



United Nations Environment Programme

EP

UNEP (DEPI) / MED IG.21/5
14 October 2013

Original: ENGLISH



MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to
the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Istanbul, Turkey, 3-6 December 2013

Draft Decisions for the 18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Draft Decision IG.21/1	1
Compliance Committee including renewal of members, the modification of the rules of procedure and the Programme of Work of the Compliance Committee	
Draft Decision IG.21/2	21
Reporting format to comply with the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols; and, the new reporting format for the ICZM Protocol	
Draft Decision IG.21/3	33
Ecosystems Approach including adopting definitions of Good Environmental Status (GES) and targets	
Draft Decision IG.21/4	71
Action Plans under the Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity Protocol including Monk Seal, Marine Turtles, Birds, Cartilaginous Fishes, and Dark Habitats	
Draft Decision IG.21/5	135
Identification and Conservation of sites of particular ecological interest in the Mediterranean	
Draft Decision IG.21/6	137
Amendments of the Annexes II and III to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean	
Draft Decision IG.21/7	143
Draft Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management	
Draft Decision IG.21/8	173
Follow up actions regarding the Offshore Protocol Action plan	
Draft Decision IG.21/9	179
Establishment of a Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention	
Draft Decision IG.21/10	185
Development of an Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean	
Draft Decision IG.21/11	189
Review of the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD), proposed by the MCSD Steering Committee	
Draft Decision IG.21/12	193
Reforming of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), proposed by the MCSD Steering Committee	
Draft Decision IG.21/13	197
Governance	
Draft Decision IG.21/14	209
Cooperation Agreements	
Draft Decision IG.21/15	233
Financial Regulations, Rules and Procedures applicable to the Barcelona Convention	

Draft Decision IG.21/1

on the Compliance Committee including renewal of members, the modification of the rules of procedure and the Programme of Work of the Compliance Committee

The 18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties,

Recalling Articles 18 and 27 of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, as amended in 1995, hereinafter referred to as the "Barcelona Convention",

Recalling Decision IG. 17/2 of the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties that adopted in 2008 the Procedures and mechanisms on compliance under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, hereinafter referred to as "Procedures and mechanisms on compliance", including paragraphs 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 35,

Recalling also Decision IG. 19/1 of the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties that adopted the Rules of Procedure of the Compliance Committee,

Having considered the report on the activities of the Compliance Committee submitted by its Chairman to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in accordance with Section VI of Decision IG. 17/2 for the 2012-2013 biennium,

Underlining the role of the Compliance Committee to advise and assist the Contracting Parties in the implementation of its recommendations and those of the meetings of the Contracting Parties, in order to help them meet their obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and, in general, facilitate, promote, monitor and ensure such compliance,

Noting with satisfaction the performance of the Compliance Committee during its three meetings and its work program for the period covered by the report,

Considering the work program proposed by the Compliance Committee for the 2014-2015 biennium,

Stressing the need for the Contracting Parties to comply with their reporting obligations on time, using the standardized report form available online, concerning measures taken to implement the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, as well as the decisions of the meeting of the Contracting Parties,

Considering the procedures for election or renewal of some of the members and alternates of the Compliance Committee defined under Decision IG. 17/2, as amended by Decision IG. 20/1,

Noting also the decision by the Compliance Committee to propose certain amendments to Decision IG. 19/1 on Rules of Procedure for the Compliance Committee and the proposals made to the Committee on this subject by the Bureau of the Barcelona Convention at its meeting in Ankara, Turkey (1-3 July 2013),

Decides to:

urge the Contracting Parties concerned (Annex I) to submit their reports for examination by the Compliance Committee, especially those who have not submitted reports for the 2010-2011 biennium, in order to facilitate the Committee's task of evaluating any difficulties in implementing the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;

approve amendments to Decision IG. 19/1 on the Rules of Procedure for the Compliance Committee, including those proposed by the Bureau of the Barcelona Convention, the text of which appears in Annex II to this Decision;

elect and/or renew to the Compliance Committee the members and alternates whose names appear in Annex III to this Decision, in accordance with the procedures defined under Decision IG. 17/2 on Procedures and mechanisms on compliance, as amended by Decision IG. 20/1;

approve the addition of a paragraph 2a to Section V of Annex III to Decision IG. 17/2 on Procedures and mechanisms on compliance concerning the Committee's power of initiative, the text of which appears in Annex IV to this Decision;

adopt the work program of the Compliance Committee for the 2014-2015 biennium, as contained in Annex V to this Decision;

request the components of MAP to provide the Committee with all relevant information to help it carry out its activities;

ask the Compliance Committee, in accordance with paragraph 17(b) and (c) of the Procedures and mechanisms on compliance, to discuss general compliance-related issues, including recurring problems of non-compliance;

ask the Compliance Committee, in accordance with paragraph 31 of the Procedures and mechanisms on compliance, to submit to the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties a report on its activities, including on the difficulties encountered in the application of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

Annex I

National reports submitted according to Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention as at 25 July 2013

No	Contracting Parties	2002-2003 Biennium	2004-2005 Biennium	2006-2007 Biennium	2008-2009 Biennium	2010-2011 Biennium
1	Albania	•	•	•		
2	Algeria	•	•		•	
3	Bosnia & Herzegovina	•	•	•	•	• (online)
4	Cyprus	•			•	• (online)
5	Croatia	•	•	•	•	• (online)
6	European Union	•	•	•	•	•
7	Egypt		•		•	•
8	Spain	•	•	•	•	• (online)
9	France	•	•	•	•	•
10	Greece	•	•	•	•	• (online)
11	Israel	•	•	•	•	• (online)
12	Italy	•	•		•	• (online)
13	Lebanon					• (online)
14	Libya	•		•		
15	Malta		•			
16	Morocco	•	•	•	•	•
17	Monaco	•	•	•	•	
18	Montenegro	•		•		• (online)
19	Slovenia	•	•	•		
20	Syria	•	•	•	•	
21	Tunisia	•			•	
22	Turkey	•	•	•	•	•
Total of reports submitted per Biennium		19	17	15	16	14

Annex II

DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

NOTE: the amendments proposed by the Compliance Committee are in bold type in the text, the amendments of the Bureau are in brackets in the text

Proposed amended rules of procedure of the Compliance Committee under the Barcelona Convention and its protocols

Purposes

Rule 1

Within the framework of the implementation of the procedures and mechanisms on compliance under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, hereinafter called "compliance procedures and mechanisms", contained in the annex to decision IG 17/2 on compliance procedures and mechanisms, hereinafter called decision IG 17/2, as adopted by the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, these rules of procedure shall apply to any meeting of the Compliance Committee, hereinafter called "the Committee", under the Convention and its related Protocols.

Rule 2

The Rules of Procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its related Protocols shall apply mutatis mutandis to any meeting **of the** Committee unless otherwise stipulated in the rules set out herein and in decision IG 17/2, and provided that rules 18 and 19 on representation and credentials of the Rules of Procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties do not apply.

Definitions

Rule 3

For the purposes of these rules:

1. "Convention and its related Protocols" means the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) adopted in 1976 and amended in 1995 and its related Protocols: Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency (Emergency Protocol), Barcelona, 1976; Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (Prevention and Emergency Protocol), Malta, 2002; Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (Dumping Protocol), Barcelona, 1976; amendments to the Dumping Protocol, recorded as Protocol for the Prevention and Elimination of Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft or Incineration at Sea, Barcelona, 1995; Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-

Based Sources (LBS Protocol), Athens, 1980; amendments to the LBS Protocol, recorded as Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities, Syracuse, 1996; Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas (SPA Protocol), Geneva, 1982; Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA and Biodiversity Protocol), Barcelona, 1995; 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), Madrid, 1994; Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Hazardous Wastes Protocol), Izmir, 1996; Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean (ICZM Protocol), Madrid, 2008.

2. "Compliance procedures and mechanisms" means the procedures and mechanisms on compliance under the Barcelona Convention and its related Protocols adopted by the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties and set out in the annex to decision IG 17/2.

3. "Contracting Parties" means Contracting Parties to the Convention and its related Protocols, including the amended versions, if any, for which the Convention and the related Protocols and their respective amendments are in force.

4. "Party concerned" means a Party in respect of which a question of compliance is raised as set out in section V of the compliance procedures and mechanisms.

5. "Committee" means the Compliance Committee established by section II, paragraph 2, of the compliance procedures and mechanisms and by decision IG 17/2 of the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

6. "Member" means a member of the Committee elected under section II, paragraph 3, of the compliance procedures and mechanisms.

7. "Alternate member" means an alternate member elected under section II, paragraph 3, of the compliance procedures and mechanisms.

8. "Chairperson" means the Chairperson of the Committee elected in accordance with rule 6 of the present rules of procedure.

9. "Vice-Chairpersons" means the Vice-Chairpersons of the Committee elected in accordance with rule 6 of the present rules of procedure.

10. "Secretariat" means the Coordinating Unit that is designated by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) **as responsible for** the administration of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), referred to in paragraph 38 of the compliance procedures and mechanisms.

11. "Representative" means a person designated by the Party concerned to represent it during the consideration of a question of non-compliance.

12. "The public" means one or more natural or legal persons and, in accordance with national legislation or practice, their associations, organizations or groups.

13. "Bureau" means the Bureau of the Contracting Parties referred to in article 19 of the Convention.

14. "Observers" means the organizations referred to in article 20 of the Convention and those included in the list of MAP partners as approved by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

Place, dates and notice of meetings

Rule 4

1. The committee shall normally meet ***twice per biennium preferably once a year***. It may decide [***recommend the Secretariat***] to hold additional meetings subject to workload requirements arising from submissions by concerned Contracting Parties and referrals by the Secretariat and subject to availability of funds.
2. Unless it decides otherwise, [the Committee shall meet at the seat of the Coordinating Unit. ***Any additional costs that may rise by changing of the place of the meeting shall be met by the host country.***]
3. At each meeting, the Committee ***shall decide in consultation with the Secretariat*** on the place, dates and duration of its next meeting.

Rule 5

Notice of Committee meetings shall be sent by the Secretariat to the ***members*** and alternate members and any representative, as the case may be, with a copy to the MAP Focal Points of all Contracting Parties, at least three months before the opening of the meeting.

Officers

Rule 6

The Committee shall elect a Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons for a term of two years. No officers shall serve for more than two consecutive terms.

Rule 7

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him or her elsewhere in these rules, the Chairperson shall:
 - (a) Preside over the meeting;
 - (b) Declare the opening and closure of the meeting;
 - (c) Ensure the observance of these rules;
 - (d) Accord the right to speak;
 - (e) ***Put*** questions to ***the vote*** and announce decisions;
 - (f) Rule on any points of order;
 - (g) Subject to these rules, have complete control over the proceedings and maintain order.
2. The Chairperson may also propose:
 - (a) The closure of the list of speakers;
 - (b) A limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of interventions on an issue;
 - (c) The adjournment or closure of debate on an issue;
 - (d) The suspension or adjournment of the meeting.

Agenda

Rule 8

1. In agreement with the Chairperson, the Secretariat shall draft the provisional agenda for each meeting of the Committee. The agenda of the Committee shall include items arising from its functions as specified in section IV of the compliance procedures and mechanisms and other matters related thereto.
2. The Committee, when adopting its agenda, may decide to add urgent and important items and to delete, defer or amend items.

Rule 9

The provisional agenda and the annotated agenda for each meeting, the draft report of the previous meeting and other working and supporting documents shall be circulated by the Secretariat to **members** and alternate members at least six weeks before the opening of **the Committee's** meeting.

Rule 10

1. The term of office of a **member** or alternate member shall commence at the end of an ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties immediately following his or her election and run until the end of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties two or four years thereafter, as applicable.
2. If a **member** or alternate member of the Committee resigns or is otherwise unable to complete his or her term of office, the Party which nominated that **member** or alternate member shall nominate a replacement to serve for the remainder of that **member's** or alternate member's mandate, subject to endorsement by the Bureau of the Contracting Parties.
3. When a **member** or alternate member resigns or is otherwise unable to complete the assigned term, the Committee shall request the Secretariat to start the replacement procedures in order to ensure, in accordance with paragraph 2 above, the election of a new **member** or alternate member for the remainder of the term.

Rule 11

1. In accordance with these rules of procedure, **members** and alternate members shall be invited to attend Committee meetings.
2. Alternate members are entitled to take part in the proceedings of the Committee without the right to vote. An alternate member may cast a vote only if serving as a **member**.
3. During the absence of a **member** from all or part of a meeting, his or her alternate shall serve as the **member**.
4. When a **member** resigns or is otherwise unable to complete the assigned term or the functions of a member, his or her alternate shall serve as a member ad interim.
5. Any other participant in the Committee's meetings shall attend as an observer.

Rule 12

1. Each member of the Committee shall, with respect to any matter that is under consideration by the Committee, avoid direct or indirect conflicts of interest. Any matter that may constitute a conflict of interest shall be **brought** as soon as possible **to the attention** of the Secretariat, which shall forthwith notify the members of the Committee. The concerned member shall not participate in the elaboration and adoption of findings, measures and recommendations of the Committee in relation to such a matter.
2. If the Committee considers that a material violation of the requirements of independence and impartiality expected of a **member** or alternate member of the Committee has occurred, it may decide to recommend, through the Secretariat to the Bureau of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties, to revoke the membership of any member or alternate member concerned, after having given the **member** or alternate member the opportunity to be heard.
3. All decisions of the Committee taken under this rule shall be noted in the annual report of the Committee to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

Rule 13

Each **member** and alternate member of the Committee shall take the following written oath:

“I solemnly declare that I shall perform my duties as member of the Committee objectively, independently and impartially, acting in the interest of the Barcelona Convention, and shall not disclose any confidential information coming to my knowledge by reason of my duties in the Committee, and I shall disclose to the Committee any personal interest in any matter submitted to the Committee for consideration which may constitute a conflict of interest.”

Distribution and consideration of information

Rule 14

1. The information received in accordance with paragraphs 18-19 of section V on Procedure shall be distributed by the Secretariat to the **members** and alternate members of the Committee.
2. **Any** submission received in accordance with paragraph 18(a) of section V of the compliance procedures and mechanisms shall be transmitted by the Secretariat to the **members** of the Committee and their alternates as soon as possible but no later than thirty days of receipt of the submission.
3. A submission received in accordance with paragraph 18(b) of the compliance procedures and mechanisms and any issues raised by the Secretariat as provided for in paragraph 23 of the compliance procedures and mechanisms shall be transmitted by the Secretariat to the **members** of the Committee and their alternates as soon as possible but no later than 30 days after the six-month time frames provided for in the above-mentioned paragraphs have expired.
4. Any information to be considered by the Committee shall, as soon as possible but no later than two weeks after receipt, be made available to the Party concerned.

Public access to documents and information

Rule 15

The provisional agenda, reports of meetings, official documents and, subject to rule 14 above and paragraph 30 of section V of the compliance procedures and mechanisms, any other non-confidential information documents shall be made available to the public.

Participation in proceedings of the Committee

Rule 16

1. Unless the Committee or the Party whose compliance is in question decides otherwise, the meetings of the Committee will be open to other Contracting Parties and to observers as provided for under paragraph 13 of the compliance procedures and mechanisms.

2. In accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 18, 27 and 29 of the compliance procedures and mechanisms, the Party concerned is entitled to participate in the Committee's proceedings and make comments thereon. It may furthermore, in accordance with the criteria adopted by the Committee and at the request of the latter, take part in the preparation of its findings, measures and recommendations. The Party concerned shall be given an opportunity to comment in writing on the findings, measures and recommendations of the Committee. Any such comments shall be forwarded with the report of the Committee to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

3. The Committee may invite experts to provide **expert** advice through the Secretariat. In that case it shall:

- (a) Define the question on which expert opinion is sought;
- (b) Identify the expert(s) to be consulted, on the basis of a roster of experts prepared and regularly updated by the Secretariat;
- (c) Lay down the procedures to be followed.

4. Experts may also be invited by the Committee to be present during the formulation of its findings, measures or recommendations.

5. Secretariat officials may be also invited by the Committee **to attend the Committee's deliberations** in order to assist in the drafting of its findings, measures or recommendations.

Conduct of business

Rule 17

In conformity with rule 11, seven **members** of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. For the purpose of the quorum, the replacement of **members** by alternates shall take into consideration equitable geographical representation, consistently with the composition of the Committee as set out in the third paragraph of decision IG 17/2.

Rule 18

1. With respect to a notification or document sent by the Secretariat to a Contracting Party, the date of receipt shall be deemed to be the date indicated in a written confirmation from the Party or the date indicated in a written confirmation of receipt by the expedited delivery courier, whichever comes first.

2. With respect to a submission, request or other document intended for the Committee, the date of receipt by the Committee shall be deemed to be the first business day after receipt by the Secretariat.

Rule 19

1. Electronic means of communication may be used by the members of the Committee for the purpose of conducting informal consultations on issues under consideration and decision-making on matters of procedure. Electronic means of communication shall not be used for making decisions on matters of substance related in particular to the preparation of findings, measures and recommendations by the Committee.
2. The Committee may use electronic means **of communication** for the transmission, dissemination and storage of documentation, without prejudice to normal means of circulation of the documentation, as the case may be.

Voting

Rule 20

Each **member** of the Committee shall have one vote.

Rule 21

1. The Committee shall make every effort to reach agreement by consensus on its findings, measures and recommendations. If all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted, the Committee shall as a last resort adopt its findings, measures and recommendations by at least six members present and voting.
2. For the purpose of these rules, “members present and voting” means members present at the session at which voting takes place and casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members **who abstain** from voting shall be considered as not voting.

Secretariat

Rule 22

1. The Secretariat shall make **all necessary** arrangements for meetings of the Committee and provide it with services as required.
2. In addition, **and subject to availability of technical and financial means**, the Secretariat shall perform **any** other function assigned to it by the Committee with respect to the work of the Committee.

Languages

Rule 23

The working languages of the Committee shall be the official languages of the meetings or conferences of the Contracting Parties.

Rule 24

1. The submissions from the Party concerned, the response and the information referred to in section V of the compliance procedures and mechanisms shall be provided in one of the four official languages of the Meetings **of the Conference** of the Contracting Parties to the Convention and its related Protocols. The Secretariat shall make arrangements to translate them into English and/or French if they are submitted in the other official languages of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention and its related Protocols.

2. **Any** representative taking part in the Committee proceedings and/or meetings may speak in a language other than the working languages of the Committee if the Party provides for interpretation.

3. Final findings, measures and recommendations shall be made available in all official languages of the Meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Convention and its related Protocols.

General procedures for submissions

Rule 25

The time frame for submissions is as follows:

1. For cases concerning a submission by a **Contracting** Party in respect of its own actual or potential situation of non-compliance: at the latest six (6) weeks before the opening of the ordinary meeting of the Committee.

2. For cases concerning a submission by a **Contracting** Party in respect of another Party's situation of non-compliance: at the latest four (4) months before the opening of the ordinary meeting of the Committee allowing the **Contracting** Party whose compliance is in question at least three months to consider and prepare its response.

3. The time frames for cases concerning a submission by a **Contracting** Party in respect of another **Contracting** Party's situation of non-compliance also apply to issues raised by the Secretariat.

4. All the above time frames are **indicative** and may be extended according to the necessities warranted by the circumstances of the matter at hand and in accordance with the Committee's rules of procedure and due process. In this respect, **Contracting** Parties may submit additional documentation, comments and written observations to be considered by the Committee.

Rule 26

1. A submission by any Contracting Party raising a question of non-compliance with respect to itself shall set out:

- (a) The name of the Contracting Party making the submission;
- (b) A statement identifying the question of non-compliance, supported by substantiating information setting out the matter of concern relating to the question of non-compliance;
- (c) Its legal basis and the relevant provisions of the Barcelona Convention and its related Protocols and decision IG 17/2 that form the basis for raising the question of non-compliance;

- (d) Any provisions of the decisions of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties and the reports of the Secretariat that are applicable to the question of non-compliance.

2. The submission **shall** also include **the** list of all documents annexed to the submission.

Rule 27

1. A submission by any Contracting Party raising a question of non-compliance with respect to another Party shall set out:

- (a) The name of the Contracting Party making the submission;
- (b) A statement identifying the question of non-compliance, supported by substantiating information setting out the matter of concern relating to the question of non-compliance;
- (c) The name of the Party concerned;
- (d) Its legal basis and the relevant provisions of the Barcelona Convention and its related Protocols and decision IG 17/2 that form the basis for raising the question of non-compliance;
- (e) Any provisions of the decisions of the meetings of the Contracting Parties and the reports of the Secretariat that are applicable to the question of non-compliance.

2. The submission should also include the list of all documents annexed to the submission.

Rule 28

The Secretariat shall make the submission and any supporting information, submitted under rule 15 **above**, including any expertise reports, available to the representative designated by the concerned Party.

Rule 29

Within the framework of general procedures for submissions as provided for under rule 26 above, comments and written observations by the Party concerned in accordance with the provisions of section V of the compliance procedures and mechanisms on the Committee's preliminary and final findings, measures and recommendations **shall** include:

- (a) A statement of the position of the Party concerned on the information, findings, measures and recommendations or question of non-compliance under consideration;
- (b) An identification of any information provided by the Party that it requests should not be made available to the public in accordance with paragraph 30 of section V of the compliance procedures and mechanisms;
- (c) A list of all documents annexed to the submission or comment.

Rule 30

1. Any submission, comment and/or written observations under rules 13 and 29 **above** shall be signed by the MAP Focal Point or the representative of the **Contracting** Party and be delivered to the Secretariat in hard copy and by electronic means **of communication**.

2. Any relevant documents in support of the submission, comment or written observations shall be annexed to it.

Rule 31

1. Findings, measures or recommendations shall contain, mutatis mutandis:
 - (a) The name of the Party concerned;
 - (b) A statement identifying the question of non-compliance addressed;
 - (c) The legal basis and the relevant provisions of the Barcelona Convention and its related Protocols and decision IG 17/2 and other relevant decisions of the Meetings of the Contracting Parties that form the basis of the preliminary findings, measures and recommendations and their final versions;
 - (d) A description of the information considered in the deliberations and confirmation **that gives** the Party concerned an opportunity to comment in writing on all information considered;
 - (e) A summary of the proceedings, including an indication of whether its preliminary finding or any part of it as specified is confirmed;
 - (f) The substantive decision on the question of non-compliance, including the consequences applied, if any;
 - (g) **The background**, conclusions and reasons for the findings, measures and recommendations;
 - (h) The place and date of the findings, measures and recommendations;
 - (i) The names of the members who participated in the consideration of the question of non-compliance and in the elaboration and adoption of the findings, measures and recommendations.
2. **Written** comments on the findings, measures and recommendations submitted within 45 days of their receipt by the Party concerned shall be circulated by the Secretariat to the **members** and alternate members of Committee and shall be included in the Committee's biennial report to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

Amendments to the rules of procedure

Rule 32

Any amendment to these rules of procedure **is** adopted by consensus by the Committee and submitted for consideration and adoption by the Bureau, subject to endorsement by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

Overriding authority of the Convention and its related protocols and decision IG 17/2

Rule 33

In the event of a conflict between any provision in these rules and any provision in the Convention and its related Protocols or decision IG 17/2, the provisions of the Convention and its Protocols or, as the case may be, decision IG 17/2 shall prevail.

Annex III

Members and alternate members of the Compliance Committee elected/renewed by the 18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties

Group I – Contracting Parties of the South and East of the Mediterranean

-, elected/renewed as member for a term of four years
-, elected/renewed as alternate member for a term of four years

Group II – Contracting Parties which are European Union members

-, elected/renewed as member for a term of four years
-, elected/renewed as alternate member for a term of four years

Group III – Other Contracting Parties

-, elected/renewed as member for a term of four years
-, elected/renewed as alternate member for a term of four years

Annex IV

Decision IG. 17/2 (amended) on Procedures and mechanisms on compliance under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

I. Compliance Committee

Section V "Procedure" of Decision IG.17/2 is hereby supplemented as follows:

"2a. Referral to the Committee on its own initiative

The Committee may examine, on the basis of the biennial activity reports or in the light of any other relevant information, any difficulties encountered by a Contracting Party in the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. The Committee may ask the Party concerned to provide all additional information. The Party concerned shall have a period of two months to respond.

Paragraphs 24 to 30 and 32 to 34 shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, in the case of referral to the Committee on its own initiative".

Annex V

Work program of the Compliance Committee for the 2014-2015 biennium adopted at the 7th meeting of the Compliance Committee

Athens, Greece, July 2013

The Compliance Committee agreed to perform the following activities during the 2014-2015 biennium as described below:

- a. Examination of any referrals by the Contracting Parties in accordance with paragraphs 18 and 19 of the Procedures and mechanisms on compliance;
- b. Examination of any referrals by the Contracting Parties in accordance with paragraph 23 of the Procedures and mechanisms on compliance;
- c. Analysis, in accordance with paragraphs 17(b) and (c) of the Procedures and mechanisms on compliance, of general issues of non-compliance arising out of the reports submitted by the Contracting Parties for the periods 2010-2011 and 2012-2013;
- d. Finalization of the draft guidelines and common criteria for the evaluation of reports by the Compliance Committee to identify situations/cases of actual or potential non-compliance;
- e. Development of a guide/manual for the preparation of national reports for the attention of the Contracting Parties;
- f. Analysis of broader issues requested by the meeting of the Contracting Parties in accordance with paragraph 17(c) of the Procedures and mechanisms on compliance, including detailed examination of the issues raised by the MAP components on the application of the Protocols;
- g. Continuing examination of proposals aimed at strengthening the Committee under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;
- h. Analysis of the effectiveness of the application of the Procedures and mechanisms on compliance with the Barcelona Convention, taking into account the feedback from the Parties on the conditions under which the supporting role of the Committee could be improved;
- i. Development and adoption of the report and recommendations of the Committee for submission to the 19th meeting of the Contracting Parties.

Draft Decision IG.21/2

**on the reporting format to comply with the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols; and,
the new reporting format for the ICZM Protocol**

The 18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties,

Recalling respectively Articles 26 and 27 of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, as amended in Barcelona in 1995, hereinafter referred to as the "Barcelona Convention", and the relevant articles of the Protocols to the Barcelona Convention providing for the obligation to report on their implementation,

Considering that the 1995 amendments to the Barcelona Convention have not yet been ratified by all the Contracting Parties,

Welcoming in this regard the progress made in the ratification of legal instruments during this biennium (Annex I) and encouraging all Parties that have not yet ratified to do so as soon as possible and, in particular, to adopt without delay amendments to the "Dumping" Protocol, so that they can take effect, such that all legal instruments and MAP amendments will then be in effect,

Considering the links of the 1995 amendments to the Dumping Protocol with some Regional Plans (such as the Marine Litter Regional Plan) and the need to consolidate the Barcelona Convention legal framework in which all legal texts should be in force,

Expressing its concern over the fact that ten Contracting Parties have not submitted their biennial reports on measures taken to implement the Convention and its Protocols and that some reports were not received on time,

Taking note of the modified report form provided online by the Secretariat in cooperation with INFORAC, enabling the Contracting Parties to report on the implementation of their obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols,

Taking note of the Compliance Committee's proposal to simplify the format of the questionnaire, in order to make it more accessible and practical for the Contracting Parties,

Considering also the Compliance Committee's finding that the biennial frequency of reports by the Contracting Parties on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols should be maintained,

Noting also the "stock-taking" exercise conducted by the Secretariat in cooperation with PAP/RAC and its partners in the PEGASO project and taking into account its results for 2012, as the basis for assessing future progress in the implementation of the ICZM Protocol,

Noting the report by the Secretariat outlining the general advances made in the region, at the legal and institutional level, in the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols,

Decides to:

urge the Contracting Parties to formally submit their reports on measures taken to implement the Convention and its Protocols for the 2012-2013 biennium to the Coordinating Unit by October 2014 at the latest, using the online form;

ask the Secretariat to provide all information available on the state of progress in the procedure for the adoption of the 1995 amendments to the Barcelona Convention by the two Contracting Parties which have not yet adopted them, in order to achieve universal acceptance of the Convention;

invite the Contracting Parties that have not done so to inform the Secretariat about the state of the development of their internal procedures to ratify 1995 amendments to the Dumping Protocol;

maintain the biennial frequency of the reports which the Contracting Parties are required to submit to the Secretariat under Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention;

adopt the institutional and legal sections of the ICZM Protocol report form prepared by the Secretariat and PAP/RAC (Annex II) and ask the Secretariat to prepare the operational section of the Protocol report form for approval by the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties;

ask the Contracting Parties which have ratified the ICZM Protocol to submit a report on the implementation of the Protocol and invite Parties which have signed the Protocol to submit a report on a voluntary basis using the overall reporting system for the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;

ask the Coordinating Unit, subject to the availability of funds, to provide advice to the Contracting Parties, to enable them to submit on time comprehensive reports on the implementation of all MAP legal instruments;

request the Secretariat to consult with Contracting Parties on their capacity building needs with regard to preparation of reports and inform COP 19 on its findings;

ask the Coordinating Unit to prepare, in consultation with the Compliance Committee, a simplified and practical draft of the report form for the Barcelona Convention and its protocols which also includes information on concrete implementation measures taken to achieve effective pollution reduction and biodiversity conservation and to submit it for consideration and adoption at the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties;

ask the Coordinating Unit to conduct an analysis of the information contained in the national reports, with a view to preparing a report on the general advances made in the region, at legal and institutional level, in implementing the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, to propose further measures if necessary, and to submit this report to the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

Annex I

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 17th April 2013

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	-	-	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/			1996 Hazardous Wastes Protocol 9/		
	Signature	Ratification	Entered into force	Signature	Ratification	Entered into force	Signature	Ratification	Entered into force
Albania	10.06.95	26.07.01	25.08.01	-	26.07.01	24.03.11	-	26.07.01	18.01.08
Algeria	10.06.95	14.03.07	13.04.07	-	-	-	01.10.96	-	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Croatia	10.06.95	12.04.02	12.05.02	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	17.12.12/AC.	27.02.13	29.03.13	-	-	-
Egypt	10.06.95	11.02.00	12.03.00	-	-	-	01.10.96	-	-
France	10.06.95	16.04.01	16.05.01	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greece	10.06.95	-	-	14.10.94	-	-	01.10.96	-	-
Israel	10.06.95	-	-	14.10.94	-	-	-	-	-
Italy	10.06.95	07.09.99	12.12.99	14.10.94	-	-	01.10.96	-	-
Lebanon	-	22.04.09	22.05.09	-	-	-	-	-	-
Libya	-	-	-	-	16.06.05	24.03.11	01.10.96	-	-
Malta	10.06.95	28.10.99	12.12.99	14.10.94	-	-	01.10.96	28.10.99	18.01.08
Monaco	10.06.95	03.06.97	12.12.99	14.10.94	-	-	01.10.96	-	-
Montenegro	-	19.11.07	19.12.07	-	-	-	-	19.11.07	18.01.08
Morocco	10.06.95	24.04.09	25.05.09	-	01.07.99	24.03.11	20.03.97	01.07.99	18.01.08
Slovenia	-	08.01.03	07.02.03	10.10.95	-	-	-	-	-
Spain	10.06.95	23.12.98	12.12.99	14.10.94	-	-	01.10.96	-	-
Syria	-	10.10.03	09.11.03	20.09.95	22.02.11	24.03.11	-	22.02.11	24.03.11
Tunisia	10.06.95	01.06.98	12.12.99	14.10.94	01.06.98	24.03.11	01.10.96	01.06.98	18.01.08
Turkey	-	18.09.02	18.10.02	-	-	-	01.10.96	03.04.04	18.01.08

* 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	2008 Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol 10/		
	Signature	Ratification	Entered into force
Albania		04.05.2010/AD	24.03.11
Algeria	21.01.08	-	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	-	-
Croatia	21.01.08	29.01.2013/R	28.02.2013
Cyprus	-	-	-
European Union	16.01.2009	29.09.10/AP	24.03.11
Egypt.	-	-	-
France	21.01.08	29.10.09/AP	24.03.11
Greece	21.01.08	-	-
Israel	21.01.08	-	-
Italy	21.01.08	-	-
Lebanon	-	-	-
Libya	-	-	-
Malta	21.01.08	-	-
Monaco	21.01.08	-	-
Montenegro	21.01.08	09.01.12/R	08.02.12
Morocco	21.01.08	21.09.12/R	21.10.12
Slovenia	21.01.08	01.12.09/R	24.03.11
Spain	21.01.08	22.06.10/R	24.03.11
Syria	21.01.08	22.02.2011	24.03.11
Tunisia	21.01.08	-	-
Turkey	-	-	-

Adhesion = AD

Approval = AP

R = Ratification

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, <i>amended as</i> 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), <i>amended as</i> 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.

Annex II

Form (institutional and legal sections) for reporting on the implementation of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean

I - Information on Contracting Party completing the report	
1.1 Contracting Party	
1.2 Period covered by the report	
Full name of national body responsible	
1.3 Name and Function of official completing the report	
1.4 Mailing address	
1.5 Telephone	
1.6 Email	
1.7 Validation by MAP Focal Point	
Date of dispatch of report	

II - Preparation of report	
2.1 Public authorities consulted	
2.2 Stakeholders consulted	

III - Ratification and general legal transposition into national law Articles 37, 5 and 6	
3.1 Date of signature of Protocol	
3.2 Date of ratification or approval	
3.3 Date of filing with the Spanish Government	
3.4 Date of publication in the country	
3.5 Date of entry into force in national law	
3.6 In the absence of ratification, status of the process for ratification	
3.7 Have the provisions of the Protocol been transposed into one or more general legal acts? Please specify titles and dates of such general legal acts. Which provisions of the Protocol have been transposed into the country's general legal acts? Please give a synthetic description of each of them. Please provide brief comparison between the requirements of the Protocol and Contracting Party legislation	
3.8 Are any such acts being prepared? Anticipated adoption date?	

3.9 Are the objectives and general principles of Articles 5 and 6 of the Protocol included in such acts?	
3.10 In case not, can you please explain why?	

IV - Information on territorial scope Article 3-3	
4.1 How was Article 3-3 implemented at national and/or local level in relation to the obligation to inform the public and stakeholders?	

V - Institutional measures Article 7	
5.1 Which department is responsible at central level for ICZM?	
5.2 Is there an interinstitutional/national body for ICZM? Please, give a short description of name, establishment, competencies and process If there is no such body, is there an intention to create it?	

5.3 Is there coordination between maritime and land authorities (Art. 7-1-b)? How and at what level?	
5.4 Is there coordination between the national level and the local level: - on strategies, plans and programs? - on permissions for activities? How (Article 7-1-c)?	
5.5 What measures contribute to the coherence and effectiveness referred to under Article 7-2?	
5.6 What difficulties have been encountered?	
5.7 How the application of the Protocol has supported the implementation of the provisions of other Protocols of the Barcelona Convention?	

Draft Decision IG.21/3
**on the Ecosystems Approach including adopting
definitions of Good Environmental Status (GES) and targets**

The 18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties,

Recalling the vision and the goals for the implementation of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities adopted in decision IG. 17/6 of its 15th meeting held in Almeria, Spain (2008) providing for “A healthy Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems that are productive and biologically diverse for the benefit of present and future generations” and the seven step road-map for implementing the ecosystem approach by the Barcelona Convention/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) also adopted during that meeting,

Recalling also Decision IG. 20/4 of the 17th Conference of the Parties on the ecosystem approach and *acknowledging* with satisfaction the progress achieved and work carried out in the Mediterranean with respect to the implementation of the ecosystem approach roadmap by the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group and by the working structure established under its guidance, including the Correspondence Groups on Good Environmental Status (GES) and Targets,

Thanking the Secretariat and all UNEP/MAP components for their efforts to implement Decision 20/4 of COP17 on the ecosystem approach, regardless of their financial and human resources difficulties,

Recognizing the necessity for the Contracting Parties to fully support the implementation of the ecosystem approach roadmap and the need for substantive financial resources to support the process at regional and national levels, taking note of differences between country capacities,

Decides to:

Adopt based on Article 18 of the Barcelona Convention and on the relevant provisions from its related Protocols such as Article 7 and 8 of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities; Article 5 of the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea; Articles 3, 7 and 20 of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, an integrated list of Mediterranean Good Environmental Status and related targets, associated with the Operational Objectives and Indicators agreed at the 17th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as presented in Annex I to the present decision;

Based on Article 18 of the Barcelona Convention ***Welcome*** as a sound basis for the work of the Correspondence Group on Monitoring (COR MON) the process and principles of the Integrated Monitoring Programme and the Integrated Assessment Policy and the related Gap Analysis (as presented in Annex II to this decision and in UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.386/Inf.4);

Endorse the process to finalize the next steps of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap, as described through the initial Ecosystem Approach Timeline in Annex III, noting the past unfortunate delays;

Adopt the data sharing principles of the Barcelona Convention/MAP as presented in Annex IV of this decision and **Encourage** their further elaboration in the COR MON groups;

Endorse the governance structure established to advance the implementation of EcAp, through the Ecosystem Coordination Group and the Correspondence Groups on Good Environmental Status (GES) and Targets, Economic and Social Analysis (ESA) and Monitoring, as presented in Annex V;

Noting the progress made on the development of the socioeconomic analysis as presented in Annex VI, **Encourage** the finalization of the Socioeconomic Analysis, as well as of the guidelines to support national Socio-Economic Analyses, and the continuation of the work through COR ESA;

Encourage all Contracting Parties, International and Regional Organizations and International Financial Institutions and scientific community, to further support the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean, specifically addressing differences in national capacities, noting that the next steps of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap will require adequate human and financial resources, technical capacity and coordination both at the national and the regional level;

Request the Secretariat to:

1. Review and complete GES definitions and associated targets, during the next biennium, through the respective COR-GEST and COR MON groups and with the overall guidance of the EcAp Coordination Group, on the basis of preparatory work and proposals by Contracting Parties and MAP components, in order to improve and when necessary fill the current gaps in relation to some EOs in the List of GES and Targets. Based on this review¹ the new improved list of indicators and associated targets should be considered for inclusion in the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme at COP19;
2. Prepare in cooperation with MAP components and competent partner organizations, through a participatory process involving Contracting Parties and the scientific community, a Monitoring and Assessment Methodological Guidance for consideration during the first meeting of EcAp CG in 2014 and a draft Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme to be presented at the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties for adoption;
3. Prepare in cooperation with MAP components and building on best practices from other Regional Sea Conventions, on a trial basis, assessment sheets for consideration by the EcAp CG, as tools to provide by 2015 updates to the State of the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment Report (SOER-MED), in line with EcAp agreed Ecological Objectives;
4. Undertake a gap analysis of existing Barcelona Convention/Protocols measures relating to the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach and based on this analysis, enable the EcAp CG to further reflect on key measures for the implementation of EcAp;

¹ This revision will allow the list to be updated in response to scientific development, new insights, innovation, policy needs, consultations on the monitoring programmes, feasibility and costs.

5. Ensure that the data sharing principles of the Barcelona Convention/MAP as presented in Annex IV are implemented through the activities of all Barcelona Convention/MAP components;
6. Ensure the implementation of this decision through the operational activities of Barcelona Convention/MAP and its integration in the next Strategic and 2-year Programme of work;
7. Continue ensuring that Barcelona Convention/MAP Regional Policies, Strategies and Action Plans become coherent with the ecosystem approach;
8. Continue supporting Contracting Parties in their efforts to implement the other steps of the Ecosystem Roadmap according to the agreed timeline and enhance cooperation with partners and stakeholders and other global and regional processes in particular with the EU common MSFD implementation strategy and further investigate options for mobilizing resources for supporting financially the application of ecosystem approach both on regional and national levels, noting the difference in country capacities and the need of trans-boundary cooperation.

Annex I

Integrated list of Mediterranean Good Environmental Status and related targets

Table 1: GES and Targets for the Mediterranean in relation to the specific operational objectives and indicators of the agreed ecological objectives

Operational objective	Indicator	GES	Proposed Targets
1.4 Key coastal and marine habitats are not being lost	1.4.1 Potential/ observed distributional range of certain coastal and marine habitats listed under SPA protocol ²	The habitat is present in all its natural distributional range. ³	State The ratio Natural / observed distributional range tends to 1 Pressure Decrease in the main human causes of the habitat decline
	1.4.2 Distributional pattern of certain coastal and marine habitats listed under SPA protocol	The distributional extent ⁴ is in line with prevailing physiographic, hydrographic, geographic and climatic conditions.	State Decline in habitat extension is reversed and the extension of recovering habitats shows a positive trend.
	1.4.3 Condition of the habitat-defining species and communities	The population size and density of the habitat-defining species, and species composition of the community, are within reference conditions ensuring the long term maintenance of the Habitat ⁵	State No human induced significant deviation of population abundance and density from reference conditions ⁶ The species composition shows a positive trends towards reference condition over an increasing proportion of the habitat(for recovering habitats)

² The RAC/SPA Rabat meeting of the biodiversity and fisheries cluster of July 2013 proposed that this indicator should refer to natural distributional range instead of potential distributional range.

³ The natural distributional range should be defined by COP19.

⁴ The distributional extent should be defined by COP19.

⁵ Baseline to be determined by COP19.

⁶ Reference conditions should be defined by COP19 for the habitats to be considered under EO1.

Operational objective	Indicator	GES	Proposed Targets
1.1 Species distribution is maintained (marine mammals)	1.1.1 Distributional range	<u>Monk Seal</u> : Monk Seal is present along recorded Mediterranean coasts with suitable habitats for the species.	<u>Monk Seal</u>: The distribution of Monk Seal remains stable or expanding and the species is recolonizing areas with suitable habitats. Pressure/Response: Human activities⁷ having the potential to exclude marine mammals from their natural habitat within their range area or to damage their habitat are regulated and controlled. Conservation measures implemented for the zones of importance for cetaceans Fisheries management measures that strongly mitigate the risk of incidental taking of monk seals and cetaceans during fishing operations are implemented.
1.2 Population size of selected species is maintained (marine mammals)	1.2.1 Population abundance	The species population has abundance levels allowing to qualify to Least Concern Category of IUCN. ⁸	State Populations recover towards natural levels.
	1.2.2 Population density	<u>Monk Seal</u> : Number of individuals by colony allows to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status ⁹	State Continual recovery of population density
1.3 Population condition of selected species is	1.3.1 Population demographic characteristics (e.g. body size	<u>Cetaceans</u> : Species populations are in good condition: Low human induced mortality ¹⁰ , balanced	State Decreasing trends in human induced mortality

⁷ Seismic surveys, marine noise generating activities, fishing, maritime traffic, etc.

⁸ A taxon is Least Concern when it has been evaluated and does not qualify for "Critically Endangered", "Endangered", "Vulnerable" or "Near Threatened".

⁹ To be applied at local level and not at national scale.

¹⁰ Baseline data are required by COP19

Operational objective	Indicator	GES	Proposed Targets
maintained (marine mammals)	or age class structure, sex ratio, fecundity rates, survival/ mortality rates)	sex ratio and no decline in calf production <u>Monk Seal:</u> Species populations are in good condition: Low human induced mortality, appropriate pupping seasonality, high annual pup production, balanced reproductive rate and sex ratio	Pressure/Response <u>Cetaceans:</u> Appropriate measure implemented to mitigate incidental catch, prey depletion and other human induced mortality <u>Monk Seal:</u> Appropriate measures implemented to mitigate direct killing and incidental catches and to preclude habitat destruction.
1.1 Species distribution is maintained (birds)	1.1.1 Distributional range	The species continues to occur in all their Mediterranean natural habitat	State No significant shrinkage in the population distribution in the Mediterranean in all indicator species, and for colonial-breeding seabirds (i.e., most species in the Mediterranean): New colonies are established and the population is encouraged to spread among several alternative breeding sites ¹¹ .

¹¹ This is recommended by the conservation plans of some taxa (Audouin's G, Lesser-crested T).

Operational objective	Indicator	GES	Proposed Targets
1.2 Population size of selected species is maintained (birds)	1.2.1 Population abundance	The species population has abundance levels allowing to qualify to Least Concern Category of IUCN. ¹²	No human induced decrease in population abundance. Population recovers towards natural levels where depleted. The total number of individuals is sparse enough in different spots.
	1.2.2 Population density	Population density allows to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status	State Continual recovery or maintenance of population density in enough different spots to allow resilience No decrease in population density in new/ recolonized critical habitat (for recovered populations)
1.3 Population condition of selected species is maintained (birds)	1.3.1 Population demographic characteristics (e.g. body size or age class structure, sex ratio, fecundity rates, survival/ mortality rates)	Species populations are in good conditions: Natural levels of breeding success & acceptable levels of survival of young and adult birds.	Populations of all taxa, particularly those with IUCN threatened status are maintained in long term following the indication of population models. Incidental catch mortality is at negligible levels, particularly for species with IUCN threatened status.
1.1 Species distribution is maintained (reptiles)	1.1.1 Distributional range	The species continues to occur in all its natural range in the Mediterranean , including nesting, mating, feeding and wintering and developmental (where different to those of adults) sites	State Turtle distribution is not significantly affected by human activities Turtles continue to nest in all known nesting sites Pressure/Response Protection of known nesting, mating, foraging, wintering and developmental turtle

¹² A taxon is Least Concern when it has been evaluated and does not qualify for "Critically Endangered", "Endangered", "Vulnerable" or "Near Threatened".

Operational objective	Indicator	GES	Proposed Targets
			sites. Human activities¹³ having the potential to exclude marine turtles from their range area are regulated and controlled. The potential impact of climate change is assessed
1.2 Population size of selected species is maintained (reptiles)	1.2.1 Population abundance	The population size allows to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status taking into account all life stages of the population	State No human induced decrease in population abundance Population recovers towards natural levels where depleted
1.3 Population condition of selected species is maintained (reptiles)	1.3.1 Population demographic characteristics (e.g. body size or age class structure, sex ratio, fecundity rates, survival/ mortality rates)	Low mortality induced by incidental catch¹⁴, Favourable sex ratio and no decline in hatching rates	Response Measures to mitigate incidental catches in turtles implemented
	1.4.2 Distributional pattern of certain coastal and marine habitats listed under SPA protocol	Increasing distribution of nesting sites	The species recovers historical nesting sites

¹³ Uncontrolled use of turtle nesting sites, fishing, maritime traffic, etc.

