a legally-binding instrument for all Mediterranean Countries and the EU were highlighted both during the plenary session of the CCEG and with UfM managements and EC. Both UfM and UNEP/MAP agreed that although Climate Change is not specifically mentioned in the MoU, it makes sense to address this issue, which is affecting both the coastal and marine ecosystems and all the sectors of interest for UfM (Energy, Environment, Water and Urban Development). Moreover the CCEG meeting provided an excellent opportunity for MAP to gain visibility and interest for its work on Climate Change adaptation.

112. The preparation of the Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Zones (RCCAF) is on-going with various consultation processes. It will be reviewed by the MSCD in June 2015 and submitted to the 19th meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at the end of 2015. The RCCAF is prepared by UNEP/MAP in the context of the GEF-funded "Integration of climatic variability and change into national strategies to implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean" project ("ClimVar & ICZM" Project).

113. The overall objective of the Framework is to identify and develop a regional approach to climate change adaptation in the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment, with common regional priorities in order to increase the resilience of the Mediterranean to climate change. Once adopted by the COP, the Framework will form the basis for the development of a detailed Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan, to be developed within the framework of the Barcelona Convention.

Output 6.2 - Reduced socio-economic vulnerability

114. Within the framework of IMO's ITCP and in line with REMPEC's activities included in UNEP/MAP's programme of work 2014-2015, REMPEC organised the IMO Regional Workshop on MARPOL Annex VI – Ship Energy Efficiency and Technology Transfer, which was held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 5 November 2014. The Workshop was organized in close co-operation with IMO's Marine Environment Division (MED) and hosted by the Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications of Turkey, with the support of the Government of Malta .

115. The Regional Workshop provided detailed information with regard to the most recent amendments to Annex VI of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), namely its new Chapter 4 (Regulations on energy efficiency for ships), and the responsibilities of Parties under the Convention. The Workshop focused particularly on technology transfer. Interactive group and plenary discussions took place, eliciting the views and needs of the region's States with regard to technology transfer, which will be fed back to IMO's Ad Hoc Expert Working Group on the Facilitation of Transfer of Technology for Ships (AHEWG-TT).

116. Final draft of the DIVA[4] assessment for Croatia was submitted to PAP/RAC for comments in late November 2014. DIVA downscaling for the Sibenik-Knin County is in progress, based on the DIVA Croatia results. Additional information has been collected to encompass important issues resulting from the Diagnostic Analysis of the Sibenik-Knin ICZM Plan.Information and data was handed to PAP/RAC by the Tunisian NFP and forwarded to the DIVA team to be analysed in order to examine the possibilities to improve the Tunisian application of DIVA.

[4] The DIVA Model is an integrated, state-of the-art research model of coastal systems that assesses biophysical and socio-economic consequences of sea-level rise and socio-economic development taking into account coastal erosion (both direct and indirect), coastal flooding (including rivers), wetland change and salinity intrusion into deltas and estuaries, as well as adaptation in terms of raising dikes and nourishing shores and beaches.

117. Regular working meetings with the team of national experts were held in the framework of the ICZM Plan for Sibenik-Knin region. The Plan was selected to be presented in the EU project guidelines for integration of the adaptation measures in coastal management: the EU drafting team has submitted to PAP/RAC a draft version of the text for comments and complements.

Output 6.3 -	Assess and provide information to reduce adverse environmental impacts of mitigation and adaptation strategies & technologies (e.g. Wind farms, ocean energy, carbon capture and storage)

118. There was no activity planned and carried out under this output in this reporting period.

IV. Challenges, Measures and Management Actions

119. MED POL and PAP/RAC faced the challenge of the late payment or non-payment of MTF annual contributions, which affected the implementation of some activities:

- During the period under reporting activities by MED POL under Output 4.1 regarding support to countries to implement updated pollution monitoring programmes; the list of priority contaminants; and under Output 4.2 regarding support to countries to prepare inventories of Mercury contaminated sites; development of guidelines and some assessments were postponed due to delays in the availability of MTF funding:

  Measures:
  Provisions have been made to start their implementation in 2015 as appropriate, based on funding availability.
  Efforts concentrated on the activities which are funded by external funds.

- The MedOpen training course by PAP/RAC could not be held and the work on the ICZM Platform has not yet started due to delays in the availability of MTF funding:

  Measures:
  Negotiations are in progress with the Italian partners to organize MedOpen for the CAMP-Italy participants next year and with INFO/RAC to take over the technical aspects of the course and provide technical infrastructure for ICZM Platform.

120. The fund allocated for the implementation of Regional Action Plans on threatened species (Monk Seal, Cetaceans, Marine Turtles, cartilaginous fishes and seabirds) is limited in 2014 and did not allow the implementation of the all planned activities adopted within the framework of their programmes of work.

  Measures:

  SPA/RAC will follow and ensure full integration of these Action Plans in UNEP/MAP's Midterm Strategy 2016-2021 and biannual Programmes of Work with sufficient finding for implementation both from MTF and external funds.

121. The main challenge regarding compliance processes was the delay in the submission of reports for the Biennium 2012-2013 by Contracting Parties, which in turn delayed the assessment of these reports by the Secretariat and by the Compliance Committee.

  Measures:

  Reminder letters were send to the Contracting Parties who had not yet submitted their reports, and close follow-up performed by the Secretariat through MAP Focal Points.

122. In the programme to support green entrepreneurs by SCP/RAC, the access to potential green entrepreneurs is challenging.

Measures:

Instead of identifying a unique local partner in each target country, working with several local partners in each country is prioritized, in order to take advantage of specific opportunities and capacities to engage different kind of potential entrepreneurs.

123. Science- policy interface remains a key challenge, especially in relation to EcAp monitoring work.

Measures:

Building and working closer together with EcAp related scientific projects of the Mediterranean (mainly FP7 funded EU projects) are core part of the risk management strategy in this regard, as well as partnership building with other key players in the region (GFCM, ACCOBAMS) and beyond (e.g.: exchange of best practices with other Regional Sea Conventions, such as OSPAR).

124. SPA/RAC's work on the development of SPAMIs in the open seas is challenging and it largely depends on the engagement of the concerned Contracting Parties.

Measures:

The future phase of establishing SPAMIs in the Mediterranean, in particular in the priority areas of the Alboran Sea, the Adriatic Sea and the Sicily Channel/Tunisian Plateau, will require close follow-up after this phase.

Engaged countries should proceed with selecting SPAMI sites and preparing documents to be adopted at Contracting Parties meetings. This will require continued facilitation and future funding, and will be followed-up by SPA/RAC.

125. With regards to delays on NAP update, the contracting parties should speed up their efforts to establish a sound NAP update institutional set up and organise the national workshops with the stakeholders as early as possible in 2015 with the view to lead a smooth process and deliver on time the updated NAPs.

126. The political situation, changes in governments (structural and staff) and conflicts in some parts the Mediterranean region has had an impact on the implementation of the Programme of Work and Projects, as these conflicts make it impossible to organise activities in some countries and slow down exchanges with these countries.

Measures:

Capacity building activities are organized in other countries to facilitate participation of experts from countries who suffer conflicts.

Continuous update of lists of MAP and RAC Focal Points is undertaken by the Secretariat.

127. There have been internal events occurring in Libya interfering on SPA/RAC's work on establishment of new coastal MPAs and SPAMIs in the open seas. SPA/RAC's work on the establishment of a new MPA in El Kouf coastal area has been on standby. Concerning the participation of neighbouring countries of Sicily channel/Tunisian plateau, Libya was not able to join the consultation meeting on the development of SPAMIs, held in Gammarth, Tunisia, September, 2014.

128. With reference to the COP 18 Decision IG.21/9, which urges all Contracting Parties to nominate as early as possible a Designated Representative with in-depth knowledge of this specific type of offence and to actively participate in the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL, few nomination were received. REMPEC had sent several requests and reminders to the Contracting Parties. This effort will continue in the first half of 2015.

Annex I
Status of signatures and ratifications of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols as of December 2014

Signatures and Ratifications of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols as at 19 December 2014

Contracting Parties	1976 Barcelona Convention				1976 Dumping Protocol			1976 Emergency Protocol		
	Signature	Ratification	Acceptance of 1995 Amendments	Entered into force	Signature	Ratification	Acceptance of 1995 Amendments	Signature	Ratification	Entered into force
Albania		30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	09.07.04	-	30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	-	30.05.90/AC	29.06.90
Algeria		16.02.81/AC	09.06-04	09.07.04	-	16.03.81/AC	-	-	16.03.81/AC	15.04.81
Bosnia and Herzegovina		22.10.94/SUC	-	-	-	22.10.94/SUC	-	-	22.10.94/SUC	01.03.92
Croatia		12.06.92/SUC	03.05.99	09.07.04	-	12.06.92/SUC	03.05.99	-	12.06.92/SUC	08.10.91
Cyprus	16.02.76	19.11.79	18.07.03	09.07.04	16.02.76	19.11.79	18.07.03	16.02.76	19.11.79	19.12.79
Egypt	16.02.76	24.08.78/AP	11.02.00	09.07.04	16.02.76	24.08.78/AP	11.02.00	16.02.76	24.08.78/AC	23.09.78
European Union	13.09.76	16.03.78/AP	12.11.99	09.07.04	13.09.76	16.03.78/AP	12.11.99	13.09.76	12.08.81/AP	11.09.81
France	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	29.03.01	09.07.04	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	29.03.01	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	10.04.78
Greece	16.02.76	03.01.79	10.03.03	09.07.04	11.02.77	03.01.79	-	16.02.76	03.01.79	02.02.79
Israel	16.02.76	03.03.78	29.09.05	29.10.05	16.02.76	01.03.84	-	16.02.76	03.03.78	02.04.78
Italy	16.02.76	03.02.79	07.09.99	09.07.04	16.02.76	03.02.79	07.09.99	16.02.76	03.02.79	05.03.79
Lebanon	-	08.11.77/AC	*	*	-	08.11.77/AC	-	-	08.11.77/AC	12.02.78
Libya	31.01.77	31.01.79	12.01.09	11.02.09	31.01.77	31.01.79	-	31.01.77	31.01.79	02.03.79
Malta	16.02.76	30.12.77	28.10.99	09.07.04	16.02.76	30.12.77	28.10.99	16.02.76	30.12.77	12.02.78
Monaco	16.02.76	20.09.77	11.04.97	09.07.04	16.02.76	20.09.77	11.04.97	16.02.76	20.09.77	12.02.78
Montenegro	-	19.11.07	19.11.07	19.12.07	-	-	-	-	-	-
Morocco	16.02.76	15.01.80	07.12.04	06.01.05	16.02.76	15.01.80	05.12.97	16.02.76	15.01.80	15.02.80
Slovenia	-	16.09.93/AC	08.01.03	09.07.04	-	16.09.93/AC	08.01.03	-	16.09.93/AC	15.03.94
Spain	16.02.76	17.12.76	17.02.99	09.07.04	16.02.76	17.12.76	17.02.99	16.02.76	17.12.76	12.02.78
Syria	-	26.12.78/AC	10.10.03	09.07.04	-	26.12.78/AC	11.04.08	-	26.12.78/AC	25.01.79
Tunisia	25.05.76	30.07.77	01.06.98	09.07.04	25.05.76	30.07.77	01.06.98	25.05.76	30.07.77	12.02.78
Turkey	16.02.76	06.04.81	18.09.02	09.07.04	16.02.76	06.04.81	18.09.02	16.02.76	06.04.81	06.05.81

Accession = AC Approval = AP Succession = SUC

* pending notification from Depository Country

Contracting Parties	2002 Emergency Protocol			1980 Land-Based Sources Protocol				1982 Specially Protected Areas Protocol		
	Signature	Ratification	Entered into force	Signature	Ratification	Acceptance of 1996 Amendments	Entered into force	Signature	Ratification	Entered into force
Albania	-	-	-	-	30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	11.05.08	-	30.05.90/AC	29.06.90
Algeria	25.01.02	-	-	-	02.05.83/AC	-	-	-	16.05.85/AC	23.03.86
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	-	-	-	22.10.94/SUC	-	-	-	22.10.94/SUC	01.03.92
Croatia	25.01.02	01.10.03	17.03.04	-	12.06.92/SUC	11.10.06	11.05.08	-	12.06.92/SUC	08.10.91
Cyprus	25.01.02	19.12.07	18.01.08	17.05.80	28.06.88	18.07.03	11.05.08	-	28.06.88/AC	28.07.88
Egypt	-	-		-	18.05.83/AC	-	-	16.02.83	08.07.83	23.03.86
European Union	25.01.02	26.05.04	25.06.04	17.05.80	07.10.83/AP	12.11.99	11.05.08	30.03.83	30.06.84/AP	23.03.86
France	25.01.02	02.07.03	17.03.04	17.05.80	13.07.82/AP	29.03.01	11.05.08	03.04.82	02.09.86/AP	02.10.86
Greece	25.01.02	27.11.06	27.12.06	17.05.80	26.01.87	10.03.03	11.05.08	03.04.82	26.01.87	25.02.87
Israel	22.01.03	10.09.14-	10.10.14-	17.05.80	21.02.91	19.06.09	19.07.09	03.04.82	28.10.87	27.11.87
Italy	25.01.02	-	-	17.05.80	04.07.85	07.09.99	11.05.08	03.04.82	04.07.85	23.03.86
Lebanon	-	-	-	17.05.80	27.12.94	-	-	-	27.12.94/AC	26.01.95
Libya	25.01.02	-	-	17.05.80	06.06.89/AP	-	-	-	06.06.89/AC	06.07.89
Malta	25.01.02	18.02.03	17.03.04	17.05.80	02.03.89	28.10.99	11.05.08	03.04.82	11.01.88	10.02.88
Monaco	25.01.02	03.04.02	17.03.04	17.05.80	12.01.83	26.11.96	11.05.08	03.04.82	29.05.89	28.06.89
Montenegro	-	19.11.07	19.12.07	-	19.11.07/AC	19.11.07	11.05.08	-	-	-
Morocco	25.01.02	26.04.11	26.05.11	17.05.80	09.02.87	02.10.96	11.05.08	02.04.83	22.06.90	22.07.90
Slovenia	25.01.02	16.02.04	17.03.04	-	16.09.93/AC	08.01.03	11.05.08	-	16.09.93/AC	15.03.94
Spain	25.01.02	10.07.07	09.08.07	17.05.80	06.06.84	17.02.99	11.05.08	03.04.82	22.12.87	21.01.88
Syria	25.01.02	11.04.08	11.05.08	-	01.12.93/AC	11.04.08	11.05.08	-	11.09.92/AC	11.10.92
Tunisia	25.01.02	-	-	17.05.80	29.10.81	01.06.98	11.05.08	03.04.82	26.05.83	23.03.86
Turkey	-	03.06.03	17.03.04	-	21.02.83/AC	18.09.02	11.05.08	-	06.11.86/AC	06.12.86

