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Meeting of PAP/RAC National Focal Points

Athens, Greece, 6-7 May 2025

**Report of the Meeting**

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UNEP/MAP PAP/RAC  
Split, 2025

## REPORT of the Meeting of PAP/RAC Focal Points 6-7 May 2025

### Venue, participation and objectives

1. The PAP/RAC Focal Points (FPs) meeting was held in Athens, Greece, on 6-7 May 2025. Representatives of the following 17 Contracting Parties (CPs) attended the meeting: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Türkiye and Tunisia, with online participation of the Israeli representative. In addition, the UNEP/MAP Coordination Unit and the CC/RAC representatives attended the meeting. A complete list of participants is attached as Annexe I of this Report.
2. The main objective of the meeting was to present and discuss the status of the implementation of PAP/RAC activities in the current biennium and to get the first feedback on the proposal of the PAP/RAC work plan for 2026-2027.

### Agenda 1: Opening of the meeting

3. Ms. Daria Povh Škugor, PAP/RAC Director, welcomed the participants and expressed appreciation for their attendance, with a special acknowledgement to those joining the meeting for the first time. She introduced herself as the newly appointed Director of PAP/RAC, highlighting her longstanding dedication to the PAP/RAC and UNEP/MAP's mission and objectives. She emphasised the vital role of the network of national focal points, describing them as the backbone of the UNEP MAP system's shared efforts. She then outlined the objectives of the meeting and invited the representative of UNEP/MAP to take the floor.

Ms. Tatjana Hema greeted the participants on behalf of the UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit and congratulated PAP/RAC for organising this important meeting. She congratulated Daria Povh Škugor for her nomination as PAP/RAC Director, following Željka Škaricic, former Director, who significantly contributed to the UNEP MAP system for numerous years. She highlighted the importance of this meeting as an essential element on the path towards CoP 24 in December 2025. She highlighted several major topics UNEP/MAP is currently involved with and will trace the path of MAP in the future such as the revised (Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD), Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework (RCCAF), and revised ecosystem approach (EcAp) roadmap and Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP). Also, she highlighted the important role of the Working Group for MSP, established following the MSP Decision, based on which the TOR is being prepared, as well as a document indicating the MSP direction of MAP in the upcoming period.

4. Appreciating the UNEP/MAP representative's information, the PAP/RAC Director provided technical information about the meeting, introduced the Rules of Procedure and suggested the Bureau members.
5. The following Bureau members were unanimously elected:
  - Chair: Ms. Heba Sharawy, Egypt
  - Vice-chair: Mr. Adel Yacoub, Lebanon
  - Vice-chair: Ms. Emmanuelle Thiesse, France

- Rapporteur: Ms. Yiota Lazarou, Cyprus

6. The Chair introduced the meeting agenda, which the participants unanimously adopted. The agenda is enclosed in Annexe II of this report.

## **Agenda item 2: Progress Report for the period 2024-2025**

7. The Director of PAP/RAC presented the Centre's Progress for the biennium 2024-2025, emphasising that all implemented activities were aligned with the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027, the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) for 2024-2025, and the Action Plan of the Common Regional Framework (CRF) for ICZM (2020-2027) adopted at COP 21 (Naples, Italy, December 2019). She provided a thematic overview of the main activities and achievements, structured around five PoW themes (3) Climate resilient Mediterranean, (4) Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine resources, (5) Governance, (6) Shared Vision and (7) Advocacy, Awareness, Education & Communication.

Under Theme 3, the Director reported completing the GEF SCCF project and launching activities under the EU Horizon 2020 DesirMed project. Several follow-up actions were undertaken within the framework of the PAP/RAC's Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) initiative.

For theme 4, she presented activities implemented under GEF MedProgramme CP 2.1 and MTF financing. These included Coastal plans in Montenegro and Morocco; a National Strategy for Lebanon and the Integrated Management Plan for Damour river; finalisation of the Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) in Israel and preparatory activities for CAMP Malta and CAMP Türkiye, and governance-enhancing initiatives in Tunisia. Additionally, several actions were undertaken in Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), such as assisting Contracting Parties (CPs) in implementing MSP; creating a community of practice, delivering training and implementing the MSP4BIO project under Horizon 2020. She announced that the Guidelines for Coastal plans are currently under development and informed the meeting about PAP/RAC's contribution to the ongoing revision of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) and the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework (RCCAF). She concluded this section by reporting on the integration of transboundary EIA/SEA into the Barcelona Convention framework.

Under Theme 5, the Director provided updates on the recommendations related to the coastal legislation, advancements related to the Inter-Ministerial Coordination, and the new EcAp MEP PLUS project. She also mentioned several capacity-building efforts, including the MedOpen virtual training course on ICZM, the MSP Workspace, PAP/RAC's contribution to the Syrian Virtual University, and participation in a new Erasmus+ project.

In the context of Theme 6, she highlighted activities supporting the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) and its associated CORMONs, including the GEF-funded methodological update for the Candidate Common Indicator on land cover change and the completion of seven baseline assessments. She also shared the contribution of the Regional Centre for Remote Sensing of North African States – the first assessment of coastal zones for 9 Arab countries.