¹⁴ Baseline data are required by COP 19

Operational objective	Indicator	GES	Proposed Targets
2.1 Invasive non-indigenous species introductions are minimized	2.1.1. Spatial distribution, origin and population status (established vs. vagrant) of non-indigenous species ¹⁵	Introduction and spread of NIS linked to human activities ¹⁶ are minimised, in particular for potential IAS	State The number of species and abundance of IAS introduced as a result of human activities¹⁷ is reduced. Pressure/Response - Improved management of the main human related pathways¹⁸ and vectors of NIS introduction (Mediterranean Strategy for the management of ballast waters, Aquaculture early warning systems, etc.) - Action plans developed to address high risk NIS, should they appear in the Mediterranean.
	2.1.2 Trends in the abundance of introduced species, notably in risk areas	Decreasing abundance of introduced NIS in risk areas	State Abundance of NIS introduced by human activities¹⁹ is reduced to levels giving no detectable impact
2.2. The impact of non-indigenous particularly invasive species on ecosystems is limited	2.2.1 Ecosystem impacts of particularly invasive species	No decrease in native species abundance, no decline of habitats and no change in community structure that have been generated by IAS via competition, predation or any other direct or indirect effect.	Pressure/Response Impacts of NIS reduced to the feasible minimum

¹⁵ Experience has shown that 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 may need to be merged in the future.

¹⁶ [Excluding introduction through the Suez Canal]- noting that Egypt and Israel have a reservation on this footnote.

¹⁷ [Excluding introduction through the Suez Canal]- noting that Egypt and Israel have a reservation on this footnote.

¹⁸ [Excluding introduction through the Suez Canal]- noting that Egypt and Israel have a reservation on this footnote.

¹⁹ [Excluding introduction through the Suez Canal]- noting that Egypt and Israel have a reservation on this footnote.

Operational objective	Indicator	GES	Proposed Targets
	2.2.2 ²⁰ Ratio between non-indigenous invasive species and native species in some well-studied taxonomic groups	Stable or decreasing proportion of NIS in the different habitats	State To be set upon species choice and their related impact degree of the invasive upon the indigenous ones, taking into account the role of Climate Change in accelerating the establishment of NIS populations.
5.1 Human introduction of nutrients in the marine environment is not conducive to eutrophication	5.1.1 Concentration of key nutrients in the water column	Concentrations of nutrients in the euphotic layer are in line with prevailing physiographic, geographic and climate conditions	State 1. Reference nutrients concentrations according to the local hydrological, chemical and morphological characteristics of the un-impacted marine region ²¹ 2. Decreasing trend of nutrients concentrations in water column of human impacted areas, statistically defined
	5.1.2. Nutrient ratios (silica, nitrogen and phosphorus) where appropriate	Natural ratios of nutrients are kept	Pressure 1. Reduction of BOD emissions from land based sources 2. Reduction of nutrients emissions from land based sources
5.2 Direct effects of nutrient over-enrichment are	5.2.1 Chlorophyll-a concentration in the water	Natural levels of algal biomass in line with prevailing physiographic, geographic and weather conditions ²²	State 1. Chl-a concentrations in high-risk areas below thresholds ²³

²⁰ Feasibility of this indicator to be addressed by COP19.

²¹ Thresholds to be set, subject to decision of Contracting Parties by COP19.

²² Thresholds to be determined by COP19.

Operational objective	Indicator	GES	Proposed Targets
prevented	column		2. Decreasing trend in chl-a concentrations in high risk areas affected by human activities
	5.2.2 Water transparency where relevant	Water transparency in line with prevailing physiographic, geographic and climate conditions.	State 1. Index of turbidity behind threshold in high risk areas 2. Increasing trend of transparency in areas impacted by human activities
5.3 Indirect effects of nutrient over-enrichment are prevented	5.3.1 Dissolved oxygen near the bottom, i.e. changes due to increased organic matter decomposition, and size of the area concerned ²⁴	Bottom water fully oxygenated in line with prevailing physiographic, geographic and climate conditions	State 1. Dissolved oxygen concentrations in high-risk areas above local threshold ²⁵ 2. Increasing trend in dissolved oxygen concentrations in areas impacted by human activities

²³ Thresholds to be set in the future, feasibility to be addressed, subject to decision of Contracting Parties by COP19.

²⁴ Monitoring to be carried out where appropriate.

²⁵ Thresholds to be set, , subject to decision of Contracting Parties by COP19.

Operational objective	Indicator	GES	Proposed Targets
7.1 Impacts to the marine and coastal ecosystem induced by climate variability and/or climate change are minimized	7.1.1 Large scale changes in circulation patterns, temperature, pH, and salinity distribution	Ecosystems are resilient enough to adapt to climate change.	Anthropogenic impacts which may alter ecosystems' adaptive capacity are reduced.
	7.1.2 Long term changes in sea level		
7.2 Alterations due to permanent constructions on the coast and watersheds, marine installations and seafloor anchored structures are minimized	7.2.1 Impact on the circulation caused by the presence of structures	With new structures in place, near shore wave- and current patterns maintain as natural as possible.	Marine and shore based new structures planned, constructed and operated in a way to maintain the natural wave and current pattern as much as possible
	7.2.2 Location and extent of the habitats impacted directly by the alterations and/or the circulation changes induced by them: footprints of impacting structures	Negative impacts due to new structure are minimal with no influence on the larger scale coastal and marine system	Planning of new structures takes into account all possible mitigation measures in order to minimize the impact on coastal and marine ecosystem and its services integrity and cultural/historic assets. Where possible, promote ecosystem health.
7.3 Impacts of alterations due to changes in freshwater flow from watersheds, seawater inundation and coastal freatic intrusion, brine input from desalination plants and seawater intake and outlet are minimized	7.3.3 Changes in key species distribution due to the effects of seawater intake and outlet	Water circulation in coastal and marine habitats, and changes in the levels of salinity and temperature are within thresholds, to maintain natural/ecological processes	Site specific tolerable limits of key species in immediate proximity of seawater intake and outlet structures are considered while planning, constructing and operating such infrastructure

Operational objective	Indicator	GES	Proposed Targets
8.1 The natural dynamic nature of coastlines is respected and coastal areas are in good condition	8.1.1 Areal extent of coastal erosion and coastline instability	Coastal resilience maintained and improved; and coastal uses made adaptable to coastal erosion	Impacts of coastal erosion caused by man made factors anticipated and prevented through coastal erosion management allowing for natural fluctuation of the coast and minimizing coastal erosion risk
	8.1.2 Changes in sediment dynamics along the coastline	Long term sediment dynamics is within natural patterns ²⁶	Disturbance in sediment inflows reduced through improved Integrated River Basin Management and coastal sand management practices
	8.1.4 Length of coastline subject to physical disturbance due to the influence of manmade structures	Physical disturbance to sandy coastal areas induced by human activities should be minimized	Negative impacts of human activities on sandy coastal areas are minimized through appropriate management measures
9.1 Concentration of priority²⁷ contaminants is kept within acceptable limits and does not increase	9.1.1 Concentration of key harmful contaminants ²⁸ in biota, sediment or water	Level of pollution is below a determined threshold defined for the area and species	State Concentrations of specific contaminants below EACs or below reference concentrations²⁹ No deterioration trend in contaminants concentrations in sediment and biota from human impacted areas, statistically defined. Pressure Reduction of contaminants emissions

²⁶ The feasibility of this GES should be further elaborated by COP19

²⁷ Priority contaminants as listed under the Barcelona Convention and LBS Protocol.

²⁸ Use for further work on reference conditions ERL for sediments taking into account specifics of the Mediterranean.

²⁹ Thresholds to be set by COP19.

Operational objective	Indicator	GES	Proposed Targets
			from land based sources ³⁰
9.2 Effects of released contaminants are minimized	9.2.1 Level of pollution effects of key contaminants where a cause and effect relationship has been established	Concentrations of contaminants are not giving rise to acute pollution events	State Contaminants effects below threshold³¹ Decreasing trend in the operational releases of oil and other contaminants from coastal, maritime and off-shore activities.
9.3 Acute pollution events are prevented and their impacts are minimized	9.3.1 Occurrence, origin (where possible), extent of significant acute pollution events (e.g. slicks from oil, oil products and hazardous substances) and their impact on biota affected by this pollution	Occurrence of acute pollution events are reduced to the minimum.	Pressure 1. Decreasing trend in the occurrences of acute pollution events
9.4 Levels of known harmful contaminants in major types of seafood do not exceed established standards	9.4.1 Actual levels of contaminants that have been detected and number of contaminants which have exceeded maximum regulatory levels in commonly consumed seafood ³²	Concentrations of contaminants are within the regulatory limits for consumption by humans	State Concentrations of contaminants are within the regulatory limits set by legislation

³⁰ Reduction programmes are already in place through the Protocols of the Barcelona Convention and the Marine Litter Regional Strategy.

³¹ Thresholds to be set by COP19.

³² Traceability of the origin of seafood sampled should be ensured.

Operational objective	Indicator	GES	Proposed Targets
	9.4.2 Frequency that regulatory levels of contaminants are exceeded	No regulatory levels of contaminants in seafood are exceeded	State Decreasing trend in the frequency of cases of seafood samples above regulatory limits for contaminants
9.5 Water quality in bathing waters and other recreational areas does not undermine human health	9.5.1 Percentage of intestinal enterococci concentration measurements within established standards	Concentrations of intestinal enterococci are within established standards	State Increasing trend in the percentage of intestinal enterococci concentration measurements within established standards
10.1 The impacts related to properties and quantities of marine litter in the marine and coastal environment are minimized³³	10.1.1 Trends in the amount of litter washed ashore and/or deposited on coastlines, including analysis of its composition, spatial distribution and, where possible, source	Number/amount of marine litter items on the coastline do not have negative impacts on human health, marine life and ecosystem services	State Decreasing trend in the number of/amount of marine litter (items) deposited on the coast

³³ Baseline is needed to be developed in line with the Marine Litter Regional Plan by COP19

	10.1.2 Trends in amounts of litter in the water column, including micro-plastics, and on the seafloor	Number/amount of marine litter items in the water surface and the seafloor do not have negative impacts on human health, marine life, ecosystem services and do not create risk to navigation	State Decreasing trend in the number/amount of marine litter items in the water surface and the seafloor
10.2 Impacts of litter on marine life are controlled to the maximum extent practicable	10.2.1 Trends in the amount of litter ingested by or entangling marine organisms, especially mammals, marine birds and turtles ³⁴		Decreasing trend in the cases of entanglement or/and a decreasing trend in the stomach content of the sentinel species.

Geographical scale and species and habitat reference list to consider for the GES and targets with regard to Ecological Objective 1 (Biodiversity) as agreed by the SPA/RAC Focal Points at their meeting held in Rabat, Morocco, July 2013.

1. Key coastal and marine habitats

Geographical Scale: The assessments should be made at national level and used to compile subregional (and where possible regional) assessments. The subregional assessments shall be compiled for each of the four Mediterranean subregions used for the initial assessment carried out within the framework of the EcAp process.

Habitats to be considered:

Biocoenosis of infralittoral algae (facies with vermetids or trottoir),

Hard beds associated with photophilic algae,

Meadows of the sea grass *Posidonia oceanica*,

Hard beds associated with Coralligenous biocenosis and semi dark caves,

Biocoenosis of shelf-edge detritic bottoms (facies with *Leptometra phalangium*),

Biocoenosis of deep-sea corals,

Seeps and biocoenosis of bathyal muds (facies with *Isidella elongata*).

³⁴ Marine mammals, marine birds and turtles included in the regional action plans of the SPA/BD Protocol.

Natural monuments listed by the Marine Vegetation Action Plan³⁵: Barrier reefs of *Posidonia*, organogenic surface formations, terraces (platforms with vermitids covered by soft algae) and certain *Cystoseira* belts.

Upwelling areas, fronts and gyres.

This is an indicative list; the habitats to be considered should be given further consideration (particularly regarding the pelagic habitats) within the framework of the elaboration of the integrated monitoring for each of the four Mediterranean subregions.

2. GES description and targets for Marine Mammals:

Geographical Scale: For cetaceans the assessments should be made at the Mediterranean level and at national level whenever possible. For the Monk seal assessments should be made at national and subregional scale.

Marine mammal Species to be considered (in alphabetical order):

- *Balaenoptera physalus* Fin whale
- *Delphinus delphis* Common dolphin
- *Globicephala melas* Long-finned pilot whale
- *Monachus monachus* Monk Seal
- *Physeter macrocephalus* Sperm whale
- *Stenella coeruleoalba* Striped dolphin
- *Tursiops truncatus* Bottlenose dolphin

³⁵ The Action Plan for the conservation of marine vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea has been adopted by the Eleventh Ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Malta, 27-30 October 1999).

3. GES description and targets for Birds:

Geographical Scale: For Birds the assessments should be made at national, subregional and Mediterranean level, and where possible at population level.

Bird species to be considered: (in alphabetical order):

Calonectris diomedea (Scopoli, 1769)

Chroicocephalus genei (Breme, 1839)

Hydrobates pelagicus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Larus audouinii (Payraudeau, 1826)

Phalacrocorax aristotelis (Linnaeus, 1761)

Puffinus mauretanicus (Lowe, PR, 1921)

Puffinus yelkouan (Brünnich, 1764)

Sterna bengalensis (Lesson, 1831)

Sterna nilotica (Gmelin, JF, 1789)

Sterna sandvicensis (Latham, 1878)

4. GES description and targets for Reptiles:

Geographical Scale: The assessments should be made at national and Mediterranean scales for nesting activity and at Mediterranean level for the population size and condition.

Turtle species to be considered:

Caretta caretta (Linnaeus, 1758)

Chelonia mydas (Linnaeus, 1758)

Trionyx triunguis (Forskal, 1775)

Dermochelys coriacea (Vandelli, 1761)

Geographical scale and species reference list to consider for the GES and targets with regard to Ecological Objective 2 (Non-indigenous species) as agreed by the SPA/RAC Focal Points at their meeting held in Rabat, Morocco, July 2013.

Geographical scale:

The assessments should be made at subregional scale.

Species to be considered:

Cluster of IAS shall be identified by subregion within the framework of the integrated monitoring.

Note:

Considering the landward limit of the coastal zone covered by the ICZM Protocol, terrestrial habitats/species would need to be considered under the EcAp process. To this end the lists of species in the Annexes to the SPA/BD Protocol and the Reference List of habitats adopted by the Parties should be amended to become further meaningful for the coastal terrestrial habitats/species. This would ensure that the two protocols apply the ecosystem approach in an integrated manner.

Similarly, for the coastal ecosystems and landscapes related to EO8 and in particular for land-use change, landscape types and fragmentation of habitats additional technical and scientific efforts should be made to be able to implement the EcAp in its entire scope as required by the ICZM Protocol in Articles 3, 5 (d), 6 (c), 10, 11 and 18.2.

Priority substances agreed by MEDPOL Focal points at their meeting held in Aix en Provence, France in November 2009.

Group 1: Substances for which programmes and measures should be prepared for following biennia, the Meeting suggested that the selection would be made at each Contracting Parties Meeting, based on the agreement made in the MED POL Focal Points meeting

- Nutrients (related to EO5)

- i. BOD (group of biodegradable substances expressed as BOD) from Industrial sources
- ii. BOD (group of biodegradable substances expressed as BOD) from urban wastewater
- iii. Total Nitrogen
- iv. Total Phosphorus

- Metals and related compounds (related to EO9)

- o Chromium
- o Cadmium
- o Lead
- o Mercury
- o Organic tin compounds
- o Organic mercury compounds
- o Organic lead compounds

- Organohalogen compounds (related to EO9):

- o Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)
- o Polychlorinated dibenzodioxins (PCDDs)
- o Polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDFs)

- Total suspended particulates (related to EO9)

- Total Volatile Organic Compounds
- Nitrogen oxides
- NH₃
- Sulfur oxide

- Organohalogenated pesticides/biocides (related to EO9):

- o Endosulphan *
- o Hexachlorocyclohexane *
- o Hexachlorobenzene *

- Other organic compounds (related to EO9):

- o diethylhexylphthalate (DEHP)

* Substances under review in the framework of Stockholm Convention

Group 2. Substances for which additional scientific information (sources, quantities, impacts, etc.) is needed.

The assessment reports on the status of the marine environment of the Mediterranean and other relevant assessments showed that there is enough scientific evidence of the negative impacts of the group of substances listed below on the marine environment. Nevertheless, data and information on sources, quantity and order of magnitude of releases and other information are still missing. Thus, there is a need to fill the gaps before considering any decision on limitation and reduction of their inputs. This list (not exhaustive) would include the following:

- Phenolic compounds (related to EO9)
- Brominated flame retardants (related to EO9)
- Hydrocarbons (related to EO9):
 - o Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
 - o Short Chain Chlorinated Parafins *

Group 3. Emerging substances for which a risk profile and assessment should be completed or initiated

Current marine research programmes have identified the presence of a number of new chemical substances in the marine ecosystem. Their risk is not yet assessed.

The list (not exhaustive) would include the following:

- Pharmaceuticals (related to EO9)
- Potential substances in the framework of Stockholm Convention (related to EO9)

Annex II

Process and principles of the Barcelona Convention/MAP Integrated Monitoring Programme and the Barcelona Convention/MAP Integrated Assessment Policy

A. Overarching principles of the Barcelona Convention/MAP Integrated Monitoring Programme

Adequacy (overarching principle 1)

The Integrated Monitoring Programme should be able to provide all the data needed to assess whether GES has been achieved or maintained, the distance from and progress towards GES, and progress towards achieving environmental targets and should provide the data to calculate/estimate the relevant criteria and indicators adopted in the ECAP process.

Coordination and coherence (overarching principle 2)

The Integrated Monitoring Programme should, as much as possible follow agreed monitoring approaches. Ideally, Contracting Parties would monitor a common regional set of elements, following agreed frequencies, comparable spatial resolution and agreed sampling methods in a coordinated manner. Joint specifications and use of other observation data in the region, such as satellite imagery, also could contribute to coordination. Ultimately, coherent monitoring programmes will facilitate the application of coherent mitigation measures so that measures taken by one Contracting Party would facilitate and not prevent the achievement of GES in other Contracting Parties.

Data architecture and interoperability (overarching principle 3)

A coherent integrated monitoring programme would ideally result in the collection of data for a regional set of common parameters. In order to achieve common datasets and interoperability of data, data sources will need to ensure that they are capable to deliver data using the same interface format. To achieve common data sets and to avoid duplication of work, existing databases and data flows at international or regional level should be taken into account, which already provide a pool of regionally interoperable data.

The concept of adaptive monitoring programme (overarching principle 4)

New or previously unknown pressures, evolution of socioeconomic activities worsening pressures may emerge in marine and coastal areas and/or existing pressures may decrease or be eliminated. The frequency, intensity and the whole of monitoring programmes may need adjustment to better respond to a changing situation. The ECAP implementation follows 6 years cycles but more frequent adjustment of monitoring programmes may be needed.

Consideration of the differences in scientific understanding for each Ecological Objective (overarching principle 5).

It is widely acknowledged that for some ecological objectives the level of scientific knowledge is more developed than for others. E.g. contaminants and eutrophication are already addressed, to some extent, by the existing regulations and some specifications exist on what GES is for these ecological objectives. For some ecological objectives such as noise and coastal ecosystems and landscapes much less knowledge exists and they have not been previously addressed or they have been addressed in a different context. The limited knowledge for some ecological objectives should trigger specific monitoring efforts, starting from investigative monitoring that will be built on the state of the art scientific developments.

The use of risk-based approach and the precautionary principle (overarching principle 6)

Resources are never infinite and are usually very limited. In order to achieve the successful implementation of the EcAp Roadmap in a cost-efficient manner, areas that are under higher pressures and the biota that are known to be more sensitive should be identified, should be monitored more frequently. Furthermore, increased monitoring effort may be needed in areas that are close to the boundary of GES in order to increase confidence in assessment and, consequently, in the decision to take measures.

The precautionary principle requires that measures should be taken even in areas where there is uncertainty if the status is good or less than good. This uncertainty may be due to limited understanding of what GES is for certain areas. The implications of the precautionary principle in monitoring are that these areas of uncertain status may require research.

B. Overarching principles of the Barcelona Convention/MAP Integrated Assessment Policy

Consistency (Overarching Principle 1)

The Integrated Assessment Policy should achieve:

- assessment methodologies and assessment products, including socioeconomic aspects are consistent across the Mediterranean;
- environmental targets and assessment products are mutually compatible;
- monitoring methods are consistent so as to facilitate comparability of monitoring results; *and by doing so*
- relevant trans boundary impacts and trans boundary features are taken into account;
- assessment results become a principal tool for evaluating the status of the marine and coastal environment, the achievement (or not) of the GES and targets agreed, as well as the effectiveness of implementation of the regional plans and other adopted measures.

EcAp as a framework for the Integrated Assessment (Overarching Principle 2)

The designing and establishing of an Integrated Policy of Assessments should be for all of Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP policies and Action Plans, based on the agreed ECAP ecological objectives and respective criteria, indicators and what constitutes Good Environmental Status.

Cyclical assessment (Overarching Principle 3)

The Integrated Policy of Assessments should use a common tentative time frame and assessment products and the identification of synergies to be established between the different policies and Action Plans in order to periodically assess the status of the Mediterranean environment, ensure efficient science-policy interface and meet the relevant ecological objectives and progress in their implementation in a coherent and consistent manner with the EcAp cycle.

Co-operation of Contracting Parties (Overarching Principle 4)

For the well-functioning of the a regional level Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme, it would be necessary to have trans-boundary and sub-regional cooperations

established between the countries, both in order to ensure cost-efficiency and adequacy of data-collection and assessment. This might require joint cooperation arrangements for sub-regional assessments as need to be, including the development of scientific assessment and quality assurance tools and setting out the necessary details of cooperation between Contracting Parties on (monitoring and) assessment requirements.

C. Process for achieving a MAP Integrated Monitoring Programme and Assessment Programme by 2015

Following the EcAp Roadmap Contracting Parties have committed to achieve good environmental status by 2020, which will require ways to measure the status of the Mediterranean waters in a qualitative manner.

In order to do so other Regional Seas are carrying out periodic Quality Status Reports, building on an integrated monitoring and assessment activities.

The following outlined process and timeline (included in an integrated manner in the updated EcAp timeline) thus aims the achievement of an Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme by COP19 in 2015 and the development of a Quality Status Report (QSR), covering all agreed Ecological Objectives by 2023. The QSR will be developed in close consultation with the Contracting Parties and the scientific community, using the existing governance structure.

Building on the achievements of the 2011 Integrated Assessment Report, ongoing monitoring and assessment work in Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP, as well as on the common set of GES and targets for the 11 Environmental objectives, on the ongoing socio-economic work, next to the principles described above, in points A-B, the achievement of the overall aims need to be gradual, with the following major steps:

1- *Biennium 2014-2015: Essential Technical Groundwork*

- Biennium 2014-2015 is dedicated for the essential technical groundwork, such as the development of Monitoring and Assessment Guidelines (methodological, technical issues, scope, feasibility, quality control, cost-effectiveness, common indicators) with the full involvement of national experts and the scientific community and all Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP components;
- Regarding monitoring, it needs to be noted, that initial assessment of country capacities will be key for the later 2016-2017 initial implementation and this activity should already start as well in 2014-2015;
- Both regarding assessment and monitoring it needs to be noted that data availability differs greatly in relation to the different EOs;
- For monitoring a practical way to address this issue is the differentiation between monitoring activities to start with (investigative, i.e. more data gathering or operational) in 2016, with also enabling adaptation of the programme after the initial phase;
- For the integrated assessment, assessment fact sheets provide an opportunity to assess data on a biannual basis in relation to specific EOs (starting 2013-2015), with focusing on EOs, where data is mature enough, with the overall aim to cover all EOs by 2021 on a biannual basis (fact sheets covering new EOs, where data has not been available before and updating fact sheets, which cover areas where new data,

developments makes this necessary), with the overall aim to be able to produce the QSR by the 3rd EcAp cycle in 2023;

- The Barcelona Convention/MAP data management system needs to be strengthened in order for functioning Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme.

2- *Biennium 2016-2017: Start of new EcAp cycle and implementation*

- From 2016 onwards, as the new EcAp cycle starts, both the implementation of measures and integrated monitoring and assessment starts (with the next biannual assessment fact sheets being prepared as well by 2017);
- The integrated monitoring and assessment programme is to run on a 2 year initial basis in order to assess the effectiveness of the programmes, perform further gap analysis and establish needs for adaptation;
- The Conference of the Parties will address co-operation and coordination needs to cover gaps still existing.

3. *Biennium 2018-2019: Continue implementation, address gaps*

- In the biennium 2018-2019 there will be a need for further evaluation activities, addressing gaps, together with continued implementation and capacity building;
- By the latter part of 2018 some initial data will be available, which would provide information able to feed into further Assessment Sheets (developments and updates);
- COP 21 (in 2019) will be in the position to assess the achievements of the initial monitoring and agree on adaptation needs as well as specific cycle for the next phase of the Integrated Monitoring (and assessment) Programme.

4. *Biennium 2020-2021*

- In the Biennium 2020-2021, the key task will be to evaluate the state of achievement of GES in the Mediterranean region (noting overall aim of achieving GES in the region by 2020);
- By COP22 (in 2021) Assessment Fact Sheets should be covering all agreed Ecological Objectives, serving as a good base for the preparation of the Quality Status Report by 2023.

CYCLES IN AN INTEGRATED MANNER:

2016-2021: Second Ecosystem Approach(EcAp) cycle under the Barcelona Convention.

2016-2021: First EcAp monitoring cycle in the Mediterranean (with 2016-2019 initial cycle, after which possible adaptation).

2015-2017-2019-2021: Assessment Fact Sheets (updating the first Initial Assessment), by 2021- all EOs covered by Fact Sheets and with 2nd State of Environment Report in 2017.

2023: First Mediterranean Quality Status Report, after which following 6 year cycle (to be determined by parties).

MSFD TIMELINE KEY STEPS:

2014-2015: Monitoring Programme finalised for implementation (2014), progress report on marine protected areas (2014); assessment report on monitoring programmes (2015), programme of measures established (end of 2015);

2016-2017: Entry into operation programmes of measures (2017), draft review of initial assessment, set of characteristics of GES and comprehensive set of environmental targets and associated indicators for public consultation;

2018-2019: Brief Interim Progress Report within 3 years of each programme of measures;

2020-2021: Achieving GES (2020), assessing it and new cycle (possible review of MSFD key elements).

Please see for further details on the timeline of this process Table 1 of Annex III of this decision.

Annex III

Timeline to implement the next steps of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap

Table 1. EcApTimeline for 2014-2017

Activity	Details	Time
Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme	Agreement on principles and process of an Integrated Monitoring Programme and of an Integrated Assessment Policy;	by COP 18
	Additional, integrated COR GEST meetings, to give recommendations on EO specific monitoring and assessment needs, next to further necessary specifications in relation to targets/common indicators;	By April 2014
	Coordination and consultation within MAP system and with other regional bodies, based on which Secretariat to prepare draft Monitoring and Assessment Methodological Guidance (to be discussed in Correspondence Groups on Monitoring)	By April 2014
	Organization of Correspondence Group on Monitoring (COR MON) meetings (Three Clusters), to address methodology, scope, assessment follow-up and related technical details.	First round of consultations May-June 2014, second round Sept-December 2014, third round February-May 2015
	Monitoring and assessment country capacities are assessed by the Secretariat	2015-2017
	Secretariat prepares Fact Sheets on specific EOs, issues, to update the Integrated Assessment Report	April 2015
	Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme to be discussed by EcAp Cor Group	May/June 2015
	Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme agreed on Updated Integrated Assessment Report endorsed	COP19
	<i>New EcAp Cycle starts</i>	
	Integrated Monitoring starts in an initial phase (cycle: 2016-2022, initial phase until 2019)	January 2016

Activity	Details	Time
	Secretariat prepares draft Second State of Environment Report draft based on Fact Sheet updates and discusses it, together with other assessment related matters, in COR-MON Groups Public Consultation of the Second State of Environment Report EcAp CorGroup to discuss the Second State of Environment Report and outcomes of public consultation Endorsement of the Second State of Environment Report (and possibly recommendations adopted for MED QSR 2023)	By Feb 2017 Feb-May 2017 May-July 2017 By Sept 2017 COP20
Economic and Social Analysis	Regional Scale Analysis Guidelines for National Analysis Correspondence Group on Economic and Social Analysis (COR ESA)	Draft December 2013, final July 2014 Draft December 2013, Final by July 2014 April 2013, October 2013 (online), May 2014
The development of Good Environmental Status and Targets	Approves Integrated List of GES and targets Additional Integrated COR GEST Meetings, to give recommendations on monitoring and assessment needs to COR MONs in relation to the different EOs/GES (address specific requirements regarding scope, interlinkages of targets/indicators, based on data-availability investigative or operational monitoring needs, as well as environmental assessment criteria, background/reference conditions, threshold values, along with more elaboration of GES)	By COP18 (December 2013) By April 2014
Developing and reviewing relevant measures for implementation of EcAp	Secretariat's gap analysis on existing measures and specific analysis by Plan Bleu on socioeconomic impacts of possible measure, in order to develop an "a la carte" menu of additional possible measures and transboundary cooperation options on further implementation of EcAp in the Mediterranean region and in its sub-regions EcAp Cor Group to discuss the Secretariat's Analysis and agree on a flexible, initial list of possible additional measures, building on current	By February 2015 By May/June 2015

Activity	Details	Time
	ones (Framework for the Programmes of Measures) Agreement on a Menu a la Carte for future EcAp Programmes of Measures <i>Next EcAp cycle starts</i> Secretariat capacity-building activities on implementation of measures, as well as facilitating trans-boundary cooperation Secretariat to prepare report on initial implementation of the EcAp programmes of measures/work of the Framework of Programmes of Measures EcAp CorGroup to review implementation efforts, gaps in EcAp programmes of measures Agreement on Programmes of Measures for further EcAp implementation	COP19 2016 2016-2017 By July 2017 By Sept 2017 COP20
Public Awareness-raising	Secretariat to prepare guidance on public awareness raising/communication strategy for EcAp Public consultation of Second State of Environment Report EcAp Cor Group to review public awareness raising process/communication strategy	By December 2016 May-July 2017 By Sept 2017
Pilot implementation for testing the indicators and targets	Identification of site Initiation of the process, inception meeting, defining workplan, implementation.	In 2014-2015 Biennium

Annex IV

Data-sharing principles of the Barcelona Convention/MAP

Background

Data sharing is an indispensable mean to achieve better policies in areas such as environment and other public-interest priorities. By improving data sharing and the subsequent continuous availability of that information, researchers and policy-makers can react with timely and well-informed decision-making to national, regional or global issues of governmental and societal concern.

It is important to follow the major global and regional trends with regard to the establishment of environmental information systems based on data sharing principles, taking into account relevant existing systems, such as those developed and operated by UNEP, GEO/GEOSS and EC/EEA, as appropriate.

In 2005, the 15th CP meeting addressed in details the need for establishing a coherent overall Barcelona Convention/MAP information system as a tool to support decision making at regional and national levels, promote access to information and public participation in accordance with Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention.

Since 2005, substantive progress had been achieved with regard to creation of information system infrastructures for several Barcelona Convention/MAP components, a process that is under continuous development and strengthening. The need for establishing a policy to manage information and knowledge generated within MAP was already subject of discussion with parties in the case of the MEDPOL information system and Barcelona Convention/MAP reporting system.

The establishment of a shared Barcelona Convention/MAP information system data-sharing principles on the basis of which it should operate, including its interaction with the MAP Components information system as well as a Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP data/information sharing policy are also key for the application of the Ecosystem Approach (**EcAp**) and will need to be further specified, in light of the technical needs of the future Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Barcelona Convention.

Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP Data-Sharing Principles

The following principles about the handling of data at Barcelona Convention/MAP aim to ensure that data are handled in a consistent and transparent manner, as follows:

1. the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS):

- Information should be managed as close as possible to its source;
- Information should be collected once, and shared with others for many purposes;
- Information should be readily available to public authorities and enable them to easily fulfill their legal reporting obligations;
- Information should be readily accessible to end-users, primarily public authorities at all levels from local to regional, to enable them to assess in a timely fashion the state of the environment and the effectiveness of their policies, and to design new policy;
- Information should also be accessible to enable end-users, both public authorities and citizens, to make comparisons at the appropriate geographical scale (e.g. countries, cities, catchments areas) and to participate meaningfully in the development and implementation of environmental policy;

- Information should be fully available to the general public, after due consideration of the appropriate level of aggregation and subject to appropriate confidentiality constraints, and at national level in the relevant national language(s); and;
- Information sharing and processing should be supported through common, free open source software tools.

2. the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), which has defined the following Data Sharing Principles:

- there will be full and open exchange of data, metadata and products shared within GEOSS, recognizing relevant international instruments and national policies and legislation;
- all shared data, metadata and products will be made available with minimum time delay and at minimum cost;
- all shared data, metadata and products being free of charge or no more than cost of reproduction will be encouraged for research and education.

3. The Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES), which establishes a full, open and free data policy.

With noting, that the objectives of these data principles are to support, promote and enable the EcAp implementation process:

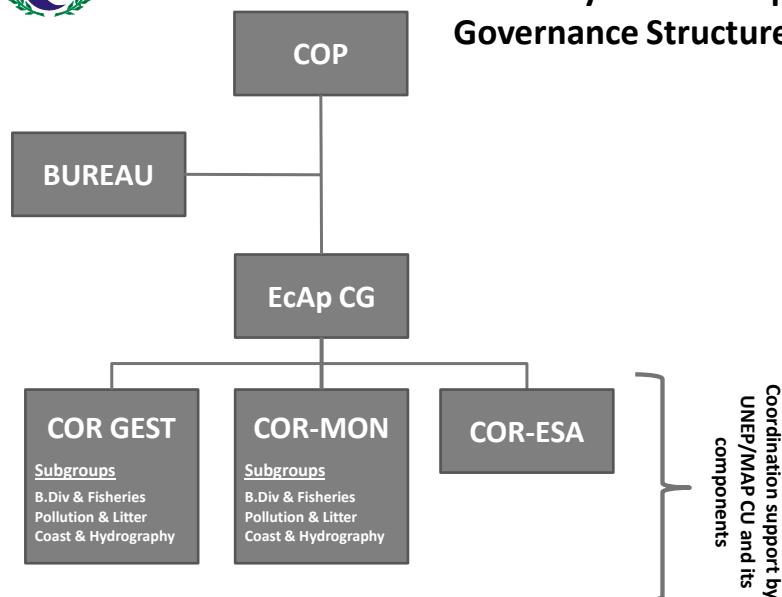
- a) full, and open access to all kinds of data, metadata and services;
- b) where possible, recognizing and respecting the national policies and legislation and the variety of licensing and intellectual property;
- c) to share data, metadata and services available with minimum time delay and free of charge or no more than cost of reproduction;
- d) the use, re-use and re-combination of data from different sources in different frameworks and media than those for which they were originally commissioned;
- e) the protection of the integrity, transparency, and traceability in environmental data, analysis and forecasts;
- f) the implementation of SEIS, GMES and GEOSS data sharing principles.

Annex V

EcAp Governance Structure



Summary of the EcAp Governance Structure



The established governance structure of the Ecosystem Approach (**EcAp**), in accordance with IG.20/4 is as follows:

The EcAp Coordination Group (EcAp CG) consisting of MAP Focal Points integrates and gives guidance to the work under the Barcelona Convention:

- a) On the delivery of the ecosystem approach, making sure that all elements for its implementation are taken into account, weighting of priorities and resource implications; and
- b) Coordinating Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP's facilitation role, in support of Contracting Parties in their implementation of EcAp.

Three Correspondence Groups are formed in the process of application of EcAp in the Mediterranean and to support EcAP Coordination Group:

1. The Correspondence Group on GES and Targets (**COR GEST**) composed of national experts designated by the Contracting Parties, and coordinated by the Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP components and the Coordinating Unit, works to ensure efficient coverage and in-depth discussions and analysis of all Ecological Objectives (**EOs**) in 3 clusters: 1) Pollution and litter (**EOs** 5, 9, 10 and 11); 2) Biodiversity and Fisheries (**EOs** 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6); and 3) Coast and Hydrography (**EOs** 7 and 8).
2. The Correspondence Group on Monitoring (**COR MON**) composed of national experts designated by the Contracting Parties, and coordinated by Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP Coordinating Unit and MED POL, working to ensure efficient coverage and in-depth discussions and analysis regarding integrated monitoring and

assessment, with reference to the outcomes of CORGEST, in 3 clusters mirroring the COR GEST working arrangements.

3. The Correspondence Group on Economic and Social Analysis (**COR ESA**) is composed of national experts designated by the Contracting Parties and invited experts, and coordinated by Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP Coordinating Unit and BP/RAC. It develops a socio economic analysis of marine ecosystems uses, focusing on priority sectors such as fisheries, aquaculture, maritime transport, recreational activities, and oil industry and offshore.

Annex VI

Socio-Economic Work Programme for the next biennium

Plan Bleu/RAC has contributed to the Initial Integrated Assessment of the Mediterranean Sea, by a section on “The economic value of sustainable benefits rendered by the Mediterranean marine ecosystems”. This exploratory study proposes a first initial value of sustainable services rendered by the Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems for human well-being, while clarifying the exercise limitations.

Through an economic and social assessment (**ESA**) Contracting Parties are enabled to establish a common understanding and standards with regard to the analysis to be undertaken in link with the following steps of the EcAp’s roadmap, e.g. consideration of socioeconomic effects of chosen targets; cost effectiveness analysis of measures, economic incentives to support Good Environmental Status (GES) and exceptions where costs are disproportionate.

Specific Objectives of the ESA work are:

- Prepare an economic and social analysis at regional and sub-regional scale of selected human activities using the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal zone, including the costs of degradation for human wealth in the absence of the implementation of the relevant actions plans and programmes of measures aiming to achieve or maintain GES (as indicated in the EcAp Roadmap, step 7).
- Develop Guidance document and Pilot cases for national ESA adapted to interested Mediterranean countries providing support for their own analysis.

Besides these operational objectives, the ESA work also includes coordination and facilitation of the work of the COR ESA Group.

It has to be noted, that the achievement or the maintenance of GES will require the development of relevant action plans and programmes at regional and national levels. Most of the measures to be enforced in order to achieve or maintain GES in national waters should be decided at the national level, what requires convincing national policy makers about the potential socioeconomic impacts and benefits of these measures, in terms of socioeconomic assessment of the uses of the coastal and marine ecosystems and cost of degradation at regional and national scale.

Beyond the regional ESA carried out within this action, it is important to encourage the Contracting Parties to perform their national ESA, in order to contribute at national level to the implementation of the EcAp overarching goal.

1. Timeline of the on-going and planned ESA work

Month/ Events	09/2012	04/2013	07/2013	10/2013	12/2013	05/2014	07/2014
Actions	Start date				18 th COP		End Date
Regional scale analysis	Study start		Progress Report to be submitted to EcAp CG		Provisional report by COP 18		Final Report submitted to CP 19
Guidelines for National analysis		Start	Progress Report to be submitted to EcAp CG		Provisional report by COP 18		Final Report submitted to COP 19
COR ESA		COR ESA First meeting		Intermediate consultation before 18 th COP		COR ESA Intermediat e Meeting	COR ESA continuation submitted to COP19c
Related Work Pilot case ESA (In the framework of the ReGoKo project)			Selection of consultants	Start of the Pilot cases; Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon		End of the Pilot case	Final reports on Pilot cases submitted to COP 19

2. Next steps

The next steps of the Economic and social analysis actions within EcAp beyond the activities provided by the timeline above would concern:

- Updating of socioeconomic analysis in form of Factsheets and preparation of the SOER 2017 for the next cycle.
- Assessment of the socioeconomic impacts of the coordinated programmes of measures.

Draft decision IG.21/4

Action Plans under the Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity Protocol including Monk Seal, Marine Turtles, Birds, Cartilaginous Fishes, and Dark Habitats

The Eighteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties,

Recalling Article 11 of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean hereinafter referred to as the “SPA/BD Protocol”, on national measures for the protection and conservation of species,

Recalling Article 12 of the SPA/BD Protocol, on cooperative measures for the protection and conservation of species, and in particular, its paragraph 3 on the formulation and implementation of action plans for their conservation and recovery,

Recalling that the Sixteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention approved the proposal made by the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (herein after referred to as “SPA/RAC”) to prepare a Mediterranean strategy for the conservation Monk Seal,

Considering that the old action plan for the management of Monk Seal in the Mediterranean continues to be valid as far as its contents and general principals are concerned,

Considering that such programmes and strategies are intended to promote and undertake concerted and effective actions at the local level to reverse the Monk Seal critical status, and to encourage the concerned States to implement a series of joint measures aiming at re-establishing the favorable conservation status of Monk Seal populations and their natural habitat in the region,

Considering the “Action Plan for the conservation of Mediterranean Marine turtles” adopted by the Contracting Parties in Malta, in October 1999, and more particularly its Section G. concerning the assessment of the implementation and revision of the Action Plan,

Considering the “Action Plan for the conservation of Bird species listed in Annex II of the SPA/DB Protocol” adopted by the Contracting Parties in Catania, in November 2003, and more particularly its Section 5.5 concerning the assessment of the implementation and revision of the Action Plan,

Considering the “Action Plan for the conservation of Cartilaginous Fishes (Chondrichthyans) in the Mediterranean Sea” adopted by the Contracting Parties in Catania, in November 2003,

Considering the “Updated Activity Programme for the implementation of Action Plan for the conservation of Mediterranean Marine Turtles” adopted by the Contracting Parties, in Almeria, in January 2008,

Considering the “Updated Activity Programme for the implementation of Action Plan for the conservation of Bird species listed in Annex II of the SPA/DB Protocol” adopted by the Contracting Parties in Almeria, in January 2008,

Considering the “Updated Activity Programme for the implementation of Action Plan for the conservation of Cartilaginous Fishes (Chondrichthyans) in the Mediterranean Sea” adopted by the Contracting Parties, in Marrakesh, in November 2009,

Taking into account Decision IG.19/12 related to the “Amendments of the list of Annexes II and III of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean” adopted by the Contracting Parties, in Marrakech, in November 2009, and more particularly the marine and coastal bird species newly included in Annex II to the Protocol “List of endangered or threatened species”,

Taking into account Decision IG.20/5 related to the “Amendments of the list of Annexes II and III of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean” adopted by the Contracting Parties, in Paris, in February 2012, and more particularly the cartilaginous fishes species removed from the Annex III to the Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol,

Noting the work accomplished by SPA/RAC in order to report on the Action Plan for the conservation of the Mediterranean Marine Turtles and the Action Plan for the conservation of Bird species listed in Annex II to SPA/BD Protocol achievements over the period 2007-2013,

Noting the work accomplished by SPA/RAC in order to report on Action Plan for the conservation of Cartilaginous Fishes achievements over the period 20010-2013,

Noting with satisfaction the work accomplished by the Meeting of the ad hoc group of Mediterranean experts, nominated in consultation with the Contracting Parties and relevant partner organizations (Marseilles (France), May 2013) for drafting the Action Plan for the conservation of dark assemblages of the Mediterranean (marine caves, canyons, etc...),

Taking into account the proposal by SPA/RAC Focal Points Meeting (Rabat, 2-5 July 2013) of updated timetables for the implementation of the Action Plan for the conservation of Mediterranean Marine Turtles, the Action Plan for the conservation of Bird species listed in Annex II to SPA/BD protocol and the Strategy for the conservation of Monk Seals in the Mediterranean,

Being Inspired by the progress of the work carried out by Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP to implement the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap with a particular focus on the commonly agreed ecological objectives, operational objectives, indicators, good environmental status and respective targets with regards to biodiversity and fisheries and the need to fully streamline their application in the work of all Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP components, as well as the need to fully harmonize implementation of the Action Plans under the Biodiversity Protocol with the Mediterranean Ecosystems Approach (EcAp) cycle,

Decides to:

- Adopt the Regional strategy for the conservation of Monk Seals in the Mediterranean (2014-2019), as contained in Annex I to this Decision;
- Adopt the Work Programme and Implementation Timetable of the Action Plan for the conservation of Mediterranean Marine Turtles in the Mediterranean Sea for the period 2014-2019, as contained in Annex II to this Decision;
- Adopt the Work Programme and Implementation Timetable of the Action Plan for the conservation of Bird species listed in Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol in the Mediterranean for the period 2014-2019, as contained in Annex III to this Decision;

- Adopt the Work Programme and Implementation Timetable of the Action Plan for the conservation of Cartilaginous Fishes in the Mediterranean Sea for the period 2014-2019, as contained in Annex IV to this Decision;
- Adopt the Action Plan for the conservation of Habitats and Species associated with seamounts, underwater caves and canyons, aphotic engineering benthic invertebrates and chemo-synthetic phenomena, in the Mediterranean Sea (Dark Habitats Action Plan) as contained in Annex V to this Decision;

Requests the Contracting Parties to take the necessary measures for the implementation of the updated Work Programme and Implementation Timetables, the Regional Strategy for the conservation of Monk Seals in the Mediterranean and the Dark Habitats Action Plan and report on their implementation according to the cycle and format of the MAP reporting system;

Requests SPA/RAC to undertake the necessary actions to assist the Contracting Parties, at their request to fulfill their obligations pertaining to the implementation of the updated Work Programme and Implementation Timetables the Mediterranean Strategy for the conservation of Monk Seals and the Dark Habitats Action Plan by supporting and/or coordinating actions where necessary and to further apply the ecosystem approach, in collaboration with the relevant organisations.