Accession = AC Approval = AP Succession = SUC

Contracting Parties	1995 SPA & Biodiversity Protocol				1994 Offshore Protocol		
	Signature	Ratification	Entered into force	Amendments to Annexes II & III Entered into force	Signature	Ratification	Entered into force
Albania	10.06.95	26.07.01	25.08.01	30.03.14	-	26.07.01	24.03.11
Algeria	10.06.95	14.03.07	13.04.07	30.03.14	-	-	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	-	-		-	-	-
Croatia	10.06.95	12.04.02	12.05.02	30.03.14	14.10.94	-	-
Cyprus	10.06.95	18.07.03	17.08.03		14.10.94	16.05.06	24.03.11
Egypt	10.06.95	11.02.00	12.03.00	30.03.14	-	-	-
European Union	10.06.95	12.11.99	12.12.99	30.03.14	17.12.12/AC	29.03.13	29.03.13
France	10.06.95	16.04.01	16.05.01	30.03.14	-	-	-
Greece	10.06.95	-	-		14.10.94	-	-
Israel	10.06.95	-	-	30.03.14	14.10.94	-	-
Italy	10.06.95	07.09.99	12.12.99	30.03.14	14.10.94	-	-
Lebanon	-	22.04.09	22.05.09	30.03.14	-	-	-
Libya	-	-	-		-	16.06.05	24.03.11
Malta	10.06.95	28.10.99	12.12.99	30.03.14	14.10.94	-	-
Monaco	10.06.95	03.06.97	12.12.99	30.03.14	14.10.94	-	-
Montenegro	-	19.11.07	19.12.07	30.03.14	-	-	-
Morocco	10.06.95	24.04.09	25.05.09	30.03.14	-	01.07.99	24.03.11
Slovenia	-	08.01.03	07.02.03	30.03.14	10.10.95	-	-
Spain	10.06.95	23.12.98	12.12.99	30.03.14	14.10.94	-	-
Syria	-	10.10.03	09.11.03	30.03.14	20.09.95	22.02.11	24.03.11
Tunisia	10.06.95	01.06.98	12.12.99	30.03.14	14.10.94	01.06.98	24.03.11
Turkey	-	18.09.02	18.10.02	30.03.14	-	-	-

Contracting Parties	1996 Hazardous Wastes Protocol			2008 Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol		
	Signature	Ratification	Entered into force	Signature	Ratification	Entered into force
Albania	-	26.07.01	18.01.08		04.05.10/AD	24.03.11
Algeria	01.10.96	-	-	21.01.08	-	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	-	-	-	-	-
Croatia	-	-	-	21.01.08	29.01.13/R (*)	28.02.13
Cyprus	-	-	-	-	-	-
Egypt	01.10.96	-	-	-	-	-
European Union	-	-	-	16.01.09	29.09.10/AP	24.03.11
France	-	-	-	21.01.08	29.10.09/AP	24.03.11
Greece	01.10.96	-	-	21.01.08	-	-
Israel	-	-	-	21.01.08	08.04.14/R (*)	-
Italy	01.10.96	-	-	21.01.08	-	-
Lebanon	-	-	-	-	-	-
Libya	01.10.96	-	-	-	-	-
Malta	01.10.96	28.10.99	18.01.08	21.01.08	-	-
Monaco	01.10.96	-	-	21.01.08	-	-
Montenegro	-	19.11.07	18.01.08	21.01.08	09.01.12	08.02.12
Morocco	20.03.97	01.07.99	18.01.08	21.01.08	21.09.12	21.10.12
Slovenia	-	-	-	21.01.08	01.12.09	24.03.11
Spain	01.10.96	-	-	21.01.08	22.06.10	24.03.11
Syria	-	22.02.11	24.03.11	21.01.08	22.02.11	24.03.11
Tunisia	01.10.96	01.06.98	18.01.08	21.01.08	-	-
Turkey	01.10.96	03.04.04	18.01.08	-	-	-

* Pending notification from Depository Country

Adhesion= AD Approval = AP Ratification = R

STATUS OF ENTRY INTO FORCE

Legal instruments	Place and date of Adoption	Entry into force date	Place and date of adoption of amendment	Entry into force of amendments
Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, amended as **Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean** **(Barcelona Convention)**	16 February 1976, Barcelona	**12 February 1978**	—	—
	—	—	10 June 1995, Barcelona	**9 July 2004**
The Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (Dumping Protocol), amended as **The Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft or Incineration at Sea** **(Dumping Protocol)**	16 February 1976, Barcelona	**12 February 1978**	—	—
	—	—	10 June 1995, Barcelona	**Not yet in force**
The Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency **(Emergency Protocol)**	16 February 1976, Barcelona	**12 February 1978**	—	—
The Protocol concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea **(Prevention and Emergency Protocol)***	25 January 2002, Malta	**17 March 2004**	—	—

* According to paragraph 2 of Article 25, this Protocol as from the date of its entry into force (17 March 2004) shall replace the Emergency Protocol (of 1976) in the relations between the Parties to both instruments.

Legal instruments	Place and date of Adoption	Entry into force date	Place and date of adoption of amendment, if any	Entry into force of amendments
The Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution from Land-based Sources, amended as **The Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities** **(LBS Protocol)**	17 May 1980, Athens	**17 June 1983**	—	—
	—	—	7 March 1996, Syracuse	**11 May 2008**
The Protocol Concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas **(SPA Protocol)**	3 April 1982, Geneva		Not applicable	Not applicable
The Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean **(SPA & Biodiversity Protocol)****	10 June 1995, Barcelona	**12 December 1999**	Not applicable	Not applicable
Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil **(Offshore Protocol)**	14 October 1994, Madrid	**24 March 2011**	Not applicable	Not applicable
Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal **(Hazardous Wastes Protocol)**	1 October 1996, Izmir	**18 January 2008**	Not applicable	Not applicable
Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management **(ICZM Protocol)**	21 January 2008, Madrid	**24 March 2011**	Not applicable	Not applicable

** According to paragraph 2 of Article 32, this Protocol as from the date of its entry into force (12 December 1999) shall replace the SPA Protocol (of 1982) in the relations between the Parties to both instruments.

Progress Report of the 80th Meeting of the Bureau, 14-15 July 2015, Athens, Greece

UNITED NATIONS

EP

UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/3/Rev.1

UNEP

UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

12 June 2015
Original: English

80th 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

Athens, Greece, 14-15 July 2015

Agenda item 3: Progress Report of the Coordinating Unit and MAP Components on Activities Carried Out in the Period January-June 2015

Progress Report by the Secretariat on Activities Carried Out in the Period January-June 2015

For environmental and economic 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.

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Annex I Status of signatures and ratifications of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols as of June 2015

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This report covers the activities and outputs carried out in the period between 1 January 2015 and 14 June 2015. The Report by the Secretariat on Financial and Administrative Issues is provided as a separate document (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/5) for the consideration of the Bureau.

2. The progress report is composed of a narrative part that highlights results and progress achieved during this period under the 6 themes of the Programme of Work 2014-2015 (Governance, Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Biodiversity, Pollution Control and Prevention, Sustainable Consumption and Production, Climate Change). Annex I provides the status of signatures and ratifications of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols as of 12 June 2015.

II. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

3. In accordance with the programme of work adopted by the COP 18 (December 2013, Istanbul), a meeting of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Focal Points was held in Athens from 19 to 21 May 2015. The main objective of the Meeting was to review the draft strategic framework of the Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 and provide guidance and recommendations for its transmission to the second Meeting of the MAP Focal Points of the 2014-2015 biennium scheduled for 13-16 October 2015.

4. The Compliance Committee held its 10th Meeting in Athens, Greece on 21-22 May 2015, and adopted four draft Recommendations to be submitted for consideration and adoption by the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 19).

5. The Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) met once in person and once by teleconference during the reporting period. Additionally, a brainstorming session was held during the MSSD Review Conference in Malta (February 2015) and three-day workshop on Mid-Term Strategy and Programme of Work development is planned for the last week of June 2015 to work on Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 and Programme of Work (PoW) 2016-2017. The work of the three ECP Task Forces (on Administration, Information and Communication, and Greening the MAP work) has continued.

6. The MSSD Review Core Group continued its work and prepared the draft MSSD for the Conference on the Review of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) (17-18 February 2015, Malta). The Conference reviewed the draft Strategy document and provided guidance on its finalization before it was submitted for the provision of recommendations by the 16th Meeting of the MCSD.

7. The16th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development was held in Marrakesh, Morocco on 9-11 June 2015. The main result of the meeting was the endorsement of the draft revised Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (2016-2025). The MCSD also agreed on some measures for its own reform, as well as a proposal for a simplified peer review process on sustainable development in the Mediterranean countries.

8. A working group meeting on determination of selection criteria for the Environment Friendly Cities Award was hosted by the Government of Turkey in Ankara (Turkey) on 25-26 May 2015, with the participation of international experts, representatives of UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit, PAP/RAC and Plan Bleu, as well as academicians from Gazi University (Ankara) and representatives of the Turkish Ministries of Environment and Urbanization, Culture and Tourism, and Forestry and Water Works.

9. The MedPartnership project which is in its fifth year of implementation, reached an overall 85% of expenditure and deliverables of the activities. The ClimVar & ICZM project is in its second year of implementation and reached an overall 60% of expenditure and deliverables. An indicator to assess the progresses of the two projects towards the achievement of the objectives is the Project Implementation Report (PIR), which is compiled for the project every year. The last PIR,

covering the period July 2013 – June 2014, rated highly satisfactory or satisfactory 42 indicators (out of 54) for the MedPartnership and a satisfactory 8 indicators out of 13 for the ClimVar & ICZM. Moreover, the UNEP/MAP Programme Management Unit (PMU) is implementing a quarterly activities and expenditure report, to timely detect problems and bottlenecks in the projects implementation. At the date of the last quarterly report (end of March 2015), all the activities under the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM are well on track with well-defined work plans and budgets which will allow the achievement of the projects' objectives.

10. Progress has been made in all fields of implementation of EcAp, meeting the deadlines foreseen in the EcAp Decision and in the EcAp-MED project, following also on additional mandates given by the EcAp Coordination Group of October 2014 and of the Integrated Correspondence Group on Monitoring of March 2015, with the following achievements: (i) drafting of the Main Elements of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme; (ii) launching and ongoing work of the EcAp pilot testing on the candidate common indicator on land-use change; (iii) starting to develop a specific Guidance on how to address hydrography in Environmental Impact Assessments, in line with EcAp (iv) further consultation meetings undertaken between neighboring countries on SPAMIs; (v) drafting marine litter guidelines and best practices kit; (vi) exchanging of letter of intents towards a Joint Strategy among the Secretariats of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Sea (ACCOBAMS), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and UNEP/MAP, in cooperation with Network of managers of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), in areas of common interest; (vii) mainstreaming EcAp to the overall work of UNEP/MAP and more specifically to the Mid-term Strategy; and (vii) the implementation of the established governance structure of EcAp.

11. The draft Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan in the framework of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (Offshore Protocol), as agreed upon by the 3rd meeting of the Offshore Protocol Working Group (Attard, Malta, 17-18 June 2014) and the compiled comments received from the European Union, the Syrian Arab Republic and Noble Energy Inc., were submitted to the Joint REMPEC/MED POL session to be held on 17 June 2015, with a view to reviewing the draft to be submitted to the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points scheduled in October 2015, prior to its adoption by COP 19.

12. The implementation of the EU-funded Mediterranean Decision Support System for Marine Safety (MEDESS-4MS) Project was completed on 31 March 2015. During the period under review, REMPEC developed the "Mediterranean Integrated Geographical Information System on Marine Pollution Risk Assessment and Response" (MEDGIS-MAR). The EU-funded Project for Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline clean-up and Oiled Wildlife interventions (POSOW 2) was initiated in February 2015.

13. The International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP)-funded activity for the provision of technical assistance for the establishment of a National Hazardous Noxious Substances (HNS) Response System in Egypt will be completed in June 2015.

14. Twelve Contracting Parties nominated their representatives to participate in the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS). The MENELAS' information system is under development.

15. The consultation process for the elaboration of the SCP Action Plan and its Roadmap is on track. In particular, an online consultation with SCP/RAC and MAP National Focal Points (NFPs) was implemented. Resulting from it, the third version of the SCP Action Plan has been developed, along with the first draft of the Roadmap. The Action Plan was presented at the SCP/RAC Focal Points Meeting on 1-3 June 2015 in Madrid and endorsed. This document was also reviewed and welcome by the MCSD at its 16th Meeting in Marrakesh, Morocco, in June 2015.

16. The contents of the "Guidelines for the Environmental Sound Management (ESM) of Used Lubricant Oil" and the "Guidelines on Pollution Prevention and Control Opportunities in the Tanning Industry" have been developed; the electronic toolkit on ESM of industrial chemicals under the Rotterdam Convention was reviewed and a technical meeting with experts to peer review the revised toolkit was organized; a Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) Awareness Workshop has been implemented jointly with MED POL under the MedPartnership project.

17. Scoping missions to Lebanon, Jordan, Israel and Palestine were conducted to identify strategic local partners for the Green Entrepreneurs and Civil society organisations Programme; strategic local partners of Algeria, Morocco and Tunis selected for the Training Programme for Green Entrepreneurs; training materials of the Training Programme for Green Entrepreneurs designed; the 1st version of the 'The Switchers' web platform has been launched; the Mediterranean SCP Hub web platform is constantly updated and newsletter distributed; 'SwitchMed Connect', the first networking event planned for 29-30 October 2015 with more than 15 sessions is in planning; 3 factsheets on activities on capacity building of industrial service providers, green entrepreneurs, and regional and national policy plans were designed and printed; side events with strategic partners were organized and the experts for scaling up studies are being recruited.

III. OUTPUT PERFORMANCE

3.1 Governance (Theme I)

Output 1.1. - Strengthening Institutional Coherence, Efficiency and Accountability

a) Meetings of Policy Making Bodies

Meeting of the MAP Focal Points

18. In accordance with the programme of work adopted by the COP 18 (December 2013, Istanbul), a meeting of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Focal Points was held in Athens from 19 to 21 May 2015.

19. The main objective of the meeting was to review the draft strategic framework of the Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021, which was prepared by the UNEP/MAP Secretariat and MAP Components based on a wide consultation process, and provide guidance and recommendations for its transmission to the second Meeting of the MAP Focal Points of the 2014-2015 biennium tentatively scheduled for 13-16 October 2015. The Secretariat also provided information documents on other mandated strategic processes of relevance to the preparation of the Mid-Term Strategy.

20. The MAP Focal Points agreed on an overview of the proposed Mid-Term Strategy for the period 2016–2021, proposed objectives for it, and suggestions to the secretariat by the informal drafting group on a possible structure of strategic outcomes and key outputs.

21. It was agreed that the Secretariat would continue to work on defining the strategic outcomes, key outputs and introductory texts in order to submit a revised draft, incorporating feedback provided by the focal points and taking account of developments in other ongoing strategic processes, for discussion at the focal points' next meeting, in October 2015.

Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

22. The Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) met once in person and once by teleconference during the reporting period. Additionally, there was one brainstorming session was held during the MSSD Review Conference in Malta (February 2015) and three-day workshop on Mid-Term

Strategy and Programme of Work development is planned for the last week of June 2015. Discussions focused on in-depth substantive work on the Midterm Strategy Development Process. These in-person meetings continued enhancing ownership and joint working culture of the MAP system, providing an efficient participatory platform for an integrated effort on PoW delivery and midterm strategy development. The work of the three ECP Task Forces (on Administration, Information and Communication, and Greening the MAP work) has continued.

Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development

23. The 16th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development was held in Marrakesh, Morocco on 9-11 June 2015.

24. The main result of the meeting was the endorsement of the draft revised Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (2016-2025). In their recommendations, the MCSD members and observers welcomed with appreciation the document, endorsed the proposed structure and content, and praised the work done for its preparation. In particular, they commended the process for its inclusiveness and the quality of the document for its novelty, ambition and completeness. The discussions led to some adjustments of the text to be reflected in the final draft document, before it is officially submitted for endorsement at MAP Focal Points Meeting in October 2015 and adoption at the Barcelona Convention COP 19 in February 2016.

25. The MCSD also agreed on some measures for its own reform, which was prepared by the MCSD Steering Committee with the support of the Secretariat, in terms of mandate, modalities of work, composition, visibility and expected support. The MCSD members agreed on a proposal for a simplified peer review process on sustainable development in the Mediterranean countries.

26. The MCSD, in accordance with the mandate given by COP 18, reviewed two other strategic documents that are under preparation at UNEP/MAP:

- It acknowledged with appreciation the high quality and the relevance of the draft Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework (RCCAF) and recognized its importance and the need for such an instrument. The Commission emphasized the timeliness and significance of the Framework for the region. The MCSD members recommended submitting the Framework to COP 19 for its approval.

- It welcomed the proposed SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean, highlighting its importance for the region and for the transition towards a green economy in the Mediterranean, and supported its submission to MAP Focal Points and COP 19 for approval.

27. An overview of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and SDGs, and six good practices of sustainable development implementation in the Mediterranean were presented at the meeting and contributed to valuable substantive discussion.

Meetings of Components' Focal Points

28. The 11th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC will be held in Malta from 15 to 17 June 2015. The principal objectives of the meeting will be to examine the implementation of the programme of work of REMPEC since the 10th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC; and to discuss and approve the Revised Draft Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) as well as the proposed programme of work of REMPEC for the biennium 2016-2017, prior to their submission to the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points and to the COP 19 for adoption. The Meeting will have a joint session with the Meeting of MED POL Focal Points on 17 June 2015 with a view to reviewing the draft Offshore Protocol Action Plan as well as the main elements of a draft Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme with regard to the Ecological Objectives (EOs) of the pollution and litter cluster (EO 5 – Eutrophication, EO 9 – Contaminants, and EO 10 – Marine Litter) in the framework of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp).

29. The meeting of the PAP NFPs was held in Split on 14 May 2015 back-to-back with the Final Conference on the ICZM Component of MedPartnership (12-13 May 2015). Sheets with lessons learned from the MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM projects were shared with the participants.

30. The MED POL FP meeting will be organized in Malta on 16-19 June 2015., to review the following documents:

- NAP update guidelines;
- Guideline on hot spot and sensitive areas assessment;
- Guideline on national pollutant load budget (NBB) estimation;
- Indicators to assess implementation of the LBS, Dumping, HW protocols as well as Regional Plans and the NAPs; and
- Guidance on cost-effectiveness and cost–benefit analyses of measures.

31. On 1-3 June 2015, SCP/RAC held its 10th Ordinary National Focal Points Meeting in Madrid (Spain). The meeting came out with the recommendation of national representatives to submit the 3rd draft of the SCP Action Plan to the next meeting of UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) Focal Points and with comments and suggestions to the 1st draft of the Roadmap for the implementation of the SCP Action Plan. Likewise, the NFP express their acknowledgement to the valuable work and results achieved by SCP/RAC in the development of its activities under the MAP PoW 2014-2015 and congratulated the center for its efforts to raise further funds both to strengthen actions according to countries priorities and to extend actions relevant to the next MAP PoW to countries for which no funding was included in the current PoW.

32. SPA RAC

Environment Friendly Cities Award

33. A working group meeting on determination of selection criteria for the Environment Friendly Cities Award was hosted by the Government of Turkey in Ankara (Turkey) on 25-26 May 2015, with the participation of international experts, representatives of UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit, PAP/RAC and Plan Bleu, as well as academicians from Gazi University (Ankara) and representatives of the Turkish Ministries of Environment and Urbanization, Culture and Tourism, and Forestry and Water Works. The outcomes of the working group are explained below as proposals for endorsement by the Bureau.

34. The proposed definition for the Environment Friendly City under Barcelona Convention is: "A coastal city in harmony with the sea, utilizing its resources efficiently, equitably and sustainably, reducing its impact on climate change, and managing the environment for the benefit of current and future generations".

35. The owner of the application should be a local authority of a town or city, which has a coast on the Mediterranean Sea, whose borders are as described in the Barcelona Convention. There is no size or population reference, i.e. both small towns or metropolitan cities are eligible to apply. It is encouraged to develop partnership with NGOs, scientific community, private sector or other stakeholders;

36. The evaluation will be undertaken through criteria to be defined under four proposed categories: (i) Nature and Biodiversity Protection (including, but not limited to, climate change related efforts, Ecosystem protection and Wise/efficient/sustainable-use of resources); (ii) Built environment (including, but not limited to, infrastructure resilience ,sustainable land-use, local transport, Pollution and waste management, Water management, Energy efficiency, Green settlements, building materials and technological systems); (iii) Social, Economic and Cultural Sustainability (including, but not limited to, Integration and solidarity, Local cultural values and traditions, and Promoting Green Economy); and, (iv) Policy and Governance (including, but not

limited to, availability of sustainability policies, environmental planning and management, institutional setup, implementation and monitoring, communications and outreach, international cooperation and networks).

37. The selection is proposed to be carried out in three steps, with the involvement of three bodies:

    1. Secretariat: UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit
    2. Technical Committee: Task Force composed of relevant RACs + MED POL (Technical Secretariat by Governance Officer), supported by 3 independent experts
    3. Jury: The Bureau members and the President of MCSD Steering Committee

38. The decision is proposed to be taken by consensus. Depending on the different character of the applications, one to three cities may receive the award every biennium. The Award will be conferred in each COP meeting by the President of the Bureau.

39. Terms of Reference of the technical committee and the state of the play of the process will be drafted by the UNEP/MAP Secretariat, with the kind support by the Government of Turkey through the provision of experts.

40. A communication strategy will be developed for the promotion of the award, candidate and award-winning cities. It will be proposed to the Contracting Parties to allocate sufficient budget for the award selection and conferring process in each COP, in addition to the matching-fund raising efforts.

41. A full package of terms of references, including draft application forms and supporting documentation will be prepared by the experts provided by the Government of Turkey, and will be part of the Governance decision for submission to the MAP Focal Points and adoption by COP 19.

b) Partnerships and Resource Mobilization

42. The project proposal "A Blue Economy for the Mediterranean" developed by SCP/RAC together with Plan Bleu and PAP/RAC has been accepted by MAVA Foundation. It will be funded by MAVA with 112.000€. An exhibition on eco and social innovation cases to support the implementation of the blue economy will be organised within the project.

43. The development of a Green Impact Investment network supporting financial access to Green entrepreneurs has been approved. It as an extension of the Switch-MED Programme and it is funded with 300.000€ by the European Union.

44. Fundraising efforts have been carried out to scale-up implementation of the 2014-2015 Programme of Work.

- A new project Plastic Buster prepared by the Siena University in the framework of MED Solutions Initiative with MED POL collaboration and inputs has been submitted to UfM Secretariat for labelling and potential funding.
- A project proposal of 200.000 USD submitted to GPA to support Marine Litter Regional Plan (MLRP) implementation.
- Funding of 25.000€ provided by Israel to support NAP update process.
- Preparation is ongoing to start SEIS Phase II project.

45. The collaboration with several projects funded by the EU addressing pollution and marine litter was strengthened during this period, such as with the project on Coordination and Alignment Meeting (CAM) for the technical support of the MSFD implementation, Project on the Removal of Marine Litter from Europe's four regional seas (MARELITT); Project on Marine Litter in European Seas - Social Awareness and Co-Responsibility (Marlisco), Project on Policy-oriented

Marine Environmental Research in the Southern European Seas (Perseus), Project IRIS SES (Integrated Regional Monitoring Implementation Strategy in the South European Seas), Derelict Fishing Gear Project in the Adriatic Sea (DeFishGear).

46. The MED POL programme initiated the collaboration with the Quality Assurance of Information in Marine Environment Monitoring in Europe (QUASIMEME) and University of Alessandria, Italy regarding quality assurance of monitoring of eutrophication and pollution biological effect. The longstanding collaboration with AEIA is ongoing to support quality assurance related to monitoring of contaminants in sediments and biota.

47. At global level, collaboration was strengthened with UNEP/Global Programme of Action (GPA) on marine litter and waste water management, with the Basel Convention Secretariat to carry out a joint training activity to combat illegal traffic of hazardous waste including PCBs in the Mediterranean. With Stockholm Convention Secretariat and UNEP/Chemicals as well as London Dumping Protocol discussions are ongoing in identifying common priority activities.

48. A bilateral meeting between UNEP/MAP and OSPAR Convention Secretariats was initiated under the leadership of France and Spain to be held in September 2015.

49. Cooperation has been strengthened with other Regional Sea Conventions, including OSPAR, HELCOM and Black Sea Commission, with specific coordination meetings and exchanges on common challenges related to the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, in harmony with the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), ensuring no double obligation is created for those Contracting Parties, who are also EU Member States. In addition, best practices have been exchanged, both in relation to the implementation of EcAp (with a focus on monitoring and assessment) and in relation to marine litter. On the latter, the Mediterranean region is recognized as a pioneer and UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat has been asked to share experience in various occasions and a joint meeting on this is foreseen with OSPAR.

50. In addition, cooperation has been also strengthened with other regional players, including GFCM, ACCOBAMS, IUCN and MedPAN. A Joint Strategy is currently being developed in between UNEP/MAP, GFCM, ACCOBAMS, IUCN, in cooperation with MedPAN to address areas of common interest and contribute to a more coordinated regional management of marine resources in the Mediterranean region with the aim to develop the strategy and sign it by end of 2016.

51. The Second UfM Climate Change Expert Group meeting (CCEG) held in Skirat the 12 and 13 May 2015 and attended by the MAP MedPartnership, and ClimVar and ICZM Projects Manager. During the meeting focuse was made on the background, objectives, scope and structure of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework (RCCAF). The CCEG welcomed the goals defined by the RCCAF, and its strategic objectives. Moreover UfM recognized that the RCCAF provides a solid basis for the identification and definition of robust adaptation action in the Mediterranean. UNEP/MAP, under the guidance of the Parties of the Barcelona Convention, will lead the discussion on how the priorities defined within the Framework might be translated into actions to implement adaptation to climate change in the Marine and Coastal Areas. UfM in collaboration with UNEP/MAP and with other relevant stakeholders will lead on the coordination of initiatives and projects to support and complement the Framework.

52. Following the high-level meeting between the EEA and UNEP/MAP which took place in November 2014, the collaboration with the European Environmental Agency (EEA) is ongoing. Both institutions have worked together to develop a new project on SEIS for a period of 4 years under the H2020 and co organize two meetings of the H2020 Sub group on Review and Monitoring respectively in November 2014 and June 2015 back to back with MED POL FP meeting. In addition preliminary consultations have been made to revisit the joint work programme MAP EEA that was signed in in 2005 with the view to better harmonize and integrate the respective activities was agreed upon. The process was agreed and it is expected to have a revised draft for further discussion by end of June 2015.

53. The Secretariat has initiated a cooperation process with the Mediterranean Programme for International Environmental Law and Negotiation (MEPIELAN/Panteion University) with the

aim to develop an International Partnership Programme of Graduate Studies in the Mediterranean Environmental Governance and Sustainable Development leading to a Master's Degree, with the overall objective to enhance human resources in the field of environmental governance in the Mediterranean.

c) MedPartnership

54. The main progress of the project's components during this period is summarized below:

Component 1. Integrated approaches for the implementation of the SAPs and NAPs: ICZM, IWRM and management of coastal aquifers:

Regional action plan on coastal aquifers progressing, with inputs from several participatory processes conducted in the first quarter of 2015. National consultations on the current state of coastal aquifers organized by the MedPartnership country focal points. The technical capacity of institutions in the region was increased during this period through the organization of a week-long training workshop that addressed the topics of aquifer vulnerability mapping and remote sensing applications to groundwater management. Knowledge about the link between groundwater and coastal ecosystems was further enhanced by the completion of a regional assessment of groundwater-related ecosystems and the establishment of a map of 26 representative groundwater-related coastal ecosystems in the Mediterranean, and efforts are underway to incorporate these elements in the online information system on coastal aquifers. ICZM Strategy for Montenegro completed and proposed for adoption in Parliament. Second run of consultation for the National ICZM Strategy in Algeria finalized through 3 regional meetings. ESA study for Croatia presented to the IMC in December and placed on the web site of the Ministry of Environmental Protection for comments. DIVA study for Croatia and Local Vulnerability Assessment for Šibenik-Knin County drafted. Guidelines for Adapting to CVC along the Mediterranean coast finalized, edited, translated into French. Guidelines for preparation of National ICZM Strategies finalized, edited, translated into French. Study of banking and insurance sector practices to address CVC drafted, translated into French. Integrated Methodological Framework (IMF), integrating ICZM, IWRM and costal aquifers management finalized, edited, translated into French.

Component 2. Pollution of land based activities, including persistent organic pollutants: implementation of SAP-MED and related NAPs:

Algerian authorities trained to design the Lube Oil data base with the support of an international consultant from SEIS project, the report on this activity has been finalized. Egypt has finalized the draft report on River Nile nutrients input along the Mediterranean Coastal Water of Egypt. The ELV/EQS tool was validated and it will be hosted soon in the UNEP/MAP website and can be accessed on line by the contracting parties and the public. Egypt submitted two draft reports to strengthen the cooperation of the inspection and monitoring of water bodies and on the National Environmental Inspectorate & Marine monitoring workshop. Guidelines for legislative/institutional framework for implementation of ESM of PCBs were reviewed in a regional workshop held on 8-10 April 2015 in Istanbul. PCB disposal work plans submitted to manage 122.93 tons and 226.78 tons in Egypt, 544 tons in Turkey. Additional quantity of 103.85 tons identified during the audit in Egypt and 94.2 tons in Turkey.