Annex I

Draft Regional Strategy for the conservation of Mediterranean Monk Seal

Table of contents

1. Executive Summary	79
2. Background	81
2.1. Introduction.....	81
2.2. Summary of the status of and threats to monk seals in the Mediterranean	82
2.3. Why a change of strategy is needed if monk seals are to be saved from extinction	86
2.4. Monk seal functions and values in the Mediterranean	89
3. A region-wide Strategy for the Conservation of Monk Seals in the Mediterranean	90
3.1. Rationale for the Strategy.....	90
3.2. The Strategy.....	93
3.2.1. Vision	93
3.2.2. Goals.....	93
3.2.3. Goal Targets, Objectives and Objective Targets	93
3.2.4. Revision of the Strategy	101
4. Acknowledgments.....	102
5. List of references	103

1. Executive Summary

The Mediterranean monk seal, one of the most endangered mammals in Europe and one of the world's most endangered marine mammals, has been classified as Critically Endangered in IUCN's Red List for the past 17 years. On the one hand this condition is of great concern, because it testifies to our evident inability of keeping the species away from under the Damocles' sword of imminent extinction, but on the other hand it is also good news, because the species in fact is not extinct yet, particularly as far as the eastern Mediterranean is concerned. Such status quo, however, cannot be taken as a reason for complacency. In spite of the species' dire conservation status, monk seal recovery in the Mediterranean is still possible, but success will demand uncompromising determination and greater commitment than in the past from the part of the concerned governments and civil societies.

Faced with the perspective of investing the considerable amount of time, effort and resources needed to reverse the critical conservation status of monk seals in the Mediterranean, many could find it legitimate to question the ethical aspects of dedicating to a single species far greater attention than to most of the region's other marine organisms. Indeed, dedicating to monk seal conservation extraordinary attention and resources is legitimate for a number of reasons: a) because the species is protected by legislation at all levels (national, regional, international, and where appropriate European); b) because the species has high intrinsic value under many respects; c) because conservation actions favoring monk seals are likely to extend their benefits to several other species and to the environment they are part of; and finally, d) because the extinction of this highly symbolic and charismatic animal would cause a devastating loss of credibility to Mediterranean institutions, national and supra-national. This is why a forceful and effective monk seal conservation strategy, embraced regionally as a best practice example, should become solidly integrated within a wider strategy for the conservation of the Mediterranean marine environment.

During the past decades, with few very localized exceptions no discernable progress was achieved in the effort of recovering monk seals in the Mediterranean, probably due to a combination of shortcomings which include the failure to implement their conservation commitments by many countries, lack of coordination and continuity in monk seal conservation action, and insufficient attention to the human component of the monk seal conservation problem. An Action Plan adopted two decades ago by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, while still valid in terms of its general contents and stated principles, must urgently be replaced by a Strategy based on a clear Vision, to be attained through interconnected Goals, Objectives and Actions which are specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound.

This document proposes a draft Strategy, having the following Vision: *“Over the next two decades, the ecological recovery of monk seals in the Mediterranean will deem to have occurred, when multiple colonies have become established within all major habitats of their historic range, interacting in ecologically significant ways with the fullest possible set of other species, and inspiring and connecting human cultures”.*

The human threats that are jeopardizing monk seal survival are many, however a few of these are overwhelmingly important, and addressing them with the greatest energy and determination is likely to create the greatest and fastest benefits. Accordingly, this draft Strategy recommends the adoption by Range States of a triaging approach, recognizing that the two top-ranking threats to monk seals in the Mediterranean are the unchecked deterioration of the species' critical habitat (including disturbance), and deliberate killings. Here is where the greatest attention is urgently needed.

A second character of the draft Strategy derives from the need of tailoring action to geographical differences in the conservation status of monk seals across the region, and the

consequent different priorities and responsibilities saddled onto the various monk seal Range States. To handle this challenge, Mediterranean countries were assigned to three groups: A: countries where monk seal breeding has been reported after year 2000; B: countries with evidence of monk seal presence, but with no breeding reported after year 2000; and C: countries where no monk seals have been reported since at least year 2000. Group A countries is where action is most urgent, because at the moment these countries offer the greatest hope for the survival of the species in the Mediterranean. Group B countries are also important, because they contain monk seal critical habitat which is likely to be re-colonized if conditions are favorable, particularly if actions in Group A countries are successful. Finally, Group C countries are important as well because they contain monk seal critical habitat, and because the return of monk seals there will become more likely if actions in Group B countries are successful.

To fulfil the Vision, the draft Strategy identifies four Goals. The first Goal relates to the creation of a solid, long-term conservation support structure at the international level, whereas the other three Goals relate to each of the three Groups the various countries have been assigned to. More specifically:

Goal 1. Mediterranean Range States implement this Strategy in pursuance of the Vision, through the expeditious development and adoption of appropriate national policies and administrative frameworks, and with the effective, coordinated support from relevant international organizations and civil society.

Goal 2. Monk seal breeding nuclei in sites located in “Group A” countries are effectively protected from deliberate killings and habitat degradation, so that seal numbers in such sites increase and seals are able to disperse to the surrounding areas.

Goal 3. Monk seal presence in sites where they are occasionally seen today in “Group B” countries is permanently established and breeding resumes. “Group B” countries are upgraded to “Group A”.

Goal 4. Monk seal presence is again reported in the species’ historical habitat in “Group C” countries, and these “Group C” countries are upgraded to “Group B”. Once all “Group C” countries are upgraded, Group C is deleted.

The suggested time horizon of the draft Strategy is six years: 2013-2019. A mid-term assessment in 2016 is also recommended.

2. Background

2.1. Introduction

Since 1985 the Mediterranean monk seal was recognized within the framework of the Barcelona Convention as a species to be protected as a matter of priority. In that year, during their fourth ordinary meeting, the Contracting Parties adopted a declaration – referred to as the Genoa Declaration – which included, amongst the priority targets to be achieved in the decade 1986-1995, the “protection of the endangered marine species” with a specific reference to the monk seal. Following the Genoa Declaration, an “Action Plan for the Management of the Mediterranean Monk Seal (*Monachus monachus*)” was adopted by the Convention’s Contracting Parties (UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA & IUCN 1988, UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2003a). The main aims of the Barcelona Convention’s Monk Seal Action Plan were: to reduce adult mortality; to promote the establishment of a network of marine reserves; to encourage research, data collection, and rehabilitation programmes; to implement information programmes targeting fishing communities and various other stakeholders; and to provide a framework for the coordination, review and financing of relevant activities.

The Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) of Tunis is the body charged with facilitating the implementation of the species’ Action Plans within the Barcelona Convention context. Accordingly, in addition to assisting countries to carry out actions for the protection of monk seals through data collection, research, training and public awareness, during the past decades the RAC/SPA also organized meetings, produced documents on the status of the species, and promoted studies to identify potential monk seal critical habitat in so-called low-density areas (e.g., Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Libya, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia).

While all these efforts so far have served mostly the purpose of making progress in terms of greater knowledge and awareness, no discernable advance is yet apparent in the improvement of the species’ conservation status. As a consequence, the Mediterranean monk seal has continued to be listed as Critically Endangered in IUCN’s Red List since 1996 (Aguilar & Lowry 2008).

A strategy shift is clearly necessary if monk seals are to be saved from extinction in the Mediterranean. With this view, and with the aim of reinforcing the commitment of the Mediterranean countries and their active participation to the recovery of the species, in 2009 the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention approved during their 16th Meeting in Marrakesh the proposal by the RAC/SPA of preparing a set of subregional¹ and national programmes for the conservation of monk seals in the Mediterranean. Such programmes are intended to promote and undertake concerted and effective actions at the local level to reverse the species’ critical status, and to encourage the concerned states to implement a series of joint measures aiming at re-establishing the favorable conservation status of monk seal populations and their natural habitat in the region.

While targeted actions that are locally grounded and tailored to specific peculiarities and needs are likely to be more effective than more general statements of purpose having a very wide horizon, a strong need remains of framing all these separate actions under the coordination of a regional umbrella. Monk seals are a highly mobile species, their habitat is shared by many nations, and includes international waters as well.

In this document a region-wide set of strategic actions is drafted to support monk seal conservation actions in the region, taking into account the shared character of monk seal

¹ Subregional = concerning a sub-set of the Mediterranean region.

ecology and its conservation concerns, at the same time allowing for the existing significant differences of the species' conservation status across the Mediterranean.

2.2. Summary of the status of and threats to monk seals in the Mediterranean

The Mediterranean monk seal, *Monachus monachus*, is classified as Critically Endangered in IUCN's Red List (Aguilar & Lowry 2008). It is considered one of the most endangered mammals in Europe and one of the world's most endangered marine mammal.

The species is present in the Mediterranean Sea, in the Marmara Sea (probably <10 individuals, C. Kiraç, pers. comm.) and in the North-eastern Atlantic Ocean, but is considered extinct in the Black Sea (Kiraç 2001)². Atlantic monk seals have been geographically separated from Mediterranean seals for sufficient time to develop noticeable morphological (Van Bree 1979) and genetic (Pastor et al. 2007) differences. Accordingly, in this document monk seals in the Mediterranean will be treated as an "evolutionarily significant unit" (ESU), whose conservation can be addressed independently from the population(s) living in the Atlantic.

This document will make no attempt at describing in detail the status of *Monachus monachus* throughout its Mediterranean range, because such descriptions already abound (e.g., Sergeant 1984, Sergeant et al. 1979, UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 1994, UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2003b, UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2006a, Aguilar & Lowry 2008), and it would now seem advisable to concentrate efforts on conservation action rather than on repetitive academic analyses (Notarbartolo di Sciara 2010).

What follows is a concise summary of the latest distributional knowledge which is instrumental to the construction of a meaningful region-wide conservation strategy. The treatment of locations where breeding nuclei of monk seals still persist is here separated from that of the rest of the Mediterranean, where individual seals have only episodically appeared in recent years.

Surviving breeding nuclei are the last remaining significant assets of the species in the Mediterranean and should be given the highest priority as far as conservation action is concerned. To the best of the currently available knowledge such nuclei can still be found in the following countries:

- **Greece.** Notable breeding concentrations of monk seals exist in the following locations (Notarbartolo di Sciara et al. 2009b, supplemented by more recent information where available):
 - Northern Sporades (52 individuals, with a mean annual pup production of >8);
 - North Karpathos and Saria (23 indiv., mean pups/year <4);
 - Kimolos and Polyaigos (49 indiv., mean pups/year <8);
 - Gyaros (60 indiv., mean pups/year 10: MOm, pers. comm.);
 - Ionian Islands: Kefallinia, Lefkada, Ithaca and Zakynthos (about 20 indiv. according to Panou 2009).

In addition to the above locations, monk seals are widely, albeit thinly distributed over the entire maritime territory of Greece, with occasional pupping occurring in many places. This makes it extremely hard, for the time being, to produce a realistic total population estimate of monk seals in Greece.

² Although Güçlüsoy et al. (2004) hypothesized that 2-3 individuals might still be surviving there at the time of their writing.

- **Turkey.** Monk seals are scattered along the Turkish Aegean and Mediterranean coasts, all the way from the Dardanelles to the border with Syria, with three main breeding concentrations (Güçlüsoy et al. 2004, UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2011c):
 - Northern Aegean (35 indiv.);
 - Southern Aegean (28 indiv.);
 - Mediterranean coast (Levantine Sea)(42 indiv.: Gucu et al. 2009b).

Although no genetic proof is provided, evidence exists that due to habitat contiguity the seals found in Greek and Turkish Aegean waters are intermixing (Kıraç & Güçlüsoy, pers. comm.).

- **Cyprus.**
 - probably 6-7 individuals left; evidence of pupping still occurring, although solely based on the finding of one dead newborn in 2009 (UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2011b);
 - from 3 to 17 individuals estimated in 2006-7; a young seal observed there was likely to have been born locally (Gucu et al. 2009a).

To conclude about locations where monk seal breeding still occurs, two countries (Greece and Turkey) stand out as the most important repositories for the species in the Mediterranean, where the greatest effort should be invested to ensure the survival of a critical mass, able to eventually support the future recolonisation of the entire region. Quite importantly, it must be noted that population estimates in Greece and Turkey, in spite of continuing high concern for the very low absolute numbers, have not significantly decreased during the last quarter of century (e.g., compare with Marchessaux 1989).

The recent (i.e., post-2000) evidence of breeding having occurred in Cyprus also requires the greatest attention, considering the very small and fast declining number of seals still present on that island

Evidence of monk seal episodic occurrence elsewhere in the Mediterranean - albeit with no conclusive sign of breeding success - was provided by a remarkable number of recent sightings. These are a powerful testimony of the species' potential for recolonising its former habitat in several countries, if only such countries were to give it a chance.

Notable appearances included (listed clockwise from the west):

- **Spain.** Reliable information exists of an individual photographed in 2008 at Isla del Toro, Mallorca, Balears, the first documented presence in European Spain in 50 years (Anon. 2008). More sightings in the area are reported by Font & Mayol (2009), summarized by Gazo & Mo (2012). By contrast, the small colony of seals known to have been surviving in the Chafarinas archipelago, along the African coast, is presumed extinct (Anon. 2004).
- **Italy.** Mo (2011) presents information on 81 observations documented between 1998 and 2010, corresponding to a minimum of 35 distinct sighting events. During the last decade monk seals made their appearance in Liguria, Tuscany, Sardinia, Latium, Sicily, Calabria and Apulia.
- **Croatia.** Antolovic et al. (2007), based on numerous sighting reports, considered that monk seals were still present in Croatian coastal waters during the 2000-2005 period, particularly around the offshore islands of the Dalmatian Archipelago. Gomerčić et al. (2011) list 31 sightings of monk seals in Croatia since 2005, including an adult female repeatedly photographed and filmed in the Kamenjak Natural Reserve, near the southern tip of the Istria peninsula.

- **Albania.** Although very little information exists about the status of monk seal habitat in the country (UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2005c, UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2012), a very recent documented sighting in the area south of Vlore on 4 August 2012 testifies to the presence of the species (Anon. 2012).
- **Syria.** The continued presence of the species is mentioned by Mo et al. (2003) and Gucu (2004). More recently, documented proof was provided by Jony & Ibrahim (2006), with a sighting 10 km north of Latakia in April 2005, combined with several reports by local fishermen.
- **Lebanon.** Two separate monk seal encounters were filmed underwater in Northern Lebanon, on 15 August and 4 September 2010, likely involving the same individual seal (Anon. 2010).
- **Israel.** After an absence from the country of more than 50 years, monk seals were reported along the Israeli coast 45 times between November 2009 and September 2010; one report included photographs of a young female resting inside the breakwater of Herziliya Marina (Scheinin et al. 2011). Although it is unclear whether all the sightings mentioned above referred to only one individual or more, Scheinin et al. (2011) suggest that there likely were at least two.
- **Egypt.** Formerly considered as having disappeared from the country for about 20 years, the presence of at least one monk seal was documented from Marsa Matrouh, western Egypt, in March 2011 (UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2011a, Notarbartolo di Sciarra & Fouad 2011).
- **Libya,** particularly in Cyrenaica (the eastern-most portion of the coast), apparently had an estimated 20 individuals around the 1970s, as reported by Sergeant et al. (1979). Although current numbers are unknown, in spite of the considerable effort invested in finding out (Hamza et al. 2003), the recent finding (25 March 2012) of a dead young female in the area of Ain El Ghazala, near the Egyptian border, testifies to the continued presence of the species in that country (RAC/SPA 2012, Alfaghi et al. 2013).

Other Mediterranean countries where monk seals are presumed to still occasionally occur, although no recent sightings have been reported to our knowledge, include **Tunisia** (UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA et al. 2001), **Algeria** (UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2006b, UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2012), and **Morocco** (Mo et al. 2011). However, and in stark contrast with the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean, the decline of the species has been particularly spectacular in north-west African countries, considering that only three decades ago estimates of monk seal numbers from that area probably exceeded 140 individuals, of which about 20 in Tunisia (Marchessaux 1986), 100 in Algeria (Marchessaux 1977), and 20 in Morocco (Avella & Gonzalez 1984, Marchessaux 1989).

Locations not listed above include those where monk seals are today sadly considered extinct (**France, Monaco, Malta**), as well as countries where the presence of monk seals has not been reported in recent years (**Slovenia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Montenegro**). However, the condition in the latter countries is likely more similar to that of neighboring States (e.g., Croatia, Albania) than to that of the former countries, and could be explained in part by insufficient levels of sighting effort.

Threats to monk seal survival in the Mediterranean have been listed in minute detail by many authors (e.g., Ronald & Duguy 1979, Ronald 1984, UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 1994, UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 1998, Israëls 1999, UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2003b, Aguilar & Lowry 2008). For example, an expert meeting held in Latakia, Syria, in September 2002 listed no less than

21 types of different threats to monk seals, grouped under four main headings: negative interactions with fishing activities, degradation and loss of habitat, disturbance, and pollution (UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2003b).

While such exhaustive analyses might have been useful in past decades, when the conservation status of monk seals in the Mediterranean was not as dreadful as it has become lately, a strategic shift is recommended (Notarbartolo di Sciara 2010), with the adoption of a **triaging approach** by the countries where monk seals are still present in substantive numbers and breeding. A triaging approach involves identifying and singling out the top-ranking threats acting in the different locations, and intervening upon these with the greatest energy and determination, thereby taking the maximum advantage of the limited resources that are customarily made available by most Mediterranean governments to the protection of their marine environment and biodiversity. Such strategy may not allow to address all the threats that monk seals are facing, but will help countries to concentrate efforts on the pressure factors which are creating the greatest problems, and are likely to be more cost-effective than squandering the scarce available resources in too many directions, some of which are likely to be of minor relevance to conservation.

As already recognized decades ago in the “Action Plan for the management of the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*)”, the two top-ranking threats to monk seals in the Mediterranean are a) **mortality from deliberate killings**, and b) the **deterioration of critical habitat** (including disturbance). Here is where the greatest attention is urgently needed. A new strategy should recognize that the relative importance of such threats is not evenly distributed. For example, deliberate killings is one of the greatest problem in Greece (Androukaki et al. 1999); however, although this was also the case of Turkey decades ago (Berkes et al. 1979), the threat which ranks highest today in that country is habitat degradation, which takes many different forms (e.g., recreational boating, swimming, snorkeling and diving in prime habitat including caves, overfishing and intensive and illegal fishing such as with dynamite), but most importantly coastal development irreversibly destroying pristine coasts (Kıraç 2011). This reaffirms the need of tailoring strategic actions to local conditions, on the basis of a careful, location-specific threat analysis.

While the triaging strategy recommended above is intended for adoption by individual countries, actions having a wider, region-oriented scope (e.g., devising and implementing a contingency plan for single disastrous events such as a lethal epizootic outbreak or a massive oil spill within the species’ critical habitat, or conditions which may derive from catastrophic environmental change; support to awareness campaigns; support to rescue and rehabilitation programmes; coordination of and support to research and monitoring, including monitoring of mortality causes and levels) should be best implemented within a wider, supra-national coordination framework, in which national responsibilities are supported by international conservation organizations.

Undeniably, other threats such as bycatch³, prey depletion due to overfishing, illegal fishing practices (e.g., with dynamite), and pollution, can and do take their toll on monk seals, however these are pressure factors that all countries are supposed to address anyway, within their clear duty of ensuring that human activities at sea be sustainably managed. Failure to effectively pursue the sustainability of fisheries and the good health of the seas is a serious flaw in Mediterranean marine governance having also dire socio-economic implications, and the loss of species, even charismatic ones such as monk seals, is just one of the many consequences of this malaise. Therefore, while combating overfishing, illegal fishing and marine pollution remain actions of paramount importance in terms of monk seal conservation concerns, these should be implemented as part of each nation’s marine management and conservation policy rather than as part of a monk seal conservation strategy.

³ A significant mortality factor in Greece and Turkey, although less relevant than deliberate killings in Greece, and mostly affecting juvenile seals (Veryeri et al. 2001, Karamanlidis et al. 2008).

2.3. Why a change of strategy is needed if monk seals are to be saved from extinction

As noted above, Mediterranean monk seals have been listed in IUCN's Red List as *Critically Endangered* since 1996, i.e. now for 17 years. This is at the same time bad news, because it is a testimony of our evident inability of keeping the species away from under the Damocles' sword of imminent extinction. However, it is also good news, because the species in fact is not extinct yet, particularly as far as the eastern Mediterranean individuals are concerned. One factor that could have slowed down the disappearance of monk seals where pupping nuclei still exist today involves the geography of the Aegean Sea, where thousands of remote, uninhabited islets becoming particularly impervious during the windy Aegean summers, offer appropriate habitat to the seals, as well as partial refuge from human encroachment and disturbance. Another potential factor, which however should be subject to detailed socio-economic investigation, concerns the evolving and possibly declining importance of artisanal fishing in many small island economies in favour of tourism development, which undeniably impacts less on monk seal survival.

Such considerations, however, cannot be taken as a reason for complacency. In spite of the species' dire conservation status, monk seal survival in the Mediterranean can still be secured, but success will demand hard work and uncompromising determination from the part of the concerned governments and civil societies.

Past initiatives to save Mediterranean monk seals have clearly been inadequate, in spite of the impressive list of international meetings dedicated to the cause. These include:

- 1972: 18-19 August. Guelph, Canada. IUCN working meeting of seal specialists on threatened and depleted seals of the world (Israëls 1999);
- 1974: 5 October. London. Monk seal meeting ((Israëls 1999);
- 1976: May. Rome. Meeting "The monk seal along the Italian coasts: problems and perspectives for its positive protection" (Israëls 1999);
- 1978: 2-5 May. Rhodes. First International Conference on the Mediterranean monk seal (Ronald & Duguy 1979);
- 1979: 11-13 October. Conference on the protection of Greek flora – fauna biotypes (Israëls 1999);
- 1984: 5-6 October. La Rochelle. Second International Conference on the Mediterranean Monk Seal (Ronald & Duguy 1984);
- 1985: 13-14 June. Port-Cros, France. "Séminaire International sur la stratégie de conservation du phoque moine" (Israëls 1999);
- 1986: 15-16 September. Strasbourg. First meeting of the monk seal Expert Group convened by the Council of Europe.
- 1986: 30 October. Bruxelles. Meeting of experts on the Mediterranean monk seal held under the auspices of the Directorate of the Environment, Consumer Protection and Nuclear Safety Commission of the European Communities.
- 1987: 2-6 November. Antalya, Turkey. Third International Conference on the Mediterranean monk seal.
- 1988: 11-12 January. Athens. Joint expert consultation on the conservation of the Mediterranean monk seal, organized by Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP in co-operation with IUCN (UNEP/MAP & IUCN 1988).
- 1988: 26 May. Port-Cros, France. Meeting of the International Scientific Committee on the monk seal (Israëls 1999);
- 1988: 30-31 May. Strasbourg. Second meeting of the monk seal Expert Group convened by the Council of Europe (Israëls 1999);
- 1989: 20-22 September. Madeira. Meeting of coordination of national and international programmes on the conservation of the Mediterranean monk seal. Organized by the Council of Europe in coordination with UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA, IUCN, CMS, the Portuguese Government and the Regional Government of Madeira (Israëls 1999);

- 1990: 6 November. Bruxelles. Sixth Meeting of the monk seal Specialist Group (Israëls 1999);
- 1990: 10-11 December. Texel, The Netherlands. “Urgent action meeting for safeguarding the Mediterranean monk seal as a species” (Israëls 1999);
- 1991: 1-4 May. Antalya, Turkey. Seminar on the conservation of the Mediterranean monk seal (Council of Europe 1991);
- 1994: 7-9 October. Rabat, Morocco. Meeting of experts on the evaluation of the implementation of the Action plan for the management of Mediterranean monk seals (UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 1994);
- 1998: 19-20 January. Monaco. The World Marine Mammal Science Conference. Workshop on the biology and conservation of the world's endangered monk seals, Monaco, 19-20 January 1998. The Society for Marine Mammalogy & The European Cetacean Society;
- 1998: 29-31 October. Arta, Greece. Meeting of Experts on the Implementation of the Action Plans for Marine Mammals (monk seal and cetaceans) adopted within MAP (UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 1998);
- 2002: 29-30 September. Lattakia, Syria. Meeting of experts on the conservation of the Mediterranean monk seal: proposal of priority activities to be carried out in the Mediterranean Sea (UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2003b);
- 2006: 17-19 September. Antalya, Turkey. International Conference on monk seal conservation (UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2006a);
- 2008: 14 November. Monaco. First meeting of the Working Group: “Reintroduction of the monk seal to the Western Mediterranean”, organized by the Foundation Albert II, Prince of Monaco.
- 2009: 30 January. Monaco. Second meeting of the Working Group: “Reintroduction of the monk seal to the Western Mediterranean”, organized by the Foundation Albert II, Prince of Monaco.
- 2009: 28 February. Istanbul. “Who are our seals? Moving towards a standardized population estimate approach for *Monachus monachus*”. Workshop conducted within the framework of the European Cetacean Society Annual Conference, sponsored by the RAC/SPA and the Principality of Monaco (UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2009);
- 2009: 30 March – 3 April. Maui, Hawai’i. First International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas. Workshop on MMPAs and MMPA networks for monk seal conservation (Reeves 2009);
- 2010: 10 June. Monaco. Third meeting of the Working Group: “Reintroduction of the monk seal to the Western Mediterranean”, organized by the Foundation Albert II, Prince of Monaco.
- 2011: 9 November. Martinique, French Antilles. Second International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas. Workshop on the conservation of monk seals (Hoyt 2012).

Many of the meetings listed above have produced declarations and action plans. All the recommendations that could be possibly excogitated have already been recommended. Many resolutions and recommendations concerning monk seal conservation have also been adopted in meetings not strictly dedicated to the species’ survival (e.g., UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2005a, UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2009, IUCN 2009, GFCM 2011). Furthermore, in addition to international initiatives, monk seal conservation action plans and strategies have also been drafted and adopted at the national level, sometimes under the impetus of proposals from NGOs. Examples of such documents exist, amongst others, in Algeria (UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2006b), Cyprus (UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2011 b), Egypt (Notarbartolo di Sciara & Fouad 2011), Greece (Anon. 1996, superseded by Notarbartolo di Sciara et al. 2009a; Anon. 2009), and Turkey (Kıraç et al. 2011).

Unfortunately such declarations, action plans, resolutions and recommendations, year after year, are now collecting dust without the surviving monk seals being able to take much notice. Until there is a clear and unequivocal understanding of why meeting and resolutions do not produce intended action, and why conservation actions to counteract monk seal decline in the Mediterranean have consistently failed, there is little hope that things will change for the better.

Certainly, the old pretext of “not knowing enough” about the species’ ecology no longer stands. Ecological and veterinary knowledge, although incomplete, is substantive and helpful. Threats are well identified, and the measures to address them straightforward. Not even regulatory insufficiency can be blamed, given that legal provisions at all possible levels (national, regional, European and international) could not be more adequate.

Three main reasons are envisaged below to explain such resounding failure in securing monk seal survival in the Mediterranean.

First, the difficulties encountered by many governments in implementing their commitments in terms of conservation and sustainable use of marine resources certainly remain at the forefront. Saying “sustainable” is easy, but bearing the short-term socio-economic and political costs that true sustainability involves is far more difficult, and therefore rarely done. This includes even simple and straight-forward actions such as enforcing the prohibition of carrying guns and/or dynamite aboard fishing vessels; such enforcement could certainly carry highly beneficial effects to monk seal conservation.

Second, efforts of conserving the Mediterranean monk seal, a natural asset which is uniquely shared by all the region’s riparian states, have sorely lacked in coordination and continuity. Too many action plans have been produced that have remained on paper instead of becoming the backbone of a concerted effort, seeing the active involvement and cooperation of all the components of Mediterranean civil society at large, public and private, national and international. Funds for monk seal conservation have been allocated piecemeal instead of being invested to support a science-based, long-term, region-wide strategy. Although the greatest achievements in monk seal conservation in the Mediterranean during the past few decades were secured thanks to the laudable commitment of a handful of NGOs, in the end the lack of institutional interest, leadership and support from within the most concerned nations has resulted in the erosion of civil society’s goodwill, and occasionally stimulated squabbling instead of constructive cooperation towards a shared goal. Quite regrettably, the commendable prescriptions by the Barcelona Convention Action Plan (UNEP/MAP/RAC/SPA 2003a), that: a) an expert be employed with the specific task of facilitating such coordination (Art. 30); and b) the status of monk seals be reviewed every two years, with a report submitted to the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention for endorsement (Art. 31), were never implemented as stated. The need for coordination is particularly acute in an arena which sees so many players, as well as many major international bodies, taking interest in such highly mobile animals as monk seals, which are rarely confined to waters within the jurisdiction of any single nation. Monk seals offer an exemplary case in which conservation needs cooperation amongst range states and concerned international bodies, which include, in addition to the Barcelona Convention, the Convention on Migratory Species (which lists Mediterranean monk seals in its Appendix I), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (e.g., GFCM 2011), the Bern Convention (Mediterranean monk seals listed in Appendix II), and the European Union (which lists Mediterranean monk seals as *priority species*⁴ in Annex II of Council Directive 92/43/EEC, known as the “Habitats Directive”). Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP has the mandate of fulfilling in the best possible way the coordinating functions required by such a complex and challenging region-wide conservation strategy through its various regional bodies, and most notably the RAC/SPA.

⁴ “Species of Community interest which is endangered, for the conservation of which the Community has particular responsibility in view of the proportion of its natural range which falls within the European territory.”

Third, until now the overwhelming emphasis of monk seal conservation actions has been on the species rather than on the human beings who interact with it. However, the root of monk seal conservation has a social rather than an ecological nature, because problems to the species derive from its devastating interactions with people rather than from its intrinsic natural characteristics. Early players in the monk seal conservation arena - naturalists, biologist, ecologists and veterinarians – now urgently need to team up with social scientists, economists, as well as legal, media and education experts if actions are to become more incisive where the problems are most acute. Even merely advocating greater stakeholder participation may no longer be sufficient to achieve appreciable results. The solution of monk seal conservation problems must be perceived as residing in, and fully coinciding with, the solution of the wider environmental and socio-economic problems of the involved human communities. It is only from within such communities that the solution to monk seal conservation problems can originate.

2.4. Monk seal functions and values in the Mediterranean

Faced with the perspective of investing the considerable amount of time, effort and resources needed to reverse the critical conservation status of monk seals in the Mediterranean, many could find it legitimate to question the ethical aspects of dedicating to a single species far greater attention than to most of the region's other marine organisms.

The reply to such question is that dedicating to monk seal conservation extraordinary attention and resources is indeed legitimate, for many reasons.

The first reason is legal: *Monachus monachus*, as mentioned previously, is protected by numerous national, regional, and international legislation, and failing to do so is against the law.

Second, the Mediterranean monk seal is a species that possesses intrinsic values under many aspects, such as: a) non-consumptive use value (e.g., as an apex predator in the maintenance of ecological balance; as a potential ally in combating the diffusion of noxious alien fish species; as a resource for ecotourism); b) option value (i.e., “a means of assigning a value to risk aversion in the face of uncertainty”, McNeely 1988); and c) clearly perceived existence value (e.g., Langford et al. 2001).

Third, protecting monk seals is important not only because of their intrinsic values, but also because conservation actions favoring monk seals are likely to extend their benefits to other species and to the environment they are part of, given the monk seals' qualities of both umbrella and flagship species (Leader-Williams & Dublin 2000).

Finally, witnessing impotently the extinction in the Mediterranean of charismatic monk seals also carries political significance, because such extinction would create a devastating loss of institutional credibility. This is why a forceful monk seal conservation strategy, embraced regionally as a best practice example, should become solidly integrated within a wider strategy for the conservation of the Mediterranean marine environment.

Ultimately, the effort to conserve the marine environment and its biodiversity - and in particular monk seals that can be so easily identified as symbols of such effort - must be driven by values (Wilhere et al. 2012). While conserving monk seals and their habitat in the Mediterranean is an obligation that the region's nations have explicitly committed to, on the basis of a large number of national, regional, international and, where appropriate, European legal instruments, the species' future will be secured only if a) the region's civil society will attribute to the seals the value they deserve, and b) saving monk seals from extinction will be

seen as the epitome of the effort of reversing the devastating trend of loss of naturalness which is plaguing the Mediterranean.

Ideally, monk seals should become the symbol of a renewed effort towards Mediterranean marine conservation. Therein lies the importance of implementing an effective and successful strategy for the conservation of this species.

3. A region-wide Strategy for the Conservation of Monk Seals in the Mediterranean

3.1. Rationale for the Strategy

The draft Strategy presented below (Section 3.2) differs from the Barcelona Convention's "Action plan for the management of the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*)" (UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2003a) chiefly in terms of its method, considering that the old Action Plan continues to be valid as far as its contents and general principles are concerned⁵. In structuring the draft Strategy, guidelines were followed which are detailed in the manual for the construction of Species Conservation Strategies (IUCN/SSC 2008). Accordingly, this draft Strategy is structured as follows:

- a. a Vision, with associated Goals and Goal Targets that are SMART⁶;
- b. the Objectives needed to achieve the Goal Targets within the stated time span, with associated SMART Objective Targets.

The definition of Actions to attain Objective Targets, i.e., the activities which need to be performed in order to achieve the Objectives, Goals, and ultimately the Vision, will be amongst the first tasks of the Monk Seal Task Force, as soon as it will start functioning.

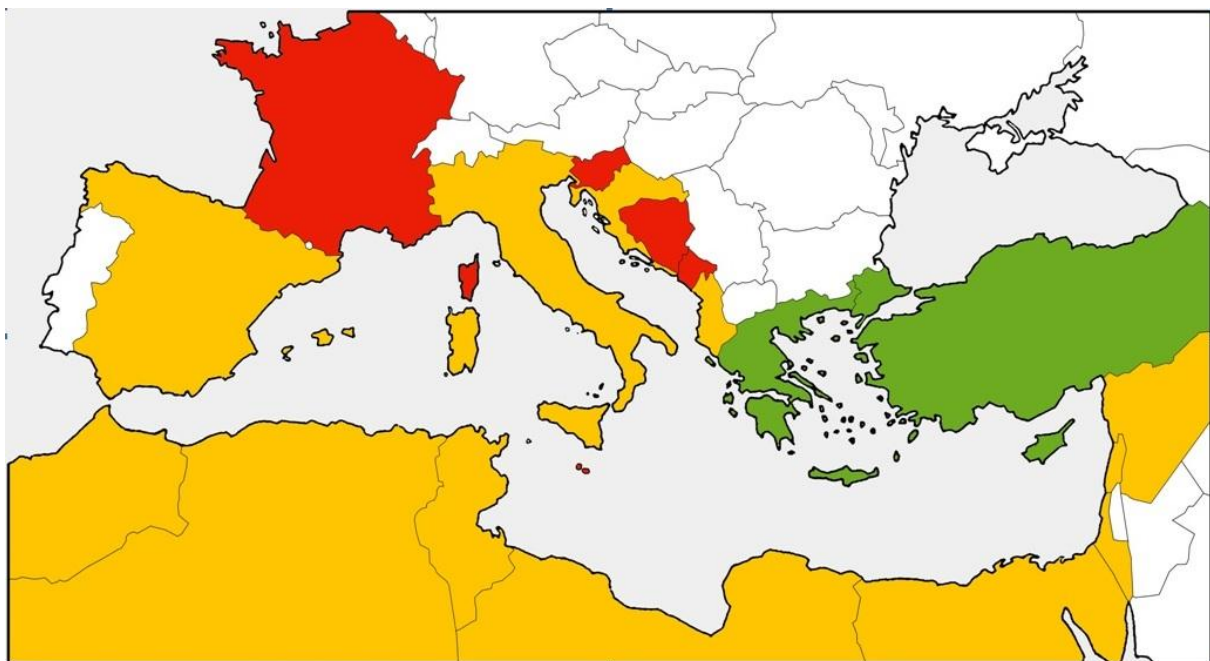


Figure 1. Monk seal conservation status by country in 2011. Green: "Group A" countries. Yellow: "Group B" countries. Red: "Group C" countries

⁵ With few exceptions; e.g., concerning knowledge of the species, which is no longer as poor as it was in 1988 (Art. 3), and the fact that scientific opinion is no longer divided concerning conservation strategies (Art. 4).

⁶ Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound.

The main problem encountered in envisaging a region-wide Strategy derives from the quite diverse conservation status of monk seals in the different portion of the Mediterranean, as clearly evident from the Section 2.2 in this document, and by consequence the quite different priorities and responsibilities saddled onto the various monk seal Range States.

To handle this challenge, it is here proposed to assign Mediterranean countries to three groups (Figure 1 and Table 1):

- A. Countries where monk seal breeding has been reported after year 2000⁷;
- B. Countries with evidence of monk seal presence, but with no breeding reported after year 2000;
- C. Countries where no monk seals have been reported since year 2000.

Group A countries is where action is most urgent, because at the moment these countries are our best hope for the survival of the species. Group B countries are also important, because they contain monk seal critical habitat which is likely to be re-colonised if conditions are favourable (as demonstrated by the frequent appearances of monk seals in many locations), particularly if actions in Group A countries are successful. Group C countries are also important because they contain monk seal critical habitat, and because the return of monk seals will become more likely if actions in Group B countries are successful.

To fulfil the Vision, this draft Strategy identifies four Goals. The first Goal relates to the creation of a conservation support structure at the international level, whereas the other three Goals relate to each of the three Groups the various countries have been assigned to.

Section 3.2 was drafted in a way to allow it to be eventually excerpted from this document and submitted for adoption as a separate document.

⁷ Year 2000 was arbitrarily selected as a criterion to separate present from past.

Country	Group A: Monk seals present, breeding occurring (reported after year 2000)	Group B: evidence of monk seal presence, but no breeding reported after year 2000	Group C: no monk seals reported since year 2000	References	Notes
Spain				Anon. 2008, Font & Mayol 2009	Individual sighted in 2008 Isla del Toro, Mallorca. More sightings in 2009.
France				UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 1994	No recent reports.
Monaco					No recent reports. Monk seal habitat no longer present.
Italy				Mo 2011	
Slovenia				UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2003b	No recent reports.
Croatia				Antolovic et al. 2007, Gomercic et al. 2011	
Bosnia Herzegovina					No recent reports.
Montenegro					No recent reports.
Albania				UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2003b, UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2005c, Anon. 2012	
Greece				Notarbartolo di Sciara et al. 2009b, Panou 2009	
Turkey				Güçlüsoy et al. 2004, Gucu et al. 2009b	
Cyprus				Gucu et al. 2009a UNEP/MAP/RAC/SPA 2011b	Young of the year observed in 2006-7. Evidence of a newborn pup found dead in 2009.
Syria				Gucu 2004, Jony & Ibrahim 2006, Mo et al. 2003	
Lebanon				Anon. 2010	
Israel				Scheinin et al. 2011	
Egypt				Notarbartolo di Sciara & Fouad 2011	
Libya				Sergeant et al. 1979, Hamza et al. 2003, RAC/SPA 2012	
Malta				UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2003b	No recent reports.
Tunisia				UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2001 UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2003b	
Algeria				UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2006b	The seal pup reported in 2006 was not <i>M. monachus</i> (Bouderbala et al. 2007)
Morocco				UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2003b, Mo et al. 2011	

Table 1. Summary of monk seal presence in the different Mediterranean countries (listed clockwise from the west).

3.2. The Strategy

3.2.1. Vision

“Over the next two decades, the ecological recovery of monk seals in the Mediterranean will deem to have occurred, when multiple colonies have become established within all major habitats of their historic range, interacting in ecologically significant ways with the fullest possible set of other species, and inspiring and connecting human cultures”.

3.2.2. Goals

Goal 1. Mediterranean Range States implement this Strategy in pursuance of the Vision, through the expeditious development and adoption of appropriate national policies and administrative frameworks, and with the effective, coordinated support from relevant international organizations and civil society.

Goal 2. Monk seal breeding nuclei in sites located in “Group A” countries are effectively protected from deliberate killings and habitat degradation, so that seal numbers in such sites increase and seals are able to disperse to and re-colonize the surrounding areas.

Goal 3. Monk seal presence in sites where they are occasionally seen today in “Group B” countries is permanently established, and breeding resumes. “Group B” countries are upgraded to “Group A”.

Goal 4. Monk seal presence is again reported in the species’ historical habitat in “Group C” countries, and these “Group C” countries are upgraded to “Group B”. Once all “Group C” countries are upgraded, Group C is deleted.

3.2.3. Goal Targets, Objectives and Objective Targets

Goal 1. Mediterranean Range States implement this Strategy in pursuance of the Vision, through the expeditious development and adoption of appropriate national policies and administrative frameworks, and with the effective, coordinated support from relevant international organizations and civil society.

Goal Target 1.1. A framework for the implementation of the Mediterranean Monk Seal Conservation Strategy is established by the Mediterranean Range States. The framework will include the establishment of a Monk Seal Task Force (MSTF) and the selection of a Monk Seal Conservation Officer (MSCO).

Objective 1.1.1. Mediterranean Range States establish a **Monk Seal Task Force (MSTF)** tasked to recommend actions a) for the implementation of the Strategy, and b) to update, adapt and improve the Strategy itself (e.g., by defining the Actions needed to attain the different Objective Targets). The MSTF is composed by a small (ideally, ≤ 10) group of monk seal conservation experts, whom the Range States designate, selected amongst national and international monk seal conservation experts. The MSTF will include ecological as well as social and economical expertise. The MSTF functioning is supported by the RAC/SPA, and may benefit from the technical support of IUCN’s Pinniped Specialist Group, the GFCM and other relevant international organizations.

Objective Target 1.1.1.1. MSTF TOR adopted, Task Force established by March 2014. The Task Force meets at least once a year to review the status of monk seals in the region, and to support the implementation of the appropriate Actions foreseen in the Strategy.

Objective Target 1.1.1.2. First meeting of MSTF in June 2014. Recommendations adopted are submitted to Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention through the SPA Focal Points⁸.

Objective Target 1.1.1.3. MSTF activities are harmonized with efforts by the Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP within the Ecosystem Approach process for the attainment of Good Environmental Status in the Mediterranean, i.e., to attain Ecological Objective EO1 “Biodiversity” and Operational Objectives 1.1 (“Species distribution is maintained”), 1.2 (“Population size of selected species is maintained”), 1.3 (“Population condition of selected species is maintained”), 1.4 (“Key coastal and marine habitats are not being lost”), as far as monk seals are concerned.

Objective 1.1.2. A **Monk Seal Conservation Officer (MSCO)** is selected by the Range States from within the MSTF, tasked of coordinating the MSTF work and of supporting the conservation activities implemented by Range States and concerned international organizations through the implementation of this Strategy⁹.

Objective Target 1.1.2.1. TOR for MSCO adopted, MSCO engaged by March 2014.

Objective 1.1.3. The Parties to the Barcelona Convention ensure that the MSTF and the activities it recommends are supported by adequate resources.

Objective Target 1.1.3.1. The Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopt a resolution to support the MSTF functioning.

Objective 1.1.4. The Parties to the Barcelona Convention ensure that the activities that the MSTF recommends, insofar as it is possible, are implemented.

Objective Target 1.1.4.1. The Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopt resolutions in support of specific MSTF recommendations concerning the implementation of this Strategy.

Goal Target 1.2. Based on this Strategy, the MSTF provides support to Mediterranean Range States in the development and implementation of specific conservation actions having a regional scope.

Objective 1.2.1. A contingency plan for single disastrous events (e.g., a lethal epizootic outbreak, a massive oil spill within monk seal critical habitat), and for emergency conditions which may derive from catastrophic environmental change, is developed by the MSTF in cooperation with equivalent bodies dealing with the conservation of Mediterranean monk seals in the Atlantic, with the conservation of cetaceans in the Mediterranean (i.e., within the ACCOBAMS framework), and with the appropriate bodies within the “Barcelona System” (e.g., REMPEC). The contingency plan will include the collection and safe storage of Mediterranean monk seal germplasm which may support in the future the recovery of the species should it become extinct.

⁸ As prescribed in Art. 31 of the Action Plan (UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA, 2003a).

⁹ As prescribed in Art. 30 of the Action Plan (UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA, 2003a).

Objective Target 1.2.1.1. Contingency plan developed by the MSTF in 2014, and adopted by the subsequent Barcelona Convention CoP.

Objective 1.2.2. Capacity building and awareness activities are planned by the MSTF, and promoted in monk seal Range States so that monk seal protection and recovery is effectively embraced at the national level. This will include the preparation of a dedicated web site and the regular issuing and widely distributed monk seal information newsletter in an adequate number of different languages.

Objective Target 1.2.2.1. Capacity building: the main groups of stakeholders in monk seal conservation are identified by the MSTF, tailored to each different monk seal Range State (with first priority given to “Group A Countries” and second priority given to “Group B Countries”), and training courses are prepared and planned (see Goal Targets 2.2. and 3.8). Preferably, training events will be developed *in situ* at selected locations having special relevance to monk seal conservation, in collaboration with the local groups, and will be followed by a constant “advice service” or accompanying process to ensure that full and long-lasting advantage derives from the effort.

Objective Target 1.2.2.2. In order to facilitate collaboration and communication amongst monk seal conservation experts throughout the region, the MSTF promotes periodical workshops on best practices of monk seal monitoring and conservation techniques, preferably taking advantage of other meetings being periodically organized (e.g., CIESM Congresses, ECS Annual meetings). Proceedings are edited and widely diffused (e.g., by pdf through the Internet) in formats that will serve as “best practice guidelines”.

Objective Target 1.2.2.3. Awareness actions are promoted by the MSTF, with first priority given to “Group A Countries” (with the exception of Greece) and second priority given to “Group B Countries”, in cooperation with local groups, targeting special-interest stakeholders such as fishermen and local coastal communities. Awareness actions, preferably supported through national fundraising efforts, could be modeled (*mutatis mutandis*) on the experience of the EC-funded “Thalassa” LIFE+ Information Communication project carried out in Greece in 2010-2013.

Objective Target 1.2.2.4. A website dedicated to monk seal conservation and information at the regional level is prepared by RAC/SPA in close collaboration with “The Monachus Guardian” and posted online by the end of 2014.

Objective Target 1.2.2.5. Monk seal newsletter issued twice a year by RAC/SPA in close collaboration with “The Monachus Guardian”, starting in 2014.

Objective 1.2.3. Monk seal rescue and rehabilitation programmes are planned by the MSTF and supported in Range States (with priority given to “Group A” countries) through capacity building and structural and operational funding.

Objective Target 1.2.3.1. The “National Rescue and Information Network” (RINT) in Greece is supported and strengthened. The construction and operation of a state-of-the-art rehabilitation facility (operational by 2015) is supported.