Component 3. Conservation of biological diversity: implementation of SAP BIO and related National Action Plans (NAPs):

The Management Plan of the Porto Palermo (Albania), future MPA finalized and presented was presented to stakeholders and translated into English. The draft study on socio-economic and fisheries activities and identification of local stakeholder participation mechanism in the Réghaia (Algeria), future MPA was reviewed and endorsed by the Algerian Ministry of Environment. The final outputs and reports of the pilot project in Croatia were delivered at the end of 2014.

Preliminary approval from the Egyptian Focal Point concerning the Sallum Bay MPA activity received and technical meeting held in January 2015 in Cairo. Both the draft Law on Protected Areas and National Strategy for MPA establishment in Libya finilized and waiting feedback from the Libyan Government. The Toolkit on Stakeholders Participation in Marine and Coastal Protected Areas finalized. The report on "Legal and institutional framework assessment for the conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity and the establishment of MPAs in Montenegro" finalized, while the report on marine biodiversity status of Boka Kotorska was endorsed by the Montenegrin environmental authorities. Training workshop on the development of the Sustainable Tourism Plan for MPAs was organized at Ustica MPA, in Italy. Participants from the 6 project countries included practitioners and officials of MPA relevant agencies together with trainers and invited speakers. Work and data collection is being finalized regarding the study of financial needs of Mediterranean MPAs. The final draft will be ready by June 2015.

Component 4. Project Co-ordination, NGO Involvement, Replication and Communication Strategies, Management and M&E

Regional meeting on NAP update was held in Athens on 11 - 13 May 2015 to provide support to national NAP update teams (coordinators, consultants) with implementation of the NAP update Guidelines developed during 2014 and endorsed by the MED POL Focal Points. The meeting enabled exchange of experiences with comparative projects and policy frameworks and included a set of practical sessions to strengthen capacities to implement various steps in the NAP update – from the initial assessment to the selection of final programmes of measures. Economic analysis in the NAP update was an important topic of the meeting whereas guidance on costing the implementation of the four Regional Plans (on BOD from urban wastewater and from food industries, on mercury and on marine litter) was presented, and practical sessions were held on cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit analysis. During the reporting period, one regional and four national consultants have been contracted and/or selected in the framework of the MedPartnership project. Besides the regional meeting on NAP update, national workshops and/or consultative meetings were held in four countries. Dates of national workshops/meetings on NAP update in other countries are under definition with the goal to have all the meetings finalized by September 2015 in line with the rest of the MedPartnership project. Project Coordination Group meeting with the 10 co-executing partners and UNEP/DEPI held in Athens on 26 - 27 March 2015. During the meeting decision was made for the final Project Steering Committee that will be held in Athens on 28 September - 1 October 2015, as well as for the finalization of the MedPartnership and ClimVar projects.

55. The "ClimVar & ICZM" project**,** being a complementary initiative of MedPartnership, supports a coordinated Mediterranean wide approach to assessing and adapting to climate change variability. The main outputs of the project components are the following:

Component 1. Data and information gathering on climate variability.

The draft report on a core set of indicators for climate change in the Mediterranean coastal areas has been finalized and shared for comments with the experts who had participated in the relevant workshop in November 2014. Based on the feedback received, the final report is expected to be ready by June 2015. In order to address additional issues and functionalities under the MedICIP platform, new features has been added and a full operative platform will be ready by June 2015.

Component 2. Analysis and climate variability impacts to the marine and coastal zone.

The draft of the major report "Application of a Multi-Scale Coastal Risk Index at Regional and Local Scale in the Mediterranean" was prepared and shared among the project's national Focal Points. The demonstration project in Croatia, the updating of the results of the DIVA assessment has been completed, a participatory "Climagine" workshop was held, an assessment of local vulnerability is being drafted and an interministerial meeting is being organized. Regarding the demonstration project in Tunisia, a participatory "Climagine" workshop was held and a study on

socio-economic impacts of climate change on the Tunisian coastal zones is in progress and the DIVA assessment is under revision.

Component 3. Capacity building and integration of climate variability into ICZM planning and policy reforms

The guidelines for climate-proofing national ICZM strategies and plans are being finalized and translated to French. The on-line training module under MedOpen for Climate Change and ICZM has been prepared and advertised. The coastal plan for the Croatian pilot area is under development, and discussions with authorities and experts are in progress. The National ICZM strategies in Montenegro and in Algeria with the climate dimensions integrated, have been completed. The interministerial meeting in Croatia to present the risks that climate change poses on the coast is being prepared. The assessment of the banking and insurance sector relative to climate change is under finalization. The report for the Coast Day 2014 activities has been prepared and promotional material has been disseminated. The 2nd Meeting of the Advisory Panel to the Regional Adaptation Framework was held and following its inputs a second draft of the Framework was prepared and circulated for comments to National MAP FP, RACs FP and MAP partners.

Output 1.2 -	Implementation gap filled: Contracting Parties supported in meeting the objectives of Barcelona Convention, protocols and adopted strategies

a) Legal progress/compliance and reporting

56. The amended Convention is still pending ratification of two countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Lebanon) while most of its legal instruments have entered into force. Contacts are on-going with those two countries to achieve the universal ratification of Barcelona Convention by the end of 2015. Spain as Depository of the Barcelona Convention notified the Secretariat that the Amendments of the Annexes II and III to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean have entered into force on 16 April 2015. (Annex 1)

57. Regarding the number of Contracting Parties having reported on measures taken to implement the Barcelona Convention and its protocols, the Secretariat received as at 22 May 2015 reports of 11 Contracting Parties (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, European Union, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Montenegro, Morocco, and Turkey) pursuant to Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention on measures taken to implement the Convention and its Protocols for the 2012-2013 Biennium.

58. The Compliance Committee held its 10th Meeting in Athens, Greece on 21-22 May 2015. The Committee provided for an informal hearings session with the Representative of Slovenia to allow him to present which initiatives Slovenia intends to take to implement the Decision IG. 21/1 and, in particular, to comply with the reporting obligation. The agenda of the meeting was also dedicated to a new evaluation of criteria for the evaluation of reports submitted by the Secretariat to identify current or potential situations of noncompliance as well as to the implementation of the reform of the initiative power granted to the Compliance Committee according to Article 23 bis of Decision IG. 17.2.

59. The Compliance Committee adopted four draft Recommendations to be submitted for consideration and adoption by the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties. These Recommendations which will be attached at the Activities Report of the Compliance Committee for the Biennium 2012-2013 referred to the following issues:

- Follow-up on the implementation of Decision IG. 21/1 on the Compliance Committee;
- Compliance with the Reporting obligation stipulated in Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention;
- Reporting frequency as set in Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention;
- Functioning of the Compliance Committee.

60. The Committee decided to:

- Request the Secretariat to continue and check the assessments with the involvement of concerned MAP Components, asking the Contracting Parties for more information as need be, and prepare a synthesis note on the received reports of 2012-2013 biennium underlining actual or potential situation of non-compliance to be considered by the Compliance Committee;
- Request the Secretariat to remind all the Contracting Parties the possibility of requesting financial support to facilitate the obligation to submit their reports;
- Based on the previous discussion and decisions, examine the modalities of the implementation of its initiative power that was granted to it by Decision IG.21/1;
- Draft a note regarding the determination of the criteria for admissibility of relevant information to be prepared for its consideration during the 11th Meeting of the Compliance Committee;
- Request that a harmonization will be provided between the working document CC.10/4 on Guidelines for evaluation of potential or current situations of noncompliance and the table of indicators. The Compliance Committee asked the Secretariat foe sending this consolidated document to the MAP Components for consideration;
- Ask that the archives be collected at the Secretariat Office and made available to its members;
- Request the Secretariat to make the point on the modalities of accessibility of its members on the unepmap.org website to the Reports submitted on line by Contracting Parties.

61. Draft format for the operational part of reporting on the ICZM Protocol was presented and discussed at the PAP NFPs meeting in Split, on 14 May 2015.

b) Implementation of Ecosystem Approach (EcAp)

62. The main progress in implementation of EcAp during this period is summarized below:

Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme/Main elements of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme

Building on the work of the monitoring expert group meetings of the earlier semester (CORMON meetings, held between May-June 2014) and on the EcAp Coordination Group Meeting of October 2014, the Secretariat has prepared together with the informal online working groups, and presented at the Integrated Correspondence Group Meeting on Monitoring (30 March-1 April) the Main elements of an Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme. Currently, work is ongoing in the informal online working groups and in the various Focal Points Meetings (PAP/RAC Focal Points Meeting in April, SPA/RAC Focal Points Meeting in May, MED POL-REMPEC Focal Points Meeting in June) on further specifying and refining the monitoring and assessment requirements of the future programme.

The draft Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme is foreseen to be presented in September 2015, at the EcAp Coordination Group.

EcAp pilot project

The Terms of Reference of the EcAp pilot project were agreed in December 2014-January 2015 and the pilot implementation started in January.

Building on the recommendations of the EcAp Coordination Group (September 2014) and on the Correspondence Group on Monitoring Coast and Hydrography outcomes (May 2014), which put the land use change indicator on the list of candidate common indicator, the EcAp pilot project is testing this candidate common indicator on the sub-regional level (Adriatic).

The initial outcomes of the pilot were discussed during the PAP/RAC Focal Points Meeting (May 2014), where the Contracting Parties welcomed the work undertaken and asked for further specifications, in order to enable them to decide during the upcoming EcAp Coordination Group Meeting (September 2015), to decide on the inclusion or exclusion of this candidate common indicator into the Initial Phase of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme.

Guidance on how to address hydrography in Environmental Impact Assessments

The Integrated Correspondence Group Meeting on Monitoring (30 March-1April) mandated the Secretariat to develop a Guidance Document on how to include impacts assessment due to change in hydrographical regime in Environmental Impact Assessments and other relevant assessments, noting local specifics but the need of a common regional basis (Pilot EIA Hydrography Guide).

Work is ongoing on this Pilot EIA Hydrography Guide, which will be presented to the EcAp Coordination Group in September 2015.

SPAMIs

Work has continued supporting establishment of a joint network of SPAMIs in the open seas, including the deep seas, by initiating national and sub-regional consultation processes in countries showing interest.

The ongoing work on the creation of SPAMIs in the open seas, including the deep seas, has made progress through the implementation of two additional consultation meetings for the neighbouring countries of the two priority areas Sicily channel and the Adriatic open seas in April 2015.

During the SPA/RAC Focal Points Meeting in May 2015, follow-up ideas were discussed on SPAMIs on the initiation of interested Contracting Parties.

Draft Marine Litter Guidelines and Best Practices Kit

The draft Assessment of lost Fishing Gears has been developed by May 2015, for inclusion and information the updated marine litter baseline assessment report.

The draft Baseline Marine Litter Assessment report has been also developed and will be presented at the MED POL FPs Meeting in June 2015.

Exchange of letter of intent towards a Joint Strategy in between GFCM, ACCOBAMS, IUCN and UNEP/MAP

Work is ongoing on developing a Joint Strategy among UNEP/MAP, GFCM, ACCOBAMS and IUCN, in cooperation with MedPan, in areas of common interest.

The aim of this future Joint Strategy is to address the common challenges and goals and ensure the sustainable ocean governance of the Mediterranean Sea, noting the different mandates, but close interlinkages between the work of GFCM, ACCOBAMS, IUCN and UNEP/MAP.

The development of the Joint Strategy will be guided by relevant decisions of GFCM, ACCOBAMS, IUCN and UNEP/MAP governance bodies, as well as by ongoing regional and international policy discussions and needs of cooperation, such as, marine and coastal biodiversity conservation, sustainable marine resources management, regional marine spatial planning needs, international discussions on ocean governance and on the sustainable development goals.

The Joint Strategy should be agreed upon by the end of 2016.

Mainstreaming EcAp to the overall work of UNEP/MAP and more specifically to the Mid-term Strategy

The mainstreaming of EcAp to the overall work of UNEP/MAP is a continuous work, with the most recent milestone that at the MAP Focal Points Meeting in May 2015, the Contracting Parties agreed to use the EcAp ecological objectives as overall objectives for the next Mid-term Strategy.

EcAp Governance

Between December 2014 and May 2015, the Integrated Correspondence Group on Monitoring took place and discussed first in break-out sessions (biodiversity and NIS, pollution and litter, coast and hydrography), latter in an integrated manner key outstanding issues of monitoring and assessment specifics in relation to the Main elements of the draft Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme.

At COP18, Italy volunteered to host an EcAp related meeting and the provisional date and time has been set for this upcoming EcAp Coordination Group Meeting (14-15 September 2015, tbc, Rome, Italy).

In addition, to ensure overall coordination between the UNEP/MAP components, informal EcAp Task Force were held on bi-montly basis.

Following the decision of the EcAp Coordination Group, MED POL initiated the establishment in December 2014 and supported the work of three online groups, namely on Eutrophication, Contaminants and Litter. Three virtual expert groups were established with clear terms of reference and workplan with more than 10 experts nominated by the contracting parties. The groups have delivered three background reports and a number of recommendations on assessment criteria and environmental targets as well as relevant Background Reports. The online groups have prepared proposals for thresholds for nutrients and Environmental Assessment Criteria (EAC) for a number of contaminants as well as baselines for marine litter related indicators.

c) Development of new and revision of existing Regional Strategies and Action Plans

63. The draft Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan in the framework of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (Offshore Protocol), as agreed upon by the 3rd meeting of the Offshore Protocol Working Group (Attard, Malta, 17-18 June 2014) was submitted to the 4th Meeting of the EcAp Coordination Group (Athens, Greece, 9-10 October 2014), which provided a set of recommendations. Subsequently, the Offshore and MAP Focal Points were requested to forward their comments to REMPEC by the end of November 2014. The above-mentioned draft and the compiled comments received from the European Union, the Syrian Arab Republic and Noble Energy Inc., were submitted to the Joint REMPEC/MED POL session to be held on 17 June 2015, with a view to reviewing the draft to be submitted to the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points scheduled in October 2015, prior to its adoption by COP 19.

64. Within the development process of the Mediterranean SCP Action Plan and its implementation Roadmap the following activities were undertaken:

- The 3rd draft of the SCP Action Plan was elaborated taking into consideration the written inputs and feedback from SCP/RAC and MAP Focal Points stemming from the online consultation conducted from mid- February 2015 through March 2015.The first complete draft of the Roadmap for the implementation of the SCP Action Plan was also elaboratd.