Objective Target 1.2.3.2. The national rescue and rehabilitation network called AFBKA, to be enhanced and further supported in Turkey, is operational by August 2014. Capacity building programmes with international expert support facilitated by the MSTF are implemented in 2015.

Objective Target 1.2.3.3. A national rescue and rehabilitation network is established and supported in Cyprus. Capacity building programmes with international expert support facilitated by the MSTF are implemented in 2015. Arrangements are made for a) the local rescue and release of seals in need of minor support, and b) the transfer of seals needing major support to the rehabilitation facility in Greece or in Turkey.

Objective 1.2.4. Monitoring of monk seal distribution and abundance, as well as advances in knowledge important for monk seal conservation, are promoted and supported by the MSTF through training, workshops and the facilitation of research and monitoring programmes. The monitoring process is made to coincide with the similar monitoring requirements within the framework of the Ecosystem Approach process by Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP, and (where appropriate) with the Marine Framework Strategy Directive of the EC.

Objective Target 1.2.4.1. MSTF supports the completion of monk seal breeding site inventories in “Group A Countries” by 2016.

Objective Target 1.2.4.2. MSTF supports the yearly monitoring of monk seal population parameters (e.g., pup production) in breeding sites in “Group A Countries”, starting in 2014.

Objective Target 1.2.4.3. MSTF supports the regular monitoring of region-wide monk seal demographic parameters, such as mortality (levels and causes) and birth rates, starting in 2014.

Goal 2. Monk seal breeding nuclei in sites located in “Group A” countries are effectively protected from deliberate killings and habitat degradation, so that seal numbers in such sites increase and seals are able to disperse to and re-colonize the surrounding areas.

Goal Target 2.1. Maintain and secure monk seal presence in important monk seal locations, including: a) Greek Ionian islands (Lefkada, Kefallinia, Ithaca, Zakynthos, and surrounding islets and seas); b) Northern Sporades; c) Gyaros; d) Kimolos and Polyaigos; e) Karpathos-Saria; f) Turkish Aegean and Mediterranean coasts; g) Cyprus. Breeding nuclei in the locations listed above are effectively protected from deliberate killings and habitat degradation, so that seal numbers in such sites increase and young seals are able to disperse and re-colonize the surrounding areas.

Objective 2.1.1. Current legislation prohibiting to carry firearms and explosives aboard fishing vessels in Greece, Turkey, Cyprus is enforced, with a special attention in locations listed in Goal Target 2.1.

Objective Target 2.1.1.1. Compliance with existing laws concerning firearms and explosives aboard fishing vessels in Greece, Turkey, Cyprus is routinely enforced everywhere, to come into effect with immediate urgency. Appropriate statistics of infringements are kept and publicized. Infringements are prosecuted with penalties appropriate to address the destruction of a critically endangered, specially protected species. Current illegal fishing practices are eradicated.

Objective 2.1.2. Locations listed in Goal Target 2.1, and other equally important locations that may be eventually discovered in the future, are geographically delimited and legally protected/managed.

Objective Target 2.1.2.1. A monk seal MPA (or an MPA network) encompassing the most important monk seal habitat in the area is formally established in the Greek Ionian islands by 2014.

Objective Target 2.1.2.2. The current Natura 2000 site around the island of Gyaros is formally established as a monk seal protected area by 2014.

Objective Target 2.1.2.3. A monk seal MPA is formally established in Kimolos - Polyaigos by 2013.

Objective Target 2.1.2.4. A monk seal MPA is formally established in Karpathos - Saria by 2013¹⁰.

Objective Target 2.1.2.5. Monk seal MPAs are designated along the Aegean and Mediterranean coastline of Turkey by 2014, to protect monk seal critical habitat as determined and mapped by the Turkish National Monk Seal Committee.

Objective Target 2.1.2.6. A monk seal MPA is designated in Cyprus where suitable critical monk seal critical habitat is identified, and established by 2015.

Objective 2.1.3. Areas in locations listed under Goal Target 2.1 are effectively protected through a) appropriate management actions, and b) the keen involvement of the local communities, which will both ensure the good conservation status of monk seals found there. A management framework is in place and implemented, defining the spatial, temporal and specific measures needed in the species' critical habitats (e.g., regulating access to caves), thereby affording effective protection to haul out and pupping sites.

Objective Target 2.1.3.1. Until formal protection of the areas listed under Goal Target 2.1 is established and enforced, patrolling of the most important haul out and pupping locations and caves is organized at least during the summer and breeding season, starting in 2014. Patrolling can be done by volunteers, well-trained and possibly local, who will be performing awareness actions *in situ*, as well as solicit the intervention of law enforcers in case of need.

Objective Target 2.1.3.2. All monk seal MPAs established under Objective 2.1.2, as well as the National Marine Park of Alonissos – Northern Sporades, are endowed with an operant Management Body and a management plan which is adaptive, ecosystem-based and fully implemented by 2014.

Objective Target 2.1.3.3. Management in monk seal MPAs established under Objective 2.1.2, as well as the National Marine Park of Alonissos – Northern Sporades, is conducted in a participatory fashion, with the full involvement of local artisanal fishermen and local communities at large, and in cooperation with the fisheries sectors (e.g., see GFCM 2011). All proposals and decisions aiming at establishing or modifying conservation and protection measures must be based on sound and indisputable scientific data and evidence. Elements of participatory approach will include awareness campaigns as well as the experimentation/adoption of innovative mechanisms to address opportunity costs, damage mitigation and the generation of alternative sources of income (e.g., ecotourism).

¹⁰ Greece has already established the protected area Management Body in Karpathos in 2007, however the MPA has not been legally declared yet.

Goal Target 2.2. Implementation of Goal Target 2.1. is enabled through appropriate capacity building activities.

Objective 2.2.1. Training sessions are organized in areas relevant to locations listed in Goal Target 2.1, with the support of the MSTF (see Objective Target 1.2.2.1). Training will concentrate, at least initially, on mitigating the main threats to monk seals (deliberate killing, habitat degradation, and accidental entanglement), and will target stakeholders identified by the MSTF (e.g., fishermen, tourist operators, enforcement officers, judges). Training will be developed together with the local groups, and will be followed by a constant “advice service” or accompanying process to ensure that full advantage is taken from the effort.

Goal 3. Monk seal presence in sites where they are occasionally seen today in “Group B” countries is permanently established, and breeding resumes. “Group B” countries are upgraded to “Group A”.

Monk seal presence in “Group B” countries must be verified with appropriate methods so as to define the actual species’ use of the coastal seas and identify the areas in which priority monitoring, awareness and protection actions need to be carried out (see Objective 1.2.4). This implies that priority areas of usage be identified thorough sighting collection campaigns, habitat surveys in areas of hotspot sightings, and where the coastal habitat is most pristine (which implies analysis of coastal habitat characteristics and their distribution in each nation), followed by in situ monitoring to assess the eventual degree of habitat use by monk seals. Sites with repeated use and with highest numbers of monk seal sightings must be evaluated in terms of pressures and risks. Awareness activities to be carried out in each site will depend on the type of use of the coasts by the species, the degree of the pressures impinging on each site, and the type of risks involved depending on what will appear to be the type of habitat use by the monk seals.

Goal Target 3.1. Monk seal presence in Italy, and in particular in the Egadi Islands, in locations around Sardinia, and in the Tuscan Archipelago, is permanently established, and monk seal breeding resumes.

Objective 3.1.1. Monitoring of monk seal distribution, abundance and behavior (including eventual pup production) is continued in the Egadi islands.

Objective Target 3.1.1.1. Non-invasive and scientifically sound monitoring technologies, applied to caves in appropriate locations within the Egadi Islands MPA, is continued and enhanced.

Objective Target 3.1.1.2. A programme involving local fishermen in the monitoring programme around the Egadi Islands MPA (also targeted at increasing their awareness), is continued and enhanced.

Objective 3.1.2. Regular monitoring of monk seal presence and awareness actions are conducted in areas historically containing monk seal habitat in Sardinia.

Objective 3.1.3. Regular monitoring of monk seal presence and awareness actions are conducted in areas historically containing monk seal habitat in the Tuscan Archipelago.

Goal Target 3.2. Monk seal presence in Croatia, and in particular in specific localities of the Dalmatian archipelago and southern Istria, is permanently established, and monk seal breeding resumes.

Objective 3.1.3. Monk seal ecology and behavior (including eventual pup production) is monitored in selected locations of the Dalmatian Archipelago and of the Istria Peninsula, and awareness action is conducted in the area.

Objective Target 3.1.3.1. Non-invasive and scientifically sound monitoring technologies are applied to caves in Istria and selected Dalmatian islands, starting in 2014.

Objective Target 3.1.3.2. Awareness actions are conducted in Croatia, targeting local residents and visitors.

Goal Target 3.3. Monk seal presence in Libya and nearby western Egypt is confirmed and permanently established, and monk seal breeding is reported.

Objective 3.3.1. Monk seal ecology and behavior (including eventual pup production) is monitored in Libya (Cyrenaica) and nearby Egyptian coast (from the border, including Sallum MPA, to Marsa Matrouh).

Objective Target 3.3.1.1. Full survey of monk seal presence and awareness actions organized in Cyrenaica by 2015.

Objective Target 3.3.1.2. Full survey of monk seal presence and awareness actions organized in Egypt (from the border, including Sallum MPA, to Marsa Matrouh) by 2015.

Goal Target 3.4. Monk seal presence in the Balearic Islands, Spain, is confirmed and permanently established.

Objective 3.4.1. A reporting scheme to detect occasional monk seal presence and alert authorities is implemented; awareness actions are conducted around the Balearic Islands, Spain.

Goal Target 3.5. Monk seal presence in Albania is confirmed and permanently established.

Objective 3.5.1. A reporting scheme to detect occasional monk seal presence and alert authorities is implemented along the Albanian coastal zone; awareness actions are conducted in the concerned areas.

Goal Target 3.6. Monk seal presence in Syria, Lebanon and Israel is confirmed and permanently established.

Objective 3.6.1. A reporting scheme to detect occasional monk seal presence and alert authorities is implemented along the Syrian, Lebanese and Israeli coastal zone; awareness actions are conducted in the concerned areas.

Goal Target 3.7. Monk seal continued presence in locations of the Maghreb's Mediterranean coasts and annexed islands, in Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and the Chafarinas Islands (Spain) is confirmed and permanently established.

Objective 3.7.1. A reporting scheme to detect occasional monk seal presence and alert authorities is implemented along Maghreb's Mediterranean coasts and annexed islands, in Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and the Chafarinas Islands (Spain); awareness actions are conducted in the concerned areas.

Goal Target 3.8. Implementation of Goal Targets 3.1.-3.7. is enabled through appropriate capacity building activities.

Objective 3.8.1. Capacity building. Training sessions are organized in areas relevant to locations listed in Goal Target 3.1-3.7, with the support of the MSTF (see Objective Target 1.2.2.1). Training will concentrate, at least initially, on mitigating the main threats to monk seals (deliberate killing, habitat degradation, and accidental entanglements), and will target stakeholders identified by the MSTF (e.g., fishermen, tourist operators, enforcement officers, judges). Training will be developed together with the local groups, and will be followed by a constant "advice service" or accompanying process to ensure that full advantage is taken from the effort.

Goal 4. Monk seal presence is again reported in the species' historical habitat in "Group C" countries, and these "Group C" countries are upgraded to "Group B". Once all "Group C" countries are upgraded, Group C is deleted.

Goal Target 4.1. Monk seal presence is reported again from Corsica and continental France.

Objective 4.1.1. Regular monitoring of monk seal presence and awareness actions are conducted in the species' historical habitat in Corsica and continental France.

Goal Target 4.2. Monk seal presence is reported from Montenegro, Bosnia Herzegovina and Slovenia.

Objective 4.2.1. Regular monitoring of monk seal presence and awareness actions are conducted in the species' historical habitat in Montenegro, Bosnia Herzegovina and Slovenia.

Goal Target 4.3. Monk seal presence is reported from Malta.

Objective 4.3.1. Regular monitoring of monk seal presence and awareness actions are conducted in the species' historical habitat in Malta.

Goal Target 4.4. Implementation of Goal Targets 4.1-4.3. is enabled through appropriate capacity building activities.

Objective 4.4.1. Capacity building: training courses are organised in locations listed in Goal Targets 4.1-4.3, with the support of the Monk Seal Task Force (see Objective Target 1.2.2.1).

3.2.4. Revision of the Strategy

The suggested time horizon of this Strategy is six years, to be concluded in 2018-2019, when a comprehensive review of the Strategy's accomplishments and failures, with a consideration for potential actions to be taken beyond 2019, should be conducted. Such timing also coincides with the process requiring EU Member States to report concerning the Habitats and Marine Strategy Framework Directives, thereby facilitating the implementation of the Strategy's actions by such States.

A mid-term assessment of the implementation results in 2016 is also recommended, to evaluate up-to-date attainment of Goals and Objectives within the Strategy's timeframe and to identify, if needed, moderate adjustments.

4. Acknowledgments

The author wishes to express his appreciation to the many colleagues who have improved the draft of this document with comments and advice: Abdellatif Bayed, Université Mohammed V, Rabat, Morocco; Panagiotis Dendrinis, Alexandros Karamanlidis and Vangelis Paravas, MOm, Greece; Pablo Fernandez de Larrinoa, Fundaciòn CBD-Habitat, Spain; Manel Gazo, Submon, Spain; Ali Cemal Gucu, Middle East Technical University, Turkey; William Johnson, The Monachus Guardian, Switzerland; Giulia Mo, ISPRA, Italy; Bayram Öztürk, Istanbul University, Turkey. Thanks are also due to Lobna Ben Nakhla, RAC/SPA, for her continued assistance during the drafting of the document.

5. List of references

- Anonymous. 1996. Strategy for the protection of the Mediterranean monk seal *Monachus monachus* in Greece. Archipelagos - marine and coastal management, and MOM / Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal. Athens. 10 p.
- Anonymous. 2004. Mediterranean News: Morocco. The Monachus Guardian 7(2).
- Anonymous. 2008. Mediterranean News: Spain. Seal returns after 50-year absence. The Monachus Guardian 11(2).
- Anonymous. 2009. Action plan for the mitigation of the negative effects of monk seal - fisheries interactions in Greece. Summary report in English. MOM, WWF Greece, Fisheries Research Institute. Publication prepared as part of the LIFE- Nature Project: "MOFI: Monk Seal and Fisheries: Mitigating the conflict in Greek Seas" (LIFE05NAT/GR/000083). 11 p.
- Anonymous. 2010. Mediterranean News: Lebanon. Seal sightings in Lebanon. The Monachus Guardian 13(2).
- Anonymous. 2012. <http://www.monachus-guardian.org/wordpress/2012/08/23/monk-seal-sighting-in-albania/>
- Aguilar A., Lowry L. 2008. *Monachus monachus*. In: IUCN 2011. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2011.2. <www.iucnredlist.org>
- Alfaghi I.A., Abed A.S., Dendrinis P., Psaradellis M., Karamanlidis A.A. 2013. First confirmed sighting of the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) in Libya since 1972. Aquatic Mammals 39(1):81-84. DOI 10.1578/AM.39.1.2013.81
- Androukaki E., Adamantopoulou S., Dendrinis P., Tounta E., Kotomatas S. 1999. Causes of mortality in the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) in Greece. Contributions to the Zoogeography and Ecology of the Eastern Mediterranean Region 1:405-411.
- Antolovic J., Antolovic M., Antolovic N., Furlan B., Adamic-Antolovic Lj., Antolovic R., Cok I. 2007. Monk sea (*Monachus monachus*) sightings in the Croatian part of the Adriatic with a special reference to the population of open-sea islands. The Monachus Guardian 10(1).
- Avella F.J., Gonzalez L.M. 1984. Monk seal (*Monachus monachus*): a survey along the Mediterranean coast of Morocco. Pp: 60-78 in: K. Ronald and R. Duguy (editors). Les phoques moines - Monk seals. Proceedings of the Second International Conference, La Rochelle, France, 5 - 6 October 1984. Annales de la Société des Sciences Naturelles de la Charente-Maritime, Supplément, décembre 1984. 120 p.
- Berkes F., Anat H., Kislalioglu M., Esenel M. 1979. Distribution and ecology of *Monachus monachus* on Turkish coasts. Pp. 113-128 in: K. Ronald, R. Duguy (editors), The Mediterranean monk seal. Proceedings of the First International Conference, Rhodes, Greece, 2-5 May 1978. UNEP Technical Series, Volume 1. Pergamon Press, Oxford. 183 p.
- Bouderbala M., Bouras D., Bekrattou D., Doukara K., Abdelghani M.F., Boutiba Z. 2007. First recorded instance of a hooded seal (*Cystophora cristata*) in Algeria. The Monachus Guardian 10(1).

- Council of Europe. 1991. Seminar on the conservation of the Mediterranean monk seal: technical and scientific aspects. Antalya, Turkey, 1-4 May 1991. T-PVS (91)25:1-94.
- Dendrinios P., Demetropoulos A. 2000. The Mediterranean monk seal in Cyprus. The Monachus Guardian 3 (2). 5 p.
- Font A., Mayol J. 2009. Mallorca's lone seal: the 2009 follow-up. The Monachus Guardian 12(2).
- GFCM. 2011. Recommendation GFCM/35/2011/5 on fisheries measures for the conservation of the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) in the GFCM Competence Area. Report of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean's 35th Session, Rome. 3 p.
- Gomerčić T., Huber D., Đuras Gomerčić M., Gomerčić H. 2011. Presence of the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) in the Croatian part of the Adriatic Sea. Aquatic Mammals 37(3):243-247. DOI 10.1578/AM.37.3.2011.243
- Güçlüsoy H., Kýraç C.O., Veryeri N.O., Savas Y. 2004. Status of the Mediterranean monk seal, *Monachus monachus* (Hermann, 1779) in the coastal waters of Turkey. E.U. Journal of Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences 21(3-4):201–210.
- Gucu A.C. 2004. Is the broken link between two isolated colonies in the Northeastern Mediterranean re-establishing? The Monachus Guardian 7(2).
- Gucu A., Mo G. 2009. "Who are our seals? Moving towards a standardised population estimate approach for *Monachus monachus*". Conclusions of the workshop presented within the framework of the conference. Workshop conducted within the framework of the European Cetacean Society Annual Conference, Istanbul, 28 Feb. 2009. 4 p.
- Gucu A.C., Ok M., Sakinan S. 2009a. A survey of the critically endangered Mediterranean monk seal *Monachus monachus* (Hermann, 1779) along the coast of Northern Cyprus. Israel Journal of Ecology & Evolution 55(1):77-82. DOI: 10.1560/IJEE.55.1.77
- Gucu A.C., Sakinan S., Ok M. 2009b. Occurrence of the critically endangered Mediterranean monk seal, *Monachus monachus* (Hermann, 1779), at Olympos-Beydagları National Park, Turkey. Zoology in the Middle East 46:3-8.
- Hamza A., Mo G., Tayeb K. 2003. Results of a preliminary mission carried out in Cyrenaica, Libya, to assess monk seal presence and potential coastal habitat. The Monachus Guardian 6(1).
- Hoyt E. (editor). 2012. Proceedings of the Second International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas (ICMMPA 2). Fort-de-France, Martinique, 7-11 Nov. 2011. 103 p.
- Israëls L.D.E. 1992. Thirty years of Mediterranean monk seal conservation, a review. Nederlandsche Commissie voor Internationale Natuurbescherming. Mededelingen 28:1-65.
- IUCN. 2009. Resolution 4.023. Conservation and recovery of the Mediterranean monk seal *Monachus monachus*. Pp. 23-24 in: Resolutions and recommendations. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland, 158 p.
- IUCN/SSC. 2008. Strategic planning for species conservation: a handbook. Version 1.0. IUCN Species Survival Commission, Gland, Switzerland. 104 p.

- Jony M., Ibrahim A. 2006. The first confirmed record for Mediterranean monk seals in Syria. Abstract, p. 54 in: UNEP/MAP, RAC/SPA. 2006. Report of the International Conference on Monk Seal Conservation. Antalya, Turkey, 17-19 September 2006. 69 p.
- Karamanlidis A.A., Androukaki E., Adamantopoulou S., Chatzispyrou A., Johnson W.M., Kotomatas S., Papadopoulos A., Paravas V., Paximadis G., Pires R., Tounta E., Dendrinis P. 2008. Assessing accidental entanglement as a threat to the Mediterranean monk seal *Monachus monachus*. *Endangered Species Research* 5: 205–213. doi: 10.3354/esr00092
- Kıraç C.O. 2001. Witnessing the monk seal's extinction in the Black Sea. *The Monachus Guardian* 4(2):1-3.
- Kıraç C.O. 2011. Conservation of the Mediterranean monk seal *Monachus monachus* in Turkey and the role of coastal & marine protected areas. Abstract, Second International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas, Martinique, 7-11 November 2011.
- Kıraç C.O., Veryeri N.O., Güçlüsoy H., Savaş Y. 2011. National Action Plan for the conservation of Mediterranean monk seal *Monachus monachus* in Türkiye. UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA, Tunis. 35 p.
- Langford I.H., Skourtos M.S., Kontogianni A., Day R.J., Georgiou S., Bateman I.J. 2001. Use and nonuse values for conserving endangered species: the case of the Mediterranean monk seal. *Environment and Planning A* 33:2219-2233. DOI:10.1068/a348
- Leader-Williams N., Dublin H. 2000. Charismatic megafauna as "flagship species". Pp. 53-81 in: Entwistle A. and Dunstone N. (eds), *Priorities for the conservation of mammalian diversity: has the panda had its day?* Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK.
- Marchessaux D. 1977. Will the Mediterranean monk seal survive? *Aquatic Mammals* 5(3):87.
- Marchessaux D. 1986. Etude de l'evolution du statut du phoque moine en Tunisie et dans l'archipel de la Galite. Report to RAC/SPA, Tunis, and IUCN. 25 p.
- Marchessaux D. 1989. Distribution et statut des populations du phoque moine *Monachus monachus* (Hermann, 1799). *Mammalia* 53(4):621-642.
- McNeely J.A. 1988. Economics and biological diversity: developing and using economic incentives to conserve biological resources. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland. xiv + 232 p.
- Mo G. 2011. Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) sightings in Italy (1998-2010) and implications for conservation. *Aquatic Mammals* 37(3):236-240. DOI 10.1578/AM.37.3.2011.236
- Mo G., Bazairi H., Bayed A., Agnesi S. 2011. Survey on Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) sightings in Mediterranean Morocco. *Aquatic Mammals* 37(3):248-255. DOI 10.1578/AM.37.3.2011.248
- Mo G., Gazo M., Ibrahim A., Ammar I., Ghanem W. 2003. Monk seal presence and habitat assessment: results of a preliminary mission carried out in Syria. *The Monachus Guardian* 6(1).
- Notarbartolo di Sciara G. 2010. The world's two remaining monk seal species: how many different ways are there of being Critically Endangered? *The Monachus Guardian* 13(1).

- Notarbartolo di Sciara G., Adamantopoulou S., Androukaki E., Dendrinis P., Karamanlidis A.A., Paravas V., Kotomatas S. 2009a. National strategy and action plan for the conservation of the Mediterranean monk seal in Greece, 2009-2015. Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Mediterranean monk seal (MOM), Athens. 19 p.
- Notarbartolo di Sciara G., Adamantopoulou S., Androukaki E., Dendrinis P., Karamanlidis A.A., Paravas V., Kotomatas S. 2009b. National strategy and action plan for the conservation of the Mediterranean monk seal in Greece, 2009-2015. Report on evaluating the past and structuring the future. Publication prepared as part of the LIFE-Nature Project: MOFI: Monk Seal and Fisheries: mitigating the conflict in Greek Seas. Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Mediterranean monk seal (MOM), Athens. 71 p.
- Notarbartolo di Sciara G., Fouad M. 2011. Monk seal sightings in Egypt. The Monachus Guardian, online edition. 29 April 2011.
- Panou A. 2009. Monk seal sightings in the central Ionian Sea: a network of fishermen for the protection of the marine resources. Archipelagos – Environment and Development, Greece. Presentation at the "Who are our seals?" Workshop, European Cetacean Society Annual Conference, Istanbul, Turkey, 28 February, 2009. 6 p.
- Pastor T., Garza J.C., Aguilar A., Tounta E., Androukaki E. 2007. Genetic diversity and differentiation between the two remaining populations of the critically endangered Mediterranean monk seal. Animal Conservation 2007:1-9. doi:10.1111/j.1469-1795.2007.00137.x
- RAC/SPA 2012. http://www.rac-spa.org/monk_seal_death
- Reeves R.R. (editor). 2009. Proceedings of the First International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas, March 30 – April 3, 2009, Maui, Hawai'i, USA. NOAA. 133 p.
- Ronald K. 1984. Action for the conservation of monk seal. Pp: 109-112 in: K. Ronald and R. Duguy (editors). Les phoques moines - Monk seals. Proceedings of the Second International Conference, La Rochelle, France, 5 - 6 October 1984. Annales de la Société des Sciences Naturelles de la Charente-Maritime, Supplément, décembre 1984. 120 p.
- Ronald K., Duguy R. (editors). 1979. The Mediterranean monk seal. Proceedings of the First International Conference, Rhodes, Greece, 2-5 May 1978. UNEP Technical Series, Volume 1. Pergamon Press, Oxford. 183 p.
- Ronald K., Duguy R. (editors). 1984. Les phoques moines - Monk seals. Proceedings of the Second International Conference, La Rochelle, France, 5-6 October 1984. Annales de la Société des Sciences Naturelles de la Charente-Maritime, Supplément, décembre 1984. 120 p.
- Scheinin A.P., Goffman O., Elasar M., Perelberg A., Kerem D.H. 2011. Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) resighted along the Israeli coastline after more than half a century. Aquatic Mammals 37(3):241-242. DOI 10.1578/AM.37.3.2011.241

- Sergeant D., Ronald K., Boulva J., Berkes F. 1979. The recent status of *Monachus monachus* the Mediterranean monk seal. Pp. 31-54 in: K. Ronald, R. Duguy (editors), The Mediterranean monk seal. Proceedings of the First International Conference, Rhodes, Greece, 2-5 May 1978. UNEP Technical Series, Volume 1. Pergamon Press, Oxford. 183 p.
- Sergeant D.E. 1984. Review of new knowledge of *Monachus monachus* since 1978 and recommendations for its protection. Pp: 21-30 in: K. Ronald and R. Duguy (editors). Les phoques moines - Monk seals. Proceedings of the Second International Conference, La Rochelle, France, 5 - 6 October 1984. Annales de la Société des Sciences Naturelles de la Charente-Maritime, Supplément, décembre 1984. 120 p.
- UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA, IUCN. 1988. Report of the joint expert consultation on the conservation of the Mediterranean monk seal. Athens, 11-12 January 1988. IUCN/UNEP/MEDU/MM-IC/5. 8 p.
- UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA. 1994. Present status and trend of the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) populations. Meeting of experts on the evaluation of the implementation of the Action Plan for the management of the Mediterranean monk seal, Rabat, Morocco, 7-9 October 1994. UNEP(OCA)/MED WG. 87/3. 44 p.
- UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA. 1998. Report of the meeting of experts on the implementation of the action plans for marine mammals (monk seal and cetaceans) adopted within MAP. Meeting of experts on the implementation of the Action Plans for marine mammals (monk seal and cetaceans) adopted within MAP. Arta, Greece, 29-31 October 1998. UNEP(OCA)/MED WG. 146/5. 122 p.
- UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA, ICRAM, ANPE. 2001. Assessment of Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) habitat at La Galite, Tunisia: towards a monk seal conservation strategy in northern Tunisia and nearby waters. By Ouerghi A., Mo G., Di Domenico F., Majhoub H., Tunis. 3 p.
- UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA. 2003a. Action Plan for the management of the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*). Reprinted, RAC/SPA, Tunis. 12 p.
- UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA. 2003b. The conservation of the Mediterranean monk seal: proposal of priority activities to be carried out in the Mediterranean Sea. By A. Bayed, A.GUCU, G.Mo, M. Dendrinis, Sixth Meeting of National Focal Points for SPAs, Marseilles, 17-20 June 2003. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.232/Inf 6. 45 p.
- UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA. 2005a. Information report on the status of the monk seal in the Mediterranean. Seventh Meeting of the National Focal Points for SPAs, Seville, 31 May–3 June 2005. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG. 268/Inf 3. 45 p.
- UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA. 2005b. Declaration on the monk seal risk of extinction in the Mediterranean. Mediterranean Action Plan, Meeting of MAP Focal Points, Athens (Greece), 21-24 September 2005. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.270/17, 30 June 2005. 3 p.
- UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA. 2005c. Rapid assessment survey of important marine turtle and monk seal habitats in the coastal area of Albania, October – November 2005, By M. White, I., Haxhiu, V. Kouroutos, A., Gace, A., Vaso, S. Beqiraj, A. Plytas and Z. Dedej. 36 p.
- UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA. 2006a. Report of the International Conference on Monk Seal Conservation. Antalya, Turkey, 17-19 September 2006. 69 p.

UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA. 2006b. Propositions d'actions concrètes pour la mise en oeuvre d'un plan de conservation et de gestion pour le phoque moine sur le littoral ouest algérien. Par Z. Boutiba. 42 p.

UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA. 2009. Assessment of the implementation of the Action Plan for the management of Mediterranean monk seal. UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG 331/Inf. 9.. Ninth Meeting of Focal Points of SPAs, Floriana, Malta, 3-6 June 2009. 50 p.

UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA, 2011 a , National Action Plan for the conservation of marine mammals in the Egyptian Mediterranean Sea - 2012-2016 by Notarbartolo di Sciarra G., Fouad M. Contract RAC/SPA 2011. 54 p.

UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA, 2011 b. National action plan for the conservation of the Mediterranean monk seal in Cyprus. by Demetropoulos A. Contract RAC/SPA: N°20/RAC/SPA_2011. 24 p.

UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA, 2011c. National Action Plan for the conservation of Mediterranean monk seal *Monachus monachus* in Türkiye. By Kırac C.O., Ververi N.O., Güçlüsoy H., Savaş Y. UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA, Tunis. 35 p.

UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA, 2012. Action Plan for the conservation/management of the Monk seal in low density areas of the Mediterranean. by Gazo M., Mo G. Contract RAC/SPA, MoU n. 34/RAC/SPA_2011. 29 p.

Van Bree P.J.H. 1979. Notes on the differences between monk seals from the Atlantic and the Western Mediterranean. P. 99 in: K. Ronald and R. Duguay (editors), The Mediterranean monk seal. Proceedings of the First International Conference, Rhodes, Greece, 2-5 May 1978. UNEP Technical Series, Volume 1. Pergamon Press, Oxford. 183 p.

Ververi O., Güçlüsoy H., Savas Y. 2001. Snared and drowned: are fishing nets killing off a new generation of monk seals in Turkey's protected areas? The Monachus Guardian 4(1).

Wilhere G.F., Maguire L.A., Scott M., Rachlow J.L., Goble D.D., Svancara L.K. 2012. Conflation of values and science: response to Noss et al. Conservation Biology 26(5):943-944. DOI: 10.1111/j.1523-1739.2012.01900.x

Annex II

Draft Updated Timetable of the Action Plan for the conservation of Mediterranean Marine Turtles

<i>Implementation Timetable (2014-2019)</i>			
<i>Actions</i>		<i>Deadline/periodicity</i>	<i>By whom</i>
A.PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT			
A.1 Legislation	a. Protection of turtles—general species protection	As soon as possible	Contracting Parties
	b. Enforce legislation to eliminate deliberate killing	As soon as possible	Contracting Parties
	c. Habitat protection and management (nesting, mating, feeding, wintering and key migration passages)	As soon as possible	Contracting Parties
A.2 Protection and Management of habitats	a. Setting up and implementing management plans	From 2014 to 2019	Contracting Parties
	b. Restoration of damaged nesting habitats	From 2014 to 2019	Contracting Parties
A.3 Minimisation of incidental Catches	a. Fishing regulations(depth, season, gear) in key areas	From 2014 to 2019	Contracting Parties
	b. Modification of gear, methods and strategies Partners & Parties	From 2014 to 2019	RAC/SPA, partners and Contracting Parties
A.4 Other Measure to Minimise individual Mortality	a. Setting up and/or improving operation of Rescue Centres	As soon as possible	Contracting Parties
B. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND MONITORING			
B.1 Scientific Research	a. Identification of new mating, feeding and wintering areas and key migration passages	From 2014 to 2019	Contracting Parties and partners
	b. Elaboration and execution of cooperative research projects of regional importance aimed at assessing the interaction between turtles and fisheries	From 2014 to 2019	RAC/SPA, partners and Contracting Parties
	c. Tagging and genetic analysis(as appropriate)	From 2014 to 2019	RAC/SPA, partners and Contracting Parties
	d. Facilitate the networking between managed and monitored nesting sites, aiming at the exchange of information and experience	From 2014 to 2019	RAC/SPA
B.2 Monitoring	a. Guidelines for long-term monitoring programmes for nesting beaches and standardisation of monitoring methods for nesting beaches, feeding and wintering areas	2 years after adoption	RAC/SPA
	b. Setting up and/or improving long-term monitoring programmes	From 2014 to 2019	RAC/SPA and Contracting Parties
	c. Setting up stranding networks	As soon as possible	Contracting Parties

	d. Standardization of methodologies to estimate demographic parameters for population dynamics analysis, such as population modelling.	3 years after adoption	RAC/SPA
	e. Tagging standardization	As soon as possible	RAC/SPA
C. PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION			
	Public awareness and Information campaigns in particular for fishermen and local populations	From 2014 to 2019	RAC/SPA, partners and Contracting Parties
D. CAPACITY BUILDING			
	Training courses	From 2014 to 2019	RAC/SPA, Contracting Parties and partners
E. NATIONAL ACTION PLANS			
	Elaboration of National Action Plans	From 2014 to 2019	Contracting Parties
F. COORDINATION			
	a. Assessment of progress in the implementation of the Action Plan	Every two years	RAC/SPA and Contracting parties
	b. Cooperation in organizing the Mediterranean Conference on marine turtles	Every three years	RAC/SPA
	c. Updating the action plan on Marine Turtles	Five years	RAC/SPA

Annex III

Draft Updated Timetable of the Action Plan for the conservation of bird species listed in Annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol in the Mediterranean

<i>Implementation Timetable (2014-2019)</i>		
Action	Deadline/periodicity	By whom
1. Produce and publish an updated version of the Action Plan including all 25 target species.	By 2015	RAC/SPA
2. Protect legally all bird species in Annex II	By 2019	Contracting Parties
3. Optimize synergies with international agreements and organizations dedicated to bird conservation	From 2014 to 2019	Contracting Parties
4. Target and lobby decision-making organizations and government bodies to stimulate the implementation of the Action Plan	From 2014 to 2019	Contracting Parties, Partners and RAC/SPA, ICCAT, GFCM
5. Organize specific training courses and workshops in coordination/synergy with international and/or national NGOs	From 2014 to 2019	RAC/SPA Contracting Parties, AP partners, AEWA, Birdlife International, ICCAT, GFCM
6. Organization of the 3 rd Mediterranean Symposium on ecology and conservation of the bird species listed in Annex II	By 2017	RAC/SPA and Contracting Parties
7. Participation in / promotion of a regional network for monitoring populations and distribution of Mediterranean threatened bird species, in co-ordination with other organizations	From 2014 to 2019	RAC/SPA, AP partners, AEWA, Birdlife International
8. Establishment / support of research and monitoring programs to fill gaps in the knowledge of threatened species in partnership with other organizations	From 2014 to 2019	RAC/SPA, Contracting Parties, AP partners, AEWA, Birdlife International
9. Establishment and implementation of National Action Plans for the conservation of endangered and threatened bird species in the Mediterranean	From 2014 to 2019	RAC/SPA, Contracting Parties

10. Support contracting parties and partners to produce and publish relevant scientific documentation contributing to update knowledge and enhance conservation action taken on the Annex II species	From 2014 to 2019	RAC/SPA, AP partners, AEWA, Birdlife International, ICCAT, GFCM
11. Identification of areas important for birds on land and at sea (mapping of breeding, feeding, molting and wintering areas).	From 2014 to 2019	Contracting Parties, AP partners, AEWA, Birdlife International,
12. Legal establishment of Protected Areas (PAs) with adequate management plans at breeding sites	By 2019	Contracting Parties
13. Produce the 3 rd Report on progress in the implementation of the Action Plan according to the proposed achieved indicators	By 2019	RAC/SPA

Annex IV

Draft Updated Timetable of the Action Plan for the conservation of Cartilaginous Fishes (Chondrichthyans) in the Mediterranean Sea

<i>Implementation Timetable (2014-2019)</i>		
Action	Deadline/periodicity	By whom
Tools		
1. Update directory of national, regional and international experts on chondrichthyan fishes.	By 2015	RAC/SPA, CMS Shark MOU Secretariat, IUCN SSG, RFMO Shark Working Groups
2. Develop, print and distribute multilingual regional and national field identification guides and sheets for remaining priority areas: Adriatic, Aegean, Ionian (in Croatian, Albanian, Italian, Greek, Turkish); and Northwestern Mediterranean (French, Spanish).	2014 – 2015	GFCM/FAO, MEDITS, National scientific and management bodies, Regional cooperation agencies
3. Promote use of existing standard monitoring protocols and forms (RAC/SPA, FAO) for species-specific data on landings, discards and observations of threatened species;	From 2014 to 2019	National scientific and management bodies, Regional cooperation agencies, MedLEM, CMS, GFCM and FAO
4. Update and promote protocols and programmes for improved compilation and analysis of data, for contribution to regional stock assessment initiatives.	From 2014 to 2019	National and regional agencies and advisory bodies, CMS, GFCM and FAO
5. Formalize/reinforce synchronous submission of catch, bycatch and discard data to both scientific and management bodies, and annually to the GFCM.	Every year From 2014 to 2019	Contracting Parties
6. Improve data on elasmobranch bycatch in national reports to GFCM, for incorporation in GFCM database	Every year From 2014 to 2019	Contracting Parties, GFCM, MEDLEM
7. Undertake information campaigns, improve the provision of materials for publication, and disseminate more widely existing RAC/SPA, FAO, CMS and other relevant products to fisheries managers, researchers and the public.	2014, 2016, 2018	AP Partners, Associates and donor agencies

8. Widely disseminate RAC/SPA guidelines and code of conduct for shark and ray recreational fishing.	2014	RAC/SPA, Contracting Parties, AP Partners, CMS
9. Promote catch and release, research activity and improved reporting of catches to shark and ray recreational fishers.	From 2014 to 2019	Contracting Parties and AP Partners
<i>Legal processes</i>		
10. Establish strict legal protection for species listed in Annex II and GFCM Recommendation through national laws and regulations.	As soon as possible	Contracting Parties
11. Establish and promote national, sub-regional and regional plans or strategies for species listed in Annexes II and III.	2014	Contracting Parties, RAC/SPA, GFCM, CMS
12. Support GFCM finning prohibition by enacting national regulations and monitoring their implementation & enforcement.	As soon as possible	Contracting Parties
13. Monitor and protect critical habitats for chondrichthyan fishes, as soon as they are identified.	From 2014 to 2019	Contracting Parties, MEAs,
<i>Monitoring and data collection</i>		
14. Promote existing research proposals developed under the RAC/SPA Action Plan to funding agencies; develop similar proposals for the Levantine basin.	2014	RAC/SPA, CPs, AP Partners
15. Develop and support improved data collection efforts, particularly in southern and eastern Mediterranean	2014 – 2015	National and regional scientific bodies and cooperation agencies, GFCM, FAO
16. Promote input and shared access to the MEDLEM database under the appropriate protocol.	From 2014 to 2019	Contracting Parties, research institutes, GFCM
17. Complete and disseminate inventories of critical habitats (mating, spawning and nursery grounds)	2015	Contracting Parties
18. Increase compliance with obligations to collect and submit species-specific commercial catch and bycatch data to FAO and GFCM, including through increased use of observers.	From 2014 to 2015	Contracting Parties
19. Comply with obligations under GFCM Recommendations to collect and submit data on pelagic shark catches.	As soon as possible	Contracting Parties
20. Improve programmes for the collection and reporting of data from coastal fisheries.	As soon as possible	Contracting Parties

21. Support expert participation in RFMO and other relevant meetings and workshops, to share expertise and build capacity for data collection, stock assessment and bycatch mitigation.	As soon as possible	Contracting Parties, RFMO, RAC/SPA
Management and assessment procedures		
22. Continuously review data and undertake new studies to clarify the status of Mediterranean endemics and large bodied species assessed as Data Deficient or Near Threatened	2014, 2017	Contracting Parties, Partners
23. Monitor Critically Endangered, Endangered and endemic species	From 2014 to 2019	Contracting Parties
24. Submit to the GFCM annual Shark Assessment Reports describing all national target and/or bycatch fisheries	Every year	Contracting Parties
25. Develop and adopt (where these do not exist) national Shark Plans and specific regulations for fisheries exploiting chondrichthyans, whether target or bycatch.	As soon as possible	Contracting Parties individually and through GFCM
26. Develop a Regional Shark Plan and associated fisheries management regulations outside territorial waters.	2015	Contracting Parties, GFCM
27. Review national and regional Shark Plans every four years	2014, 2018	Contracting Parties, GFCM
29. Continue to implement programme for the development of stock assessments, by area and by species.	2014, 2016, 2019	Contracting Parties, GFCM
30. Assessment of progress in the implementation of the Action Plan and update its timetable	2019	RAC/SPA, Contracting Parties

Annex V

**Draft Action Plan for the conservation of habitats and species associated with
seamounts, underwater caves and canyons, aphotic hard beds and chemo-
synthetic phenomena in the Mediterranean Sea
(Dark Habitats Action Plan)**

Table of contents

1. PRESENTATION	121
A. State of knowledge	121
A.1 – Assemblages of underwater caves.....	121
A.2 – Assemblages of underwater canyons.....	122
A.3 – Engineering benthic invertebrate assemblages	123
A.4 – Deep-sea chemo-synthetic assemblages (mud volcanoes, cold seeps, ‘pockmarks’, brine anoxic lakes, hydrothermal springs)	124
A.5 – Assemblages associated with seamounts.....	125
B. Main threats	126
2. OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION PLAN	127
3. ACTIONS REQUIRED TO ATTAIN THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION PLAN	127
A. Improvement and acquisition of knowledge	127
B. Management measures	128
B.1 – Legislation.....	128
B.2 – Setting up MPAs.....	128
B.3 – Other management measures	129
C. Public awareness and information	129
D. Enhancing national capacities	129
E. National plans	130
4. REGIONAL COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION	130
5. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE	131
6. BIBLIOGRAPHY	132

1. PRESENTATION

A. State of knowledge

Dark habitats are environments where the luminosity is extremely weak, or even absent (aphotic area) leading to an absence of macroscopic autochthonous photosynthesis.

The bathymetric extension of this lightless area depends to a great extent on the turbidity of the water and corresponds to benthic and pelagic habitats starting from the deep circa-littoral. Caves which show environmental conditions that favour the installation of organisms characteristic of dark habitats, are also taken into account.

Dark habitats are dependent on very diverse geo-morphological structures (e.g. underwater caves, canyons, slopes, isolated rocks, seamounts, abyssal plains).

A.1 – Assemblages of underwater caves

Underwater caves are 'natural cavities big enough to permit direct exploration by man' [1]. Dark underwater caves are lightless enclaves of the marine environment, with lighting less than 0.01% [2] and a fairly confined space. Dark underwater caves are often reservoirs of unknown biodiversity and refuges for generally very non-resilient communities [2].

Semi-dark underwater caves are not included in this Action Plan as they are already integrated into the "Action plan for the conservation of the coralligenous and other calcareous bio-concretions in the Mediterranean Sea"

Underwater caves are particularly well represented in all the rocky karst or fractured coastlines and are probably very widespread at Mediterranean level. Although we do not have an exhaustive view of the situation, several actions, specific to these habitats, have recently been started:

- Since the 1950s, researchers from the Endoume Marine Station (Marseilles) have been more particularly studying the underwater caves of France's Mediterranean coast. A great number of caves have been identified, and sometimes described, and the main species have been paid particular and systematic attention and also studied from a functional and progressive angle. Most of these results have fed into the assessments made at national (ZNIEFF sea) and European (Natura 2000) level. Since 2011, the French Marine Protected Areas Agency has undertaken systematic research on these habitats in the sectors mapped within the CARTHAM programme (CARTography of heritage Marine Habitats) and the Corsican DREAL has sponsored an inventory of the island's whole coastline (97 dark caves)
- From 2003 on, Italian researchers with the support of the Ministry of the Environment have brought out an atlas with a CD on the distribution of underwater caves by geographic sector (1). Additionally, a national system of geo-location of the caves has been set up, accessible online (catastogrotte.speleo.it)
- Inventorying is now being done as part of the Greek-European NETMED programme and has recorded over 2,700 marine caves in the 13 Mediterranean countries inventoried.

In terms of conservation, as far as the Mediterranean European states are concerned, caves are natural habitats that come under Habitat Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and appear as such as priority habitats requiring protection (Directive 92/43). Lastly, a certain number of underwater caves enjoy protection status because they fall within the geographical boundaries of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs): (e.g. the Karaburun-Sazan National Marine Park (Albania), the Telašćica Nature Park

(Croatia), the Lastovo Archipelago National Park (Croatia), the Mèdes Islands Marine Reserve (Spain), the Port-Cros National Park (France), the Calanques National Park (France), the Alonissos and Northern Sporades National Marine Park (Greece), the Zakynthos Marine National Park (Greece), the Capo Caccia/Isola Piana Marine Protected Area (Italy), the Punta Campanella Marine Protected Area (Italy), the Tremiti Islands Marine Nature Reserve (Italy), the Ustica Islands Marine Nature Reserve (Italy), the Palm Islands Reserve (Lebanon), the Dwejra Marine Area (Malta), the Mgarr ix-Xini Marine Area (Malta), the Ghar Lapsi and Filfla Marine Area (Malta), the Marine Area between Rđum Majjiesa and Ras ir-Raheb (Malta), the North-east Malta Marine Area, the Al-Hoceima National Park (Morocco) and the Galite Archipelago (Tunisia)).

A.2 – Assemblages of underwater canyons

Canyons are valleys with sometimes steep walls and V-shaped sections that are like land canyons but bigger; they often present tributaries and rocky outcrops that can be sizeable [3].

These are elements that play an important part in the way the Mediterranean ecosystem functions, insofar as they constitute the main route for transferring matter between the coast and the deep sea [4]. Thus they can represent biodiversity hotspots and recruiting areas (Sardà *et al.*, 2004 in [4]). Lastly, in the light of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2008), underwater canyons present characteristics that class them as priority conservation areas (Chalabi, 2012 in [3]).

These structures are extremely frequent and concern all the Mediterranean countries. Thus, even though over 518 important canyons have been identified [3], less than 270 are sited in detailed fashion (Figure 1), and they are probably more numerous in the light of the geomorphological maps of the Mediterranean seabed.

At present, underwater canyons are not much taken into account in terms of conservation insofar as only a few of them are protected by inclusion in existing MPAs (the Golfe du Lion Marine Nature Park and Calanques National Park canyons, France; the Pelagos Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) canyons, France, Monaco and Italy; the Mar Menor SPAMI canyon and coasts of the Murcia region, Spain).

Also, since 2009 the Montpellier, petit-Rhône and grand-Rhône canyons have been integrated within the Golfe du Lion restricted fishing area adopted by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) [5].



Figure 1: Distribution of main canyons identified in the Mediterranean (after authors of Document & [3], [6]). Map: Google earth©

A.3 – Deep Water Engineering benthic invertebrate assemblages

Assemblages of engineering benthic invertebrates are found on several kinds of substratum and, in the Mediterranean, give rise to unique formations of conservation interest such as:

- black coral forests (Antipatharians) and Gorgonia on hard substrata
- beds with *Isidella elongata* and beds with *Pennatula* on crumbly substrata
- associations of big sponges and 'deep water corals' present on both kinds of substratum.

These various formations can be more or less overlapping and they shelter ecosystem-building species that provide a hard biogenic habitat as well as a network of interstices for many other organisms. Among these, the 'deep sea corals' shelter a very high specific richness with over 220 species [7], constitute the base of complex food chains and represent, the FAO says (2008), one of the best known examples of vulnerable marine ecosystems (Marin & Aguilar in [3]).

Although there is still not much information on where they are to be found, living 'deep water corals' do not seem to be frequent in the Mediterranean (Figure 2; [8]). They are particularly found on rocky escarpments, walls of canyons, seamounts, and also on rocky surfaces that stand permanently clear of bathyal silts.



Figure 2: Location of some populations of structuring invertebrates in the Mediterranean. These are mostly 'deep water corals' (after authors of Document & [8], [9], [10]). Map: Google earth©

Their presence can thus be a necessary precondition for setting up specific measures. Although at present they are still not much taken into account in terms of conservation, since only the Santa Maria de Leuca reef with *Lophelia* and *Madrepora* has since 2006 been included as a restricted fishing area by GFCM [11], they are at the origin of the creation of MPAs (e.g. the Cassidaigne and Lacaze-Duthiers canyons, France). Similarly, two sites have been chosen to this effect by Italy (Continental slopes of the Tuscan Archipelago and Santa Maria de Leuca sector) for setting up the Natura 2000 at-sea network, and many are included in the proposal to set up a representative MPA in the Sea of Alboran [6].

A.4 – Deep-sea chemo-synthetic assemblages (mud volcanoes, cold seeps, 'pockmarks', brine anoxic lakes, hydrothermal springs)

It was in the 1990s that the first descriptions on deep-sea populations based on chemo-synthesis started (Corselli & Basso, 1996 in [12]). They are often associated with underwater mud volcanoes, but more generally any emission ('cold seeps') on the surface of the sediment of reduced gas or fluids (methane, sulphurs, etc.) permits the developing of chemo-autotrophic microbial communities, themselves at the base of a particular food chain, quasi-disconnected to surface photosynthesis.

In the Mediterranean we are therefore familiar with mud volcanoes and also 'pockmark' areas, shallow craters that form after gas has been released. Hyper-saline anoxic lakes have also been discovered between 3,200 and 3,600 metres down in the eastern basin (Lampadariou et al., 2003 in [12]). They also give rise to chemo-autotrophic primary production. Lastly, areas with hot hydrothermal springs are found at the level of underwater volcanoes in the Tyrrhenian Sea (Marsili Seamount). These Mediterranean chemo-synthetic communities are deemed to be relatively isolated vis-a-vis the Atlantic Ocean (Fiala-Médioni, 2003 in [12]). Hyper-saline anoxic lakes, because of the combination of almost saturated salt concentrations, high hydrostatic pressures, absence of light, anoxia and the high stratification of the water layers certainly constitute habitats that are among the planet's most extreme. They mainly contain bacterial communities and metabolically active Archaeans, specific to these environments [4].

'Cold seeps' seem to be well represented along the Mediterranean fold (eastern basin; Figure 3). 'Mud volcanoes' are frequent in the eastern basin especially at the level of the Mediterranean fold and in the south-east of the basin, but the discovery of 'pockmarks' around the Balearic Islands allows us to envisage their existence in the western basin (Acosta et al., 2001, in [12]; Figure 3). Lastly, six hyper-saline anoxic lakes have been localised at the level of the Mediterranean fold [4] (Figure 3).



Figure 3: Locating chemo-synthetic populations that have been studied in the Mediterranean (after authors of Document & [6], [12], [13], [14], [15]). Map: Google earth©

Among these deep-sea chemo-synthetic populations only the 'cold seeps' of the Nile Delta are currently taken into account in terms of conservation, since it has since 2006 been included as a restricted fishing area by GFCM [4].

A.5 – Assemblages associated with seamounts

In the Mediterranean, seamounts are raised parts of the seabed, ending in a peak, and of limited extent, which never reach the surface [16].

Although seamounts have so far been little studied from the biological angle in the Mediterranean, they seem to contain a unique biodiversity characterised by high rates of endemic species and could act as refuges for relic populations or constitute speciation areas (Galil & Zibrowius, 1998 in [12]).

The Mediterranean in its wider sense (including the Black Sea) probably contains about 200-300 seamounts, most of them in the western basin (Figure 4), with over 127 of them at the level of the Tyrrhenian Sea and the Sicily-Tunisian Strait.



Figure 4: Distribution of the main Mediterranean seamounts (Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo & the GIS User Community; map: Google earth©)

At present, these seamounts are little taken into account in terms of conservation since only that of Eratosthenes (eastern basin) has since 2006 been included as a restricted fishing area by GFCM [3].

B. Main threats

Apart from a limited number of sectors, the small size of the Mediterranean continental shelf leads to a strong interaction between the land and sea domains; thus the impact of earth-origin pressures is felt down to sizeable depths. Such impacts may be of natural origin (mouths of coastal rivers, underwater cascades) or of human origin (discharge from urban and industrial pipes, coastal development, exploiting of living and subsoil resources, prospecting). Similarly, this proximity leads to strong interaction between the euphotic and aphotic domains, particularly via the supply of nutritive elements at the base of many trophic chains, and the transfer and fixing of larvae both for the pelagic and benthic fields.

The main threats hanging over dark habitats therefore depend greatly on their location (distance from coast, presence of rivers, proximity of big population centres and industrial complexes), their depth, their morphology (slope, substratum, structure) and the uses to which they are put (exploiting of resources).

In this respect underwater caves are specific entities, being, because of their often shallow depth and their nearness to the coast, easy of access. Also, the caves, at least in their 'semi-dark' parts, constitute landscapes of high aesthetic or archaeological value and are therefore often visited, leading to mechanical harm particularly from divers. Using destructive methods (e.g. dynamite) in coastal development work is likely to significantly affect these habitats.

Changes in the quality of the environment (accumulation of nutriment, contamination by run-off water, rise in water temperature) can impact these environments. Although the dark caves are less frequented, they are especially fragile and constitute veritable reservoirs of knowledge and biodiversity that must at all costs be protected [17]. Indeed, the slightest disturbance can cause considerable damage and impacted communities will take a long time to recover their state of equilibrium (extremely lengthy adjustment of stability).

Other dark populations undergo different pressures, at least in part, to those hanging over the underwater caves. There, too, although changes in the quality of the environment can play a non-negligible part (acidification of the water) specific threats are identified.

These mainly concern impacts linked to the exploiting of living resources (gathering red coral, trawling, fishing with palangres, or mesh nets, lost or abandoned fishing gear), the accumulation of waste (land-origin arrivals, direct discharge at sea, submersion of rubble from dredging), research activities (seismic, sampling), and undersea prospecting (drilling, exploiting hydrocarbons; military activities [12]).

Thus, recent studies have shown that as well as displacing sediments, trawling affects the morphology of the seabed, as is shown by high-resolution relief maps of the seabed, and can cause damage equal to that caused by ploughing farmland [18].

Similarly, the fragility of cold-water corals makes them very vulnerable to fishing activities, especially trawling, and also to mesh nets and palangres, whether directly or because of the changes in the environment caused by some of the fishing gear. Moreover, recolonisation can prove very difficult or even impossible in the light of the reduced growth of the main builders [19].

Similarly the burying at great depths of waste from the exploiting of mines is often seen as one of the options available for eliminating that waste [20].

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION PLAN

The objectives of the Action Plan are to:

- conserve the habitats' integrity, functionality (favourable state of conservation) by maintaining the main ecosystem services (e.g. carbon sink, halieutic recruitment and production, biogeochemical cycles) and their interest in terms of biodiversity (e.g. specific diversity, genetics)
- encourage the natural restoration of degraded habitats (reduction of human origin impacts)
- improve knowledge about dark populations (e.g. location, specific richness, functioning, typology).

3. ACTIONS REQUIRED TO ATTAIN THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION PLAN

Actions needed to achieve the aims can be put into four categories:

A. Improvement and acquisition of knowledge

Scientific data on the biology, ecology and functioning of the various dark populations is still rare and hard of access. Thus, we should improve this knowledge in order to possess the information that is vital for implementing an optimal management strategy for each of these populations, in particular by:

- assessing available knowledge, taking into account not only national and regional data (e.g. RAC/SPA, GFCM, IUCN, OCEANA, WCMC) but also scientific works. The information will be integrated within a geographical information system (GIS) and could be shared via online consultation

- setting up a database of people-resources in identified fields (i.e. caves, deep-sea populations), of institutes and bodies working in this field and of the available means of investigation
- quantifying the proven or potential pressures (e.g. commercial and recreational fishing, leisure activities and diving, undersea prospecting).

New knowledge must be acquired in areas of regional interest to promote a multidisciplinary approach and enhance international cooperation over these sites. Such joint action will permit the exchange of experience and the setting up of shared management strategies (crafting guidelines).

Regularly holding theme-based workshops that bring together experts on these dark populations will enable an assessment to be made of how far knowledge has progressed.

B. Management measures

Management procedures involve enacting laws aimed at regulating human activities likely to affect dark populations and permit their long-term conservation.

B.1 – Legislation

Thus, we must identify endangered or threatened dark populations and grant them the status of protected species as defined in Article 11 of the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (SPA/BD Protocol, [21]).

The regulations on impact studies must be strengthened to make assessing the impacts on dark populations compulsory. The regulations should pay particular attention in the event of coastal development, the prospecting and exploiting of natural resources and the discharge at sea of materials.

Insofar as regulatory procedures already exist at international level to restrict or ban certain human activities, we should work to have them applied and developed. This is particularly so for the ban on trawling at depths of over 1,000 metres down in the Mediterranean or the setting up of Restricted Fishing Areas (RFA) as adopted in the context of the mandate of the General Commission on Mediterranean Fisheries [11]. The Mediterranean states are invited to use, and enhance, all the means already available to ensure better conservation of dark populations.

B.2 – Setting up MPAs

Designation of Marine Protected Areas intended to permit more efficacious conservation of these dark assemblages must be based on the identification of emblem sites on the basis of the criteria (uniqueness or rarity, particular importance for species biological stages, importance for threatened, endangered or declining habitats or species, vulnerability and reduced recuperative capacity after disturbance, biological productivity, biological diversity and naturality) that were adopted in 2009 by the Contracting Parties [22].

As part of the work done by RAC/SPA in 2010, many sites that met, these criteria have already been identified for the creation of MPAs, in open sea areas, including the deep seas [23]. It is necessary to pursue and build upon this approach via the procedures in Article 9 of the SPA/BD Protocol [21].

Similarly, it would be helpful to identify from among the already existing MPAs those that exist near sites of interest for the conservation of dark assemblages and to study the feasibility of extending them so that these sites are included within the boundaries of the MPA.

B.3 – Other management measures

Measures should be identified to reduce the pressures that hang over these dark assemblages and to implement them (e.g. guidelines).

In the light of the precautionary principle, particular attention will be paid to the impacts that could arise as a result of the acidification and/or fertilization of the oceans and the setting up of new emergent fisheries (border areas).

MPAs which host dark assemblages (e.g. dark caves) should update their management plans to include measures adapted to the conservation of these caves.

Procedures aimed at assessing the efficacy of these measures as a whole will be defined in consultation with the organisations concerned by the management of these dark assemblages (e.g. international conventions, GFCM, IUCN, NGOs) to promote sustainable, adaptable and concerted management.

Similarly, possession of a state of reference is a necessary precondition for setting up a system to monitor over time the maintenance in good condition of these dark assemblages. It is also helpful in the sites for which data already exists to start monitoring procedures (return to the site) and in sites which have not yet been studied to establish a 'zero' state. Defining ecological indicators and biodiversity and vulnerability indices should permit the crafting of predictive scenarios for managing these habitats and their dependent populations. Making this approach general should in time permit the building up of a network of sites for monitoring.

C. Public awareness and information

Information and awareness programmes to make dark populations, their vulnerability and the interest for conservation better known should be crafted for decision-makers, users (e.g. divers, fishermen, mine operators) and the wider public (environment education). The participation of NGOs in these programmes will be encouraged.

D. Enhancing national capacities

In the light of the geographical distribution of many of these dark populations (outside waters that lie within national jurisdiction) and the difficulties of reaching them (bathymetric bracket, scientific means required, lack of knowledge, cost of study), it is important to:

- encourage the introduction of international cooperation to create synergies between the various actors (decision-makers, scientists, socio-professionals) and set up shared management
- organise training courses and encourage the exchange of cross-border experience so as to enhance national capacities in the field

E. National plans

To give greater efficacy to the measures envisaged for setting up the present Action Plan, the Mediterranean countries are invited to craft national plans for the protection of dark assemblages. Each national plan must bear in mind the specific features of the country and even the areas concerned. It must suggest appropriate legislative measures, particularly as regards impact studies for coastal development and to check the activities that can affect these assemblages. The national plan will be drawn up on the basis of the scientific data available and will include programmes for: (i) gathering and continuous updating of data, (ii) training and retraining for specialists, (iii) education and awareness for the public, actors and decision-makers, and (iv) the conservation of dark populations that are significant for the marine environment in the Mediterranean. These national plans must be brought to the attention of all the concerned actors and as far as is possible coordinated with other pertinent national plans (e.g. emergency plan against accidental pollution).

4. REGIONAL COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Regional coordination of the implementation of the present Action Plan will be handled by the Secretariat of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) via the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas. The coordinating structure's main functions are:

- gathering, summarizing and circulating knowledge at Mediterranean level and permitting this to be integrated within the available instruments (e.g. FSD)
- setting up and updating databases on people/resources, laboratories involved and investigation means available
- helping states identify and assess the pressures on the various dark populations at national and regional level
- promoting studies on dark populations and making inventories of species in order to better grasp the way they function and better assess the ecosystem services they provide
- promote cross-border cooperation
- back the setting up of dark population monitoring networks
- organise meetings of experts and training courses on dark populations
- prepare reports on how implementation of the Action Plan is progressing, for submission to the Meeting of National Focal Points for SPAs and meetings of the Contracting Parties
- establish a work programme for implementing the Action Plan over a five-year period, which will be submitted to the Contracting Parties for adoption. At the end of this period, if necessary, after assessment and updating, it can be repeated.

Implementing the present Action Plan is the responsibility of the national authorities of the Contracting Parties. At each of their meetings, the National Focal Points for SPAs shall assess how far the Action Plan is being implemented on the basis of national reports on the subject and a report made by RAC/SPA on implementation at regional level. In the light of this assessment, the Meeting of National Focal Points for SPAs will suggest recommendations to be submitted to the Contracting Parties. If necessary, the Meeting of Focal Points will also suggest adjustments to the schedule that appears in the Appendix to the Action Plan.

Supplementary work done by other international and/or non-governmental organisations, aiming at the same objectives, should be encouraged, encouraging their coordination and avoiding duplication of effort.

At their ordinary meetings, the Contracting Parties could, at the suggestion of the Meeting of National Focal Points for SPAs, in order to encourage and reward implementation of the Action Plan, grant the title of 'Action Plan Partner' to any structure that may so request. This label will be granted on the evidence of proven involvement in the implementing of the present Action Plan attested by concrete actions (e.g. conservation, management, research, awareness etc.). The label can be extended at the same time as the multi-annual work programme on the grounds of an assessment of actions carried out during that period.

5. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Actions	Time	Who
Making a summary of knowledge of dark populations and their distribution around the Mediterranean in the form of a geo-referenced information system	As soon as possible, and continuously	RAC/ SPA and Contracting Parties
Setting up a database of people/resources and means of investigation available	As soon as possible, and continuously	RAC/SPA
Identify and assess proven pressures on each of the various types of habitat	Year 1	RAC/ SPA and Contracting Parties
Revise the reference list of types of marine habitat for the selection of sites for inclusion in the national inventories of natural sites of conservation interest, in order to take account of dark assemblages	Years 1 and 2	RAC/ SPA and Contracting Parties
Promote the identifying of areas of interest for the conservation of dark assemblages in the Mediterranean and Carry out concerted actions in national and/or cross-border sites	Years 1 and 2	Contracting Parties RAC/ SPA and Contracting Parties
Finalise the implementing of MPAs in already identified sites at national level and outside waters that lie within national jurisdiction Propose the creation of new MPAs	Starting from Year 2	RAC/ SPA and Contracting Parties
Encourage the extension of existing MPAs to integrate nearby sites that host dark assemblages	Starting from Year 2	Contracting Parties
Introduce national legislation to reduce negative impacts Integrate taking dark assemblages into account within impact studies procedures	On adoption	Contracting Parties
Regularly hold theme-based workshops (in coordination with those of the 'Coralligenous' AP	Every three years	RAC/.SPA
Propose guidelines suited to the inventorying and monitoring of dark assemblages	Starting from Year 2	RAC/SPA and Partners
Implement monitoring systems	Starting from Year 3	RAC/SPA and Contracting Parties
Enhance cooperation actions with concerned organisations and in particular with GFCM	On adoption	RAC/SPA
Step up awareness and information about dark assemblages with the various actors	Continuously	RAC/SPA, partners and Contracting Parties
Enhance national capacities and improve skills in taxonomy and monitoring methods	As needed	RAC/SPA

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Cicogna, F., et al. (2003) Grotte marine: cinquant'anni di ricerca in Italia. Ministero dell'ambiente e della tutela del territorio
2. Harmelin, J.G., et al. (1985) Dark submarine caves - An extreme environment and a refuge-biotope. *Téthys* 11, 214-229
3. Wurtz, M. (2012) Mediterranean submarine canyons: Ecology and governance. UICN
4. Danovaro, R., et al. (2010) Deep-Sea Biodiversity in the Mediterranean Sea: The Known, the Unknown, and the Unknowable. *PLoS ONE* 5, 1-25
5. CGPM (2009) Rapport de la trente-troisième session. Tunis, 23-27 mars 2009. Fishery and Agriculture Organization
6. UICN (2012) Propuesta de una red representativa de áreas marinas protegidas en el mar de Alborán / Vers un réseau représentatif d'aires marines protégées dans la mer d'Alboran. UICN
7. Mastrototaro, F., et al. (2010) Biodiversity of the white coral bank off Cape Santa Maria di Leuca (Mediterranean Sea): An update. *Deep Sea Research Part II: Topical Studies in Oceanography* 57, 412-430
8. Freiwald, A., et al. (2009) The WHITE CORAL COMMUNITY in the Central Mediterranean sea revealed by ROV surveys. *Oceanography* 22, 59-74
9. Pardo, E., et al. (2011) Documentacion de arrecifes de corales de agua fria en el Mediterraneo occidental (Mar de Alboan). *Chronica naturae*, 20-34
10. Taviani, M., et al. (2010) Pleistocene to Recent scleractinian deep-water corals and coral facies in the Eastern Mediterranean. *Facies* 57, 579-603
11. GFCM (2006) Report of the Thirtieth Session. Istanbul, Turkey, 24-27 January 2006. In GFCM Report (Mediterranean, G.F.C.f.t., ed), pp. 56, Food and Agriculture Organization
12. WWF and IUCN (2004) Mediterranean deep-sea ecosystems an overview of their diversity, structure, functioning and anthropogenic impacts, with a proposal for their conservation. IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation & WWF Mediterranean Programme
13. Dupré, S., et al. (2010) Widespread active seepage activity on the Nile Deep Sea Fan (offshore Egypt) revealed by high-definition geophysical imagery. *Marine Geology* 275, 1-19
14. Lastras, G., et al. (2004) Shallow slides and pockmark swarms in the Eivissa Channel, western Mediterranean Sea. *Sedimentology* 51, 837-850
15. Taviani, M., et al. (2013) The Gela Basin pockmark field in the strait of Sicily (Mediterranean Sea): chemosymbiotic faunal and carbonate signatures of postglacial to modern cold seepage. *Biogeosciences Discussions* 10, 967-1009
16. Ballesteros, E., et al. (2013) Els monts submarins. In *Atles dels ecosistemes* (Bueno, D., ed), pp. 320, Enciclopèdia Catalana

17. Gerovasileiou, V. and Voultsiadou, E. (2012) Marine caves of the Mediterranean sea: A sponge biodiversity reservoir within a biodiversity hotspot. PLoS ONE 7
18. Puig, P., et al. (2012) Ploughing the deep sea floor. Nature 489, 286-289
19. Clark, M.R., et al. (2006) Seamounts, Deep-sea corals and Fisheries: vulnerability of deep-sea corals to fishing on seamounts beyond areas of national jurisdiction. UNEP-WCMC
20. CIESM (2003) Mare Incognitum ? Exploring Mediterranean deep-sea biology. CIESM
21. PNUE-PAM-CAR/ASP (1995) Protocole relatif aux Aires Spécialement Protégées et à la Diversité Biologique en Méditerranée (Barcelone, 1995). CAR/ASP,
22. PNUE-PAM-CAR/ASP (2009) Proposition concernant un programme de travail régional pour les Aires Protégées Marines et Côtières de la Méditerranée. In Document de travail pour la neuvième réunion des Points Focaux nationaux pour les ASP, 3-6 Juin 2009, Floriana - Malte (Notarbartolo di Sciara, G. and Rais, C., eds), pp. 1-37
23. UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA (2010) Overview of scientific findings and criteria relevant to identifying SPAMIs in the Mediterranean open seas, including the deep sea. RAC/SPA

Draft Decision IG.21/5

Identification and Conservation of sites of particular ecological interest in the Mediterranean

The Eighteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties,

Recalling the Paris Declaration adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Paris, 8-10 February 2012) according to which the States declared that they are resolved to take all the necessary measures to make the Mediterranean a clean, healthy and productive sea with conserved biodiversity and ecosystems by developing, a coherent, well-managed network of coastal and marine protected areas in the Mediterranean and implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular to meet the target of 10 percent of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean by 2020,

Recalling Article 8 of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, hereinafter referred to as the SPA/BD Protocol, on the establishment of the List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI List),

Having regard to Annex I to the SPA/BD Protocol, related to the Common Criteria for the choice of protected marine and coastal areas that could be included in the SPAMI List,

Considering the proposals made by Cyprus, pursuant to Article 9 paragraph 3 of the SPA/BD Protocol, to include a new area in the SPAMI List and the conclusions of the Eleventh Meeting of Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas (Rabat, 2-5 July 2013), regarding the evaluation of its conformity with the criteria provided for in Article 16 of the SPA/BD Protocol,

Recalling Decision 17/12 adopted at the Fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Almeria, 15-18 January 2008) on the procedure for the revision of the areas included in the SPAMI List, stating that for each SPAMI, a Periodic Review should be carried out every six years by a mixed national/independent Technical Advisory Commission,

Recalling that based on decision IG20/7 adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Paris 8-10 February 2012) the Secretariat presented the work carried out in the Mediterranean regarding Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) and that, Decision 17 of the Contracting Parties to the CBD adopted at CoP XI in October 2012 noted this submission and requested the Executive Secretary of CBD to include the summary reports on the descriptions of areas that meet the EBSAs criteria in the repository and to submit them to the General Assembly and other Organizations while taking note of the particular need for a regional workshop in the Mediterranean, in order to finalize the description of areas that meet the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, before CBD CoP XII in October 2014,

Decides to:

Encourage all Parties to accelerate efforts in taking necessary measures to develop a coherent and well-managed network of coastal and marine protected areas in the Mediterranean while increasing the number of those areas in the SPAMI list;

Include the Lara-Toxeftra Turtle Reserve (Cyprus) in the SPAMI List;

Request the concerned Party to take the necessary protection and conservation measures specified in its SPAMI proposal in accordance with Article 9, paragraph 3 and Annex I to the SPA/BD Protocol;

Request the Secretariat in cooperation with SPA/RAC to inform the competent international organizations of the newly adopted SPAMI including the measures taken in that SPAMI, as provided for in Article 9, paragraph 5 of the SPA/BD Protocol;

Request SPA/RAC to work with the relevant authorities in France, Italy, Monaco, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia, to carry out during the 2014-2015 biennium the Ordinary Periodic Review for the following twenty-two SPAMIs, according to the procedure adopted by the Contracting Parties:

- 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-Níjar 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).

Request the Secretariat with the support of the SPA/RAC to improve the visibility of the SPAMI List and cooperation and networking among the SPAMI areas;

Request the Secretariat with the assistance of SPA/RAC to cooperate with the CBD Secretariat in organizing during 2014 a regional workshop in the Mediterranean on EBSAs, in time for its report to be considered by the 18th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (June 2014) prior to the twelfth meeting of the CBD Conference of the Parties.

[¹Draft Decision IG.21/6

Amendments of the Annexes II and III to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean

The Eighteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties,

Recalling Article 23 of the Barcelona Convention on the Annexes and Amendments to Annexes of the Convention and to the Annexes to the Protocols,

Recalling Article 11 and Article 12 of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, hereinafter referred to as the “SPA/BD Protocol”, on national measures for the protection and conservation of species and on cooperative measures for the protection of species,

Recalling Article 14 and Article 16 of the SPA/BD Protocol, on the adoption of common criteria for the inclusion of additional species in Annexes II and III to the Protocol,

Recalling the recommendation adopted by the Fourteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Portoroz, November 2005) that approved the principle of modifying the lists of species included in Annexes II and III to the SPA/BD Protocol on the basis of criteria to be established, and the decision to adopt these criteria, approved during the Fifteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Almeria, January 2008),

Being aware of the need to ensure that the lists of species appearing in Annexes II and III to the SPA/BD Protocol are updated, taking into account both the evolution of the conservation status of species and the emergence of new scientific data,

Taking into account, the request made by the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas, hereinafter referred to as “SPA/RAC”, to their Focal Points to submit proposals of amendment to Annexes II and III to the SPA/BD Protocol during their Eleventh Meeting (Rabat, 2-5 July 2013), using the adopted Common Criteria,

Take into account the proposal of amendment to Annexes II and III to the SPA/BD Protocol submitted by Italy during the Eleventh Meeting of Focal Points for SPAs (Rabat, 2-5 July 2013),

Taking into account the request of the European Union for necessary time to complete prior internal procedures, for adopting these amendments,

Decides in application of Article 23 of the Barcelona Convention and of Article 14 of the SPA/BD Protocol, to amend the Annexes II and III to the SPA/BD Protocol. In conformity with this amendment, the Annexes II and III will be as indicated in the lists attached to this decision;

Invites the Depositary to communicate without delay to all the Contracting Parties the adopted amendments;

Requests the Secretariat in cooperation with SPA/RAC to assist the Parties to implement this decision.

¹ Reservation by European Union on the whole body of the draft decision

Annex II - List of endangered or threatened species

Magnoliophyta
<i>Cymodocea nodosa</i> (Ucria) Ascherson <i>Posidonia oceanica</i> (Linnaeus) Delile <i>Zostera marina</i> Linnaeus <i>Zostera noltii</i> Hornemann
Chlorophyta
<i>Caulerpa ollivieri</i> Dostál
Heterokontophyta
<i>Cystoseira</i> genus (except <i>Cystoseira compressa</i>) <i>Fucus virsoides</i> J. Agardh <i>Gymnogongrus crenulatus</i> (Turner) J. Agardh <i>Kallymenia spathulata</i> (J. Agardh) P.G. Parkinson <i>Laminaria rodriguezii</i> Bornet <i>Sargassum acinarium</i> (Linnaeus) Setchell <i>Sargassum flavifolium</i> Kützinger <i>Sargassum hornschurchii</i> C. Agardh <i>Sargassum trichocarpum</i> J. Agardh <i>Sphaerococcus rhizophylloides</i> J.J. Rodríguez
Rhodophyta
<i>Lithophyllum byssoides</i> (Lamarck) Foslie (Synon. <i>Lithophyllum lichenoides</i>) <i>Ptilophora mediterranea</i> (H. Huvé) R.E. Norris <i>Schimmelmannia schousboei</i> (J. Agardh) J. Agardh <i>Tenarea tortuosa</i> (Esper) Lemoine <i>Titanoderma ramosissimum</i> (Heydrich) Bressan & Cabioch (Synon. <i>Goniolithon byssoides</i>) <i>Titanoderma trochanter</i> (Bory) Benhissoune et al.
Porifera
<i>Aplysina</i> sp. plur. <i>Asbestopluma hypogea</i> Vacelet & Boury-Esnault, 1995 <i>Axinella cannabina</i> (Esper, 1794) <i>Axinella polypoides</i> Schmidt, 1862 <i>Geodia hydronium</i> (Jameson, 1811) <i>Petrobiona massiliana</i> (Vacelet & Lévi, 1958) <i>Sarcotragus foetidus</i> Schmidt, 1862* (synon. <i>Ircina foetida</i>) <i>Sarcotragus pipetta</i> (Schmidt, 1868)* (synon. <i>Ircinia pipetta</i>) <i>Tethya</i> sp. plur.
Cnidaria
<i>Astroides calycularis</i> (Pallas, 1766) <i>Errina aspera</i> (Linnaeus, 1767) <i>Savalia savaglia</i> Nardo, 1844 (synon. <i>Gerardia savaglia</i>) <i>Antipathella subpinnata</i> (Ellis & Solander, 1786) <i>Antipathes dichotoma</i> Pallas, 1766 <i>Antipathes fragilis</i> Gravier, 1918 <i>Leiopathes glaberrima</i> (Esper, 1792) <i>Parantipathes larix</i> (Esper, 1790) <i>Callogorgia verticillata</i> (Pallas, 1766) <i>Cladocora caespitosa</i> (Linnaeus, 1767) <i>Cladocora debilis</i> Milne Edwards & Haime, 1849 <i>Ellisella paraplexauroides</i> (Stiasny, 1936) <i>Lophelia pertusa</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Madrepora oculata</i> Linnaeus, 1758
Bryozoa
<i>Hornera lichenoides</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)

Mollusca
<i>Charonia lampas</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (= <i>Ch. Rubicunda</i> = <i>Ch. Nodifera</i>) <i>Charonia tritonis variegata</i> (Lamarck, 1816) (= <i>Ch. Seguenziae</i>) <i>Dendropoma petraeum</i> (Monterosato, 1884) <i>Erosaria spurca</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Gibbula nivosa</i> (Adams, 1851) <i>Lithophaga lithophaga</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Luria lurida</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (= <i>Cypraea lurida</i>) <i>Mitra zonata</i> (Marryat, 1818) <i>Patella ferruginea</i> (Gmelin, 1791) <i>Patella nigra</i> (Da Costa, 1771) <i>Pholas dactylus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Pinna nobilis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Pinna rudis</i> (= <i>P. pernula</i>) (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Ranella olearia</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Schilderia achatidea</i> (Gray in G.B. Sowerby II, 1837) <i>Tonna galea</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Zonaria pyrum</i> (Gmelin, 1791)
Crustacea
<i>Ocypode cursor</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Pachylasma giganteum</i> (Philippi, 1836)
Echinodermata
<i>Asterina pancerii</i> (Gasco, 1870) <i>Centrostephanus longispinus</i> (Philippi, 1845) <i>Ophidiaster ophidianus</i> (Lamarck, 1816)
Pisces
<i>Acipenser naccarii</i> (Bonaparte, 1836) <i>Acipenser sturio</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Aphanius fasciatus</i> (Valenciennes, 1821) <i>Aphanius iberus</i> (Valenciennes, 1846) <i>Carcharias taurus</i> (Rafinesque, 1810) <i>Carcharodon carcharias</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Cetorhinus maximus</i> (Gunnerus, 1765) <i>Dipturus batis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Galeorhinus galeus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Gymnura altavela</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Hippocampus guttulatus</i> (Cuvier, 1829) (synon. <i>Hippocampus ramulosus</i>) <i>Hippocampus hippocampus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Huso huso</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Lethenteron zanandreae</i> (Vladykov, 1955) <i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i> (Rafinesque, 1810) <i>Lamna nasus</i> (Bonnaterre, 1788) <i>Leucoraja circularis</i> (Couch, 1838) <i>Leucoraja melitensis</i> (Clark, 1926) <i>Mobula mobular</i> (Bonnaterre, 1788) <i>Odontaspis ferox</i> (Risso, 1810) <i>Oxynotus centrina</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Pomatoschistus canestrini</i> (Ninni, 1883) <i>Pomatoschistus tortonesei</i> (Miller, 1969) <i>Pristis pectinata</i> (Latham, 1794) <i>Pristis pristis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Rhinobatos cemiculus</i> (E. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1817) <i>Rhinobatos rhinobatos</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Rostroraja alba</i> (Lacépède, 1803) <i>Sphyrna lewini</i> (Griffith & Smith, 1834) <i>Sphyrna mokarran</i> (Rüppell, 1837) <i>Sphyrna zygaena</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Squatina aculeata</i> (Dumeril, in Cuvier, 1817) <i>Squatina oculata</i> (Bonaparte, 1840) <i>Squatina squatina</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Valencia hispanica</i> (Valenciennes, 1846) <i>Valencia letourneuxi</i> (Sauvage, 1880)

Reptiles
<i>Caretta caretta</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Chelonia mydas</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> (Vandelli, 1761) <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> (Linnaeus, 1766) <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i> (Garman, 1880) <i>Trionyx triunguis</i> (Forskål, 1775)
Aves
<i>Calonectris diomedea</i> (Scopoli, 1769) <i>Ceryle rudis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Charadrius leschenaultii columbinus</i> (Lesson, 1826) <i>Falco eleonora</i> (Géné, 1834) <i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Larus armenicus</i> (Buturlin, 1934) <i>Larus audouinii</i> (Payraudeau, 1826) <i>Larus genei</i> (Breme, 1839) <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> (Temminck, 1820) <i>Numenius tenuirostris</i> (Viellot, 1817) <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Pelecanus crispus</i> (Bruch, 1832) <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> (Linnaeus, 1761) <i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i> (Pallas, 1773) <i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i> (Lowe, PR, 1921) <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i> (Brünnich, 1764) <i>Sterna albifrons</i> (Pallas, 1764) <i>Sterna bengalensis</i> (Lesson, 1831) <i>Sterna caspia</i> (Pallas, 1770) <i>Sterna nilotica</i> (Gmelin, JF, 1789) <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> (Latham, 1878)
Mammalia
<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i> (Lacépède, 1804) <i>Balaenoptera borealis</i> (Lesson, 1828) <i>Balaenoptera physalus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Delphinus delphis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Eubalaena glacialis</i> (Müller, 1776) <i>Globicephala melas</i> (Trail, 1809) <i>Grampus griseus</i> (Cuvier G., 1812) <i>Kogia simus</i> (Owen, 1866) <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> (Borowski, 1781) <i>Mesoplodon densirostris</i> (de Blainville, 1817) <i>Monachus monachus</i> (Hermann, 1779) <i>Orcinus orca</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Physeter macrocephalus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Pseudorca crassidens</i> (Owen, 1846) <i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i> (Meyen, 1833) <i>Steno bredanensis</i> (Cuvier in Lesson, 1828) <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Montagu, 1821) <i>Ziphius cavirostris</i> (Cuvier G., 1832)

Annex III - List of species whose exploitation is regulated

Porifera
<i>Hippospongia communis</i> (Lamarck, 1813) <i>Spongia</i> (<i>Spongia</i>) <i>lamella</i> (Schulze, 1872) (synon. <i>Spongia agaricina</i>) <i>Spongia</i> (<i>Spongia</i>) <i>officinalis adriatica</i> (Schmidt, 1862) <i>Spongia</i> (<i>Spongia</i>) <i>officinalis officinalis</i> (Linnaeus, 1759) <i>Spongia</i> (<i>Spongia</i>) <i>zimocca</i> (Schmidt, 1862)
Cnidaria
<i>Antipathes</i> sp. plur. <i>Corallium rubrum</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
Crustacea
<i>Homarus gammarus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Maja squinado</i> (Herbst, 1788) <i>Palinurus elephas</i> (Fabricius, 1787) <i>Scyllarides latus</i> (Latreille, 1803) <i>Scyllarus arctus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Scyllarus pygmaeus</i> (Bate, 1888)
Echinodermata
<i>Paracentrotus lividus</i> (Lamarck, 1816)
Pisces
<i>Alopias vulpinus</i> (Bonnaterre, 1788) <i>Alosa alosa</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Alosa fallax</i> (Lacépède, 1803) <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i> (Nardo, 1827) <i>Centrophorus granulosus</i> (Bloch & Schneider, 1801) <i>Epinephelus marginatus</i> (Lowe, 1834) <i>Heptanchias perlo</i> (Bonnaterre, 1788) <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Mustelus asterias</i> (Cloquet, 1821) <i>Mustelus mustelus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Mustelus punctulatus</i> (Risso, 1826) <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Prionace glauca</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Sciaena umbra</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Squalus acanthias</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Umbrina cirrosa</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Xiphias gladius</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)

Draft Decision IG.21/7

[¹Draft Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean in the Framework of Article 15 of the Land Based Sources Protocol

The 18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties,

Recalling Article 5 of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities adopted in 1996, hereinafter referred to as the LBS Protocol, concerning elaboration and implementation of national and regional action plans and programmes for elimination of pollution deriving from land-based sources,

Recalling Article 15 of the LBS Protocol concerning regional action plans and programmes containing measures and timetables for their implementation, as well as the Annex 1 section C, point 14 of the same Protocol,

Taking into account Decision IG.20/10 of the 17th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Paris, France, February 2012) entitled “Adoption of the Strategic Framework for Marine Litter management”, as well as the measures on Control of pollution by persistent synthetic materials in the Mediterranean Sea adopted by the 7th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Cairo, October 1991),

Recalling the UNEP Global Marine Litter Initiative that took an active lead in assisting twelve Regional Seas Programmes in organizing and implementing regional activities on marine litter,

Recalling the results of the assessment of the status of marine litter in the Mediterranean prepared by MAP partners in 2008 in the framework of Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP MED POL Programme,

Noting that marine litter has become a global and regional issue affecting marine and coastal environment quality as well as the important knowledge gaps on marine litter sources and impacts in the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment,

Highlighting the need to carry out focused scientific research to fill knowledge gap and support the implementation of required measures,

Taking into account the work carried out within the framework of United Nations Environment Programme and the pertinent provisions of the relevant international environmental agreements and other regional agreements of relevance,

Taking also into account the legal obligations with regard to marine litter and the relevant work carried out in this field within the framework of the UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention and its associated Protocols,

Taking note of the United Nations General Assembly resolutions A/RES/60/30 and A/RES/63/111 on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (2005 and 2008) and resolutions A/RES/60/31 and A/RES/63/112 on sustainable fisheries (2005 and 2008),

Taking note of the commitments endorsed by the Fifth International Marine Debris Conference and the Honolulu Strategy (2011), a global framework strategy to prevent, reduce, and manage marine litter, the UNEP/GPA Programme of Work on marine litter

¹ Reservation by European Union, Italy and Egypt on the whole body of the draft decision

adopted in January 2012, as well as the International Conference on Prevention and Management of Marine Litter in European Seas, Berlin, 10-12 April 2013,

Being Inspired by the progress of the work carried out by Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP to implement the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap with a particular focus on the commonly agreed ecological objectives, operational objectives, indicators, good environmental status and respective targets with regards to marine litter and the need to fully streamline their application on marine litter management, as well as the need to fully harmonize implementation of this Plan with the Mediterranean Ecosystems Approach (EcAp) cycle,

Referring to the Report of the Meeting of the MEDPOL Focal points held in Joint Session with CP/RAC Focal points on 18-21 June 2013 in Barcelona, Spain,

Committed to increased efforts to tackle the regional challenges for the management of marine litter in an efficient and effective way to achieve good environmental status in synergy with EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive and in harmony with the other European Regional Seas,

Decides to:

Adopt the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean in the framework of Articles 5 and 15 of the LBS Protocol hereinafter referred to as the Regional Plan, which is contained in Annex to this decision;

Adopt the following Annexes to this Decision:

- (a) *Annex 2 - "Work Plan with timetable for the implementation of relevant Articles of Marine Litter Regional Plan" to guide and facilitate the work of the Secretariat and the Contracting Parties on priority measures with regards to the implementation of the Regional Plan and mobilize external resources for this purpose, as appropriate,*
- (b) *Annex 3 - "Potential Research Topics" to promote and support scientific research by the Contracting Parties and scientific community to fill the knowledge gaps on marine litter sources and impacts as well as to support implementation of relevant measures; and,*
- (c) *Annex 4 - "Elements for National Biennial Reports" to enhance reporting on the implementation and effectiveness of measures;*

Urge the Contracting Parties to take the necessary financial, legal, administrative and other measures to ensure the implementation of this Regional Plan and to report on their progress to the Secretariat in accordance with its Article 19;

Urge the Contracting Parties, intergovernmental organizations, donor agencies, industry, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions to support the implementation of the Regional Plan providing sufficient financial, technical and scientific contribution, including the implementation of country-based measures and projects, as well as by joining as appropriate to and taking advantage from the marine litter global partnership established in the framework of UNEP/Global Programme of Action;

Urge all relevant International Organizations and in particular the Union for the Mediterranean and its Horizon 2020 initiative to strongly support the development and implementation of necessary investment projects by the Contracting Parties with the view to establish sound and sustainable solid waste management systems in accordance with the relevant measures provided for in the Regional Plan;

Request the Secretariat to provide, upon request and subject to availability of funds, the necessary assistance to, and organize capacity building programmes for, the Contracting Parties for the implementation of the Regional Plan.

Annex I

Draft Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean in the Framework of Article 15 of the Land Based Sources Protocol

Part I – General provisions

Article 1

Rationale for the Regional Plan

Marine litter may have significant implications for the marine and coastal environment at a global level. These impacts are environmental, economic, health and safety and cultural, rooted in our prevailing production and consumption patterns. The problem originates mostly from land-based activities and sea-based activities, as well as lack of governmental financial resources, general lack of understanding of the public's co-responsibility, and the optimisation of the application of legal enforcement systems could limit pollution.

The rationale for the preparation of this Regional Plan is to improve the quality of the marine and coastal environment in accordance with the provisions of the LBS Protocol and to achieve the goals set by the decisions of the 17th meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2012, Decision IG.20/4: "Implementing MAP ecosystem approach roadmap: Mediterranean Ecological and Operational Objectives, Indicators and Timetable for implementing the ecosystem approach roadmap" and Decision IG 20/10: 'Adoption of the Strategic Framework for Marine Litter management', at the considerable lower cost than with the no action scenario.

Article 2

Area and Scope of application

The area to which this Regional Plan applies is the area defined in Art. 3² of the LBS Protocol paragraphs (a), (c), and (d). The Regional Plan shall apply to discharges referred to in Article 4 (a)³ of the LBS Protocol and any operational discharge from ships, platforms and other man-made structures at sea.

² Article 3 of the LBS Protocol: Protocol Area

The area to which this Protocol applies (hereinafter referred to as the "Protocol Area") shall be:

(a) The Mediterranean Sea Area as defined in article 1 of the Convention;
(c) Waters on the landward side of the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured and extending, in the case of watercourses, up to the freshwater limit;
(d) Brackish waters, coastal salt waters including marshes and coastal lagoons, and ground waters communicating with the Mediterranean Sea.

³ Article 4 of the LBS Protocol Application

1. This Protocol shall apply: (a) To discharges originating from land-based point and diffuse sources and activities within the territories of the Contracting Parties that may affect directly or indirectly the Mediterranean Sea Area. These discharges shall include those which reach the Mediterranean Area, as defined in article 3(a), (c) and (d) of this Protocol, through coastal disposals, rivers, outfalls, canals, or other watercourses, including ground water flow, or through run-off and disposal under the seabed with access from land

Article 3

Definition of terms

For the purpose of this Regional Plan:

Marine litter, regardless of the size, means any persistent, manufactured or processed solid material discarded, disposed of or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment.

Litter monitoring means repeated surveys of beaches, sea bed, water column, surface waters and biota to determine litter types and quantities in a representative manner such that information can be compared with baseline data to follow trends.

Barcelona Convention means the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, 1995 hereinafter referred to as the Barcelona Convention.

LBS Protocol means the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities, 1996, hereinafter referred to as the LBS Protocol.

Secretariat means the body referred to in Article 17 of the Barcelona Convention.

LBS National Action Plan means the national action plans containing measures and timetables for their implementation developed by the Contracting Parties in accordance with Article 5 of the LBS Protocol as endorsed by the 14th meeting of the CP with the view to implement the Strategic Action Programme (SAP-MED) to combat land-based sources in the Mediterranean adopted by the Contracting Parties in 1997.