- In the framework of the consultation process on the SCP Action Plan and its Roadmap, SCP/RAC: (i) conducted from mid-February 2015 through early-March 2015 an online consultation to SCP/RAC National Focal Points on the 2nd draft of the SCP Action Plan and on the accompanying template of the Roadmap; (ii) sent the 2nd draft of the SCP Action and the Roadmap to MAP National Focal Points for their comments. Comments were received in March; (iii) organised two face-to-face meetings of the Mediterranean SCP Expert Group (MSEG), on 19 February in Floriana, Malta and 20 March in Barcelona, Spain. The Mediterranean SCP Expert Group (MSEG) has supported the development of the consultation process of the SCP Action Plan and the Roadpmap.
- The 2nd draft of the SCP Action Plan was presented in the Conference on the Review of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), 17-18 February in Malta, to ensure that it was aligned with the objectives of the renewed MSSD.
- The reviewed draft of the SCP Action Plan and a proposal for the roadmap for its implementation were submitted to the final formal review of the SCP/RAC NFPs during their ordinary meeting that took place in June 2015. SCP/RAC NFPs agreed on the structure and contents of the final draft of the SCP Action Plan and recommended its submission for endorsement at MAP Focal Points Meeting in October 2015 and adoption at COP 19 in February 2016.
- The document was also reviewed by the MCSD at its 16th Meeting (Marrakesh, Morocco, 9-11 June 2015), which welcomed the proposed SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean, highlighting its importance for the region and for the transition towards a green and blue economy in the Mediterranean, and supported its submission to MAP Focal Points and COP 19 for approval.

d) Review of Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD)

65. The Core Group consisting of the Maltese MCSD Steering Committee Presidency, Plan Bleu and the UNEP/MAP Secretariat held weekly teleconferences to manage the review process. The process was also supported by the MSSD Task Force, composed of representatives of UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit and Regional Activity Centers, which holds teleconferences on a monthly basis.

66. The Conference on the Review of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) was held on 17 and 18 February 2015 in Malta, hosted by the Government of Malta in close collaboration with UNEP/MAP and Plan Bleu. The aim of the Conference was to review the draft Strategy document and to provide guidance on its finalization before it is submitted for the endorsement of the 16th Meeting of the MCSD and the adoption by COP 19. The participants provided their comments regarding the general approach and structure of the MSSD. Substantive support was provided to parallel working groups by the thematic experts who carried out the preparatory work during the development of the draft of the revised MSSD. The groups reviewed the priority themes and focused their discussions on all levels of analysis (introduction, strategic directions and actions/owners/indicators).

67. The draft MSSD was shared with MAP Focal Points, Components' Focal Points and MAP Partners electronically, and further comments were also gathered.

68. The MAP Secretariat and Plan Bleu, under the supervision of the President of the MCSD Steering Committee, reflected the outcomes of the Malta Conference and the onlline consultation to the draft MSSD. Then, the document was finalized by the 16th Meeting of MCSD, and agreed to be officially submitted for endorsement at MAP Focal Points Meeting in October 2015 and adoption at COP 19 in February 2016. *(Kindly refer to Output 1.1, section "a", Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainabe Development)*

Output 1.3 - Knowledge and information effectively managed and communicated

a) Information Systems

69. MED POL, in collaboration with INFO/RAC, prepared the National Baseline Budget (NBB) infosystem, for which a first demonstration was made at the MED POL FP meeting in December 2014. The system was planned for testing in February-May 2015. During and after the testing National Baseline Budget/Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (NBB/PRTR) data upload was expected by the Contracting Parties.

70. The new NBB on line system will ensure full compatibility with PRTR and enable the Contracting Parties with a strong PRTR system in place to upload their annual pollutant release as a complementary report to NBB reporting thus avoiding duplication of reporting efforts.

b) Communications and Knowledge Management

71. The preparatory activities for the 2015 regional celebration of the Mediterranean Coast Day are progressing between PAP/RAC, French NFP and French national and local authorities, with the contribution of Plan Bleu. The first draft of the programme has been prepared and is being discussed among partners.

72. The following list is not exhaustive, but highlights some of the activities undertaken since the last Bureau Meeting to benefit visibility and outreach.

73. In February, the Coordinator participated in the round table entitled "Mare Magnum" focused on coastal and marine issues as one of 40 thematic groups preparing inputs for the outcome document of EXPO 2015, i.e. the Charter of Milan.

74. The celebrations for the 40th Anniversary kicked off at the Meeting of National Focal Points held in Athens, Greece on 19-21 May 2015 under the auspices of the Alternate Minister of the Environment of Greece and in the presence of Focal Points, Representative of Contracting Parties' Embassies in Athens, and Partners.

75. On 29 May 2015, on the occasion of the EU Maritime Days held in Athens, the Coordinating Unit organized a workshop entitled "Greening the Blue: Fort Years Together for a Sustainable Mediterranean", with panelists from Government, NGOs, and academia. The workshop was very well attended and provided an excellent opportunity to showcase and discuss the past 40 years of experience of the MAP Barcelona Convention, the importance of a legally binding regional framework, enabling on-the ground, local achievements towards the sustainable management of marine and coastal resources, the results of collaboration with stakeholders, and the continuing relevance of the UNEP/MAP system and the Barcelona Convention.

76. On 4 June 2015, the Coordinator participated as panelist in an event on Marine Litter organized at the United Nations Office in Geneva in the context of the 2015 World Environment Day. The event was attended by more than 80 guests including Ambassadors and civil society representatives. In his presentation, the Coordinator called the attention to the importance of marine litter and its impacts in the Mediterranean region and the response that the MAP system has developed with the approval of the first Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter. The presentation was welcome with great interest.

77. The logo and a number of brochures, posters and other visual material has been designed and printed on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary.

3.2 Integrated Coastal Zone Management (Theme II)

Output 2.1 -	Coastal zone management achieves effective balance between development and protection (sustainable development of coastal zone)

78. The ICZM Strategy for Montenegro was finalised and presented at the CAMP Montenegro final conference, together with the results of the CAMP itself and the Coastal Area Spatial Plan that actually makes a unique document with the Strategy (Budva, 18 December 2014).

79. National ICZM Strategy for Algeria and the Réghaïa area coastal plan were presented at the national conference held in Oran, on 23 March 2015, by the Algerian Minister of Physical Planning and Environment to more than a hundred representatives of coastal counties, national institutions and municipalities as well as representatives of several international organizations including UNEP/MAP and its components.

80. The Socio-economic Analysis for the Croatian Marine and Coastal Strategy was finalised after the closure of the public consultation process. Two regional workshops (for 5 coastal counties) were organised to present the initial results of the analytical work on the Strategy and get inputs from local stakeholders. The preparatory activities for the 3rd workshop scheduled for 1stof June for the remaining 2 coastal counties are on-going.

81. Activities within CAMP Italy are on-going as scheduled.

82. The Inception Report is being finalised and preparatory activities for the Inception Workshop of CAMP France are on-going. The Inception Workshop is scheduled for 16-17 June 2015.

83. Visits to all countries having hosted a CAMP project since 2001 have been carried out and the Draft Assessment Report of CAMPs was prepared, translated into French and presented at the PAP NFPs meeting.

84. The Inception Report for the Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) pilot project in Greece was prepared and the Inception Meeting held in Athens, on 30 January 2015. Activities are progressing and the first results of the project were presented at the PAP NFPs meeting.

NOTE: Update on ICZM related MedPartnership activites are provided under Output 1.1. section "c".

3.3 Biodiversity (Theme III)

Output 3.1 -	Ecosystem services provided by the marine and coastal environment identified and valued

85. SPA/RAC organised a Mediterranean training session on the evaluation of marine ecosystems services from 2 to 4 April 2015, in Protoroz, Slovenia. This training was organized in close collaboration with the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation (IRSNC). Participants from 6 Mediterranean countries attended the training session. During the session, two case studies were selected in order to be implemented by the trainees in two selected MPAs after the training, with the support and technical supervision of SPA/RAC.

Output 3.2 -	Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use (strategic vision, new objectives in the post 2010 context, including fisheries, ballast, non-indigenous species), endangered and threatened species

a) Revision and implementaion of Régional Action plans, species list and other biodiversity

86. SPA/RAC prepared un Updated version of the Acion Plan for the conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean, in collaboration with ACCOBAMS.

87. SPA/RAC prepared un Updated version of the Action Plan for the conservation of the Coralligenous and other calcareous bio-concretions in the Mediterranean Sea.

88. SPA/RAC prepared un Updated version of the a Draft Updated Action Plan concerning species introduction and invasive species in the Mediterranean Sea to be in line with EcAp Process and the integrated monitoring and assessment programme.

b) Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

89. Within the implementation of the regional Action Plans for the conservation of threatned species, SPA/RAC supported the following actions:

- The setting-up of a rescue centre for marine turtles in the Tyre Coast Nature Reserve, in Southern Lebanon.
- Making operational again the rescue centre of marine turtles of Monastir, Tunisia.
- The organization of the Second Symposium on Marine and Coastal Birds (Hammamet, Tunisia, 20-22 February 2015), in partnership with the "Association les Amis des Oiseaux" (AAO, BirdLife Partner in Tunisia), MEDMARAVIS and two French organizations: the Tour du Valat Biological Station and Conservatoire du Littoral.
- The organization of the 29th European Cetaceans Society Conference (St. Julian's, Malta, 23-25 March 2015).
- The organization of the 5th Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles (Dalaman, Turkey, 19-24 April 2015), held back to back with the 35th International Sea Turtles Symposium.
- A sudy on "Satellite telemetry applied to fin whales in the Mediterranean Sea" carried out by the Tethys Research Institute around Lampedusa Island (Italy) in March 2015.
- A survey on the bottlenose dolphin population present in the Northern Tunisian coast.
- Data collection on the status of cetaceans populations and their interaction with fisheries in Damietta coast (Egypt).

90. Within the implementation of the regional Action Plans for the conservation of key habitats (marine vegetation, coralligenous assemblages and dark habitats),

- Within the framework of the implementation of the Action Plan for the conservation of marine vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea, and in order to assist the Mediterranean countries to develop their national capabilities in the field of marine vegetation conservation, SPA/RAC will promote the attendance of participants, including students, from the countries concerned by the MedKeyHabitats project (Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Egypt, Libya, Montengro, Morocco and Tunisia) to the 4th Mediterranean Seagrass Workshop (MSW'15, Oristano (Sardinia), Italy, 18-22 May 2015).
- During the biennial period 2014-2015 and prior to the Twelfth Meeting of Focal Points for SPAs, Albania has submitted to the SPA/RAC Secretariat a a proposal for inclusion in the SPAMI List. It is the National Marine Park "Karaburun Sazan". The proposal was prepared through the MedKeyHabitats project support.
- In the framework of the MedKeyHabitats project, a conference will be convened in June 2015 in Tunisia in order to discuss the SPAMI process (representativeness, coherence, management effectiveness, etc.). This conference will be organised in collaboration with ACCOBAMS, GFCM, MedPAN and possibly IUCN-Med.
- Given the situation prevailing in Libya, the mapping activities planned within the MedKeyHabitats project were replaced by a capacity building programme for three Libyan participants from Environment General Authority of Libya (EGA). The training programme includes the three following steps :
    - A training session on mapping of key habitats by satellite imagery and ROV.
    - A training session on the use of GIS for mapping key habitats.
    - An on-job training on the use of side scan sonar during the mapping activity planned for the Cap Negro-Sidi Mechreg area (Northern Tunisia).

91. Concerning the core activity of the MedKeyHabitats project which concerns the mapping of marine key habitats, SPA/RAC launched two calls for tender in order to undertake the mapping activities in Montenegro and Tunisia using the side scan sonar and the initiation of key habitats monitoring. Concerning Algeria and Morocco, rather classical methods (scuba diving, transects, hydroplan, etc.) will be used given the geomorphology of the selected working sites.

92. SPA/SPA/RAC will carry out, in collaboration with OCEANA (lead partner), IUCN Med and the UNEP/MAP Secretariat, a deep-sea conservation project in Lebanon. The project aims to support Lebanon's efforts to implement its MPA strategy and it will contribute to increased information of deep-sea ecosystems, in which areas there is currently lacking data. Supporting partners are GFCM and ACCOBAMS. This proposal is prepared and will be implemented under the dark Habitats Action Plan.

93. During the last symposiums on the marine key habitats held in Portoroz from 27 to 31 October 2014, it became obvious to amend, discuss and propose new facies for integration within the Barcelona Convention's Habitats List. To this end SPA/RAC is proposing to the SPA Focal point meeting a programme of work to direct its action over the coming two-year period towards the following activities:

- Evaluation of national inventories of natural sites of conservation interest;
- Further assistance to countries for the use of the SDF and to strengthen their capacity to map, monitor and assess the marine habitats status within the framework of EcAp;
- Updating of the reference list of marine and coastal natural habitat types;

94. In order to be in line with the EcAp process and in particular the integrated monitoring and assessment programme, SPA/RAC launched a complete design and an overall improvement of the established online database on marine invasive alien species in the Mediterranean Sea (www.mamias.org). This task is being undertaken through external expertise.

Output 3.3 -	Network of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MPAs), including Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), extended, strengthened and effectively managed

a) Technical Assistance, Capacity Building and Outreach

95. A number of communication and information activities aimed at raising awareness of key stakeholders on MPA values and importance were implemented:

- A documentary film about MPAs in the Mediterranean is being produced (February-July 2015). Shooting is scheduled in 4 Mediterranean MPAs: Porto Palermo Bay in Albania, Nuevea Tabarca in Spain and Kuriat Islands and Kerkennah Archipelago in Tunisia. The first screening of the film is planned during the MedMPAnet project Final Workshop (mid-November 2015).
- SPA/RAC participated to the First Arab World MPA Symposium (Hurghada, Egypt, 19-21 January 2015).
- An article entitled "Guidelines to improve the implementation of the Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas network and connectivity between Specially Protected Areas" was published in the December 2014 CIHEAM Watch Letter n° 31.
- The fourth issue (March 2015) of the MedMPAnet e-newsletter was compiled and disseminated.

b) Assessments / Analyses

96. During COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the Contracting Parties requested the UNEP/MAP Secretariat to prepare with all relevant MAP components and in close cooperation with Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders a draft Roadmap for a comprehensive coherent network of well managed MPAs to achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean for consideration by COP 19 with a view to its adoption (Decision IG.21/5). As a follow-up of this mandate, SPA/RAC submitted for its Twelfth Meeting of Focal Points for SPAs (Athens, Greece, 25-29 May 2015):

- An assessment of the progress made so far in implementing the "Regional Working Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea including the High Sea", adopted by COP 16 (Marrakech, Morocco, November 2009); and
- A "Draft Roadmap for a comprehensive coherent network of well managed MPAs to achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean".

97. In preparation to the Focal Points meeting, the first draft of the Roadmap was discussed, reviewed and finalized during an Ad hoc meeting held in Tunis, Tunisia, on 27-28 April 2015, with the participation of a number of Mediterranean experts and regional partner organizations: ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN-Med, MedPAN, and WWF-MedPO.

98. SPA/RAC, MedPAN and WWF-MedPO elaborated a regional study/gap analysis of financial needs of Mediterranean MPAs. The study was finalized late May 2015.