Article 4

Objectives and principles

Objectives

The main objectives of the Regional Plan are to:

- (a) Prevent and reduce to the minimum marine litter pollution in the Mediterranean and its impact on ecosystem services, habitats, species in particular the endangered species, public health and safety;
- (b) Remove to the extent possible already existent marine litter by using environmentally respectful methods;
- (c) Enhance knowledge on marine litter; and
- (d) Achieve that the management of marine litter in the Mediterranean is performed in accordance with accepted international standards and approaches as well as those of relevant regional organizations and as appropriate in harmony with programmes and measures applied in other seas.

Principles

In implementing the Regional Plan, the Contracting Parties shall be guided by the following principles:

- (a) *Integration Principle* by virtue of which marine litter management shall be an integral part of the solid waste management and other relevant strategies;
- (b) *Prevention principle* by virtue of which any marine litter management measure should aim at addressing the prevention of marine litter generation at the source;
- (c) *Precautionary principle* by virtue of which where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation;

- (d) *Polluter-pays principle* by virtue of which the costs of pollution prevention, control and reduction measures are to be borne by the polluter, with due regard to the public interest;
- (e) *Ecosystem-based approach* by virtue of which the cumulative effects of marine litter on marine and coastal ecosystem services, habitats and species with other contaminants and substances that are present in the marine environment should be fully taken into account;
- (f) *The principle of public participation and stakeholder involvement*; and
- (g) *Sustainable Consumption and Production principle* by virtue of which current unsustainable patterns of consumption and production must be transformed to sustainable ones that decouple human development from environmental degradation.

Article 5

Preservation of rights

The provisions of this Regional Plan shall be without prejudice to stricter provisions respecting marine litter management measures contained in other existing or future national, regional or international instruments or programmes.

Part II – Measures and operational targets

Article 6

Coherence and integration of measures

The Contracting Parties shall make best effort that the measures provided for in Articles 7 to 10 are implemented, as specified in the respective articles, in a coherent manner to achieve good environmental status and relevant targets on marine litter. Various actors shall be involved in the development and implementation of agreed measures as provided for in Article 17.

Article 7

Integration of marine litter measures into the LBS National Action Plans (LBS NAPs)

1. The Contracting Parties in accordance with Article 5 of the LBS Protocol shall elaborate and implement, individually or jointly, as appropriate, national and regional action plans and programmes, containing measures and time tables for their implementation. In doing so the Contracting Parties shall consider updating by the year 2015 the LBS NAPs to integrate marine litter in accordance with the provisions of this Regional Plan and other means to perform their obligations. To this aim, the expert working group shall update by 2014 the existing LBS National Action Plan guidelines.
2. The LBS National Action Plan shall include:
 - (a) Development and implementation of appropriate policy, legal instruments and institutional arrangements, including adequate solid waste and sewer system management plans, which shall incorporate marine litter prevention and reduction measures;
 - (b) Monitoring and assessment programmes for marine litter;
 - (c) Measures to prevent and reduce marine litter;

- (d) Programmes of removal and environmentally sound disposal of existing marine litter according to the national legislation about management of this kind of waste; and
- (e) Awareness raising and education programmes.

Article 8

Legal and institutional aspects

1. For the purpose of implementing the Regional Plan, the Contracting Parties shall adopt as appropriate the necessary legislation and/or establish adequate institutional arrangements to ensure efficient marine litter reduction and the prevention of its generation.
2. To this aim the Contracting Parties shall endeavour to ensure:
 - (a) Institutional coordination, where necessary, among the relevant national policy bodies and relevant regional organisations and programmes, in order to promote integration; and
 - (b) Close coordination and collaboration between national regional and local authorities in the field of marine litter management.
3. The Contracting Parties shall give due consideration to the implementation of the relevant related provisions of the Protocols⁴ adopted in the framework of the Barcelona Convention affecting marine litter management to enhance efficiency, synergies and maximise the results.

Article 9

Prevention of marine litter

In conformity with the objectives and principles of the Regional Plan the Contracting Parties shall:

Land-based Sources

1. By the year 2025 at latest, to base urban solid waste management on reduction at source, applying the following waste hierarchy as a priority order in waste prevention and management legislation and policy: prevention, preparing for re-use, recycling, other recovery, e.g. energy recovery and environmentally sound disposal.
2. By the year 2019 implement adequate waste reducing/reusing/recycling measures in order to reduce the fraction of plastic packaging waste that goes to landfill or incineration without energy recovery.

⁴ Specifically in the framework of the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea, 2002 (Port reception facilities); Protocol for the Prevention and Elimination of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft or Incineration at Sea, 1995 (waste dumping prohibition); Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, 1995 (Regional Plans to protect endangered species; establishment of SPA and SPAMIs); 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, 1994 (prohibition of the disposal of garbage from offshore installations); and the Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, 1996.

3. By the year 2017 explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to:
 - (a) Extended Producer Responsibility strategy by making the producers, manufacturer brand owners and first importers responsible for the entire life-cycle of the product with measures prioritizing the hierarchy of waste management in order to encourage companies to design products with long durability for reuse, recycling and materials reduction in weight and toxicity;
 - (b) Sustainable Procurement Policies contributing to the promotion of the consumption of recycled plastic-made products;
 - (c) Establishment of voluntary agreements with retailers and supermarkets to set an objective of reduction of plastic bags consumption as well as selling dry food or cleaning products in bulk and refill special and reusable containers;
 - (d) Fiscal and economic instruments to promote the reduction of plastic bag consumption;
 - (e) Establishment of Deposits, Return and Restoration System for expandable polystyrene boxes in the fishing sector;
 - (f) Establishment of Deposits, Return and Restoration System for beverage packaging prioritizing when possible their recycling; and
 - (g) Establish procedures and manufacturing methodologies together with plastic industry, in order to minimize the decomposition characteristics of plastic, to reduce micro-plastic.
4. By the year 2020 take necessary measures to establish as appropriate adequate urban sewer, wastewater treatment plants, and waste management systems to prevent run-off and riverine inputs of litter.

Sea-based Sources

5. In accordance with Article 14 of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol explore and implement to the extent possible by 2017, ways and means to charge reasonable cost for the use of port reception facilities or when applicable, apply No-Special-Fee system. The Contracting Parties shall also take the necessary steps to provide ships using their ports with updated information relevant to the obligation arising from Annex V of MARPOL Convention⁵ and from their legislation applicable in the field.
6. Explore and implement to the extent possible by the year 2017 the “Fishing for Litter” environmentally sound practices, in consultation with the competent international and regional organizations, to facilitate clean up of the floating litter and the seabed from marine litter caught incidentally and/or generated by fishing vessels in their regular activities including derelict fishing gears.
7. Explore and implement to the extent possible by the year 2017 “Gear marking to indicate ownership” concept and ‘reduced ghost catches through the use of environmental neutral upon degradation of nets, pots and traps concept’, in consultation with the competent international and regional organizations in the fishing sector.
8. Apply by the year 2020 the cost effective measures to prevent any marine littering from dredging activities taking into account the relevant guidelines adopted in the framework of Dumping Protocol of the Barcelona Convention.

⁵ International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships.

9. The Contracting Parties shall take the necessary measures by the year 2020 to close to the extent possible the existing illegal dump sites on land in the area of the application of the Regional Plan.
10. The Contracting Parties shall take enforcement measures to combat dumping in accordance with national and regional legislation including littering on the beach, illegal sewage disposal in the sea, the coastal zone and rivers in the area of the application of the Regional Plan.

Article 10

Removing existing marine litter and its environmentally sound disposal⁶

The Contracting Parties shall, where it is environmentally sound and cost effective, remove existing accumulated litter, subject to Environmental Impact Assessment procedure, in particular from specially protected areas and Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) and litter impacting endangered species listed in Annexes II and III of the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol. To this aim the Contracting Parties undertake to explore and implement to the extent possible the following measures by the year 2019:

- (a) Identify in collaboration with relevant stakeholders accumulations/hotspots of marine litter and implement national programmes on their regular removal and sound disposal;
- (b) Implement National Marine Litter Cleanup Campaigns on a regular basis;
- (c) Participate in International Coastal Cleanup Campaigns and Programmes;
- (d) Apply as appropriate Adopt-a-Beach or similar practices and enhance public participation role with regard to marine litter management;
- (e) Apply Fishing for Litter environmentally sound practices, in consultation with the competent international and regional organizations and in partnership with fishermen and ensure adequate collection, sorting, recycling and/or environmentally sound disposal of the fished litter; and
- (f) Charge reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable apply No-Special-Fee system, in consultation with competent international and regional organizations, when using port reception facilities for implementing the measures provided for in Article 10.

⁶For the implementation of the measures provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article, the Contracting Parties shall [may] take into account the elements presented in the information document “*Background information for some specific measures for management and monitoring of marine litter UNEP(DEPI) MED WG 387Inf.14*”.

Part III – Assessment

Article 11

Assessment of marine litter in the Mediterranean

1. The Contracting Parties shall assess in the framework of ecosystem approach the state of marine litter, the impact of marine litter on the marine and coastal environment and human health as well as the socio-economic aspects of marine litter management based on coordinated and, if possible, common agreed methodologies, national monitoring programmes and surveys.
2. The Secretariat shall prepare the Assessment of marine litter in the Mediterranean every six years using results of the national monitoring programmes and applied measures with the view to address priority issues and major information and data gaps, using all other available relevant regional and international data and where appropriate responses by the Contracting Parties to specific marine litter related questionnaires prepared by the Secretariat.
3. The first Assessment of the state of marine litter in the Mediterranean based on the existing information shall be submitted to the meeting of the Contracting Parties two years after entry into force of the Regional Plan.

Article 12

Mediterranean Marine Litter Monitoring Programme

1. Based on ecosystem approach ecological objectives and integrated monitoring programme, and in synergy with the relevant international and regional guidelines and documents the Contracting Parties, on the basis of the proposals of the Secretariat shall:
 - (a) Prepare the Regional Marine Litter Monitoring Programme, as part of the integrated regional monitoring programme;
 - (b) Establish in the year 2016 the Regional Data Bank on Marine Litter; and
 - (c) Establish by the year 2014 Expert Group on Regional Marine Litter Monitoring Programme, in the framework of the Ecosystem Approach implementation.
2. For the purpose of this Regional Plan and in compliance with the monitoring obligations under Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention and Article 8 of the LBS Protocol, the Contracting Parties shall design by the year 2017 National Monitoring Programme on Marine Litter.
3. The National Monitoring Programmes should take into account the need for harmonization and consistency with the integrated regional monitoring programme based on ecosystem approach and consistency with other regional seas.
4. To this aim, the Secretariat shall prepare, in collaboration with the relevant regional organizations, by the year 2014 the Guidelines for the preparation of the National Marine Litter Monitoring Programmes.

Part IV – Support to Implementation

Article 13

Research topics and scientific cooperation

The Contracting Parties agree to cooperate, with support from the Secretariat, with competent international and regional organizations and relevant scientific institutions, on marine litter issues that due to their complexity require further research.

Article 14

Specific guidelines

The Secretariat in cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations, shall prepare specific guidelines taking into account where appropriate existing guidelines, to support and facilitate the implementation of measures provided for in articles 9 and 10 of the Regional Plan. Subject to availability of external funds such guidelines shall be published in different Mediterranean region languages.

Article 15

Technical assistance

For the purpose of facilitating the implementation of the measures and monitoring obligations as provided for in Articles 7 to 10 and 12 of the Regional Plan, technical assistance, transfer of knowhow and technology shall be provided, including capacity building, by the Secretariat to the Contracting Parties in need of assistance.

Article 16

Enhancement of public awareness and education

1. Due to the nature of the marine litter management issue enhancement of public awareness and education is very important component of the marine litter management.
2. To this aim the Contracting Parties shall undertake, where appropriate in synergy with existing initiatives in the field of education for sustainable development and environment and partnership with civil society, public awareness and education activities, with adequate duration and follow up, with regard to marine litter management including activities related to prevention and promotion of sustainable consumption and production.

Article 17

Major groups and stakeholder participation

For the effective implementation of the Regional Plan, the Contracting Parties may encourage appropriate involvement of various stakeholders including local authorities, civil society, private sector (producers, garbage collection and treatment companies, etc.) and other stakeholders as appropriate:

- (a) Regional, National and local authorities;
- (b) Maritime sector;
- (c) Tourism sector;
- (d) Fisheries and Aquaculture;
- (e) Industry; and
- (f) Civil society.

Article 18

Regional and international cooperation

1. For the purpose of facilitating the implementation of the Regional Plan the Secretariat shall establish institutional cooperation with various relevant regional and global institutions and initiatives.
2. The Contracting Parties shall cooperate directly or with the assistance of the Secretariat or the competent international and regional organizations to address trans-boundary marine litter cases.

Article 19

Reporting

1. In conformity with Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention and Article 13, paragraph 2(d), of the LBS Protocol the Contracting Parties shall report on a biennial basis on the implementation of this Regional Plan, in particular the implementation of the above measures, their effectiveness and difficulties encountered and data resulting from monitoring programme as provided for in Article 12 of this Regional Plan.
2. The Contracting Parties shall review biennially the status of implementation of the Regional Plan upon its entry into force, on the basis of the regional report prepared by the Secretariat.

Part V – Final Provisions

Article 20

Implementation timetable

The Contracting Parties shall implement this Regional Plan, in particular the above measures according to the timetables indicated in the respective Articles of the Regional Plan.

Article 21

Entry into force

The present Regional Plan will enter into force and become binding on the 180 day following the day of notification by the Secretariat in accordance with Article 15, paragraph 3 and 4 of the LBS Protocol.

Article 22

Enforcement of measures

The Contracting Parties shall take the necessary actions to enforce the measures in accordance with their national regulations.

Annex II

Work Plan with timetable and cost for the implementation of relevant Articles of the Marine Litter Regional Plan

	Article	Task	Timetable	Lead Authority	Verification indicator	Estimated cost (€)	Financial source
PART II - MEASURES AND OPERATIONAL TARGETS							
1.	Art. 7 - Integration of marine litter measures into the LBS National Action Plans (LBS NAPs)	Update the existing LBS National Action Plan guidelines	2014	MEDPOL, in consultation with regional and international organizations	Guidelines sent to Contracting Parties	40K. ⁷ (Includes task 3)	Secretariat
2.		Update the existing LBS National Action Plans to integrate marine litter in accordance with the provisions of the Regional Plan National Stakeholder Workshop and consultancy	2015	Contracting Party, in consultation with MEDPOL	Updated LBS National Action Plan sent to the Secretariat	210. ⁸ (Total for 21 countries)	Contracting Party
3.		Development of reporting format	2014	MEDPOL, in consultation with regional and international organizations	Reporting format sent to countries	Cost included in task 1	Secretariat
4.		National reports on the implementation of the Regional Plan	Biennially, together with the report for the implementation of the LBS protocol	Contracting Party	Report sent to Secretariat	21K ⁹ . (Total for 21 countries)	Contracting Party

⁷ Includes consultancy and cost of the Regional meeting of experts. This amount covers also task 3.

⁸ It is suggested that each country assigns at least 10K for the implementation of this task.

⁹ It is estimated that each country will spend up to 1K for the preparation of the National report.

5.	Art. 9 – Prevention of marine litter	To base urban solid waste management on reduction at source, applying the following waste hierarchy as a priority order in waste prevention and management legislation and policy: prevention, preparing for re-use, recycling, other recovery, e.g. energy recovery and environmentally sound disposal.	2025	Contracting Party, in cooperation with the CP/RAC and MED POL	Report sent to Secretariat	Cost to be specified in the updated LBS National Action Plan of each country. CP/RAC and MEDPOL to provide guidance to countries to make estimates	Contracting Party
6.		Implement adequate waste reducing/reusing/ recycling measures in order to reduce the fraction of plastic packaging waste that goes to landfill or incineration without energy recovery.	2019	Contracting Party, in cooperation with CP/RAC	Report sent to Secretariat	Cost to be specified in the updated LBS National Action Plan of each country. CP/RAC to provide guidance to countries to make estimates	Contracting Party
7.		Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to Extended Producer Responsibility strategy by making the producers, manufacturer brand owners and first importers responsible for the entire life-cycle of the product with measures prioritizing the hierarchy of waste management in order to encourage companies to design products with long durability for reuse, recycling and materials reduction in	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with CP/RAC	Report sent to Secretariat	Cost to be specified in the updated LBS National Action Plan of each country. CP/RAC to provide guidance to countries to make estimates	Contracting Party

		weight and toxicity					
8.		Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to Sustainable Procurement Policies contributing to the promotion of the consumption of recycled plastic-made products	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with CP/RAC	Report sent to Secretariat	Cost to be specified in the updated LBS National Action Plan of each country. CP/RAC to provide guidance to countries to make estimates	Contracting Party
9.		Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to establishment of voluntary agreements with retailers and supermarkets to set an objective of reduction of plastic bags consumption as well as selling dry food or cleaning products in bulk and refill special and reusable containers	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with CP/RAC	Report sent to Secretariat	Cost to be specified in the updated LBS National Action Plan of each country. CP/RAC to provide guidance to countries to make estimates	Contracting Party
10.		Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to fiscal and economic instruments to promote the reduction of plastic bag consumption	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with CP/RAC	Report sent to Secretariat	Cost to be specified in the updated LBS National Action Plan of each country. CP/RAC to provide guidance to countries to make estimates	Contracting Party
11.		Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to establishment of [mandatory]	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with CP/RAC	Report sent to Secretariat	Cost to be specified in the updated LBS National Action	Contracting Party

		Deposits, Return and Restoration System for expandable polystyrene boxes in the fishing sector				Plan of each country. CP/RAC to provide guidance to countries to make estimates	
12.		Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to establishment of [mandatory] Deposits, Return and Restoration System for beverage packaging prioritizing when possible their recycling	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with CP/RAC	Report sent to Secretariat	Cost to be specified in the updated LBS National Action Plan of each country. CP/RAC to provide guidance to countries to make estimates	Contracting Party
13.		Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to establishment of procedures and manufacturing methodologies together with plastic industry, in order to minimize the decomposition characteristics of plastic, to reduce microplastic	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with CP/RAC	Report sent to Secretariat	Cost to be specified in the updated LBS National Action Plan of each country. CP/RAC to provide guidance to countries to make estimates	Contracting Party
14.		Take necessary measures to establish as appropriate adequate urban sewer, wastewater treatment plants, and waste management systems to prevent run-off and riverine inputs of litter	2020	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL	Report sent to Secretariat	Cost to be specified in the updated LBS National Action Plan of each country. MEDPOL to provide guidance to countries to make estimates	Contracting Party

15.		In accordance with Article 14 of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol explore and implement to the extent possible ways and means to charge reasonable cost for the use of port reception facilities or when applicable, apply No-Special-Fee system and take the necessary steps to provide ships using their ports with updated information relevant to the obligation arising from Annex V of MARPOL Convention and from their legislation applicable in the field	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with REMPEC	Report sent to Secretariat	REMPEC to provide guidance to countries to make estimates	Contracting Party
16.		Explore and implement to the extent possible the "Fishing for Litter" environmentally sound practices, in consultation with the competent international and regional organizations, to facilitate clean up of the floating litter and the seabed from marine litter caught incidentally and/or generated by fishing vessels in their regular activities including derelict fishing gears	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL	Report sent to Secretariat	42K ¹⁰ (Amount to be shared with task 26). MEDPOL to provide guidance to countries to make estimates	Contracting Party

¹⁰ It is suggested that each country assigns at least 2K for the implementation of this task. Suggested amount is based on information from the literature and covers only institutional part of the task and does not cover the system to be established, regulation to be created and awareness campaigns.

17.		Explore and implement to the extent possible “Gear marking to indicate ownership” concept and “reduced ghost catches through the use of environmentally neutral upon degradation of nets, pots and traps concept”, in consultation with the competent international and regional organizations in the fishing sector	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL	Report sent to Secretariat	42K ¹¹ MEDPOL to provide guidance to countries to make estimates	Contracting Party
18.		Apply the cost effective measures to prevent any marine littering from dredging activities taking into account the relevant guidelines adopted in the framework of Dumping Protocol of the Barcelona Convention	2020	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL	Report sent to Secretariat	Estimate cannot be done without input from countries. The monitoring cost that depends on the specificity of each country should be taken into account. MEDPOL to provide guidance to countries to make estimates	Contracting Party
19.		Take the necessary measures to close to the extent possible the existing illegal dump sites on land [illegal landfills] in the area of the application of the Regional Plan	2020	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL	Report sent to Secretariat	Estimate cannot be done without input from countries. MEDPOL to provide guidance to countries to make estimates	Contracting Party

¹¹ It is suggested that each country assigns at least 2K for the implementation of this task. Suggested amount is based on information from the literature and covers only institutional part of the task and does not cover the system to be established, regulation to be created and awareness campaigns.

20.		Take enforcement measures to combat illegal dumping in accordance with national legislation including littering on the beach, illegal sewage disposal in the coastal zone and rivers in the area of the application of the Regional Plan		Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL	Report sent to Secretariat	Estimate cannot be done without input from countries. MEDPOL to provide guidance to countries to make estimates This task is related to tasks 5 and 6	Contracting Party
21.	Art. 10 – Removing existing marine litter and its environmentally sound disposal	Where it is environmentally sound and cost effective, remove existing accumulated litter, subject to EIA procedure, in particular from specially protected areas and Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) and litter impacting endangered species listed in Annexes II and III of the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol	2019	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL and SPA/RAC	Report sent to Secretariat	630K ¹² MEDPOL and SPA/RAC to provide guidance to countries to make estimates	Contracting Party
22.		Explore and implement to the extent possible the identification in collaboration with relevant stakeholders accumulations / hotspots of marine litter and implementation of national programmes on their regular removal and sound disposal	2019	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL	Report sent to Secretariat	630K ¹³ MEDPOL to provide guidance to countries to make estimates	Contracting Party

¹² It is suggested that each country assigns at least 30K for the implementation of this task.

¹³ It is suggested that each country assigns at least 30K for the implementation of this task.

23.		Explore and implement to the extent possible the implementation of the National Marine Litter Cleanup Campaigns on a regular basis	2019	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL	Report sent to Secretariat	630K ¹⁴ MEDPOL to provide guidance to countries to make estimates. Amount to be shared between tasks 23 and 24	Contracting Party
24.		Explore and implement to the extent possible the participation in International Coastal Cleanup Campaigns and Programmes	2019	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL	Report sent to Secretariat	MEDPOL to provide guidance to countries to make estimates. Amount assigned for task 23 to be shared with this task.	Contracting Party
25.		Explore and implement to the extent possible the application as appropriate Adopt-a-Beach or similar practices and enhance public participation role with regard to marine litter management	2019	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL	Report sent to Secretariat	420K ¹⁵ MEDPOL to provide guidance to countries to make estimates	Contracting Party
26.		Explore and implement to the extent possible the application of the Fishing for Litter practices, in consultation with the competent international and regional organizations and in partnership with fishermen and ensure adequate collection, sorting and/or environmentally sound disposal of the fished litter	2019	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MEDPOL	Report sent to Secretariat	MEDPOL to provide guidance to countries to make estimates. Amount assigned for task 16 to be shared with this task	Contracting Party

¹⁴ It is suggested that each country assigns at least 30K for the implementation of tasks 23 and 24.

¹⁵ It is suggested that each country assigns at least 20K for the implementation of this task.

27.		Explore and implement to the extent possible charging reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable application of No-Special-Fee system, in consultation with competent international and regional organizations when using port reception facilities for implementing the measures provided for in Article 10.	2019	Contracting Party, in cooperation with REMPEC	Report sent to Secretariat	REMPEC to provide guidance to countries to make estimates	Contracting Party
PART III – ASSESSMENT							
28.	Art. 11 – Assessment of marine litter in the Mediterranean	Assessment of marine litter in the Mediterranean	Every six years, first report 2 years after entry into force of the Regional Plan	MEDPOL	Report issued	40K (National and regional consultancy contracts)	Secretariat
29.	Art. 12 – Mediterranean Marine Litter Monitoring Programme	Establishment of an Expert Group on Regional Marine Litter Monitoring Programme	2014	MEDPOL	Expert Group established	20K One meeting annually	Secretariat
30.		Guidelines for the preparation of the National Marine Litter Monitoring Programmes, in collaboration with the relevant international and regional organizations	2014	MEDPOL, in consultation with regional and international organizations	Guidelines prepared	40K (To cover consultation meeting with partners and consultancies). Amount covers also task 31	Secretariat
31.		Preparation of the Regional Marine Litter Monitoring Programme, as part of the		MEDPOL, in consultation with regional and	Regional Marine Litter Monitoring	Cost included in task 30	Secretariat

		integrated regional monitoring programme ¹⁶		international organizations	Programme prepared		
32.		For the purpose of the Regional Plan and in compliance with the monitoring obligations under Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention and Article 8 of the LBS Protocol design National Monitoring Programme on Marine Litter	2017	Contracting Party, in consultation with MEDPOL	Implementation started	210K ¹⁷ Cost of the Implementation of the National Monitoring Programmes is not included. MEDPOL to provide guidance to countries to make estimates	Contracting Party
33.		Report, in accordance with Article 13 of the LBS Protocol, on the implementation of the National Marine Litter Monitoring Programme	Biennially	Contracting Party	Report sent to the Secretariat	Included in task 32	Contracting Party
34.		Establishment of the Regional Data Bank on Marine Litter	2016	MEDPOL, in consultation with regional and international organizations	Data Bank established	250K. ¹⁸	Secretariat
PART IV - SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENTATION							
35.	Art. 13 – Research topics and scientific cooperation	Assistance for scientific cooperation	As appropriate	MEDPOL, CP/RAC, REMPEC, SPA/RAC, in consultation with regional and international organizations	Assistance provided	50K from MEDPOL. Seed money to mobilize external resources	Secretariat

¹⁶ In line with EcAp timeline

¹⁷ It is suggested that each country assigns at least 10K for the implementation of this task.

¹⁸ Cost of equipment, software and staff.

36.	Art. 14 – Specific guidelines	Preparation of specific guidelines for measures listed in Articles 9 and 10 of the Regional Plan	By 2016/2017	MEDPOL, CP/RAC, REMPEC, SPA/RAC, in consultation with regional and international organizations	Guidelines published	280 K ¹⁹	Secretariat
37.	Art. 15 - Technical assistance	Technical assistance, including capacity building provided	As appropriate	MEDPOL, CP/RAC, REMPEC, SPA/RAC, in consultation with regional and international organizations	Report sent to Secretariat	10K from MEDPOL. CP/RAC 280k for capacity building Estimated cost to be provided by REMPEC and SPA/RAC	Secretariat
38.	Art. 16 – Enhancement of public awareness and education	Undertaking, where appropriate in synergy with existing initiatives in the field of education for sustainable development and in partnership with civil society, public awareness and education activities with	As appropriate	Contracting Party, in consultation with MEDPOL	Report sent to Secretariat	420K ²⁰ MEDPOL to provide guidance to countries to make estimates	Contracting Party

¹⁹ 120 K for MEDPOL and 160-for CP/RAC . CP/RAC will prepare the following:

1. Sustainable management and prevention measures of urban solid waste treatment according to waste hierarchy
2. Plastic waste minimization
3. Implementation of Extended Producer Responsibilities measures
4. Implementation of Green Public Procurement
5. Measures for the minimization of consumption of plastic bags
6. Measures for implementation of DRRS for EPS boxes in the fishing sector
7. Measures for implementation of DRRS for beverage packaging
8. In collaboration with plastic producers , design measures for the reduction of the environmental impact of the degradation of plastic in the marine environment

²⁰ It is suggested that each country assigns at least 20K for the implementation of this task.

		adequate duration and follow up, with regard to marine litter management including activities related to prevention and promotion of sustainable consumption and production					
39.	Art. 17 – Major groups and stakeholder participation	Ensure appropriate involvement of various stakeholders including local authorities, civil society, private sector and other stakeholders as appropriate to implement the measures provided for in the Regional Plan and other measures	As appropriate	Contracting Party, in consultation with MEDPOL	Report sent to Secretariat	420K ²¹ MEDPOL to provide guidance to countries to make estimates	Contracting Party
40.	Art. 18 – Regional and international cooperation	Establishment of institutional cooperation with various relevant regional and global institutions and initiatives	As appropriate	MEDPOL in cooperation with , CP/RAC, REMPEC AND SPA/RAC And other regional partners	Report on the implementation of the Regional Plan by the Secretariat	10K from MEDPOL. Estimated costs to be provided by CP/RAC, REMPEC and SPA/RAC	Secretariat
41.		Direct cooperation of Contracting Parties, with assistance of the MEDPOL or competent international and regional organizations, to address trans-boundary marine litter cases	As appropriate	Contracting Parties with assistance of the MEDPOL	Report sent to Secretariat	210K ²² MEDPOL to provide guidance to countries to make estimates	Contracting Parties

²¹ It is suggested that each country assigns at least 20K for the implementation of this task.

²² It is suggested that each country assigns at least 10K for the implementation of this task and for emergencies.

42.	Art. 19 – Reporting	National biennial reports on the implementation of the Regional Plan	Biennially	Contracting Party, in consultation with MEDPOL	Report issued	42K ²³ MEDPOL to provide guidance to countries to make estimates	Contracting Party
43.		Regional report on the implementation of the Regional Plan	Biennially	MEDPOL, CP/RAC, REMPEC, SPA/RAC, in consultation with regional and international organizations	Report issued	20K ²⁴ .	Secretariat
44.		Review the status of the implementation of the Regional Plan	Biennially	MEDPOL, CP/RAC, REMPEC, SPA/RAC, in consultation with regional and international organizations	Report issued	Included in task 43	Secretariat

Note:

- (i) **Total estimated cost of the implementation of the Work Plan for tasks for which estimation was done at present is € 4,967,000, but on number of tasks input by countries is still needed. Such inputs will be based on country specificities;**
- (ii) **For number of tasks recommendations will be done in the revised LBS National Action Plans in order to account for specificities in each country;**
- (iii) **Cost of the implementation of national monitoring programmes on marine litter is not part of this Work Plan.**

²³ It is suggested that each country assigns at least 2K for the implementation of this task

²⁴ Consultancy contract to include also task 44.

Annex III

Potential research topics

Development and implementation of assessment and monitoring, as well as implementation of measures in the framework of this Regional Plan shall require scientific cooperation among parties involved. Due to complexity of marine litter management there are quite a number of topics that require further research. In the list below are presented some of the potential research topics:

SOURCES, DISTRIBUTION AND COMPOSITION

- Identification (size, type, possible impact) and evaluation of accumulation areas (closed bays, gyres, canyons, and specific deep sea zones) and sources of litter, including maritime transport (how, why and by whom litter is disposed of from shipping and the types of ships involved), industrial, agricultural and urban activities, rivers and diffuse inputs. Develop GIS and mapping systems to locate these.
- Evaluation of the quantity and localization of lost fishing gears.

DEGRADATION

- Evaluation of rates of degradation of different types of litter (plastics, degradable materials, bio plastics, etc.) and related leachability of pollutants.
- Support research on new materials (total degradation in the environment).

MICROLITTER

- Identification of main sources (industrial pellets and personal hygiene products related micro litter particles).
- Define harm for micro litter to establish potential physical and chemical impacts on wildlife, marine living resources and the food chain.
- Define adequate indicators for the Mediterranean to assess the micro litter problem and its effects.

MODELLING

- Development of comprehensive modelling tools for the evaluation and identification of sources and fate of litter in the marine environment (including the identification of the accumulation areas and/or impacted by accidental inputs, and estimating residence time).

IMPACTS/EFFECTS

- Effects (lethal or sub lethal) under different environmental conditions of entanglement in particular threatened and protected species.
- Understanding how litter ingested by marine organisms, in particular threatened and protected species, affects their physiological condition and chemical burdens, reduce survival and reproductive performance and ultimately affect their populations or communities.
- Evaluation of the potential loss of fish stocks due to abandoned / lost fishing gears.
- Development of impact indicators (aesthetic impact, effects on fauna, flora and human health).
- Evaluation of the risk for transportation of invasive species.

COSTS

- Evaluation of direct costs and loss of income to tourism and fishery (incomes and stock losses, including protected/endangered species).
- Evaluation of costs due to clogging of rivers, coastal power plant cooling systems and/or wastewater purification systems.
- Effectiveness of market based instruments related to marine litter.

- Development of common methodologies to evaluate the costs of removal (collection and elimination of marine litter).

EDUCATION / SENSIBILISATION

- Evaluate the effectiveness of programs of education and sensibilisation on beach cleanliness.

MONITORING

- Support the rationalisation of monitoring (common and comparable monitoring approaches, standards/baselines, inter-calibration, data management system and analysis / quality insurance).
- Develop an ecological Quality Objective (ECOQ) for ingestion of litter in indicator species suitable for monitoring (sea turtles).
- Facilitate the harmonization of monitoring protocols for Baltic Sea, Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and NE Atlantic.
- Develop monitoring and prevention systems for massive and accidental inputs of litter in the marine environment.

SOCIAL

- Development of common methodologies to collect social and economic data.
- Assessment of socially acceptable levels of marine litter to the public and industry.
- Development of an indicator for the aesthetic impact of litter.

MEASURES

- Develop tools to assess the effectiveness of measures intended to reduce the amount of marine litter.
- Identification of accumulation areas of importance.
- Ranking of the ports to be equipped in priority with port reception facilities taking into consideration the Mediterranean maritime traffic.
- Share the collection and elimination of trans-boundary marine litter, including the intervention in case of critical situation.

LAW/ INSTITUTIONNAL

- Compare and harmonize national Mediterranean systems (jurisdictional measures and institutional structures) with other conventions to support management schemes dedicated to marine litter.

Annex IV

Elements for National Biennial Reports

The Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean is requesting Contracting Parties to report biennially on:

- *Implementation of the measures; and*
- *Implementation of the National Marine Litter Monitoring Programme.*

Report on the Implementation of the measures

The Secretariat shall prepare by the end of 2014 Guidelines on the structure, content and reporting of the National Action Plan on Marine Litter, as well as a set of indicators. Main elements of national reports shall be:

- *Policy, legal instruments and institutional arrangements including the National Action Plan;*
- *National and local measures to prevent and reduce generation of marine litter;*
- *Programmes of removal and disposal of existing marine litter;*
- *National marine litter monitoring programmes (summary report);*
- *Enhancement of public awareness and education;*
- *Stakeholder participation;*
- *Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation of the measures; and*
- *Difficulties in the implementation of measures encountered.*

Report on the Implementation of the National Marine Litter Monitoring Programme

The Secretariat shall prepare by the end of 2014 Guidelines for the preparation of the National Marine Litter Monitoring Programme. Main elements of national reports shall be:

- Structure and content of the monitoring programme;
- Survey and monitoring locations, stations, parameters, indicators, frequency, etc.;
- Responsible institution and participating institutions;
- Beach litter assessment results;
- Benthic litter assessment results;
- Floating litter assessment results;
- Effectiveness in the implementation of the National Marine Litter Monitoring Programme; and
- Difficulties in the implementation of the National Monitoring Programme.]

Draft Decision IG.21/8

on follow up actions regarding Offshore Protocol Action plan

The 18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties,

Desirous of ensuring that the Protocol shall begin to produce beneficial effects at the earliest possible moment and facilitating its implementation at regional and national levels through coordinated actions with the support of the Coordinating Unit and all MAP Components,

Recognizing the dual nature of the Protocol which not only addresses the environmental impact of these activities but also the safety of processes thus providing a regional holistic approach,

Acknowledging that in order to achieve the goals of the Protocol, all Contracting Parties should co-operate in ensuring that the best available techniques are used in daily activities,

Having considered the variety of highly specialised techniques and skills required to ensure the safety of the personnel and the fitness of the installation, all along the life cycle of offshore operations from the exploration phase, through the development and production phase to the abandonment of the installation,

Conscious that significant accidents caused by Offshore activities could have long term adverse consequences for the fragile ecosystems and biodiversity of the Mediterranean Sea due to its enclosed nature and special hydrodynamics as well as negative consequences on the economies of the Mediterranean coastal States especially for tourism and fisheries,

Noting Decision IG.20/12 and the need to prepare the Offshore Protocol Action Plan, which will define the Mediterranean Offshore Strategy with a view to promoting and ensuring the application of the common best practices over the entire Mediterranean region,

Noting however that the Offshore ad hoc Working Group has a limited scope and mandate, whereas the Offshore Protocol calls for long term co-operation, in particular in specialized technical fields as well as on the monitoring of the impact of offshore activities,

Recognising the need for a regional technical forum to assist the Contracting Parties in dealing with technical issues related to offshore activities and also the monitoring of their impact,

Requests the Secretariat and the ad hoc Working Group to continue the necessary work with a view to achieve the drafting of the Offshore protocol Action Plan by the end of 2014;

Urges all the Contracting Parties who have not yet done so to designate, through the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Focal Point, a senior official having a strong experience of both the technical aspects of offshore activities as well as the regulatory process for these activities in his/her country, who should organise at national level the necessary consultations with other authorities having competencies as regards the various aspects of offshore activities, to facilitate the implementation of the Offshore Protocol;

Encourages all the Mediterranean coastal States as well as the concerned stakeholders of the industry and NGOs to participate actively to the activities aiming at the implementation of the Offshore Protocol with the spirit of common interest for the well-being of the Mediterranean region;

Approves the establishment of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group which should support the drafting of the Action plan and serve as a regional technical body to assist in the identification of best practices and to ensure a monitoring and assessment of the impact of these activities consistent with the overall policy adopted within the Mediterranean Action Plan;

Adopts the Terms of Reference of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (BARCO OFOG) set out in Annex;

Decides that the BARCO OFOG should be financed through extra budgetary resources; and

Requests the Secretariat to identify international bodies that might provide specific sources of financing to assist Mediterranean Coastal States in carrying out the obligations arising from the Offshore Protocol;

Invites the relevant oil and gas offshore industry to assist the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (BARCO OFOG), through technical support and financial contributions for the implementation of the program of work that may result from the Offshore Protocol Action Plan.

Annex

Terms of Reference of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group BARCO OFOG

The following are the terms of reference and working procedures for Members serving the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group, hereinafter referred to as the "OFOG Group".

Background

1. The scope of the Offshore Protocol to the Barcelona Convention compared to other similar Protocols under other Regional Seas is wide encompassing as it does not limit itself to monitoring of the environmental impact of offshore oil and gas activities but also addresses issues related to the safety of processes and the qualification of the staff employed in these activities (human element). Moreover, the Protocol establishes a regional co-operation framework based on the promotion of the best available standards and practices. Therefore in order to adequately answer to the requests of the Protocol, the Offshore ad hoc Working Group recommended at its first Meeting held in Malta in June 2013 that a regional forum should be established, where qualified representatives of the Contracting Parties could share their experience and propose to the Contracting Parties recommendations regarding the more technical aspects of offshore activities.

Scope of Work of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group

2. The OFOG Group will mainly serve as forum to exchange best practices, knowledge and experiences between its Members in order to assist the Parties in attaining the objectives set out in article 23.1 of the Protocol.
3. The OFOG Group will serve as an advisory body to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention as regards the Offshore Protocol.
4. The OFOG Group should operate under the instructions of and report to the Meetings of the Parties who should periodically examine and review the Offshore Protocol Action Plan.

Composition

5. The OFOG Group is primarily composed of representatives of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention who are designated by the MAP Focal Point as National Offshore Focal Point.
6. In view of the range of expertise required for the various topics covered by the Protocol, several OFOG Sub-Groups could be set-up, as need be. These Sub-groups will focus on technical and practical aspect of the Offshore Protocol Action Plan. The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention through their National Offshore Focal Point shall designate, as required, the appropriate national entities and/or officials as contact points for each OFOG Sub-Group.

7. The representatives of the OFOG Sub-Groups shall report to their respective National Offshore Focal Point to ensure dissemination, coordination and follow-up at national level.
8. Representatives of the oil and gas industry as well as IGO's and NGO's with a relevant mandate to the topics discussed in the various sub-groups are encouraged to participate as observers.
9. Representatives of other regional fora with a similar mandate to the OFOG Group are invited as observers.
10. The composition of the OFOG Group and Sub-Group shall be published and kept up to date on a dedicated website.

Tasks

11. The activities of the OFOG Group will encompass all matters referred to its consideration by the Contracting Parties based on the relevant articles of the Offshore Protocol. Nevertheless, due to the complexity of matters included in the Protocol, priority should be given to the environmental impact and control of pollution from such activities.
12. In order to fulfil its role, and building upon the work carried out in the framework of other relevant fora, the OFOG Group will provide technical support and guidance, and make recommendations to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol to accomplish its functions as stipulated in Article 30.2 of the Offshore Protocol, and in particular on, but not limited to, the following issues:
 - a. identifying priorities for preparation of guidance documents, standards and best practices in the oil and gas sector;
 - b. preparing, or initiating and overseeing the preparation of, guidelines on the industry best practices;
 - c. in the interest of sharing experience, facilitating rapid information exchange between national authorities through the appropriate information mechanism, regarding e.g. the occurrence and causes of and responses to major incidents, and events which could have led to major accidents;
 - d. promoting and facilitating consensus between national authorities regarding the best regulatory practice;
 - e. exchanging information regarding the application of national legislation and policies relevant to offshore oil and gas activities, and assisting the Secretariat in monitoring the implementation of the Offshore Protocol;
 - f. developing and applying common standards as per article 10 of the Protocol;
 - g. keeping under review the technical content of the annexes to the protocol and make relevant recommendations;
 - h. preparing draft measures to control the use of chemicals and oil and any other substances or sources of pollution developing appropriate guidelines for monitoring and assessment paying particular attention to ensure consistency with other related monitoring policies adopted by the Contracting Parties;
 - i. assisting in defining appropriate relevant targets for Offshore activities within the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to MAP policies and strategies.

Meetings and correspondence groups

13. The OFOG Group shall normally meet once a year. Working arrangements may be developed by the Group preferably at its first meeting.
14. At the OFOG Group meeting, the OFOG Group shall decide on the place, dates and duration of its next meeting.
15. The OFOG Sub-Groups shall be maintained as correspondence groups.

[¹ Draft Decision IG.21/9]

**Establishment of a Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials
relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention**

The 18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties,

Recalling article 6 of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, hereinafter referred to as “the Barcelona Convention”, which refers to rules which are generally recognized at the international level relating to the control of pollution caused by discharges from ships,

Recalling article 3.1 and article 5 of the Protocol concerning cooperation in preventing pollution from ships and in case of emergency, combating pollution of the Mediterranean which call for cooperation between Parties to implement international regulations as well as monitoring through bilateral and multilateral cooperation in order to prevent detect and combat pollution and ensure compliance with international regulations,

Bearing in mind that the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, known as the MARPOL Convention, prohibits the release into the sea of oily substances resulting from the normal operation of ships as per its Annex I, except under certain circumstances or in compliance with specific requirements,

Noting that, under this particular Annex of the MARPOL Convention, as an acknowledgement of its fragile marine ecosystem, the Mediterranean Sea is declared a Special Area where stricter requirements apply in this respect,

Stressing that the MARPOL Convention calls for the Parties to co-operate in the identification and prosecution of illegal discharges and require that the penalties specified under the law of a Party shall be adequate in severity to discourage violations of the Convention and shall be equally severe irrespective of where the violations occur,

Recalling also Decision IG 16/13 regarding the adoption of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships and in particular its Specific objectives 6 and 7,

Having regard to the Paris Declaration adopted by the Contracting Parties on the 10 February 2012, at their 17th Ordinary Meeting which *inter alia*, reaffirms the resolution of the Contracting Parties to:

“take all necessary measures to make the Mediterranean a clean, healthy and productive sea with conserved biodiversity and ecosystems (...)

By ensuring, in view of the predicted increase in maritime traffic, the continuous strengthening of capacities and resources to prevent and respond to marine pollution caused by shipping, in particular through judicial and operational cooperation”,

Acknowledging however that oil slicks are regularly reported at sea, testifying that illegal discharges are taking place on a recurrent basis, thus adversely affecting the fragile marine environment of the Mediterranean Sea,

¹ Italy has reservation on the whole body of the draft decision

Conscious that in order to address this cross boundary pollution, the Contracting Parties should share their relevant experience and knowledge and, as far as possible, co-operate in the identification, investigation of and enforcement actions after such violations,

Acknowledging the relevant work carried out on this issue of ship sourced pollution and consequently stressing the need for the Secretariat in collaboration with REMPEC to further exploit possible synergies with EMSA in the framework of this decision,

Recognizing the specific nature of this particular type of environmental offences,

Acknowledging in this regard the proven effectiveness of dedicated networks of investigators and sanctioning authorities established under the Regional Seas framework such as the North Sea Network of investigators and Prosecutors (NSN) and the Baltic Sea Network of Environmental Crime Prosecutors (ENPRO),

Decides to establish a Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention;

Approves its terms of Reference as annexed to this decision;

Urges all Contracting Parties to nominate as early as possible a Designated Representative with an in-depth knowledge of this specific type of offence and to actively participate in the Network;

Requests REMPEC, as the relevant Regional Activity Centre of the Barcelona Convention, to act as the Secretariat of this network and to report on its activities to the Contracting Parties at each of their Ordinary Meetings;

Invites the Members of the network to actively support it by financing the attendance of their representatives to the meetings;

[Decides, when adopting the Programme of Work and Budget, to consider the possibility of allocating funds from the ordinary budget, taking into account the priority activities to be funded and the availability of funds];

Requests the MAP Secretariat to explore on additional external funding opportunities in order to assist in ensuring the sustainability of the network.

ANNEX

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS RELATING TO MARPOL WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE BARCELONA CONVENTION (MENELAS)

1. The Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL (MENELAS) is a network of individuals from the participating States supported by an electronic information system.

Scope of MENELAS

2. In accordance with article 6 of the Barcelona Convention and article 3 of its Prevention and Emergency Protocol, the overall objective of MENELAS is to facilitate co-operation between its members in order to improve the enforcement of the international regulations regarding discharges at sea from ships as laid down in the MARPOL Convention.

3. This co-operation does not prejudice the rights and duties of each participating State under the said Convention or any other relevant Treaty it may be a Party to such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

4. MENELAS aims at improving the understanding and cooperation between its members in the different stages of the enforcement process, i.e. detection, investigation and enforcement measures taken by the competent authorities following possible violation.