99. In the framework of the 2014-2015 biennium SPAMI Ordinary Periodic Review (Decision IG.21/5), 22 mixed (independent-national) Technical Advisory Commissions (TACs) were set up by the concerned national authorities with the SPA/RAC support (mainly for the mobilization of non-national independent experts) for the following concerned 22 SPAMIs:

    - Bouches de Bonifacio Natural Reserve (France);
    - Port-Cros National Park (France);
    - Pelagos Sanctuary for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (France, Italy, Monaco);
    - Marine Protected Area and Natural Reserve of Torre Guaceto (Italy);
    - Marine Protected Area of Capo Caccia-Isola Piana (Italy);
    - Marine Protected Area of Tavolara-Punta Coda Cavallo (Italy);
    - Miramare Marine Protected Area (Italy);
    - Plemmirio Marine Protected Area (Italy);
    - Punta Campanella Marine Protected Area (Italy);
    - Al-Hoceima National Park (Morocco);
    - Alboran Island (Spain);
    - Archipelago of Cabrera National Park (Spain);
    - Cabo de Gata-Nijar Natural Park (Spain);
    - Cap de Creus Natural Park (Spain);
    - Columbretes Islands (Spain);
    - Mar Menor and Oriental Mediterranean zone of the Region of Murcia coast (Spain); - Maro-Cerro Gordo Cliffs (Spain);
    - Medes Islands (Spain);
    - Sea Bottom of the Levante of Almeria (Spain);
    - Kneiss Islands (Tunisia);

- La Galite Archipelago (Tunisia); and
- Zembra and Zembretta National Park (Tunisia).

100. The Review Reports endorsed and signed by the 22 TACs were received by SPA/RAC and presented during the Twelfth Meeting of Focal Points for SPAs (Athens, Greece, 25-29 May 2015).

c) Elaboration of MPA creation guidelines and teaching packages

101. SPA/RAC is collaborating with the Seville University and the *Junta de Andalucia*, Spain in the elaboration of a "Manual on Coastal Biota and their Environmental Monitoring in Mediterranean MPAs". The original version (Spanish) was finalized in March 2015. The English and French versions are under finalization and review.

102. SPA/RAC is collaborating with the University of Alicante's CIMAR (Santa Pola, Spain) in the elaboration of a "Teaching Package on Ecological Monitoring in Mediterranean MPAs", in English and French. The Teaching Package will be ready in September 2015.

103. SPA/RAC, MedPAN and WWF-MedPO are collaborating in the elaboration of a "Guide for the financing of MPAs", intended to MPA managers and practitioners.

d) Improved MPA management

104. Algeria: SPA/RAC is supporting Algeria in the process of declaring the marine part of the Reghaia coastal area as an MPA. After the elaboration of the socio-economic and stakeholders study in 2013, an ecological study of the marine and coastal parts of the area was finalized in April 2015, allowing the starting of the consultation process in view of the setting-up of a management plan for the future MPA.

105. Egypt: During a series of technical meetings with Egyptian environmental authorities (Cairo, Egypt, 18-20 January 2015), SPA/RAC started its support to Egypt in order to improve the planning for the management of the Sallum Bay MPA (Western Egypt). As a follow-up, a socio-economic study of the Sallum Bay MPA area and surroundings, based on a literature review and field data collection, stared in March 2015. The final report will be available by end of June 2015.

106. Lebanon: SPA/RAC presented the results of marine ecological characterizations, including zoning outlines and management proposals, of 6 marine sites along the Lebanese coast (Enfeh Peninsula, Ras Chekaa Cliffs, Raoucheh Cliffs, Sidon, Tyre and Naqoura) during a workshop held on 14 April 2015 in Beirut, Lebanon. Based on these results, the process of the legal declaration of Ras Chekaa and Naqoura MPAs was launched.

107. Morocco: In the framework of the process aimed at elaborating a management plan for the Cap des Trois Fourches future MPA (North-eastern Morocco), SPA/RAC organized on 21-22 April 2015, in Nador, Morocco, a stakeholder consultation workshop aimed at discussing the management vision and objectives with the concerned stakeholders.

108. Tunisia: In the framework of the process aimed at the elaboration of a management plan for the Kuriat Islands MPA (Eastern Tunisia), SPA/RAC discussed and endorsed the final version of the draft management plan with the involved stakeholders during a workshop, held on 26 February 2015, in Monastir, Tunisia.

e) The process of establishing joint SPAMIs in open seas supported

109. SPA/RAC's Open Seas activities have delivered planned outputs during the reporting period and are going into the last months of implementation. The efforts on identification of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) in the open seas, including the deep seas, are being further backed at global level by the successful listing of 15 EBSAs for the

Mediterranean by the CBD on October 2014, including two ones in the Adriatic Sea and two ones in the Sicily channel/Tunisian Plateau, areas being supported under the current phase of MedOpenSeas project .

110. SPA/RAC has held the second round of consultation meetings for the Adriatic Sea and the Sicily Channel/Tunisian Plateau. The meetings were held on 13-14 April 2015, Sciacca and 22-23 April 2015 Trieste, in Italy, with the kind support of Italy. It is within the framework of SPA/RAC's work on supporting the establishment of MPAs embracing areas beyond national jurisdiction or areas where the limits of national sovereignty or jurisdiction have not yet been defined. The meetings resulted in a willing by most of the participant countries to develop future work focused in the listed EBSAs for pursuing a better marine spatial management, including through spatial conservation measures, and including SPAMIs, with further involvement of the countries themselves in the elaboration of tailored projects to support the tasks.

111. The delineation of a joint strategy to coordinate spatial conservation efforts among the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), IUCN and SPA/RAC, with the contribution of MedPAN is currently ongoing, benefitting from preliminary discussions and long-term bilateral collaborations among the above bodies.

112. The development of a study on the identification of good practices useful for elaborating, adopting and implementing management plans in the case of those joint SPAMIs embracing the open seas is under way, in line with the approach to facilitate the preparation of joint proposals for inclusion in the SPAMI List in accordance with Article 9 of the SPA/BD Protocol. The aim of this study is to support the Contracting Parties to get clearer ideas on the kind of existing structures and governance bodies of trans-boundary managed areas, and on their functioning related to the elaboration, adoption and implementation of their management plan. The study expects to be a practical tool to facilitate the elaboration, adoption and implementation of management plans for future such areas in the Mediterranean. The study analyses best practices and case studies related to the management of wide trans-boundary areas, straddle marine resources as well as marine protected areas comprising notably large extensions of ocean. It will give particular attention to the institutional aspects related to the elaboration and implementation of the management plans in the Parties that have demonstrated their willingness to participate in the establishment or currently involved in the running of joint SPAMIs.

3.4 Pollution Control and Prevention (Theme IV)

Output 4.1 - Early warning of pollution (spills, dangerous/hazardous substances)

a) Assessments / Analyses

113. The reporting of monitoring data from all the countries remains a challenge. Thanks to the work of the Online Contaminant Group, it was possible to receive an enormous quantity of data from reference stations by 7 contracting parties.

114. Technical assistance missions were organised and held in Egypt, Morocco and Algeria to support data quality assurance programmes on reporting of pollution monitoring data. Enhancing reporting and quality of reported data from the Contracting Parties remains a high priority task for MED POL in the future.

115. Based on the new data provided, the Secretariat has started the work for defining background assessment criteria for contaminants. ToRs prepared for a regional consultant expected to start the work in summer 2015 and provide support to the online group on contaminants.

116. Pending funding availability SSFA to support marine pollution monitoring programme are under finalisation for Tunisia, Morocco and Albania.

117. With regards to the reporting of inventory of pollutant loads per country NBB three additional countries have submitted so far the 2013 reports namely Lebanon, Montengro and Turkey. The work in other countries is ongoing and expected to be finalized by summer 2015. Reporting of NBB remains a challenging obligation for the majority of the contracting parties. NBB on line reporting would allow the contracting parties to use a harmonized approach to estimate the loads of pollutants using where appropriate the PRTR reporting. In addition the on line reporting would increase the quality of reported data. A first training on the use of the on line NBB infoystem is planned to be carried out at the MED POL FP meeting in June 2015.

118. A Letter of Agreement (LOA) was signed in May 2015 with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)/Nuclear Application Environmental Laboratories (NAEL), to assist Mediterranean countries strengthening data quality assurance in laboratories implementing national marine pollution monitoring programmes.

119. Recommended analytical methods: Ten (10) recommended methods, which were developed in the framework of the collaboration between IAEA/NAEL MESL and UNEP/MAP MED POL during 2011-2013, were edited in a common format and are submitted to MED POL for consideration by the MED POL focal points and use by the MED POL designated laboratories where appropriate. These methods are intended to be guidance methods that can be used by laboratories as a starting point for generating their own standard operating procedures for the analysis of contaminants in marine samples.

120. Quality assurance programme for nutrient related parameters in the framework of Quasimeme started in 2015 for 15 laboratories. Collaboration was also initiated with the University of Alessandria, Italy, to support at least seven countries and train national monitoring experts on biological effect monitoring for a number of biomarkers. In this respect two SSFA were signed in early 2015 with both institutions. Subject to additional available funding it is envisaged to add the number of laboratories to participate in both programmes. For this purpose the Secretariat has planned to use external funding from the new EcAp and or SEIS project where appropriate.

121. The update of the 2010 Marine Litter assessment is under finalisation. This update has been undertaken in the framework of implementing Article 11 of the Marine Litter Regional Plan (MLRP) according to which the Contracting Parties should prepare the first assessment 2 years after the entry into force of the Regional Plan (8 July 2013). This updated report also includes proposals for baseline figures against which the implementation of related Marine litter GES targets will be measured. In addition the updated ML report will contain up to date information on the lost fishing gears in the Mediterranean collected with the help of MIO ECSD.

122. SCP/RAC has updated the portfolio of project ideas for SCP pilot activities for Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia to implement elements of existing/on-going national SCP or Green Economy related processes. Some of the suggested activities have a special focus on POPs, toxic chemicals, food sector and marine litter. Consultation with national stakeholders (national focal points) were made to choose the SCP pilot activities.

123. The contents of the “Guidelines for the Environmental Sound Management of Used lubricant oil" and the “Guidelines on Pollution Prevention and Control Opportunities in the tanning industry” were developed by SCP/RAC, in the framework of an SSFA between SCP/RAC and MED POL for cooperation under component 2.1 of the MedPartnership project.

124. The document “Compilation of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) applications for owners and public officials” was elaborated and published by SCP/RAC as part of its collaboration with the PCBs component of the MedPartnership Project. The document is addressed to potential PCBs owners of closed and open applications as well as to public officials in charge of the control of such dangerous substances. The compilation lists different usages of PCBs.

125. SCP/RAC has implemented jointly with MED POL a PCBs Awareness Workshop, on 21 May, 2015 in Istanbul (Turkey) under the subcomponent 2.3 of the Medpartnership project.

126. SCP/RAC supported MED POL in the organization of the Regional joint meeting on environmental sound management and illegal traffic of chemicals and hazardous waste in the Mediterranean, on 7- 9 April 2015 in Istanbul, Turkey.

127. In the framework of a collaboration agreement signed with the Secretariat of the chemicals conventions, SCP/RAC revised a first version prepared by the Stockholm Convention Regional Center in India of the electronic Toolkit on ESM of industrial chemicals under the Rotterdam Convention. A technical meeting with experts on chemical management from 15 countries of West Asia, Asia Pacific, Africa, Central and East Europe to peer review the revised toolkit was organised by SCP/RAC on 25-26 February 2015 in Barcelona, Spain. The comments received in the meeting were used to draft the final version of the Toolkit.

128. Within the framework of the MEDESS-4MS Project, REMPEC launched a tender for the development of a Geographical Information System (GIS) and dataset update and visualisation interface. The data and maps collected during the implementation of the Project, including maritime traffic, marine incidents, offshore installations, coastal oil handling facilities and oil spill response equipment, as well as socio-economic and environmental sensitivity maps, were integrated in MEDGIS-MAR, developed by REMPEC, within the framework the MEDESS-4MS Project. The platform is now accessible from http://medgismar.rempec.org/. To benefit from existing data collections on environmental and socio-economic data and to create further synergies between Components of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with Plan Bleu and SPA/RAC.

129. The MoU between the Centre de documentation, de recherche et d'expérimentations sur les pollutions accidentelles des eaux (CEDRE) and REMPEC in the framework of REMPEC's Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU) was extended for a period of two years. The MoU between the Mediterranean Operational Network for the Global Ocean Observing System (MONGOOS) and REMPEC within the framework of the MAU is in the process of signature by MONGOOS members.

130. The implementation of the approved two-year Project for Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline clean-up and Oiled Wildlife interventions (POSOW 2), co-funded by the European Commission's Civil Protection Financial Instrument, was extended to Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey, and started in February 2015. POSOW 2 is coordinated by Cedre in cooperation with the Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale – ISPRA, Italy, the General Directorate of Maritime and Inland Waters – DG-MARINWA, Turkey, the Instituto Portuario de Estudios y Cooperación de la Comunidad Valenciana – FEPORTS, Spain, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport – AASTMT, Egypt and REMPEC. The Project aims at supporting the establishment of a regional cooperation synergy in the field of marine pollution through the enhancement of knowledge and capacities of professional and volunteer operators working in civil protection services, in municipalities and in non-governmental organisations (NGOs), in the Mediterranean coastal States. During the period under review, REMPEC participated in the kick-off meeting, updated the POSOW's website (www.posow.org) and contributed to the preparation of the Manual on "Response of the Local fishermen to marine oil spills".

131. For security reasons, the proposed activity on National marine pollution contingency plans for Libya was postponed. As far as Lebanon is concerned, REMPEC secured funds from the IMO's ITCP and has been liaising with the Lebanese competent authorities to initiate in 2015, the development of the National contingency plan to oil and HNS Spills. It should be noted that only three countries (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Lebanon and Libya) have no contingency plan in place.

132. The IMO's ITCP-funded activity for the provision of technical assistance for the establishment of a National HNS Response System in Egypt included a fact-finding mission in Egypt carried out from 8 to 12 February 2015 and a national meeting to present the recommendations resulting from the fact-finding mission for the establishment of a National HNS Response System in Egypt. The Meeting will be held in Cairo, Egypt on 7 June 2015.

Output 4.2 - Lower levels of pollution in the Mediterranean marine and coastal environments

a) Regional Policy Implementation

133. The setting up of the national institutional structure at national levels for NAP update progressed through secured financial and technical assistance in agreement with UfM H2020 capacity building component for southern Mediterranean countries as well as through the UNEP/MAP-GEF MedPartnership project as well as GPA funding for the other eligible countries. Israel has provided Euros 45,000 to support NAP update and relevant regional activities.