MENELAS Membership and Community

6. The members of MENELAS are the Mediterranean States which decide to voluntarily join the network. Each member should nominate a Designated Representative (DR) with professional experience in MARPOL related violations.

7. The DR disseminates the information received through MENELAS to the concerned national competent authorities (e.g.: coast guard function, port state control, customs, jurisdictions, prosecutor office, etc...). The DR will forward any request formulated within these Terms of Reference received from another MENELAS member to the appropriate entity or individual in a position to answer the query. The DR is responsible for updating the "country page" of his/her country in the MENELAS website.

8. MENELAS should also assist in exchanging information and experience with other similar regional initiatives, or other entities whose work contributes to an effective enforcement of MARPOL regulations (MoU on Port State Control) which could be invited to participate on an ad hoc basis to meetings of the Network.

9. The MENELAS community is composed of the investigators, sanctioning officials which are users of the MENELAS information system. Upon request of the relevant DR, a secured access to the MENELAS information system will be given to each user.

MENELAS Method of Work

10. Due to its scope, MENELAS relies on the high responsiveness of its members and will work as an informal exchange network. It aims at facilitating co-operation between investigating bodies but not to replace the official national or international procedures which have to be strictly adhered to in order to successfully conclude violation cases. In that sense MENELAS should act as a precursor to such official requests. Bearing in mind the limited time window during which elements of evidence of a possible violation could be gathered, it is important that the highest level of reactivity is ensured through the network.

MENELAS Information System

11. This reactivity should be ensured through direct access to a list of 24/7 contact points in the MENELAS participating countries. This list will be regularly disseminated to the 24/7 contact points and also be available on the restricted area of the MENELAS information system.

12. This information system will be an internet based tool comprising two main parts:

- a) a public one where general information will be made available to the public in order to raise awareness on the problem of illicit discharges from ships at sea, the aim of the network, its participating and associate members, its activities and achievements. The public part could also contain an analytic database of the legislative framework and procedural requirements in each participating country related to the prosecution of illicit discharges offenders. Statistical data should be also available.
- b) A restricted area used for participating members only, where any request for assistance could be posted. Besides this secured communication link, this area should also contain relevant information on 24/7 contact points, past cases analysis in order to highlight elements of success or failure, "tips" for investigators such as illustrations of specific techniques/ devices found during on board investigations, which could facilitate the identification of similar practices.

MENELAS Activities

13. Besides the assistance directly provided to requesting members, MENELAS should assist its members by addressing their needs for training or in facilitating the adoption of harmonized procedures or documents.

14. Preferably, assistance should be provided by using the resources available within the network. For instance peer review of the legal and procedural framework in place in a requesting country could benefit not only the requesting country but also assist in familiarizing the participating countries with the legal framework in place in this country.

15. More technical ad-hoc training could be considered according to the identified needs such as for instance: reporting methodology, aerial observation and reporting of oil slicks, and investigation techniques on board a suspected ship.

16. MENELAS could also act as a facilitator for technical exchange of experience with other regional networks.

17. Finally, MENELAS could facilitate the organization of regular coordinated control operations, such as the OSCAR MED (Opération de Surveillance Coordonnée Aérienne des Rejets en Méditerranée).

MENELAS Governance

18. An annual meeting of the participating countries should take place to:

- a) Review the activities of the network during the preceding year as well as national reports relevant to its field of activity;
- b) Decide on a proposed programme of activities for the following year taking into account possible national initiatives or proposals;
- c) Decide on the establishment of any working groups and their terms of reference;
- d) Consider, discuss and endorse any technical document to be used by the network prepared by the working groups;
- e) Elect a chair for a period of two years with a possibility of renewal for another term.

19. In order to support the network, REMPEC, will provide the necessary secretariat support and be responsible for the maintenance of the MENELAS information system.]

Draft Decision IG.21/10

Development of an Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean

The 18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties,

Recalling that, at the Rio+20 Summit, Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that promoting sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns was an overarching objective of, and essential requirement for, sustainable development and that, accordingly they strengthened their commitment to accelerate the shift towards SCP patterns with the adoption of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns,

Recalling Article 4 of the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal zone as well as relevant chapters of the Mediterranean Action Plan Phase II,

Recalling that the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), adopted by the 14th Conference of Parties in November 2005 (Portoroz, Slovenia), identifies changing “unsustainable production and consumption patterns” and ensuring “the sustainable management of natural resources” as a main objective to attain sustainable development in the region,

Noting that the 16th Conference of the Parties of the Barcelona Convention (Marrakech, November 2009) identified sustainable consumption and production (SCP) as one of the six thematic priorities of MAP’s Strategic Five-Year Programme 2010-2014,

Recalling that the 17th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Paris, February 2012) reaffirmed the commitment of the Barcelona Convention to support, at Mediterranean level, capacity building and other activities associated with green economy as means to achieve sustainable development, such as the promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns,

Fully aware that the SCP tools are well anchored in the articles of the LBS Protocol, such as Article 5.4, which provides for the implementation of Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP) whose definition in Annex IV of the Protocol provides for SCP tools to phase out inputs of the substances that are toxic, persistent and bioaccumulate; as well as Article 9.(c) according to which countries shall promote access to and transfer of cleaner production technology, a term that now includes Resource Efficiency according to UNEP,

Acknowledging that SCP provides relevant tools for the implementation of Article 5.2 of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol according to which Parties shall take all appropriate measures to reduce to a minimum, and where possible eliminate, the generation of hazardous wastes,

Acknowledging that the SCP instruments are central to the implementation of Article 9 of the IZCM Protocol on the sustainable development of economic activities in the immediate proximity to, or within, the coastal zones (e.g., agriculture, aquaculture, fishing, infrastructure, industry, mineral exploitation, recreational activities, seawater for desalination, tourism), for which planning and management require an appropriate mix of regulatory, technical, economic, and market oriented measures,

Conscious that the state of the marine and coastal Mediterranean ecosystems is impacted by human activities and, therefore, by the models of consumption and production on which

those activities are based; and that the use of the appropriate SCP tools constitute important means for the protection of marine and coastal ecosystems,

Taking note of the work made by the Secretariat, with the support of CP/RAC, in preparing a draft document on SCP, which was reviewed by the MCSD members and the CP/RAC Focal Points during their respective meetings in June 2013,

Noting the support granted by the European Union, through the SWITCH-Med programme, to the promotion of SCP in the Mediterranean,

Aware of the fact that a broad participatory process, with active involvement of all key SCP stakeholders and partners, is central to the development of an SCP Action Plan adapted to the reality of the Mediterranean region,

Decides to:

Request the Secretariat to prepare, according to the timeline presented in Annex I, with the support of the CP/RAC and timely and constant involvement of relevant National Focal Points, a Mediterranean SCP Action Plan including the corresponding Roadmap, addressing the Region's common priorities for sustainable development, including pollution reduction; and identifying SCP actions and tools to effectively implement the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;

Further request that the Action Plan be designed as a dynamic and forward-looking framework, integrating the potential of the different policy instruments and measures addressing targeted human activities which have a particular impact on the marine and coastal environment and related transversal/cross-cutting issues;

Urge the Secretariat to ensure that the Action Plan proposes a set of actions to work in synergy with and complement existing regional and national policy frameworks addressing the shift to sustainable patterns of consumption and production and in particular the MSSD.

Annex I

Timeline for the development of a SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean

2014

January 2014

1. First Draft of the SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean incorporating the comments from the 15th MCSD Meeting and the last Meeting of CP/RAC National Focal Points.
2. Set up of an online community within the SWITCH-Med platform facilitating the involvement and participation of all relevant stakeholders and partners.
3. Design of a questionnaire for the consultation process.

March 2014

4. Launching a regional consultation process involving MCSD members and relevant regional stakeholders (i.e., Policy makers, Business sector, Entrepreneurial organizations, Civil society, Research institutions, Educational bodies, Local governments and other relevant bodies active on SCP in the Mediterranean Region), using the online community of the SWITCH-Med platform.

April 2014

5. Launching an in-situ consultation process to ensure that the experience and input of key Mediterranean SCP stakeholders, particularly the Business sector, Economic leaders and other relevant bodies active on SCP in the Mediterranean Region, are reflected in the final document.

November 2014

6. Updated SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean according to the outcomes of the consultation process.

December 2014

7. Circulation of the second Draft of the SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean to MCSD members and MAP National Focal Points, as well as relevant RAC Focal Points, for initial written comments and input (online).

2015

January 2015

8. MCSD Meeting to discuss the second Draft of the SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean (***back to back to the MCSD Meeting planned for the review of MSSD 2.0***).

March 2015

9. Updated SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean according to the outcomes of the formal consultation of the MCSD and MAP National Focal Points, as well as relevant RAC Focal Points.

May/June 2015

10. Submission of the third Draft of the SCP Action Plan to the MCSD meeting.
11. Submission of the third Draft of the SCP Action Plan to the CP/RAC National Focal Points Meeting.

July 2015

12. Updated SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean according to MCSD and CP/RAC National Focal Points Meetings.

September 2015

13. SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean submitted to MAP Focal Points meeting.

End 2015

14. SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean submitted to the 19th CoP for endorsement.

Draft Decision IG.21/11

supporting the review of the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD), proposed by the MCSD Steering Committee

The 18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties,

Considering that global processes to better embed sustainability following RIO+20 require the Barcelona Convention to renew the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD),

Acknowledging that the renewed MSSD should act as a tool to facilitate the ecological transition by influencing social and economic activities,

Taking note of the recommendations of the 15th MCSD Meeting with respect to the review of the MSSD,

Appreciating that ensuring stakeholder participation and ownership is key to achieving a high level of implementation and that the roadmap for reviewing the MSSD should specify how this will happen,

Reaffirming in the light of the CoP Decision IG.20/13, that the MSSD is directly linked to the MCSD, and that a renewed MSSD requires a reformed MCSD,

Decides to:

Request MAP Secretariat to launch the process of the review of the MSSD with a view to submitting a revised MSSD for consideration and adoption by the Contracting Parties in their 19th Meeting, on the basis of the roadmap in Annex 1;

Request Plan Bleu to support the Secretariat in the process of revision of the MSSD in terms of provision of monitoring information and reporting on MSSD implementation, including related programs that have an impact on MSSD outcomes in the whole Mediterranean, and the coordination of consultation and drafting processes, for this revision;

Request the Secretariat to ensure that the revised MSSD should have a long time-frame (10 years) and contain both forward-looking and action-oriented elements;

Request the Secretariat to ensure that the revised MSSD is articulated with global, regional and MAP processes;

Request the Secretariat to ensure that the revised MSSD is result-oriented, simple and based *inter alia* on the assessment of the impact of the current MSSD and of national sustainable development processes, as well as a shared vision of sustainable development challenges facing the region;

Request the Secretariat to ensure that the revised MSSD includes the integration of MAP's priority fields of action (such as, *inter alia*, Integrated Coastal Zone Management [ICZM]) and relevant processes (such as, *inter alia*, the ecosystems approach and the Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Action Plan), and addresses also other issues;

Request the Secretariat to ensure that the revised MSSD integrates the strategic orientations of the SCP Action Plan and other relevant policies.

Annex 1

Roadmap for the review of the MSSD

2014

January 2014

1. Launch the MSSD review process.
2. Set up virtual online platform to facilitate collaboration with key stakeholders.
3. Set up 3 to 5 expert groups to assist with the evaluation of the MSSD 1.0 and the drafting of MSSD 2.0, chosen on the basis of criteria agreed with Steering Committee.
4. Set up a consultative group to help with the drafting the MSSD 2.0. This group should be geographically and thematically balanced and chosen on the basis of criteria agreed with Steering Committee. The MCSD Steering Committee, other MCSD members, MAP components and main MAP partner organizations will take part in this group. It should be limited to 20 members to keep it manageable. Sub groups may be defined to work on specific axes.
5. Begin work on a Consultation Report that compiles existing evidence on the implementation of the MSSD, including evidence relating to which international programmes, projects and processes are contributing to the implementation of the MSSD, as well as identifying issues and challenges for the revised MSSD and indicating the method of review of the MSSD.

April 2014

6. On the basis of the Consultation Report on implementation of MSSD 1.0, launch a wide consultation process, facilitated by the virtual online platform, with MCSD members and other key regional and, where appropriate, global stakeholders, regarding how the MSSD can be updated and reviewed to take on board Rio+20 outcomes.

June 2014

7. Drawing on assistance from the expert groups and consultation group, use the Consultation report and results from the consultation to prepare a draft structure for MSSD 2.0, to be considered and approved by the MCSD Steering Committee meeting in June 2014, and thereafter begin the drafting of the revised MSSD.

December 2014

8. Finalization of first draft of the revised MSSD.

2015

January 2015

1. Circulation of the revised MSSD to MCSD members. This should take place at least 6 weeks before the MCSD meeting to allow members to consult internally.

February 2015

2. Conference with MCSD members and MAP components and partner organizations to endorse first draft of the MSSD 2.0, provided funds are available.

April 2015

3. Draft MSSD 2.0 submitted to MAP Focal Points meeting for initial comments.

May 2015

4. Expert group meeting to integrate MCSD and MAP Focal Point comments.

June 2015

5. MSSD 2.0 Draft submitted to MCSD meeting for finalization.

September 2015

6. MSSD 2.0 submitted to MAP focal point meeting.

End 2015

7. MSSD 2.0 submitted to 19th CoP for endorsement.

Draft Decision IG.21/12

supporting the reforming of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), proposed by the MCSD Steering Committee

The 18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties,

Acknowledging the implications of the outcomes of Rio+20 on the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) regarding the upgrading of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development into a High Level Political Forum,

Recalling the Decision IG20/13 of COP17, which invited the Steering Committee of the MCSD to "... work, on reforming the MCSD in particular through revising its composition to ensure greater representativeness and sharpening its role,

Recalling the current mandate and composition of the MCSD, which serve as a starting point for the strengthening of the MCSD (Decision IG 17/5 which adopted the Governance paper at the 15th Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention held in Almeria (Spain),

Recalling also that the above-cited Decision IG 17/5 considered that the MCSD should involve the greatest possible variety of national actors in its work, so as to ensure the greatest possible dissemination of the concepts promoted,

Recalling on the one hand the constitutive documents of the MCSD from the fourth MCSD meeting in Monaco, 1998, as collected in UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 327/Inf.3 of June 2008, and on the other the Governance Paper of the Almeria COP in January 2008 (Decision IG 17/5),

Recalling also that the above-cited Decision IG 17/5 also underlined that all efforts should be made to ensure participation of representatives from both environmental and development sector and appropriate geographical representation, and media participation,

Appreciating that in the 17 years since its inception, the MCSD has made important contributions to the sustainable development of the region, including, particularly, the MSSD, and adopted by the 14th Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in Portoroz (Slovenia) in 2005, its innovative modalities of participation and engagement of civil society organizations and other major stakeholders, and the way the MCSD has been an innovation at the global scale as the only sustainable development commission at the Regional Seas level of UNEP,

Appreciating also that at the same time there is general recognition that, as with the Global Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD), there have been some shortcomings, such as the limited scope of the MCSD, which can be attributed to various factors influencing effectiveness,

Emphasizing that the objective of a strengthened MCSD should be the further integration of the environment pillar in other public policies, brought about through focusing on the interface between environment and development, and thus building on its successes and potential,

Taking note of the recommendations from the 15th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development in Malta in 2013 in this regard, particularly with respect to the envisaged core functions of the MCSD,

Acknowledging that there is a need to balance ambition and realism, especially since the MCSD has had a relatively limited budget so far,

Considering the need for enhanced cooperation with other international and regional organizations and financial institutions such as the World Bank, the Union for the Mediterranean, the UNDP and the Secretariat of the UNFCCC, in particular in view of on-going negotiations to adopt a legally-binding new global climate change regime at the end of 2015,

Decides to:

Strengthen the position of the MCSD in the MAP system and in the wider regional community, in line with the outcome of Rio+20 and COP17 Decision IG.20/13, by ensuring that, sustainable development matters will be discussed at the Conference of the Parties once every two COP meetings (four years);

Sharpen the mandate of the MCSD so as to strengthen its role and contribution to integrate the environment in other public policies and call for the revision accordingly of the constitutive documents of the MCSD, including its 'Terms of Reference', 'Rules of Procedure' and 'Composition'; and present the revised documents for the consideration and approval of the COP in 2015;

Request the MCSD, with the support of the Secretariat, to review MCSD participation and its composition, while retaining its focus on environmental sustainability (as agreed at COP 17 in Paris) and the interface between environment and development, with a view to ensuring the sufficient membership and participation, as MCSD members, by the key regional sustainable development stakeholders as described below, and presenting a final proposal for adoption by the 19th COP in 2015:

- other UN specialized agencies and programs such as UNDP, UNIDO, FAO/ GFCM and UNESCO;
- partners representing the economic and social pillars of sustainable development;
- parliamentarians;
- the scientific community;
- local governments;
- representatives of wider Mediterranean processes, in particular the Union for the Mediterranean;

Request the Secretariat to support the MCSD to work further on forging partnerships and coordination between various actors, including the World Bank, the Union for the Mediterranean, and other UN actors besides UNEP such as the UNFCCC and the UNDP, to improve the implementation of the new MSSD;

Request the MCSD to encourage, through its meetings and operations, the exchange of good practice and to establish an on-line consultation platform for these purposes;

Request the Secretariat to prepare a proposal for the consideration of the MCSD on how a simplified peer review process could be put in place;

Request the Secretariat to support the MCSD in preparing input for COP discussions on Sustainable Development, including priority and emerging issues;

Invite the MCSD, supported by the Secretariat and Info/RAC, to be more effective and visible in its work and its communications, using technology to supports its work, specifying the exact nature of the outcomes it produces in response to each of its core functions;

Request the Secretariat to include participation of the MCSD in the process of preparation of the State of the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment Reports.

[¹Draft decision IG.21/13

Governance

The 18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties,

Recalling Article 17 of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean hereafter called the Barcelona Convention,

Recalling Decision IG 17/5 adopted by the fifteenth meeting of the Contracting Parties in Almeria (2008) launching the Governance reform of the Barcelona Convention/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) as well as follow up measures taken by the Parties and the Secretariat in implementing this decision,

Recalling Decision IG 20/13 adopted by the seventeenth meeting of the Contracting Parties in Paris (2012), underlining the Contracting Parties' commitment to continue strengthening the Governance system of the Barcelona Convention/MAP based on an increased involvement of the Contracting Parties,

Bearing in mind the Paris Declaration also adopted by the seventeenth meeting of the Contracting Parties (2012) calling for the establishment of the conditions for transparent, effective and enhanced institutional Governance of the Barcelona Convention/MAP, as well as pursuing reflection on its institutional reform, taking into account in particular the results of the functional review, and drawn up in close cooperation with the Contracting Parties,

Welcoming the actions carried out to bring the Barcelona Convention/MAP system into conformity with the Governance Decisions taken by the Contracting Parties and in particular measures taken by the Secretariat to improve the sound and efficient management of resources as well as the efforts and contributions of Contracting Parties at the Bureau, the meetings of MAP Focal Points and other informal endeavors on ways to improve the governance of the Barcelona Convention/MAP,

Appreciating the work of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties with the support of the Coordinating Unit in clarifying the mandate and operational procedures of the Bureau of Contracting Parties and their recommendation at the 77th session (Ankara 2013) that the document be submitted for adoption at the eighteenth COP meeting,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts by the Secretariat to provide with an independent functional review of the Barcelona Convention/MAP system which has supported the deliberations by Contracting Parties on possible institutional reforms,

Decides to:

- ***Adopt*** the new Terms of Reference of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Annex I);
- ***Endorse*** the changes in the Barcelona Convention/MAP's structure based on the approved budget;

¹ The EU, Italy, Spain and France have reservations on the whole body of the draft decision

- **Adopt** the measures to strengthen the Barcelona Convention/MAP Governance and Management as described in Annex II, and requests the Secretariat to report at each meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties on the progress achieved in their implementation;
- **Urge** countries hosting MAP Regional Activity Centers to finalize the processes to sign the new Host Country Agreements as soon as possible in accordance with the provisions in Decision IG 20/3 adopted at the seventeenth meeting of Contracting parties;
- **Request** the Secretariat, MAP Components and the Contracting Parties as need be, to implement the measures agreed under this decision before the nineteenth meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2015.

Annex I

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO BARCELONA CONVENTION

Composition and tenure

Article I

1. The Bureau of the Contracting Parties shall be composed of representatives of six Contracting Parties elected by the Ordinary Meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols.

Article II

1. The members of the Bureau shall serve as the President, the four Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur and shall be elected at the commencement of the first sitting of each ordinary meeting.
2. A representative of the State hosting the meeting of the Contracting Parties shall be elected President of the Bureau and act in such capacity until a new President is elected at the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties.
3. In electing the members of the Bureau, the Contracting Parties shall seek to ensure rotation amongst the Contracting Parties, and will take into account regular payment of the contributions of the Contracting Parties to the MTF and regular attendance at the meetings of the Contracting Parties.
4. Two members of the Bureau will be elected from each of the three groups of Parties to the Convention.
5. A representative of the State that is going to host the following meeting of the Contracting Parties shall be one of the members of the Bureau. In case of no decision in this regard at the moment of the election of the Bureau members, a representative of that State will become an ex-officio member of the Bureau from the moment a decision is made on the venue.

Article III

1. The members of the Bureau are elected in their personal capacity and shall hold office until the election of the new Bureau at the next Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties.
2. At least four members shall be replaced at each ordinary meeting, and no State may be a member of the Bureau for more than two consecutive periods, except for ex-officio members, as established in Article II (5).
3. In case of temporary absence of the President, one of the Vice-Presidents designated by him/her shall serve as President of the Bureau.
4. If a member of the Bureau resigns or otherwise becomes unable to complete his term of office, a representative of the same Contracting Party shall be named by the Contracting Party concerned to replace him/her for the remainder of his/her mandate.
5. The Coordinator shall assist the Bureau in its work and shall sit ex-officio on the Bureau.

Meetings

Article IV

1. The work of the Bureau will be carried out both by electronic means (audio and teleconferences and email) and through face-to-face meetings. The Bureau shall meet at least twice a year for a two or three day period, in regular meetings, and in extraordinary meetings, upon one month's notice, as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of its duties upon the summons of its President or upon request by one of its members.
2. Unless decided differently, the Bureau shall hold its meetings at the Headquarters of the Coordinating Unit. In case a Contracting Party offers to host a meeting of the Bureau, it shall bear the additional costs of holding the meeting in a venue other than the Coordinating Unit Headquarters.
3. The Bureau members may be accompanied to the meetings of the Bureau by advisors, as they may consider appropriate. Travel costs of advisors are born by the relevant Contracting Party.

Organizational matters

Article V

1. The meetings of the Bureau shall be convened by the Secretariat in consultation with the President of the Bureau.
2. Invitations to the meetings of the Bureau shall be sent out by the Secretariat to the members of the Bureau.
3. All Contracting Parties of the Convention which are not members of the Bureau shall be informed about the intent to hold a meeting of the Bureau and of about the agenda.
4. The Bureau may invite any Contracting Party which so requests to participate as an observer in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that Party, on their own expense.
5. The Secretariat shall, in consultation with the President of the Bureau, prepare the draft Agenda for each Bureau meeting, which can be completed or amended by the members of the Bureau, giving adequate advance notice to that effect.
6. Once finalized the Agenda of the Bureau shall be shared with all Contracting Parties.

Article VI

1. The Secretariat shall prepare the documents needed for the discussion of the various agenda items. These documents shall be sent one month before the meeting and shall include as a minimum the following:
 - provisional agenda and annotated provisional agenda;
 - status of contributions and letters requesting payment or reminders, as appropriate;
 - status of funds committed;
 - progress reports of the Coordinating Unit and the MAP Components on activities carried out;
 - recommendations on specific questions;
 - identification of the main international and national events, whose results contribute to a better knowledge of environmental development and of sustainable development in the region and which may provide a sounder basis for decision making.

Article VII

1. The working languages of the meetings of the Bureau shall be English and French.
2. The Bureau adopts its decisions by consensus. In cases where consensus cannot be reached, decisions will be made with the favorable vote of four members of the Bureau but the dissenting opinions should be reflected in the report of the meeting.
3. The reports of the Meetings of the Bureau consist of conclusions and recommendations of the Bureau meetings drafted by the Rapporteur with the support of the Secretariat and adopted in session. The final edited report shall be distributed in the working languages of the Bureau by electronic means, as soon as available, but no later than one month after the meeting, to the focal points of the Contracting Parties. Such reports shall also be made available to the ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties taking place subsequently after the relevant meetings of the Bureau, as information documents.
4. Representatives of a Party taking part in the Bureau proceedings or meetings may use a language other than the working languages of the Bureau, only if that party provides for the interpretation.

Article VIII

1. The members of the Bureau shall consult before the meetings of the Bureau, with the focal points of the Contracting Parties of the group of Parties to the Convention from which they were elected, on the issues of the agenda of the meetings.

General Mandate

Article IX

1. The Bureau members serve as the officers of the meetings or conferences of the Contracting Parties.
2. The Bureau is not a negotiating body. In the intersessional period between ordinary meetings of the Contracting Parties, and on their behalf, the Bureau reviews and evaluates progress in the implementation of the Convention and its protocols, and the decisions of the Contracting Parties, and provides guidance and advice to the Secretariat on all policy and administrative matters related to such implementation.
3. The Bureau makes recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration at the following meeting of the Contracting Parties, on issues of the agenda of that meeting, and overviews the preparations for those meetings including advice to the Secretariat on how to enhance the preparations, efficiency and results of the meetings of the Contracting Parties, and on any other matters brought to it by the Secretariat.
4. The Bureau carries out interim activities as may be necessary to execute the decisions of the Contracting Parties and performs any other function as may be entrusted to it by the Conference of the Parties.
5. The Bureau works together with the Coordinating Unit on measures to enhance the functioning of the Coordinating Unit and MAP Components, taking into account, inter alia, cost benefit analyses, performance and success indicators. To this aim, an evaluation report shall be submitted to Meetings of the Contracting Parties to facilitate on future planning of the Barcelona System.

Programme of Work and Budget

Article X

1. The Bureau shall provide guidance to the Secretariat on the preparation of the draft work programme and budget proposals for the next biennium including on the indicative planning figure in line with MAP's planning processes.
2. At its meetings, the Bureau shall consider the draft work programme and budget proposals prepared by the Secretariat and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties.

External Relations

Article XI

1. The Bureau may, in periods between the meetings of the Contracting Parties, review the relations with similar regional Conventions and Action Plans, international financial institutions and programmes and relevant Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. In cooperation with the Coordinating Unit, the Bureau may submit to the meetings of the Contracting Parties policy proposals concerning such a relationship.

Emergency Situations

Article XII

1. The Bureau shall decide, during its meetings or by electronic means, with the Coordinating Unit, on responses in case of emergency situations and shall take emergency measures within the functions and financial resources of the Convention and Action Plan to deal with events requiring immediate action. The Contracting Parties shall be informed of any such decision within two months of its adoption.

Annex II

Measures to strengthen Barcelona Convention/MAP Governance and Management

Introduction

With a view to enhance effectiveness, coherence and transparency in the governance of the Barcelona Convention/MAP system and further to the reflections and recommendations on institutional reform at the MAP Focal Points and Bureau Meetings during the 2012-2013 biennium, the Parties agree to adopt measures to strengthen the governance and management of the system.

I. Changes required

The following practical changes are needed to ensure the efficient functioning of the system:

- i. *Strategic planning requires flexibility to respond to emerging issues.* The planning process should be driven from the top down as well as from the bottom up as this will help improving the coherence and effectiveness of MAP system, thus allowing shifts in response to new developments and to carry out activities that cut across MAP Components;
- ii. *Funding allocation does not follow a strategy and is not flexible.* Funding does not follow performance and priorities as set out by the Contracting Parties but is a reflection of what was once negotiated;
- iii. *Delivery capacity to be strengthened.* The system is perceived to be lacking sufficient focus and cohesion. Resources and capacity are spread too thin;
- iv. *Resources from third parties to be more strategic.* Some of the MAP Components have done well in attracting external funding but the system could generally be more strategic in resource mobilization;
- v. *MAP Components coordination and cooperation* - It remains a key challenge and should be recognized as having improved but still far from operating as a 'system' due to challenges in the funding model;
- vi. *Transparency and accountability* need to be further enhanced in MAP's work; and,
- vii. Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP system covers a wide range of activities in line with the MAP and the Convention, but its structure has become very complex and inflexible.

II. [²Barcelona Convention/MAP priorities]

In the absence of adequate funding, priorities need to be set among MAP activities to improve the efficiency of the Barcelona Convention/MAP system. Its activities are:

- i. Secretariat functions for the Convention, including representation and external relations, management of legal aspects of the Barcelona Convention, work programme development and implementation, information and communication, coordination of horizontal issues among MAP components, policies and strategies, development of regional action plans, compliance monitoring and monitoring status of marine and coastal environment;
- ii. Implementation of the Protocols, including technical assistance to countries for the purpose of implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols; and,

² Priorities to be discussed by Contracting Parties

- iii. Strategic planning and monitoring of sustainable development in the Mediterranean according to the MAP, including coordination and follow up of regional projects supporting its implementation and the development of tools that support decision-making and strategic planning for sustainable development.]

III. Streamlining governance, enhancing the system's results and facilitating its management

a. The focal point system – Thematic Focal Points

The current MAP Components Focal Points system will be refocused into Thematic Focal points so as to promote an integrated and coherent approach in the implementation of the Convention, its Protocols and the Programme of Work, generate system-wide interest and optimize costs while avoiding fragmentation.

Thematic Focal Points will perform the functions assigned to Focal Points under Article 24 of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity and Article 30 of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management. They will be the national liaison for the implementation of the technical and scientific aspects of thematic Protocols and in this context cooperate with the Secretariat and the corresponding supporting Centres as well as disseminate information at the national, regional and local level.

Since 2014-2015 is a transition biennium, current component focal points consistent with the themes in existing Protocols and the Strategic Programme of Work will be maintained. The Secretariat with the support of the Bureau will prepare more concrete proposals for next biennium.

Technical Working Groups and Correspondence Groups may be created for specific purposes, as need be.

The Secretariat with the support of the Bureau will prepare more concrete proposals for next biennium.

b. Integrated strategic planning process

The strategic planning process will help increasing the quality of decision-making; improving the communication with key actors and their participation, accommodating their divergent interests and values; promoting its successful implementation; fostering accountability; and, improving long-term performance. The process is to be led by the Contracting Parties in making strategic choices and setting the priorities (top-down). Thematic focal points provide technical guidance within the results to be achieved (bottom-up).

The current Programming cycle of the Five Year Mid-term PoW will be aligned with the COP decision-making and the Ecosystems Approach (EcAp) cycles, be integrated and strategic. This alignment will follow UNEP's practice under the Medium-term Strategy.

The initial phase of the strategic programming process will be the External Evaluation of the preceding Strategic Plan, which will be the first instance of consultation with the Contracting Parties, MAP Partners and other external relevant actors. The evaluation process will be participatory and the draft evaluation report will be shared with MAP's constituency and be accompanied with a questionnaire on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of the Barcelona Convention/MAP system. The analysis of the responses to the questionnaire will guide the second phase focused in identifying the issues to be considered in designing the thematic framework of the Midterm Strategy (*the first phase is envisaged to last 6 months*).

An issues paper for consultation will be prepared by the Secretariat following the guidance of the First Bureau Meeting to facilitate the second phase. The paper will be based on the SWOT analysis of the system, the findings of the existing Mid-term Strategy, a scan of major programmes, projects and processes contributing to the implementation of the Mid-term Strategy (external actors) and main gaps in implementing the Convention and Protocols at national level also identifying technical assistance needs. In addition, new issues and remaining challenges to be addressed by the new Midterm Strategy will be identified (*this phase is envisaged to last 3 months*).

The issues paper will be subject to a comprehensive consultation process facilitated by a virtual consultation platform, with the MAP and thematic Focal Points, the MCSDD members, MAP Partners, regional stakeholders, and, where appropriate, global stakeholders, with full involvement and guidance of the Second Bureau of the Contracting Parties (*this phase is envisaged to last 3 months*).

Based on the results from the consultation and drawing on the assistance from MAP Components, the Secretariat will prepare a strategic framework for the Midterm Strategy which clarifies the structure and content of the future Mid-Term Strategy, to be considered and endorsed by a first meeting of MAP Focal Points in March 2015. The guidance of MAP Focal Points will be the main reference to develop a full-fledge draft Mid-term Strategy. The Strategy will include major global and regional trends, lessons learned and comparative advantages; a vision; the main strategic directions/themes; the means of implementation including partnerships, institutional mechanisms and resources; the monitoring and evaluation cycle; and, a results matrix including objectives; expected outcomes and corresponding strategic targets to achieve (*this phase is envisaged to last 3 months*).

The Secretariat with the support of MAP Components will prepare a Draft Midterm Strategy for consultation with the Third Bureau of the Biennium (this phase is envisaged to last 3 months).

The Biennium Programme of Work will be aligned with the Midterm Strategy. Its preparation will start immediately after endorsement by MAP Focal Points of the strategic framework. The Coordinating Unit will lead the process with the support of MAP Components, and will be responsible for timely compilation and consolidation of the feedback received from the thematic Focal Points. Based on the strategic themes, overall objective, outcomes and strategic targets in the Midterm Strategy, the Biannual Programme of Work will develop results and specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-based (SMART) indicators that allow to monitor progress in activities; links with the Convention, Protocols, adopted Strategies and decisions of the Contracting Parties; links to other actions; indication of resources; and, assumptions and risks.

More advanced versions of the Mid-term Strategy and the Biennium Programme of Work will be submitted to the Bureau and the final draft versions to MAP Focal Points before submitted to COP for adoption (*3 months prior to COP Meeting*).

c. Financial sustainability

Complementary measures are needed to ensure necessary resources to implement the Barcelona Convention/MAP Mid-Term Strategy and Programme of Work, improve coordination and avoid overlapping of efforts.

The current Decision on the Programme of Work and Budget includes cost-optimization measures the implication of which will be fully implemented during the 2014-2015 biennium. To achieve this goal, a detailed implementation plan will be developed based on the principles and priorities agreed by the Contracting Parties.

Financial sustainability relies on external funding in addition to the Mediterranean Trust Fund, thus developing a standard co-financing policy for engaging with external funders should be a priority. A review of current funding agreements between RACs and external funders should be undertaken to identify areas where alignment is important, e.g. issues such as co-funding in-kind or in cash, project overheads, payment schedules etc. This should be followed by centralization of information about current and potential funders. Also, to improve the management of the externally funded projects, efforts should be made to obtain agreement on standardized contractual terms, including standard technical and financial reporting templates.

In addition, criteria on co-financing for technical assistance benefiting Contracting Parties should be established, taking into consideration countries' different capacities.

d. Cost-effective and accountable operations

The operations of the Barcelona Convention/MAP should be strengthened with measures that reinforce performance and flexibility.

[In case of Option 2 – Scalable Resources]

The allocation of Scalable Resources should be made in accordance with the Barcelona Convention/MAP priorities set out in section II of this annex. The aim of the Scalable Resources is to deliver effectively and efficiently the results established in the biennium Programme of Work, which are necessary to reach the targets agreed under the Mid-term Strategy. In doing so, a balance should be kept between on the one side regional policy and strategy development and capacity building initiatives on the other. Geographical preference will be given to capacity building activities targeting Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries while encouraging basin-wide and South-South cooperation. Substantially, a balance will be sought between priority themes agreed under the Programme of Work, while a diversity of types of interventions could be considered, such as regional strategy development, treaty implementation, technical assistance or advocacy. Financially, the upper and lower limits of funding agreed by the Contracting Parties under each of the expected results in the Programme of Work will be respected as well as the overall resource envelop approved for the Biennium Programme.

A Project Review Committee (PRC) will select the proposals to be funded. The PRC is made of 5 experts with knowledge and experience on environmental programme and project management, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The Secretariat will invite Contracting Parties to ask candidates to apply through an open call for proposal and prepare a short-list of qualified candidates for consideration by the Bureau, who will ensure an equitable geographical balance.

Criteria for selection of proposals include: relevance of the activities proposed and outcomes expected to the strategic priorities and results to be achieved under the Programme of Work; soundness and clarity of the proposal, its methodology and the monitoring and evaluation arrangements; sustainability and impacts envisaged; and, organizational and managerial capacity. The availability of secured co-financing will be an advantage and the proposal's contribution to enhanced cooperation among MAP Components will also be considered.

Eligible project costs include: costs arising directly from the substantive activities to be carried out under the proposal; cost of staff and consultants to deliver on the activities up to a maximum of 40% of the proposed budget; travel and subsistence costs up to 10% of the proposed budget; visibility/communications/dissemination costs; and, a lump sum not exceeding 5% of the Project's eligible costs as programme support incurred by the Component.

In case of Option 4 – Pooled Funds

The allocation of Pooled Funds should be made in accordance with the Barcelona Convention/MAP priorities set out in section II of this annex. The aim of the Pooled Funds is to contribute to deliver effectively and efficiently the results established in the biennium Programme of Work, through enhanced cooperation among MAP Components.

Taking into reference the limited budget available for Pooled Funds, the selection of proposals under Option 4 will be carried out by the Secretariat in consultation with the Bureau. More stringent criteria apply to eligible costs.

Criteria for selection of proposals include: relevance of the activities proposed and outcomes expected to the strategic priorities and results to be achieved under the Programme of Work; soundness and clarity of the proposal, its methodology and the monitoring and evaluation arrangements; sustainability and impacts envisaged; and, organizational and managerial capacity. The availability of secured co-financing will be an advantage.

Only costs arising directly from the substantive activities to be carried out under the proposal will be covered. In addition, programme support costs up to 5% of the total amount of eligible costs may only be claimed to by the Components who do not receive MTF for operational purposes.]³

Independent external evaluations of the Midterm Strategy will be a standard practice. In addition, performance assessments and cost-benefit analyses of the progress achieved in implementing the biennium Programme of Work will influence allocations under future biennia for which criteria will be developed. The practice of yearly audits of financial statements of the projects through which funding is made available to Regional Activity Centers (RACs) will continue.

e. Boosting use of system-wide competencies for improved operational management and knowledge sharing

MAP Components and the Coordinating Unit provide a well-structured foundation for an efficient hub of political and technical expertise to protect and manage the Mediterranean coastal and marine environment that could be further strengthened as follows:

Thematic Groups of selected representatives of Components will be set up to focus on critical themes that require internal attention such as technical and horizontal thematic issues or operational ones (for ex. communication, fundraising, proposal pipeline, monitoring and evaluation, financial management). These groups should convene regular virtual meetings to identify areas of common concern and explore joint planning and programming.

MAP/Barcelona Convention should also explore establishing external practice areas on those substantive issues that it has a clear knowledge lead for the benefit of the whole region. These virtual practice groups would provide needed knowledge sharing and dissemination as well as a link to knowledge centers which are not yet part of the system. The Executive Coordination Panel should repurpose itself as a strong operational management body between the Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP Coordinator and MAP Components Directors.

³ Pending conclusion of the discussions on the Programme of Work

f. Communications and Visibility

In order to make the achievements of the Barcelona Convention/MAP more visible, the Communication Strategy adopted in COP 17 should be fully implemented and in particular its visibility rules and standards. Clarifying the rules and regulations around using the Barcelona Convention/MAP, UNEP and UNEP/MAP brands for communication will be particularly important. The guiding principle should be to use the brand only for work that has been approved by the Contracting Parties and funded by the MTF. All other work should not be branded as Barcelona Convention/MAP, UNEP or UNEP/MAP work. A distinction between work funded by the MTF and work funded by external donors should also be made.

g. Budget Contact Group

A Budget Contact Group should be set up during COPs, in order to facilitate informed discussion among the Parties of the Barcelona Convention/MAP about its budget that can take account of draft decisions and the state of contributions and commitments in the on-going biennium.]

Draft Decision IG.21/14

Cooperation Agreements

The 18th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties,

Reaffirming the commitment of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to continue strengthening the Barcelona Convention/MAP Governance system based on increased synergy, cooperation and partnership with relevant regional and global institutions and initiatives as called for in the Marrakesh Declaration adopted by the Ministers and Heads of Delegation at the 16th Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in Marrakesh (Morocco) in 2009,

Recalling Decision IG20/13 on Governance adopted by the 17th Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in Paris (France) in 2012 calling on the Secretariat to strengthen cooperation with regional and global initiatives, Multilateral Environmental Agreements and international organizations in particular with the General Fisheries Commission of the Mediterranean (GFCM), the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in close consultation with the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention as stipulated in article 11 of its Terms of Reference, and to strengthen cooperation with other relevant regional and global organizations, as appropriate,

Recalling also Decision IG19/6 on Cooperation and Partnership with Civil Society Organizations also adopted at the 16th Meeting of Contracting Parties in Marrakesh (Morocco) in 2009 and the request made in Decision IG.20/13 to complete the review of the list of MAP partners for submission to the Bureau and onwards endorsement by the Contracting Parties,

Bearing in mind the commitment of the Contracting to the Barcelona Convention to enhance the institutional governance of the Barcelona Convention/MAP by consolidating synergies with regional and global partners with a view to ensure the financing of all MAP activities and by actively involving civil society representatives and in particular NGOs, local and regional governments and the private sector, to elaborate better informed decisions and provide for efficient implementation at all levels,

Welcoming the steps taken by the Secretariat to establish cooperation agreements which have resulted in the signature of the Agreement with the GFCM on 14 May 2012, the preparation and finalization of the agreement with the Secretariat of the UfM and the IUCN and, initial discussions regarding Cooperation Agreements with the Secretariat to the CBD and the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS),

Also welcoming the solid cooperation established with the European Union, the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the European Environment Agency (EEA) as well the Barcelona Convention/MAP participation at and cooperation with regional initiatives and programmes such as the *Medpartnership* for the protection of the Large Marine Ecosystem which UNEP/MAP is leading, and the *H2020* so as to multiply actions in support of the implementation of the decisions of Contracting Parties,

Appreciating the discussions and supporting the decisions of the Bureau of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention during its 75th, 76th and 77th Meeting regarding Cooperation Agreements with relevant Regional and International Organizations as well the list of MAP partners,

Desirous of ensuring that close dialogue and synergy is also established with neighboring Regional Seas Agreements as well as with sub-regional cooperation processes such as the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative and the 5+5 process in the Western Mediterranean with a view to more effectively and jointly address pressures and impacts to the marine and coastal environment while providing coherent and efficient solutions to trans-boundary concerns,

Decides to:

Invite the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the Joint Programme of Work attached to Annex I and Annex II respectively to this Decision;

Endorse the list of MAP partners attached as Annex III to this Decision;

Request the Secretariat in consultation with the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to finalize agreement with the Secretariat of the CBD and the ACCOBAMS and to prepare formal collaboration with neighboring seas;

Request the Secretariat to continue working towards ensuring that all agreements signed become concrete operational tools for improving the protection and sustainable development of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal zones in accordance with the priorities identified by the Contracting parties and to ask the Bureau in accordance with its mandate to provide necessary guidance to the Secretariat in this regard;

Request the Secretariat to further expand the cooperation with International and Regional Organizations such as the GEF, the WB, the UNDP, the EU, bilateral cooperation agencies and other relevant actors with a view to mobilize as many actors as possible in support of implementing in a coherent, synergistic and effective manner the priorities established by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

Annex I

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

**THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME IN ITS CAPACITY AS
SECRETARIAT OF THE BARCELONA CONVENTION AND THE MEDITERRANEAN
ACTION PLAN (UNEP/MAP)
AND
THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN (UfMS)**

Hereafter collectively referred to as “the Parties” or individually as “Party”

WHEREAS UNEP/MAP has the mandate as per the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean adopted in 1976 and revised in 1995, to assist the Mediterranean countries, with its main objectives through its seven protocols respectively to assess and control marine pollution; to ensure sustainable management of natural marine and coastal resources; to address common challenges related to the prevention and reduction of pollution from land-based sources, ships, dumping, off-shore installations and the movement of hazardous substances; to ensure the protection of biodiversity; and, the integrated management of coastal zones;

WHEREAS UNEP/MAP has also the mandate to assist in the implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) which was adopted in 1975 and became MAP II after its revision in 1995, and which is the instrument for planning sustainable development in the Mediterranean. Through this Plan a dialogue has been established with all relevant Organizations in the region, more recently under the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) adopted at Ministerial level by the XXth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in Portoroz, Slovenia (2005);

WHEREAS, in this context, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention had adopted Regional Strategies, Actions Plans and Programmes as well as put in place regional structures including a consolidated system of focal points, the Coordinating Unit and six Regional Activity Centers¹, which have a mandate for carrying out activities aimed at implementing the seven Protocols of the Barcelona Convention, the decisions of the Meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and to facilitate implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP II) and its Strategies;

WHEREAS the Paris Declaration adopted at the 17th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Paris, 10 February 2012), welcomed the ongoing efforts to enhance cooperation between UNEP/MAP- Barcelona Convention with the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfMS);

¹ Six MAP Regional Activity Centres (RACs) are based in Mediterranean countries, each offering its own environmental and developmental expertise for the benefit of the Mediterranean community in the implementation of MAP activities. These six RACs are the following: 1.Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)-Malta, Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre (BP/ RAC)-France, Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/ RAC)-Croatia, 4. Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/ RAC)-Tunisia, 5.Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre (CP/ RAC) –Spain and, 6. INFO/ RAC-Italy.