134. Eight national consultants are recruited in collaboration with MED POL FP through the H2020/SWIM project including Palestine and one consultant in process for Algeria. Five national consultants are in process of recruitment by MED POL for Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Egypt, Libya, Montengro and Turkey through the MedPartnership project. Support was provided to four countries namely Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia to ensure a consultative and participatory process with the relevant stakeholders and partners. Several national workshops to launch the NAP process were held in Lebanon, Israel and Morocco. In addition NAP update teams are established in all the countries

135. With regards to NAP update related regional activities, two MED POL focal points meetings were held in 2014 and 2015 to negotiate and approve the NAP update guidelines. One regional meeting was held in Athens on 11-13 May 2015 to provide support to national NAP update teams (coordinators, consultants) with implementation of the NAP update Guidelines. The meeting enabled exchange of experiences with comparative projects and policy frameworks and included set of practical sessions to strengthen capacities of participants to implement various steps in the NAP update – from initial assessment to selection of final programmes of measures. Particular attention was paid to the following NAP update steps: assessing the mid-term benchmark; carrying out gap analysis and setting national operational targets to meet GES targets, Regional Plans commitments and SAP-MED targets; and identifying and prioritisation of measures to reach the set targets. Economic analysis in the NAP update was an important segment of the meeting whereas guidance on costing the implementation of the four Regional Plans (on BOD from urban wastewater and from food industries, on mercury and on marine litter) was presented and practical sessions held on CEA and CBA. Use of economic analysis tools in the NAP update is intended to strengthen the overall coherence of updated NAPs, aid final selection of measures and increase financial sustainability of the NAPs.

136. 930 tons PCB were audited and will be disposed in the framework of the Medpartnership project. To date around 100 tons PCB have been already shipped to France from Turkey. A PCB guide was developed based on the project and pilot experiences. Training on Basel Convention export import notification procedures of HW are carried out in Turkey, Egypt and Bosnia Herzegovina.

137. Supporting the implementation of the Regional Plans remains a high priority for the Secretariat. To this end joint training activities were envisaged under the 2015 programme of UfM H2020 capacity building programme which will be implemented in close collaboration with the MED POL programme. Their main focus will be on the implementation of Regional Plans on Mercury and Hazardous waste. Regarding MLRP a meeting is planned to be held with all the regional partners (H2020, SCP/RAC, REMPEC, GFCM, ACCOBAMs, etc.) for coordination purposes and setting priorities. In addition GPA just confirmed a preliminary support of USD 50,000 to support countries developing national action plans on marine litter management, undertake an inventory of existing ML initiatives, institutions and mandates in the Mediterranean and supporting the establishment of a ML regional node as part of the global ML partnership. In addition, in close collaboration with H2020. Bilateral discussions were held with OSPAR under France and Spain leadership to coordinate the actions for the implementation of MLRP between both Programmes.

138. With regards to strengthening of environmental inspection, two back to back regional training workshops were held in Athens, Greece on 25-27 November 2014 addressing up-to-date pollution control assessment tools as well as compliance and enforcement in line with Land Based Sources and Activities (LBS) Protocol of the Barcelona Convention. The meeting reconfirmed the need to continue the and formalize the Mediterranean compliance and enforcement network established in the framework of the LBS Protocol of the Barcelona Convention and extend its scope to cover other aspects and protocols such as dumping and HW. In addition two similar national workshops were held in Egypt and Morocco in December 2014. The objective was to train the local experts on the use of the on line ELV/EQS policy supporting tool as well as to strengthen the national capacities for compliance and enforcements of national legislation.

139. A regional joint meeting on environmental sound management and illegal traffic of chemicals and hazardous waste in the Mediterranean organized in Istanbul, Turkey from 7- 9 April 2015. The meeting reviewed and adapted the Guide for the Environmental Sound Management of PCB. The meeting drew a number of conclusions on the future work of MAP and priorities with regards to hazardous substances and obsolete chemicals as well as combatting illegal trafficking in the Mediterranean.

140. Under MedPartnership project, the MED POL in collaboration with SCP RAC delivered consolidated drafts of the following guidelines or guides

- Guide on the environmental sound management of PCB in the Mediterranean;
- Guidelines for the environmentally sound management of used lube oils in the Mediterranean;
- Guidelines for pollution prevention opportunities in the tanning sector industry within the Mediterranean;
- Guidelines for environmentally sound management of used lead batteries in the Mediterranean.

141. Under the EcAp project MED POL has delivered the draft Guide on best practices for Fishing for Litter in the Mediterranean

142. According to Decision IG.21/9 (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.21/9) on MENELAS, adopted by COP 18, Contracting Parties were requested to nominate a Designated Representative to actively participate in the Network. At the time of writing this report, twelve (12) Mediterranean coastal States nominated their representatives. According to the same Decision, as part of the Regional – Governance and Knowledge generation (ReGoKo) Project, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and with the financial support of the Government of France, Plan Bleu in coordination with REMPEC has been developing the MENELAS information system. REMPEC, in collaboration with the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the French authorities, will organise, in the second half of 2015, the first MENELAS Meeting to be held in France possibly together with a coordinated aerial surveillance operation for illicit ship pollution discharges.

3.5 Sustainable Consumption and Production (Theme V)

Output 5.1 -	Drivers affecting ecosystems addressed: economic activities, patterns of consumption, infrastructure and spatial development more sustainable

143. The trainings materials based on the SCP Toolkit for Policy makers are being prepared by SCP/RAC. The methodology is focused on 4 priority areas: Food and Agriculture; Consumers goods manufacturing; Tourism; and Housing and Construction. A “Train the trainer” session will take place in June.

144. Regarding the Training and support Programme for Green Entrepreneurs and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), SCP/RAC has developed the following activities:

- Four scoping missions to identify strategic local partners took place: to Lebanon on 19-21 February, to Jordan on 21-25 February, to Israel on 26-30 April and to Palestine on 29-1 May. A scoping mission to Egypt is planned for June 2015.
- In accordance with the SwitchMed Focal Points, strategic local partners for the Training Programme for Green Entrepreneurs were selected: Morocco (Réseau Marocain de l'Économie Sociale et Solidaire - REMESS and the Fondation du Jeune Entrepreneur – FJE), Algeria (Centre National des Technologies de Production plus Propres -CNTPP) Tunisia (Centre International des Technologies de l'Environnement de Tunis – CITET and the Confédération des Entreprises Citoyennes de Tunisie - CONNECT) and Jordan (Business Development Center – BDC). The selection process of the strategic local partners in Lebanon, Israel, Palestine and Egypt is on-going.
- The training materials on green entrepreneurship have been designed, translated into French and the lay-out has been designed.
- The call for Green Entrepreneurs has been launched in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. More than 600 applications have been received up to now. Two Trains of trainers of green entrepreneurs have been organised: one in Alger (Algeria) on 17-21 May 2015 and the other in Tunis (Tunisia) on 25-29 May 2015. Next train of trainers will take place in Rabat (Morocco) on 8-12 June 2015. The training of green entrepreneurs is planned to start by September 2015.
- The first version of The Switchers[1] has been launched. The Switchers is a web platform collecting stories from eco and social innovative solutions in the Mediterranean.
- A study on the potential of Crowdfunding as a source of funding for green entrepreneurs and social and ecological innovation initiatives is on-going.
- The design of the training and support methodology targeting CSOs, and of the training of Local Trainers has been launched.

145. SCP/RAC updated the portfolio of project ideas for SCP pilot activities for Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia to implement elements of existing/on-going national SCP or Green Economy related processes. Some of the suggested activities have a special focus on sustainable procurement within the tourism sector, recycling of organic waste, sustainable building in coastal areas, tourism and market facilities. Consultation with national stakeholders (national focal points) have been made to choose the topic to be addressed by the SCP pilot activities.

146. In relation to the Mediterranean SCP Hub, SCP/RAC has continued the development of the already on-going activities:

- The online web knowledge platform has been constantly updated and at least one news item[2] is posted weekly. It was published the second newsletter in February 2015. Furthermore, the Social Action Network has grown reaching to 270 members.
- The Branding and Visibility guidelines[3] of SwitchMed were revised and uploaded on the Social Action Network. In addition, an Action Network User Guidelines[4] was prepared.
- A detailed social media strategy is being prepared. In the meanwhile SwitchMed is gaining every day more followers on the social media networks.
- A SwitchMed factsheet on capacity building activities targeting industrial service providers was published[5]. The design and printing of the factsheets on engagement with policy makers, entrepreneurs and start-ups will be finalized end of May.

[1] http://www.switchmed.eu/en/innovation/Meet%20the%20Switchers
[2] http://www.switchmed.eu/en/news
[3] https://ulearn.upcnet.es/switchmed/login
[4] https://ulearn.upcnet.es/switchmed/login
[5] http://www.switchmed.eu/en/news/our-green-industry-trainings-will-start-very-soon

- A conceptual note on scaling up demonstration activities was developed and experts to lead working groups on scaling up demo activities (sustainable manufacturing and green entrepreneurship) are in the process of recruitment.
- SwitchMed Connect[6], the first annual gathering of Mediterranean stakeholders for building synergies, exchanging knowledge and scaling up eco and social innovative solutions is being prepared. The event will take place on 29 and 30 October 2015 in Barcelona, Spain.
- Having partnered with the European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks (FEBEA), which is a network of 24 European Ethical Banks and Alternative Financiers that has a strategic interest in promoting ethical finance[7], SCP/RAC has prepared a work plan for the project 'Green Impact Investing Network'. In this project, SCP/RAC will work to identify and attract other investment networks as well as the international and national financial sectors to invest in green entrepreneurs and start-ups in four pilot countries: Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia and Morocco. The project is an extension of the SwitchMed Programme and it is funded by the European Union
- The following side-events have been organised: (i) session on "How to help developing countries to grow collaborative economy initiatives and social innovation?" within the Ouishare Fest, on 19-20 May in Paris, Brussels; (ii) booth at the European Forum on Eco-innovation, on 20-21 May in Barcelona, Spain[8]; (iii) SCP/RAC also participated in the Union for the Mediterranean Conference on Fostering Women's Participation in Economic Life, on 20-21 May in Barcelona, Spain[9]; (iv) a panel discussion at the European Development Days on Access to Finance for Green SMEs will be moderated by the SCP Knowledge Hub[10].
- The Regional SCP stakeholder mapping has started and an initial regional and national list of relevant stakeholders has been done. Some of the key stakeholders identified in the regional stakeholder mapping were approached and acquired as strategic partners of the Mediterranean SCP Hub. Till date we have acquired 10 strategic partners. The national stakeholder list will be used for the national synergy workshop invites.

147. The Catalunya Award on Eco-design accepted SCP/RAC proposal to introduce a Mediterranean category and the centre disseminated it to all countries of the region. 45 applications have been received: 3 from Croatia, 1 from Egypt, 9 from Spain, 6 from France, 1 from Greece, 6 from Israel, 12 from Italy, 2 from Lebanon, 1 from Morocco, 3 from Tunisia and 1 from Turkey. The winner will receive an award of 5,000€ and support in dissemination of the project.

3.6 Climate Change (Theme VI)

Output 6.1 -	Mediterranean region able to face climate change challenges through a better understanding of potential impacts and ecological vulnerabilities

148. Guidelines for Adapting to CVC along the Mediterranean Coast were finalised, translated into French and presented at the MedPartnership Final Conference on ICZM.

149. The report on the assessment of the CVC impact on global insurance and banking sector was finalised, translated into French and presented at the MedPartnership Final Conference on ICZM.

[6] www.switchmedconnect.com
[7] http://www.switchmed.eu/en/news/opportunities-of-financial-access-for-green-entrepreneurs-in-the-mediterranean
[8] http://www.switchmed.eu/en/news/join-us-at-the-switchmed-stand-at-the-18th-european-forum-on-eco-innovation
[9] http://www.switchmed.eu/en/news/switchmed-a-business-case-at-the-conference-on-fostering-women2019s-participation-in-economic-life
[10] http://www.switchmed.eu/en/news/financing-the-switch-to-green-smes-across-asia-africa-and-the-mediterranean

Output 6.2 - Reduced socio-economic vulnerability

150. The Meeting of National Experts on the Revision of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, organised by REMPEC in Malta from 11 to 12 March 2015, discussed and agreed upon Specific Objective 15 – To examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea or parts thereof as a SOx emission control area under MARPOL Annex VI and effectively implement the existing energy efficiency measures.

151. The report on the DIVA assessment for Croatia was finalised and presented to the Inter-ministerial Committee established to follow the preparation of the Croatian Marine and Coastal Strategy at its regular meeting held in Zagreb on 22 April 2015. The report was also presented at the MedPartnership Final Conference on ICZM.

152. Work on DIVA assessment for Tunisia is in progress. Information and data needed for running the DIVA model are being processed.

153. DIVA downscaling for the Sibenik-Knin County was finalised, based on the DIVA Croatia results. It was presented at the "Climagine" participatory workshop held in Šibenik, on 21 April 2015, within the preparation of the Šibenik-Knin coastal plan.

154. Regular working meetings with the team of national experts were held in the framework of the ICZM Plan for Sibenik-Knin region. The "Climagine" participatory method was fully integrated with the plan development. Indicators and scenarios were discussed with local stakeholders and the plan itself is being drafted.

Output 6.3 -	Assess and provide information to reduce adverse environmental impacts of mitigation and adaptation strategies & technologies (e.g. Wind farms, ocean energy, carbon capture and storage)

155. There was no activity planned and carried out under this output in this reporting period.

IV. Challenges, Measures and Management Actions

156. Science-policy interface remains a key challenge, especially in relation to EcAp monitoring work.

Measure

Building and working closer together with EcAp related scientific projects of the Mediterranean (mainly FP7 funded EU projects) are core part of the risk management strategy in this regard, as well as partnership building with other key players in the region (GFCM, ACCOBAMS) and beyond (exchange of best practices with other Regional Sea Conventions, such as OSPAR).

157. Ongoing and upcoming challenges in MedPartnerhip Prgramme implementation are the administrative delays due to Umoja transition,

Measure

To avoid major delays and bottlenecks during the UMOJA transition period, all the payments and cash advanced requests of the 10 co-executing partners of MedPartnership and 4 co-executing partners of ClimVar and ICZM were processed by the end of April.

158. The main implementing challenge from compliance point of view was the delay by Contracting Parties to submit their reports for the Biennium 2012-2013 and the assessment of these reports by the Secretariat in view of their consideration by the Compliance Committee.

Measure

The Legal Officer provided initial assessments and shared those with the members of the Compliance Committee. The members will also provide support in their personal capacity to assess the country reports.

159. Within the Training and Support Programme to Green Entrepreneurs developed by SCP/RAC, the access to a large number of potential green entrepreneurs is challenging.