WHEREAS the last Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Environment (Cairo, November 20th, 2006) took note of the Barcelona Convention, its protocols and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, insisted on the need for a regional approach, increased cooperation and finance, and called for coordination in order to implement both the Horizon 2020 initiative and the UNEP/MAP –Barcelona Convention Strategic Action Program to combat pollution from land based sources (SAPMED), as well as complementary actions and programs contributing to environmental objectives and sustainable development in the Mediterranean;

WHEREAS the UfMS is mandated by the Heads of State and Government Joint Declaration of the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean (Paris, 13 July 2008) to give new impulse to the “Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean” in terms of identification, follow-up, promotion of projects and the search for partners, and further elaborated by the Final Statement of Foreign Affairs Ministerial (Marseille, 4 November 2008);

WHEREAS the first Ministerial Conference of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) on sustainable urban development (Strasbourg, November 10th, 2011) took note of the Barcelona Convention, and its protocols and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development adopted in November 2005, in Portoroz and in the final declaration, the Ministers called for the elaboration of a UfM sustainable urban strategy, respecting the specific pace of economic social and environmental development of each State and entrusted the member States the task of elaborating the UfM Urban Development Strategy with the support of the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean;

WHEREAS the large development of renewable energy and energy efficiency are of crucial importance to mitigate climate change and address energy challenges in the Mediterranean area, the Paris declaration has tasked the UfMS to “explore the feasibility, development and creation of a Mediterranean Solar Plan”(MSP). The UfM Member States have called upon the UfMS to coordinate the development of the MSP Master Plan in close cooperation with all the stakeholders. The MSP is aiming at boosting the development and deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies in the Mediterranean region through building up 20 GW capacities of RE by 2020. The MSP is regional sectorial initiative which could contribute to the global Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development developed in the framework of the UNEP/MAP.

WHEREAS both parties, the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention with its legal, policy-setting and technical responsibilities and UfMS, with its inter-ministerial political structure and mandate to work as the focal point for multi-source funding of projects in the framework of the UfM, are complementary and share common objectives with regard to the reduction/elimination of pollution as well as promoting sustainable development, and wish to collaborate to further these common goals and objectives within their respective mandates and governing rules and regulations;

WHEREAS the Parties intend to conclude this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as “MoU”) with the aim at enhancing impact and increasing synergies and developing their cooperation and effectiveness to achieve common objectives in the field of the protection of marine and coastal environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean;

THE PARTIES, HAVE AGREED TO COOPERATE UNDER THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AS FOLLOWS:

**Article 1
Purpose**

1. The purpose of this MoU is to provide a framework of cooperation between the Parties to further the shared goals and objectives of their Contracting Parties / Members in regard to pollution prevention and control of Mediterranean coastal and marine waters, protection of biodiversity and ecosystems; Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) including Urban Development and other fields related to sustainable development and particularly sustainable consumption and production (SCP), sustainable use of water, renewable energy and energy efficiency, in their fields of competence in line with their respective mandates..
2. This MoU seeks to further harmonize the activities of the Parties, take advantage of their expert, high level and ministerial meetings to mutually support their respective initiatives and processes, optimize the use of resources and avoid duplication, while ensuring the complementarity in the actions taken, in order to increase the value added of the final outcome.

**Article 2
Scope**

1. The Parties shall work together, to the extent possible, within the remit of their objectives and mandate, for the implementation of the activities undertaken pursuant this MoU. The areas of cooperation for this MoU are defined in Article 1(1).
2. Areas of cooperation are agreed jointly in accordance with the Articles of this MoU and its Annex to enable the Parties to respond to current and newly emerging issues in the realm of the shared goals and objectives as stated in Article 1(1) in accordance with the decisions of the governing bodies of the Parties. Annex 1 enumerates an indicative list of activities that are envisaged in each area of cooperation as a basis for organizational arrangements of Article 3.
3. The areas of cooperation will be revised as appropriate, to be in line with those decisions of the governing bodies of the Parties that might have a bearing on their respective mandates.
4. Specific activities will be identified and carried out on the basis of a separate legal instrument pursuant to Article 3(4). In identifying specific areas of cooperation due regard will be given to both Parties' geographic coverage, capacity for implementation and experience in the related field.

**Article 3
Organizational arrangements pertaining to the Cooperation**

1. The Parties shall hold bilateral consultations on matters of common interest, whenever deemed appropriate by both parties, in accordance with an agenda agreed in advance by them, aiming also at the development/review of their joint activities. So as to clarify, update and follow-up the implementation of some of the activities listed in Annex 1, the following three items should be examined at the occasion of regular consultations:
 - a) review progress in the work by the Parties in implementing the MoU;
 - b) technical and operational issues related to furthering the purposes of the MoU; and,

- c) identify future actions and responsibilities, to ensure efficient planning for the implementation of the MoU.
2. Both Parties shall identify one overall focal point within their internal organizational structure to coordinate cooperation, monitor joint activities and be informed of progress and exchanges at expert level. In addition, the Parties shall encourage bilateral meetings at desk-to-desk level and set up on an ad hoc basis as deemed necessary by them to address priority matters related to the areas of cooperation under this MoU for the implementation of activities in specific areas, countries and regions and to develop and monitor collaborative actions. The Parties will also consider the possibility of joint activities such as conferences, missions, etc.
3. Where the Parties convene a meeting at which policy matters related to this MoU will be discussed, the Parties will, as appropriate, invite each other as observers.
4. In implementing activities, projects and programmes in the agreed priority areas, the Parties shall execute separate legal instruments in writing and signed by the authorized representatives of the Parties, appropriate for the implementation of such initiatives.

Article 4 Fundraising

1. Within the remit of areas of cooperation set in Article 1(1), collaboration between UNEP/MAP and the UfMS may, upon written agreement of the Parties as stated in Article 3(4), be carried out, as appropriate and on an ad hoc basis, through joint elaboration, fundraising for and implementation of projects on specific issues of common interest.
2. Neither Party shall engage in fund raising with third parties for activities to be carried out within the framework of this MoU in the name of or on behalf of the other.
3. Nothing under this MoU imposes financial or contractual obligations upon either Party. If the Parties mutually agree to allocate specific funds to facilitate an activity undertaken pursuant to this MoU, such an agreement will be reflected in writing and signed by the Parties as stated in Article 3(4). In particular, for the implementation of joint activities within the framework of this MoU that might involve payment of funds, a specific separate legal instrument will be entered into, as appropriate, taking into account those relevant administrative and financial rules and procedures applicable to the Parties.

Article 5 Project labeling and replication

The Parties shall endeavor to work jointly towards:

1. Identifying, within the countries that have signed the Barcelona Convention (being also members of the UfM), projects that could meet the UfM requirements for labeling in line with UNEP/MAP Programme of Work;
2. Identifying on-going actions or partners which could join other promoters in the phase before labeling and carry out activities which will support promoters in implementing the labeled projects. This could come in the form of exchanging information and/or participating in events or meetings organized by UNEP MAP-BC or UfMS;
3. Supporting the replication of successful projects, undertaken by UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention or other actors, in other Mediterranean countries,

4. Enhancing visibility and raise awareness about the Barcelona Convention activities and initiatives among UfM political and technical bodies that participate in the labeling process and about UfM priority projects or objectives which contribute to the Barcelona Convention among the UNEP/MAP-BC national focal points, as well as through each other specific programmes or projects, participating in advisory working groups or Steering Committees, as need be.
5. All projects submitted for labeling, implementation or replication which originates from the policy, management or technical activities of the other Party should clearly identify the Party from which the project or initiative originates.

Article 6 **Status of personnel**

1. For the purpose of implementation of this MoU, no agents, sub-contractors or employees of one of the Parties shall be considered in any way as agents or staff members of the other Party. Each of the Parties shall not be liable for the acts or omissions of the other Party or its personnel/persons performing services on behalf of it.
2. The Parties are not being responsible for any salaries, wages, insurance or other benefits due or payable to the other Party's personnel. Moreover the other Party shall be solely responsible for all such salaries, wages, insurance and benefits, including without limitation, any severance or termination payments to its personnel. The Parties shall entertain no claims and have no liability whatsoever in respect thereof.

Article 7 **Dispute settlement**

1. In the event a dispute or controversy arises out of, or in connection with this MoU, the Parties shall use their best efforts to promptly settle through direct and amicable negotiations such dispute or controversy or claim arising out of or in connection with this MoU or any breach thereof. Any such dispute, controversy or claim which is not settled sixty (60) days from the date either Party has notified the other Party of the nature of the dispute, controversy or claim of the measures which should be taken to rectify it, shall be resolved through consultation between the executive Heads of the Parties.

Article 8 **Official emblems and logos**

1. Neither Party shall use the name, emblem or trademarks of the other Party, its subsidiaries, affiliates, and/or authorized agents, or any abbreviation thereof, in publications and documents produced by the Parties, without the express prior written approval of the other Party in each case.
2. In no event will authorization of the Parties name or emblem, or any abbreviation thereof, be granted for Commercial purposes.

Article 9 **Intellectual Property Rights**

1. The Parties shall consult with each other regarding the Intellectual Property Rights as appropriate relating to any project or benefits derived thereof in respect of activities carried out under a separate legal instrument pursuant to Article 3(4) of this MOU.

Article 10

Confidentiality

1. The handling of information will be subject to each Party's corporate confidentiality policies.
2. Before disclosing internal documents, or documents that by virtue of their content or the circumstances of their creation or communication must be deemed confidential, of the other Party to third parties, each Party will obtain the express, written consent of the other Party. However, a Party's disclosure of another Party's internal and/or confidential documents to an entity the disclosing Party controls or with which it is under common control, or to an entity with which it has a confidentiality agreement, will not be considered a disclosure to a third party, and will not require prior authorization.
3. For UNEP, a principal or subsidiary organ of the United Nations established in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations will be deemed to be a legal entity under common control.

Article 11

Notification and Amendments

1. Any communication addressed to either Party in connection with this MoU shall be in writing and shall be sent to the following addresses:

For UNEP/MAP

UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention Secretariat
48, Vassileos Konstantinou Avenue
Athens 11635, Greece

For the UfMS

Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean
Palacio de Pedralbes - C/ Pere Duran Farell, 11
08034 Barcelona
Spain

2. Each Party shall notify the other in writing, within 3 months of any proposed or actual changes that it deems necessary for this MoU.
3. Upon receipt of such notification, the Parties shall consult each other with a view of reaching an agreement on any actual or proposed change(s) suggested in accordance with Article 11 (2).
4. This MoU may be amended only by mutual agreement of the Parties reflected in writing, which shall be considered as an integral part of this MoU.

Article 12

Interpretation

1. The Annex to this MoU will be considered part of this MoU. Unless the context otherwise requires, references to this MoU will be construed as a reference to this MoU including the Annex hereto, as varied or amended in accordance with the Articles of this MoU.

2. This MoU represents the broad understanding between the Parties and supersedes all prior MOUs, communications and representations, whether oral or written, concerning the subject matter of this MoU.

Article 13 Termination

1. Either Party may terminate this MoU by giving three months' prior written notice to the other Party. It shall cease to exist in three (3) months following notification of the termination of this MoU. In that event, the Parties will agree on measures required for the orderly conclusion of any ongoing activities.
2. Upon termination of this MoU, the rights and obligations of the Parties defined under any other legal instrument executed pursuant to this MoU will cease to be effective.
3. Any termination of [or withdrawal from] the MoU will be without prejudice to (a) the orderly completion of any ongoing activity and (b) any other rights and obligations of the Parties defined under article 3 accrued prior to the date of termination [or of its withdrawal] under this MOU or any other provision of a specific legal instrument executed pursuant to this MoU.

Article 14 Duration

This MoU will be effective upon the last date of signature of the authorized representatives and remain in force three years from this date. Such term might be extended by written agreement among the Parties, subject to such evaluations the Parties deem appropriate and by mutual agreement among the Parties, unless terminated in accordance with Article 13 above.

This MoU is signed in two (2) original copies in English equally authentic.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly authorized representatives of the Parties affix their signatures below.

**For the Coordinating Unit of the
Mediterranean Action Plan/Secretariat of the
Barcelona Convention (UNEP/MAP)**

For the Union for the Mediterranean

Name: Elizabeth Mrema

Title: Officer in Charge,

Division of Environmental Policy Implementation

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Date: _____

Name:

Title:

Date: _____

Appendix 1

Indicative List of Activities relating to the envisaged areas of cooperation within the framework of this MoU

1. Pollution prevention and control of Mediterranean coastal and marine waters

- 1.1 Cooperate in updating the de-pollution National Action Plans and indicators, which will display a more precise picture of achievements of H2020 initiative and future steps and jointly develop a strategic vision of the priority projects needed to achieve the de-pollution of the Mediterranean in addition to H2020 portfolio:
- Collaborate in supporting capacity building initiatives and activities to countries with regard to de-polluting projects formulation and implementation and promoting best results/practices dissemination and replication.
 - Cooperate in supporting countries of the Mediterranean to assess the status of implementation and or update the list of priority de-polluting projects in the investment portfolio of the NAPs and or any other national respective strategic policy documents; Cooperate in establishing a sustainable joint monitoring system and follow up of the status of funding and implementation of investment projects related to pollution control and reduction in the Mediterranean and their concrete impacts on the ground.
 - Exchange on a regular basis data and information on the list of the above mentioned projects funded or likely to be funded according to technical reporting modalities agreed between both parties.
- 1.2 Identify ongoing actions or partners, which could join other promoters activities and receive their contribution to help the promoters implementing projects of regional interest, such as integrated depollution priority projects tackling pollution hot spots, leading to possible projects towards UfM labeling and UNEP/MAP support;
- 1.3 Cooperate in the field of prevention of pollution from ships, specifically in the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, through identification and implementation of projects. This could be done, inter-alia, by the promotion of studies and projects aimed at answering to the constant increase in shipping activity and achieve the objective to protect the marine environment in the Mediterranean region by reducing impacts from recreational traffic and making the region safer for ships to navigate in, thereby avoiding accidents that can lead to, amongst other things, marine pollution.

2. Marine and Coastal Ecosystems and Biodiversity Protection in the Mediterranean region

- 2.1 Cooperate in supporting implementation of regional and national measures which the Mediterranean countries have identified as a priority to advance implementation of the 11 Ecological Objectives of the Ecosystem Approach to human activities in the Mediterranean under the Barcelona Convention;

- 2.2 Cooperate in supporting capacity building initiatives and activities for the creation and management of priority Marine Protected Areas and National Action Plans for the Conservation of Endangered Species and Vulnerable Habitats.

3. Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Marine Spatial Planning

- 3.1 Cooperate to promote ICZM as a tool for reaching sustainable development in the Mediterranean coastal zones, and in particular to implement the Action Plan related to the ICZM Protocol adopted by the Mediterranean States under the Barcelona Convention;

4. Urban Development

- 4.1 Cooperate to conclude and make operational, the UFM Guidance framework for sustainable Euro-Mediterranean cities and territories for decision-makers and practitioners;
- 4.2. Develop a set of recommendations on how to shape urban development by enabling a shared perspective in urban and territorial strategies, taking into consideration the Barcelona Convention and its protocols, particularly for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol and Action Plan.

5. Other fields related to Sustainable Development, including Sustainable Consumption or Production (SCP), Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency:

- 5.1 Contribute to the updating the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD) and reviewing its indicators.

- 5.2 In the field of energy:

Cooperate on methodologies, studies, analysis and economic evaluations to increase the share of marine and coastal renewable energy used in the Mediterranean and take this progress into account in updating and implementing the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development;

Take full advantage of available carbon finance tools to support renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in the Mediterranean area.

- 5.3 In the field of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP):

Cooperate in the implementation of the commitments that the Mediterranean countries undertake under the Barcelona Convention to implement common regional priorities to shift to Sustainable Consumption and Production;

Cooperate in the support to Mediterranean countries in mainstreaming SCP in their national development policies.

Annex II

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

**THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME, ON BEHALF OF THE
COORDINATING UNIT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN/SECRETARIAT OF
THE BARCELONA CONVENTION (UNEP/MAP)**

AND

**THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL
RESOURCES (IUCN)**

WHEREAS the United Nations Environment Programme (hereinafter referred to as UNEP) is the leading organization within the United Nations system in the field of environment and has as a major area of focus of its global mandate, the conservation, protection, enhancement and support of nature and natural resources, including biological diversity, worldwide;

WHEREAS the Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention and the Mediterranean Action Plan (hereinafter referred to as UNEP/MAP) has the mandate as per the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean adopted in 1976 and revised in 1995, to assist the Mediterranean countries, with its main objectives through its seven protocols respectively to assess and control marine pollution; to ensure sustainable management of natural marine and coastal resources; to address common challenges related to the prevention and reduction of pollution from land-based sources, ships, dumping, off-shore installations and the movement of hazardous substances; to ensure the protection of biodiversity; and, the integrated management of coastal zones.

WHEREAS UNEP/MAP has also the mandate to assist in the implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), which was adopted in 1975 and became MAP II after its revision in 1995.

WHEREAS in this context, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention have adopted Regional Strategies, Actions Plans and Programmes as well as put in place regional structures including a consolidated system of focal points, and six Regional Activity Centers², which have a mandate for carrying out activities aimed at facilitating implementation of the seven Protocols of the Barcelona Convention, the decisions of the Meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;

WHEREAS The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (hereinafter referred to as IUCN) has the objective to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable; and, to pursue its

² Six MAP Regional Activity Centres (RACs) are based in Mediterranean countries, each offering its own environmental and developmental expertise for the benefit of the Mediterranean community in the implementation of MAP activities. These six RACs are the following: 1. Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)-Malta, 2. Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre (BP/RAC)-France, 3. Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)-Croatia, 4. Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC)-Tunisia, 5. Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre (CP/RAC) –Spain and, 6. INFO/RAC-Italy.

objectives through an integrated programme of activities, formulated, coordinated and implemented by its members and components. To deliver conservation and sustainability at both the global and local level, IUCN builds on its strengths in the areas of “*Science*” – 11,000 experts in six commissions³ setting global standards in their fields, for example, the definitive international standard for species extinction risk (the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species); “*Action*” – conservation projects all over the world from the local level to those involving several countries, all aimed at the sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources; and, “*Influence*” – through the collective strength of more than 1,200 government and non-governmental Member organizations to influence international environmental conventions, policies and laws.

WHEREAS at the Mediterranean level, IUCN is promoting the collaboration and cooperation between all relevant stakeholders (regional, national and local, private and public sectors) through its Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN CMC).

WHEREAS UNEP and IUCN signed a Framework Agreement on Cooperation on 23 February 2005, which is intended to provide the Parties with an enabling framework, and to serve as a guiding tool in identifying and carrying out specific collaborative activities, and according to which specific areas of collaboration will be defined in agreements supplemental to the framework agreement in the form of two year action plans and/or project-specific binding contracts or non-binding MoUs.

AWARE that previous formal and informal cooperation have taken place between UNEP/MAP and IUCN CMC including MAP Components,

WHEREAS IUCN and UNEP/MAP Plan share common goals and objectives with regard to conservation of the marine and coastal environment and ecosystems and the sustainable use of marine living resources and wish to collaborate to further these common goals and objectives within their respective mandates and governing rules and regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, UNEP/MAP AND IUCN HAVE AGREED TO COOPERATE UNDER THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AS FOLLOWS:

³ The six Commissions unite about 10,000 volunteer experts from a range of disciplines. They assess the state of the world's natural resources and provide the Union with sound know-how and policy advice on conservation issues. The commissions are: 1. Commission on Education and Communication (CEC); 2. Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP); 3. Commission on Environmental Law (CEL); 4. Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM); 5. Species Survival Commission (SSC); and 6. World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).

Article 1 Interpretation

1. This MoU defines a cooperation programme between the Parties, which is developed within the frame of the Framework Agreement on Cooperation signed between them on 23 February 2005.
2. References to this MOU shall be construed as including any Annexes, as varied or amended in accordance with the terms of this MOU. Any Annexes shall be subject to the provisions of this MOU, and in case of any inconsistency between an Annex and this MOU, the latter shall prevail.
3. Implementation of any subsequent activities, projects and programmes pursuant to this MOU, including those involving the transfer of funds between the Parties, shall necessitate the execution of appropriate legal instruments between the Parties. The terms of such legal instruments shall be subject to the provisions of this MOU.
4. This MOU represents the complete understanding between the Parties and supersedes all prior MOUs, communications and representations, whether oral or written, concerning the subject matter of this MOU.
5. Any Party's failure to request implementation of a provision of this MOU shall not constitute a waiver of that or any other provision of this MOU.

Article 2 Duration

1. This MOU shall be effective upon the last date of signature of the approving officials and remain in effect for the duration of the Framework Agreement on Cooperation signed between the Parties on 23 February 2005, unless terminated in accordance with that agreement or Article 15 below.

Article 3 Purpose

1. The purpose of this MOU is to provide a more specific framework of cooperation and understanding, and to facilitate collaboration between the Parties to further their shared goals and objectives in regard to the biodiversity, species conservation, governance, environmental law, information management, finance and regional cooperation.
2. The framework of cooperation mentioned in paragraph 1 above aims at:
 - a. harmonizing activities, creating additional synergies by combining competencies and enhancing the impacts of the outcomes of each institution's efforts.
 - b. seeking to optimize the use of resources and avoid duplication, while ensuring the complementarity in the actions taken.

Article 4

Areas of Cooperation

1. Areas of Cooperation are agreed jointly through the cooperation mechanism in the MOU. Policies and priorities under this MOU may also be jointly reviewed bi-annually by the Parties pursuant to Article 5 to allow the Parties to respond to newly emerging issues in the realm of environment and sustainable development.
2. The Parties have agreed to the following preliminary and overarching areas of cooperation under this MOU, which form part of UNEP/MAP's mandate and programme of work. The items listed below are also priorities or ongoing activities of IUCN, in accordance with its mandate. The detailed areas of cooperation are listed in Annex 1.
 - a. Promotion of ecosystem based approaches for the conservation of coastal and marine environment and ecosystems and the sustainable management and use of coastal and marine living and other natural resources;
 - b. Identification, protection and management of coastal and marine areas of particular importance in the Mediterranean;
 - c. Evaluations, studies, pilot programmes and promotion activities to better understand and enhance valuation of Mediterranean ecosystems goods and services;
 - d. Enhancing Legal and institutional cooperation in the Mediterranean.
3. The above preliminary and overarching areas of cooperation are not exhaustive and should not be taken to exclude or replace other forms of cooperation between the Parties on other issues of common interest.

Article 5

Organization of the Cooperation

1. IUCN and UNEP/MAP shall hold bilateral consultations on matters of common interest as need be, in accordance with an agenda agreed in advance by them, aiming also at the development/review of their joint activities. Relevant international organizations and relevant initiatives/projects may be invited by both Parties to join such consultations. Further bilateral meetings at desk-to-desk and at expert level shall be encouraged and convened on an ad hoc basis, as deemed necessary by the institutions to address priority matters regarding the implementation of activities in specific areas, countries and regions.
2. UNEP/MAP and the IUCN will inform their relevant governing bodies on the progress made in implementing this Agreement by including this issue in the Progress Reports to each Ordinary Meeting/Annual Session of their respective governing bodies (Contracting Parties Meeting for UNEP/MAP and IUCN Global Congress).
3. UNEP/MAP and the IUCN shall identify an overall focal point responsible for the implementation and the monitoring of the activities and communicate it to one another.
4. In implementing activities, projects and programmes in the agreed priority areas, the Parties shall execute a separate legal instrument appropriate for the implementation of such initiatives in accordance with Article 1.3 above.

5. Each Party undertakes to share knowledge and information in its area of operations and expertise relevant to the MOU with the other Party.

Article 6

Status of the Parties and their Personnel

1. The Parties acknowledge and agree that IUCN is an entity separate and distinct from the United Nations, including UNEP. The employees, personnel, representatives, agents, contractors or affiliates of IUCN, including the personnel engaged by IUCN for carrying out any of the project activities pursuant to this MOU, shall not be considered in any respect or for any purposes whatsoever as being employees, personnel, representatives, agents, contractors or affiliates of the United Nations, including UNEP, nor shall any employees, personnel, representatives, agents, contractors or affiliates of UNEP be considered, in any respect or for any purposes whatsoever, as being employees, personnel, representatives, agents, contractors or affiliates of IUCN.
2. Neither Party shall be entitled to act or make legally binding declarations on behalf of the other Party. Nothing in this MOU shall be deemed to constitute a joint venture, agency, interest grouping or any other kind of formal business grouping or entity between the Parties.

Article 7

Fundraising

1. To the extent permitted by the Parties' respective regulations, rules and policies, and subject to sub-article 2, the Parties may engage in fundraising from the public and private sectors to support the activities, projects and programmes to be developed or carried out pursuant to this MOU.
2. Neither Party shall engage in fundraising with third parties in the name of or on behalf of the other, without the prior express written approval of the other Party in each case.

Article 8

Intellectual Property Rights

1. In the event that the Parties foresee that intellectual property that can be protected shall be created in relation to a particular activity, project or programme to be carried out under this MOU, one Party to be agreed on by both shall own the intellectual property, and give the other Party a non-exclusive, non-assignable worldwide license to use the intellectual property or any portion thereof for its official purposes. Intellectual property ownership can alternate between the Parties for different activities, projects or programmes to be carried out under this MOU.

Article 9

Use of Name and Emblem

1. Neither Party shall use the name, emblem or trademarks of the other Party, its subsidiaries and/or affiliates, or any abbreviation thereof, in connection with its business or for public dissemination without the prior expressly written approval of the other Party in each case. In no event shall authorization of the UN or UNEP name or emblem be granted for commercial purposes

2. IUCN acknowledges that it is familiar with the independent, international and impartial status of the UN and UNEP, and recognizes that their names and emblems may not be associated with any political or sectarian cause or otherwise used in a manner inconsistent with the status of the UN and UNEP.
3. The Parties agree to recognize and acknowledge this partnership, as appropriate. To this end, the Parties shall consult with each other concerning the manner and form of such recognition and acknowledgement.

Article 10

United Nations Privileges and Immunities

1. Nothing in or relating to this MOU shall be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, including its subsidiary organs.

Article 11

Confidentiality

1. The handling of information shall be subject to each Party's corporate confidentiality policies.
2. Before disclosing internal documents, or documents that by virtue of their content or the circumstances of their creation or communication must be deemed confidential, of the other Party to third parties, each Party shall obtain the express, written consent of the other Party. However, a Party's disclosure of another Party's internal and/or confidential documents to an entity the disclosing Party controls or with which it is under common control, or to an entity with which it has a confidentiality agreement, shall not be considered a disclosure to a third party, and shall not require prior authorization.
3. For UNEP, a principal or subsidiary organ of the United Nations established in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations shall be deemed to be a legal entity under common control.

Article 12

Responsibility

1. Each Party will be responsible for dealing with any claims or demands arising out of its actions or omissions, and those of its respective personnel, in relation to this MOU.
2. IUCN shall indemnify, hold and save harmless and defend at its own expense, the United Nations and UNEP, their officials, personnel and representatives, from and against all suits, claims, demands and liability of any nature or kind which may arise in relation to this MOU due to any actions or omissions attributable to IUCN.

Article 13

Dispute Settlement

1. The Parties shall use their best efforts to settle amicably any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of this MOU. Where the Parties wish to seek such an amicable settlement through conciliation, the conciliation shall take place in accordance with

the UNCITRAL Conciliation Rules then prevailing, or according to such other procedure as may be agreed between the Parties.

2. Any dispute, controversy or claim between the Parties arising out of this MOU which is not settled amicably in accordance with the foregoing sub-article may be referred by either Party to arbitration under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules then in force. The arbitral tribunal shall have no authority to award punitive damages. The Parties shall be bound by any arbitration award rendered as a result of such arbitration as the final adjudication of any such controversy, claim or dispute.

Article 14 **Notification and Amendments**

1. Each Party shall promptly notify the other in writing of any anticipated or actual material changes that will affect the execution of this MOU.
2. The Parties may amend this MOU by mutual written agreement, which shall be appended to this MOU and become an integral part of it.

Article 15 **Termination**

1. Either Party may terminate this MOU by giving three months' prior written notice to the other Party.
2. Upon termination of this MOU, the rights and obligations of the Parties defined under any other legal instrument executed pursuant to this MOU shall cease to be effective, except as otherwise provided in this MOU.
3. Any termination of the MOU shall be without prejudice to (a) the orderly completion of any ongoing collaborative activity and (b) any other rights and obligations of the Parties accrued prior to the date of termination under this MOU or legal instrument executed pursuant to this MOU.
4. The obligations under Articles 8-13 do not lapse upon expiry, termination of or withdrawal from this MOU.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly authorized representatives of the Parties affix their signatures below.

**For the Coordinating Unit of the
Mediterranean Action Plan/Secretariat of the
Barcelona Convention (UNEP/MAP)**

For IUCN

Name: Elizabeth Mrema

Title: Officer in Charge,
Division of Environmental Policy Implementation
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Date: _____

Name:

Title:

Date: _____

Appendix 1

UNEP/MAP and IUCN have agreed to cooperate under this agreement on the following areas:

1. ECOSYSTEM APPROACH - Species and ecosystems conservation processes, assessments and monitoring

- a. Ecosystem Approach for the Mediterranean - setting of indicators and targets, Integrated Assessment and Monitoring Programme, assessments (Biodiversity section of the State of the Mediterranean Environment biodiversity report), framework programme of measures
- b. ICZM – Integrated Coastal Zone Management and the Marine Spatial Planning and Management;
- c. Ecosystem Red List - its potential role in the Mediterranean;
- d. SPA and Biodiversity Protocol - Annex 2 and 3, process for revision, inclusion and withdraw of species, based on Species Action Plan of the RAC/SPA;
- e. Red List of Species: assessment and reassessment of the conservation status of Mediterranean marine and coastal species;
- f. SAP BIO Strategic Programme to protect the marine and coastal biodiversity – Implementation in harmonization with CBD 2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity;
- g. Mediterranean Atlas of seagrasses – supporting national processes
- h. Non indigenous and invasive species - supporting regional and national processes;
- i. Global initiative on taxonomy - Mediterranean Initiative on taxonomy

2. MPAs AND SPAMIs - Marine protected areas and marine area of ecological interest

- a. Technical, legal and scientific cooperation – utilizing IUCN's technical expertise regarding MPAs beyond national jurisdictions
- b. SPAMI external evaluation – High Quality assessments to ensure maintenance on the list as per Article 9 of the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol and corresponding Decision by Contracting Parties
- c. SPAMI declaration - Position papers on sites and management measures
- d. SPAMI Elaboration of the management plans - based on ecosystem approach and on good practice examples and exchange of experience

- e. Identification of new MPAs -national strategies and Action Plans for MPAs and exploration of new concepts such as MPAs for fisheries (MPA-F) in collaboration with GFCM
- f. Provision of the information needed for inclusion of SPAMIs in the World Database of Protected Areas (WDPA) (and in particular in its web interface Protected Planet)
- g. Advancing knowledge on and disseminating it to Promote Open Seas and Deep Seas Protected Areas in the Mediterranean

3. ECOSYSTEMS GOODS AND SERVICES – Evaluations, studies, pilot programmes and promotion activities to better understand and enhance valuation of Mediterranean ecosystems goods and services

- a. Economics of conservation in particular MPAs, Protected Areas, marine area of ecological interests of conservation and species
- b. Joint socio-economic evaluation with GFCM of the fishing activities carried out in pelagic ecosystems and deep benthic habitats (open seas, including deep seas);
- c. Blue carbon in the Mediterranean – Carbon capture by sea grasses and ocean, financing MPAs, Blue energy
- d. Piloting the ecological transition- e.g. ecotourism, improved conditions for local community, best practices on waste treatment and recycling, reduction of pollution and promotion of sustainable lifestyles and practices

4. GOVERNANCE - Enhancing legal and institutional framework for cooperation in the Mediterranean

- a. Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development – active participation in the process by providing technical support
- b. Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) revision – mainstreaming environment into MSSD;
- c. NGOs capacity building - Strategic support to NGOs to implement decision IG 17/5 on MAP/Civil society cooperation.

Annex III

REVISED LIST OF MAP PARTNERS

The following institutions are accredited as MAP Partners:

- Association for the protection of Nature and Environment (APNEK)
- International Association of Mediterranean Forests (AIFM)
- International Centre of Comparative Environmental Law (CIDCE)
- International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM)
- Mediterranean Centre for the Environment (CME)
- Clean Up Greece
- ECAT-Tirana (ECAT)
- ENDA Maghreb (Environment, Development and Action in the Maghreb)
- Greenpeace International
- Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMEPA)
- Institute of sustainable development and management of natural resources (INARE)
- Institute for the Economic Law of the Sea (INDEMER)
- Mediterranean Protected Areas Network (MedPAN)
- Mediterranean Coastal Foundation (MEDCOAST)
- Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)
- Oceana
- Syrian Environment Protection Society (SEPS)
- Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV)
- Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats (TEMA)
- World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF MEDPO)
- WWF Turkey
- CPIE Bastia Golo Mediterranée
- Friends of the Earth Middle East
- Global Footprint Network
- International Marine Centre (IMC-ONPLUS)
- International Petroleum, Environment Conservation Association (IPIECA)
- Tour du Valat (Research centre for the conservation of Mediterranean wetlands)

The Secretariat has also received four new applications for accreditation from below institutions working in the field of protection of the environment in coastal areas of the Mediterranean which comply with the criteria for accreditation:

- The SGR Interfase Group
- The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies (AIES)
- The Coastal and Marine Union (EUCC) Mediterranean Center
- Mediterranean Programme for International Environmental Law and Negotiation (MEPIELAN)

Draft Decision IG.21/15

Financial Regulations and Rules and Procedures for the Contracting Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Secretariat of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean

The 18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties,

Recalling Decision IG.20/14 on MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the 2012-2013 biennium (Annex III, UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG 20/8), wherein the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (“the Convention”) requested the Secretariat of the Convention, in consultation with the United Nations Office at Nairobi, to develop for consideration by the 18th meeting of the Contracting Parties, financial rules for the Barcelona Convention as foreseen in Article 24.2 and proposals of reforming the budget presentation, explanation and decision making process, taking into account best practice in budget preparation and adoption by other UNEP administered Multilateral Environment Agreements (“MEAs”),

Recognizing that in accordance with Article 17 of the Barcelona Convention, “the Contracting Parties designate the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as responsible for carrying out (its) Secretariat functions”; and acknowledging that UNEP provides the Secretariat functions through a Convention Secretariat,

Further recognizing that as a United Nations (UN) entity, the managerial and administrative services UNEP provides are governed by the UN Financial Regulations adopted by the General Assembly and the Financial Rules promulgated by the UN Secretary General,

Recalling Article 24.2 of the Convention, and acknowledging that the only financial provisions adopted by the Contracting Parties to date are the Terms of Reference (TORs) of the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) in 1984, these TORs define specificities of financial operations of the Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP and specific requirements by the Parties, and supplement the UN/UNEP Financial Regulations and Rules,

Recognizing the need to update and to expand the TORs of the MTF, to adopt UN/UNEP Financial Regulations and Rules and approve specific procedures for the other Trust Funds managed by the Secretariat for the Convention,

Recognizing also that other UNEP administered MEAs have adopted specific financial procedures which apply to their respective Conventions, subsidiary bodies and secretariat,

Taking into account that in order to meet the request of the Parties as stated above, UNEP, has conducted a comprehensive review of key documents and decisions as well as consultations with the United Nations Offices at Nairobi (UNON) and the Bureau of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention during their 76th and 77th Meetings in 2013. These consultations have resulted in the attached Annex 1.

Further recognizing that the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention accept that the UN/UNEP Financial Regulations and Rules, supplemented by the procedures cited herein, constitute the MAP Financial Rules and Procedures, in so far as they have entrusted to UNEP the administration and management of the Barcelona Convention,

Recognizing that the Convention, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention Secretariat would benefit from having the UN/UNEP Financial Regulations and Rules supplemented with

additional procedures specific to the resources managed by UNEP for the Barcelona Convention, which would reflect the needs and criteria of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, as long as they are consistent with UN/UNEP Financial Regulations and Rules,

Bearing in mind that the provisions under these Financial Rules and Procedures have been constructed within a broader discussion regarding the relationship between UNEP and MEAs for which it provides the Secretariat or secretariat functions, and that the application of the Financial Rules and Procedures should evolve in line with the decisions on the matter by the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA),

Decides to:

Establish the Financial Rules and Procedures to the Barcelona Convention, which will supplement the UN/UNEP Financial Regulations and Rules, in order to:

- a. provide clear, specific guidelines for handling all the funds entrusted to the Barcelona Convention Secretariat, update the TORs of the MTF and incorporate in a single document, financial provisions made previously, which currently appear in various documents and may be difficult to grasp in a comprehensive manner;
- b. help Contracting Parties easily understand the applicable UN/UNEP Financial Regulations and Rules;
- c. make additional provisions to reflect the uniqueness of the Barcelona Convention;
- d. clearly spell out the financial responsibilities and obligations of UNEP as the Secretariat to the Barcelona Convention as well as those of the Parties;

Adopt, pursuant to Article 24.2 of the Barcelona Convention and taking into account the Decision IG.20/14, Annex III, UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG 20/8, the UN/UNEP Financial Regulations and Rules and the specific procedures for the operation of the Convention, its Protocols and its subsidiary bodies as well as for the operation of the Convention Secretariat, which are appended to this Decision;

Review these Rules and Procedures at COP 19 in 2015, and, if necessary, amend the procedures in accordance with any decision of the UNEA on the relationship between UNEP and the MEAs for which it provides the Secretariat or secretariat functions.

Annex 1

Financial Rules and Procedures for the funds of the Barcelona Convention

Scope

The Financial Regulations, Rules and Procedures of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) are the Financial Regulations and Rules of the UN and the Financial Rules of UNEP as supplemented by the additional procedures established below.

These Procedures shall govern the financial administration of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, its Protocols and its subsidiary bodies and the Convention Secretariat.

Financial period

Procedure 1

The financial period shall be for one calendar year from 1st January to 31st December. The biennial programme of work and budget of the Barcelona Convention shall consist of two consecutive calendar years, the first of which shall be an even year¹.

Budget

Procedure 2

1. The Coordinator of the Secretariat to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (hereinafter referred to as the Coordinator) shall prepare the budget estimates for the following biennium in Euro and US Dollars showing projected income and expenditures for each year of the biennium concerned. The budget should be presented in a programmatic format harmonized to the extent appropriate with those used by UNEP. The Coordinator, after consultation with, and clearance by the Executive Director of UNEP, shall dispatch the draft budget to all Parties one month before the last meeting of the National Focal Points before the COP for their consideration. Thereafter the Coordinator shall dispatch the revised estimates, as well as the actual income and expenditure for each year of the previous biennium, to all parties to the Convention at least 2 months before the opening of the meeting of the Contracting Parties at which the budget is to be adopted.

2. As per UN Financial Regulation 6.3², the base currency of the United Nations is the US dollar. Appropriations, allocations, revenue and expenses are managed, maintained and audited in UNEP's accounts, and reflected in UNEP's financial statements, in US dollars. Losses/gains on exchange may be charged/credited to the working capital reserve. Notwithstanding this provision, in accordance with decision UNEP(DEC)MED IG.13/8 adopted by the Eleventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Monaco) in 2001, the Conference of Parties shall decide on the budget in Euros.

¹ The financial period pertains to accounting and auditing, while the budget shall be available for expenditure during the whole biennium

² 2ST/SGB/2003/7, as may be amended.

3. The Coordinator shall provide the Conference of the Parties with cost estimates for actions that have budgetary implications that are not foreseen in the draft programme of work but are included in proposed draft decisions prior to the adoption of those decisions by the Parties.
4. The Contracting Parties shall, prior to the commencement of the financial period that the budget covers, consider the budget estimates and adopt an operational budget by consensus entrusting UNEP to certify and authorize expenditures, other than those referred to in procedure 4, paragraphs 3 and 4 below.
5. Adoption of the operational budget by the Contracting Parties shall constitute the basis for UNEP to issue allotments and to incur commitments and make payments for the purposes for which the appropriations were approved, provided always that, unless specifically authorized by the Executive Director, commitments shall be covered by related income.
6. UNEP may upon proposal from the Coordinator make budget transfers within each of the main appropriation lines of the approved operational budget. The Co-ordinator may also approve transfers between such appropriation lines within criteria set by the CoPs.

Funds

Procedure 3

1. A Trust Fund for the Barcelona Convention has been established by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and approved by the governing body of UNEP. The fund is to provide financial support for the work of the Convention Secretariat. Contributions made pursuant to procedure 4, paragraph 1 (a) below, shall be credited to this fund. The denomination of this fund is MEL.
2. A Trust Fund to receive discretionary contribution to complement the support for the work of the Convention Secretariat has been established by the Executive Director of UNEP and approved by the governing body of UNEP. This fund shall receive contributions pursuant to procedure 4, paragraphs 1 (b) below. The denomination of this fund is QML.
3. The combination of the two funds MEL and QML is referred to as Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) within the context of the Mediterranean Action Plan.
4. Within the MEL there shall be maintained a working capital reserve. The purpose of the working capital reserve shall be to ensure continuity of operations in the event of a temporary shortfall of cash as well as to provide for potential losses on exchange. Drawdowns from the working capital reserve may be authorized by the Executive Director and shall be replenished from contributions, or gains on exchange, as soon as possible. The level of the working capital reserve shall be determined by the Conference of the Parties by consensus, bearing in mind the desirability of bringing its level to the recommended UN rate of 15% of the average annual budget for the biennium, inclusive of programme support costs, as rapidly as possible.
5. Contributions by the Government hosting the Convention Secretariat to offset operational budget expenditures of the Coordinating Unit and contributions made by the United Nations Environment Programme pursuant to Procedure 4.1 shall be credited to a dedicated fund. The denomination of this fund is CAL.
6. A Trust Fund to receive voluntary contributions in support to activities as defined in the Programme of Work approved by the Contracting Parties has been established by the Executing Director of UNEP and approved by the Governing Body of UNEP. This fund shall

receive contributions pursuant to procedure 4, paragraph 1 (c). The denomination of this fund is "XXX".

7. All budget expenditures that are made pursuant to Procedure 2.5 shall be charged to the MEL, QML and CAL funds.

8. Subject to the request of the Contracting Parties, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme may establish other trust funds and will seek the approval of the Environment Assembly of UNEP.

9. In the event that the Contracting Parties wish to terminate a trust fund established pursuant to the present procedures, they shall so advise the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme at least six months before the date of termination so decided. The Contracting Parties shall decide, in consultation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, on the distribution of any uncommitted balances after all liquidation expenses have been met. Any such termination of a trust fund shall be in accordance with UN/UNEP Regulations, Rules, Procedures and standard business practice.

Contributions

Procedure 4

1. The resources of the Contracting Parties shall comprise:

(a) Contributions made each year by parties on the basis of an assessed scale adopted by consensus by the Contracting Parties and based on such a scale of assessments of the United Nations as may be adopted from time to time by the General Assembly;

(b) Discretionary Contributions made each year by parties in addition to those made pursuant to paragraph (a);

(c) Voluntary Contributions from States parties to the Convention, as well as other governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other sources;

(d) The Executive Director of UNEP may also allot funds to the Mediterranean Coordinating Unit;

(e) Miscellaneous revenue.

2. In respect of contributions made pursuant to procedure 4, paragraph 1 (a) above:

(a) The Executive Director of UNEP, through the Coordinator shall inform the Contracting Parties of their contributions in Euro under the agreed scale;

(b) Contributions for each calendar year are expected within the first quarter of that year and should be paid promptly and in full. Parties should be notified of the amount of their contributions for a given year by 15 October of the previous year;

(c) Each Party shall, as far in advance as possible of the date due for the contribution, inform the Coordinator of the projected timing of its contribution;

- (d) If contributions of any parties have not been received by the first quarter of the relevant year, the Coordinator shall write to those parties to impress upon them the importance of paying their respective contributions for the year as well as arrears for prior periods, if any, and to remind them of the loss of their voting rights at any meeting of the Contracting Parties pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure of the Barcelona Convention, and shall report to the Bureau and to the Contracting Parties at their next meetings on the consultations with such parties;
- (e) The Coordinator shall propose to any Party whose contributions are in arrears for two or more years, a payment schedule to enable such a Party to clear all outstanding arrears within a maximum of six years, depending on the financial circumstances of the Party, and to pay future contributions by their due dates. The Coordinator shall report to the Bureau and to the Contracting Parties at their next meetings on progress under any such schedule;
- (f) With regard to contributions due from 1 January 2014 onwards any party whose contributions are in arrears for two or more years shall not be eligible to become a member of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties or any of its subsidiary bodies. This provision shall not apply to Parties that have agreed on and are respecting a schedule of payments implemented in accordance with paragraph (e) above;
3. Discretionary and voluntary contributions made pursuant to procedure 4, paragraphs 1 (b) and (c), shall be used in accordance with such terms and conditions, consistent with the objectives of the Convention and the Financial Regulations, Rules, Policies and Procedures of the United Nations Environment Programme, as may be agreed between the Executive Director and the respective contributors.
4. All contributions shall be paid in Euro, or in another convertible currency and credited to an official UNEP bank account, the details of which are to be provided by the Executive Director. This bank account is to be managed in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.
5. UNEP shall acknowledge promptly the receipt of all pledges and contributions and the Coordinator shall publish on the Convention website up to date information on the status of pledges and payments of contributions.
6. Contributions not immediately required shall be invested in accordance with procedures of the UN's Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts on behalf of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme. The resulting income or losses shall be applied to the relevant Trust Fund in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

Accounts and audit

Procedure 5

1. The accounts and financial management of all funds governed by the present procedures shall be subject exclusively to the internal and external audit process of the United Nations.
2. A statement of accounts for the financial period shall be provided to the Contracting Parties as soon as possible after the accounts for the financial period are closed and audited. This statement of accounts shall be an extract from the audited financial statements of UNEP.

3. The Contracting Parties shall be informed of any remarks in the reports of the United Nations Board of Auditors on financial statements of the United Nations Environment Programme that are relevant to the Barcelona Convention.

Administrative support

Procedure 6

The Contracting Parties shall reimburse UNEP for the support services provided to the Contracting Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention Secretariat from the expenditures incurred based on the funds referred to in procedure 3 above. This practice is in accordance with the general policy and business practice of the United Nations and applicable agreements between UNEP and donors.

Public Disclosure

Procedure 7

All approved programme of work and budget documents, financial statements and audit reports concerning the Mediterranean Plan of Action (MAP) shall be made publicly accessible and posted on the MAP website.

Amendments

Procedure 8

Any amendment to the present document shall be adopted by the Contracting Parties by consensus.

Entry into Effect

Procedure 9

These Financial Rules and Procedures, as agreed by the Executive Director of UNEP and adopted by the Contracting Parties, shall be effective from 1 January 2014.