Measure

A part from the dissemination of the call undertaken by the local partners, SCP/RAC support the dissemination with specific tools at regional level as for instance the diffusion through stakeholders and contact lists, and the development of a website: www.switchmedentrepreneurs.eu

160. The transition period for REMPEC due to the decisions adopted by COP 18 and their resulting consequences on REMPEC's structure and operations (including REMPEC's staffing) affected the implementation of its activities particularly in view of the delayed recruitment process of the new Officers. Additionally, due to the Umoja implementation and the related black-out, the cash flow of REMPEC was affected during a short period, in particular for the financial arrangement related to the organisation of the Meeting of MED POL Focal Points.

Measure

During the restructuring period, priority was given to activities for which the financial resources had been identified. With efficient management of the MAP Coordination Unit, the effect of Umoja transition on REMPEC's finances has been minimised.

161. Plan Bleu and REMPEC's websites faced a high number of hacking attempts and attacks in previous months, which led to considerable expenses with a view to solving subsequent technical issues.

Measure

The security infrastructure of websites is being improved.

162. The work on the ICZM Platform has not started due to lack of human and financial resources.

Measure

Info/RAC's provision of technical infrastructure will be sought to advance on this issue. The initiative promoted by CAMP Italy and CAMP France to formalize the CAMP network can also support the platform development, especially if additional financial support could be secured.

Annex I
Status of signatures and ratifications of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols as of June 2015

Signatures and Ratifications of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols as at 12 June 2015.

Contracting Parties	1976 Barcelona Convention - 1/				1976 Dumping Protocol - 2/			1976 Emergency Protocol - 3/		
	Signature	**Ratification**	**Acceptance of 1995 Amendments**	**Entered into force**	**Signature**	**Ratification**	**Acceptance of 1995 Amendments**	**Signature**	**Ratification**	**Entered into force**
Albania		30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	09.07.04	-	30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	-	30.05.90/AC	29.06.90
Algeria		16.02.81/AC	09.06-04	09.07.04	-	16.03.81/AC	-	-	16.03.81/AC	15.04.81
Bosnia and Herzegovina		22.10.94(SUC)	-	-	-	22.10.94/SUC	-	-	22.10.94/SUC	01.03.92
Croatia		12.06.92(SUC)	03.05.99	09.07.04	-	12.06.92/SUC	03.05.99	-	12.06.92/SUC	08.10.91
Cyprus	16.02.76	19.11.79	18.07.03	09.07.04	16.02.76	19.11.79	18.07.03	16.02.76	19.11.79	19.12.79
European Union	13.09.76	16.03.78/AP	12.11.99	09.07.04	13.09.76	16.03.78/AP	12.11.99	13.09.76	12.08.81/AP	11.09.81
Egypt	16.02.76	24.08.78/AP	11.02.00	09.07.04	16.02.76	24.08.78/AP	11.02.00	16.02.76	24.08.78/AC	23.09.78
France	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	29.03.01	09.07.04	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	29.03.01	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	10.04.78
Greece	16.02.76	03.01.79	10.03.03	09.07.04	11.02.77	03.01.79	-	16.02.76	03.01.79	02.02.79
Israel	16.02.76	03.03.78	29.09.05	29.10.05	16.02.76	01.03.84	-	16.02.76	03.03.78	02.04.78
Italy	16.02.76	03.02.79	07.09.99	09.07.04	16.02.76	03.02.79	07.09.99	16.02.76	03.02.79	05.03.79
Lebanon	-	08.11.77/AC	*	*	-	08.11.77/AC	-	-	08.11.77/AC	12.02.78
Libya	31.01.77	31.01.79	12.01.09	11.02.09	31.01.77	31.01.79	-	31.01.77	31.01.79	02.03.79
Malta	16.02.76	30.12.77	28.10.99	09.07.04	16.02.76	30.12.77	28.10.99	16.02.76	30.12.77	12.02.78
Monaco	16.02.76	20.09.77	11.04.97	09.07.04	16.02.76	20.09.77	11.04.97	16.02.76	20.09.77	12.02.78
Montenegro	-	19.11.07	19.11.07	19.12.07	-	-	-	-	-	-
Morocco	16.02.76	15.01.80	07.12.04	06.01.05	16.02.76	15.01.80	05.12.97	16.02.76	15.01.80	15.02.80
Slovenia	-	16.09.93/AC	08.01.03	09.07.04	-	16.09.93/AC	08.01.03	-	16.09.93/AC	15.03.94
Spain	16.02.76	17.12.76	17.02.99	09.07.04	16.02.76	17.12.76	17.02.99	16.02.76	17.12.76	12.02.78
Syria	-	26.12.78/AC	10.10.03	09.07.04	-	26.12.78/AC	11.04.08	-	26.12.78/AC	25.01.79
Tunisia	25.05.76	30.07.77	01.06.98	09.07.04	25.05.76	30.07.77	01.06.98	25.05.76	30.07.77	12.02.78
Turkey	16.02.76	06.04.81	18.09.02	09.07.04	16.02.76	06.04.81	18.09.02	16.02.76	06.04.81	06.05.81

Accession = AC Approval = AP Succession = SUC

* pending notification from Depository country

Contracting Parties	2002 Emergency Protocol - 4/			1980 Land-Based Sources Protocol - 5/				1982 Specially Protected Areas Protocol - 6/		
	Signature	**Ratification**	**Entered into force**	**Signature**	**Ratification**	**Acceptance of 1996 Amendments**	**Entered into force**	**Signature**	**Ratification**	**Entered into force**
Albania	-	-	-	-	30.05.90/AC	26.07.01	11.05.08	-	30.05.90/AC	29.06.90
Algeria	25.01.02	-	-	-	02.05.83/AC	-	-	-	16.05.85/AC	23.03.86
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	-	-	-	22.10.94/SUC	-	-	-	22.10.94/SUC	01.03.92
Croatia	25.01.02	01.10.03	17.03.04	-	12.06.92/SUC	11.10.06	11.05.08	-	12.06.92/SUC	08.10.91
Cyprus	25.01.02	19.12.07	18.01.08	17.05.80	28.06.88	18.07.03	11.05.08	-	28.06.88/AC	28.07.88
European Union	25.01.02	26.05.04	25.06.04	17.05.80	07.10.83/AP	12.11.99	11.05.08	30.03.83	30.06.84/AP	23.03.86
Egypt	-	-		-	18.05.83/AC	-	-	16.02.83	08.07.83	23.03.86
France	25.01.02	02.07.03	17.03.04	17.05.80	13.07.82/AP	29.03.01(AP)	11.05.08	03.04.82	02.09.86/AP	02.10.86
Greece	25.01.02	27.11.06	27.12.06	17.05.80	26.01.87	10.03.03	11.05.08	03.04.82	26.01.87	25.02.87
Israel	22.01.03	10.09.14	10.10.14	17.05.80	21.02.91	19.06.09	19.07.09	03.04.82	28.10.87	27.11.87
Italy	25.01.02	-	-	17.05.80	04.07.85	07.09.99	11.05.08	03.04.82	04.07.85	23.03.86
Lebanon	-	-	-	17.05.80	27.12.94	-	-	-	27.12.94/AC	26.01.95
Libya	25.01.02	-	-	17.05.80	06.06.89/AP	-	-	-	06.06.89/AC	06.07.89
Malta	25.01.02	18.02.03	17.03.04	17.05.80	02.03.89	28.10.99	11.05.08	03.04.82	11.01.88	10.02.88
Monaco	25.01.02	03.04.02	17.03.04	17.05.80	12.01.83	26.11.96	11.05.08	03.04.82	29.05.89	28.06.89
Montenegro	-	19.11.07	19.12.07	-	19.11.07(AC)	19.11.07	11.05.08	-	-	-
Morocco	25.01.02	26.04.11	26.05.11	17.05.80	09.02.87	02.10.96	11.05.08	02.04.83	22.06.90	22.07.90
Slovenia	25.01.02	16.02.04	17.03.04	-	16.09.93/AC	08.01.03	11.05.08	-	16.09.93/AC	15.03.94
Spain	25.01.02	10.07.07	09.08.07	17.05.80	06.06.84	17.02.99	11.05.08	03.04.82	22.12.87	21.01.88
Syria	25.01.02	11.04.08	11.05.08	-	01.12.93/AC	11.04.08	11.05.08	-	11.09.92/AC	11.10.92
Tunisia	25.01.02	-	-	17.05.80	29.10.81	01.06.98	11.05.08	03.04.82	26.05.83	23.03.86
Turkey	-	03.06.03	17.03.04	-	21.02.83/AC	18.09.02	11.05.08	-	06.11.86/AC	06.12.86

Accession = AC Approval = AP Succession = SUC

Contracting Parties	*1995 SPA & Biodiversity Protocol* - 7/*				*1994 Offshore Protocol - 8/*		
	Signature	**Ratification**	**Entered into force**	**Amendments to Annexes II & III Entered into force**	**Signature**	**Ratification**	**Entered into force**
Albania	10.06.95	26.07.01	25.08.01	16.04.15	-	26.07.01	24.03.11
Algeria	10.06.95	14.03.07	13.04.07	16.04.15	-	-	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	-	-		-	-	-
Croatia	10.06.95	12.04.02	12.05.02	16.04.15	14.10.94	-	-
Cyprus	10.06.95	18.07.03	17.08.03		14.10.94	16.05.06	24.03.11
European Union	10.06.95	12.11.99	12.12.99	16.04.15	17.12.12/AC.	29.03.13-	29.03.13
Egypt	10.06.95	11.02.00	12.03.00	16.04.15	-	-	-
France	10.06.95	16.04.01	16.05.01	16.04.15	-	-	-
Greece	10.06.95	-	-		14.10.94	-	-
Israel	10.06.95	-	-	16.04.15	14.10.94	-	-
Italy	10.06.95	07.09.99	12.12.99	16.04.15	14.10.94	-	-
Lebanon	-	22.04.09	22.05.09	16.04.15	-	-	-
Libya	-	-	-		-	16.06.05	24.03.11
Malta	10.06.95	28.10.99	12.12.99	16.04.15	14.10.94	-	-
Monaco	10.06.95	03.06.97	12.12.99	16.04.15	14.10.94	-	-
Montenegro	-	19.11.07	19.12.07	16.04.15	-	-	-
Morocco	10.06.95	24.04.09	25.05.09	16.04.15	-	01.07.99	24.03.11
Slovenia	-	08.01.03	07.02.03	16.04.15	10.10.95	-	-
Spain	10.06.95	23.12.98	12.12.99	16.04.15	14.10.94	-	-
Syria	-	10.10.03	09.11.03	16.04.15	20.09.95	22.02.11	24.03.11
Tunisia	10.06.95	01.06.98	12.12.99	16.04.15	14.10.94	01.06.98	24.03.11
Turkey	-	18.09.02	18.10.02	16.04.15	-	-	-

* Annex II (List of endangered or threatened species) and Annex III (List of species whose exploitation is regulated) of the SPA & Biodiversity Protocol were adopted in 1996 and amended by Decision IG.19/12 "Amendments of the list of Annexes II and III of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean" of the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, Marrakesh, Morocco, 2009. The amendments entered into force on 13 February 2011.

Contracting Parties	**1996 Hazardous Wastes Protocol 9/**			**2008 Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol 10/**		
	Signature	**Ratification**	**Entered into force**	**Signature**	**Ratification**	**Entered into force**
Albania	-	26.07.01	18.01.08		04.05.2010/AD	24.03.11
Algeria	01.10.96	-	-	21.01.08	-	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	-	-	-	-	-
Croatia	-	-	-	21.01.08	29.01.13/R	28.02.13
Cyprus	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Union	-	-	-	16.01.09-	29.09.10/AP	24.03.11
Egypt	01.10.96	-	-	-	-	-
France	-	-	-	21.01.08	29.10.09/AP	24.03.11
Greece	01.10.96	-	-	21.01.08	-	-
Israel	-	-	-	21.01.08	08.04.14/AP	-
Italy	01.10.96	-	-	21.01.08	-	-
Lebanon	-	-	-	-	-	-
Libya	01.10.96	-	-	-	-	-
Malta	01.10.96	28.10.99	18.01.08	21.01.08	-	-
Monaco	01.10.96	-	-	21.01.08	-	-
Montenegro	-	19.11.07	18.01.08	21.01.08	09.01.12/R-	08.02.12-
Morocco	20.03.97	01.07.99	18.01.08	21.01.08	21:09:12/R	21.10.12-
Slovenia	-	-	-	21.01.08	01.12.09/R	24.03.11
Spain	01.10.96	-	-	21.01.08	22.06.10/R	24.03.11
Syria	-	22.02.11	24.03.11	21.01.08	22.02.2011	24.03.11
Tunisia	01.10.96	01.06.98	18.01.08	21.01.08	-	-
Turkey	01.10.96	03.04.04	18.01.08	-	-	-

* Pending notification from Deposit0ry Country
Adhesion= AD Approval = AP Ratification = R

STATUS OF ENTRY INTO FORCE

Legal instruments	Place and date of Adoption	Entry into force date	Place and date of adoption of amendment	Entry into force of amendments
Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, amended as **Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean** **(Barcelona Convention)**	16 February 1976, Barcelona	**12 February 1978**	—	—
	—	—	10 June 1995, Barcelona	*9 July 2004*
The Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (Dumping Protocol), amended as **The Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft or Incineration at Sea** **(Dumping Protocol)**	16 February 1976, Barcelona	**12 February 1978**	—	—
	—	—	10 June 1995, Barcelona	*Not yet in force*
The Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency **(Emergency Protocol)**	16 February 1976, Barcelona	**12 February 1978**	—	—
The Protocol concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea **(Prevention and Emergency Protocol)***	25 January 2002, Malta	*17 March 2004*	—	—

* According to paragraph 2 of Article 25, this Protocol as from the date of its entry into force (17 March 2004) shall replace the Emergency Protocol (of 1976) in the relations between the Parties to both instruments.

Legal instruments	Place and date of Adoption	Entry into force date	Place and date of adoption of amendment, if any	Entry into force of amendments
The Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution from Land-based Sources, amended as **The Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities** **(LBS Protocol)**	17 May 1980, Athens	*17 June 1983*	—	—
	—	—	7 March 1996, Syracuse	*11 May 2008*
The Protocol Concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas **(SPA Protocol)**	3 April 1982, Geneva		Not applicable	Not applicable
The Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean **(SPA & Biodiversity Protocol)****	10 June 1995, Barcelona	**12 December 1999**	Not applicable	Not applicable
Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil **(Offshore Protocol)**	14 October 1994, Madrid	**24 March 2011**	Not applicable	Not applicable
Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal **(Hazardous Wastes Protocol)**	1 October 1996, Izmir	**18 January 2008**	Not applicable	Not applicable
Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management **(ICZM Protocol)**	21 January 2008, Madrid	**24 March 2011**	Not applicable	Not applicable

** According to paragraph 2 of Article 32, this Protocol as from the date of its entry into force (12 December 1999) shall replace the SPA Protocol (of 1982) in the relations between the Parties to both instruments.