Under Theme 7, she reported on the celebration of the 2024 Mediterranean Coast Day in Algeria and online. Finally, she acknowledged the active participation of PAP/RAC staff in numerous international conferences, workshops and webinars, where they contributed as speakers, lecturers and experts on topics related to integrated coastal management, marine spatial planning and adaptation of our coasts

to the impacts of climate change. A more detailed overview of PAP/RAC's activities and achievements is available in the accompanying PowerPoint presentation and the Progress Report.

8. Several FPs took the floor to congratulate PAP/RAC for the work done and results achieved in this biennium, as well as Daria Povh Skugor for her new function of Director. They emphasised how resilient PAP/RAC was and expressed their satisfaction in working with such an efficient Centre. It was proposed to include the Executive Summary and the Contents in the Progress Report.

### Agenda item 3: Presentation of the main activities

9. The presentation by Marko Prem, Deputy Director PAP/RAC, focused on implementing the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) and its contribution to the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) Coordination Group. He highlighted key environmental objectives (EO7 and EO8) and indicators related to hydrography, coastline, and land cover change. As the main conclusions of the EcAp Coordination Group, some minor changes in indicator titles, proposals for climate-related indicators, and interaction between EcAp governance bodies have been presented. Proposals for the climate - related new indicators include for EO7: Large-scale changes in circulation patterns, wave height, temperature, pH, salinity distribution, and long-term sea level changes; and for the coastal ecosystems and landscapes (EO8) the following three new indicators are proposed namely, restoration of degraded coastal wetlands, extent and frequency of coastal flooding, and changes in burnt forest areas. He finally thanked all the countries that participated in the status report. The meeting took note of the interaction and responsibilities involved in clarifying roles between EcAp governance bodies, Component/Thematic Focal Points, MAP Focal Points, and CoP. In conclusion, he invited PAP/RAC NFPs to nominate participants to the CORMON coast and hydrography meeting on 15-16 July 2025 in Rome.
10. Ms. Daria Povh Škugor, PAP/RAC Director, presented the GEF MedProgramme Child Project 2.1 and the SCCF projects as two of the eight Child Projects of GEF MedProgramme. She gave an overview of PAP/RAC's activities, namely: activities related to the support of the ratification/implementation of the ICZM Protocol; an update of the methodology for the candidate Common Indicator 25 (CCI 25) with the addition of the elevation layer; the status of the national assessments on land cover change (in 7 countries of the Programme); recommendations for coastal legislation inspired by the results of the analysis of the coastal legislation in 5 project countries; national strategy of Lebanon; coastal management plans in Montenegro and Morocco; integrated management plan of the Damour river basin in Lebanon; vulnerability assessments in Algeria; training events (MedOpen); and awareness-raising events (covering three Mediterranean Coast Day events). She announced the Mediterranean Coast Day event in 2025 with a special theme on the importance of institutions. She invited representatives of the relevant Ministries and Agencies to join PAP/RAC in building awareness on the essential role of institutions in achieving the resilience and sustainability of our coasts.
11. The Coastal Plan for the Boka Kotorska Bay was presented by Ms. Đurđina Bulatović, from the Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism. The Coastal Management Plan for Boka Kotorska Bay was developed under the GEF MedProgramme's Child Project 2.1 and its SCCF climate adaptation component. Building upon its ratification of the Barcelona Convention (2007) and ICZM Protocol (2012), Montenegro adopted a National ICZM Strategy in 2015. The Boka Kotorska Bay plan addresses the

area's high vulnerability to coastal flooding, extreme weather, and pressures from high population density. A participatory methodology, Climagine—developed by Plan Bleu RAC—was applied through four stakeholder workshops engaging local municipalities (Kotor, Tivat, Herceg Novi) and focusing on priority themes such as spatial planning, water and waste management, sustainable tourism, and marine protection. The process included extensive diagnostics, stakeholder analysis, and iterative development of recommendations, with final draft consultations held throughout 2023–2024. Importantly, all three municipalities agreed to cooperate on implementing the plan. The draft was presented to the National Working Group on ICZM in July 2024, followed by a final conference in December 2024. Next steps include formal endorsement by the National Committee for Sustainable Development and integration into national and local spatial planning frameworks. The short video on the Coastal Management Plan for Boka Kotorska Bay has been shown to the participants.

12. The Albanian representative shortly presented relevant activities in Albania. Albania has recently adopted Law 15/2024 on Marine Environment Protection, partially transposing the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), and is now focused on developing the necessary structures and methodologies for implementation. The country currently lacks a fully operational marine monitoring programme and Maritime Spatial Plan (MSP). However, Albania is undertaking the first steps to initiate the MSP process. Also, it is requesting support from PAP/RAC to develop an overall MSP strategy. This includes capacity building at national and local levels and support for integrating MSP into the blue economy strategies. Also, it would be important to have pilot initiatives, particularly in strategic coastal areas like Vlora Bay, the Vjosa Delta, or along the Ionian coast. Finally, Albania sees the MSP WG, coordinated by PAP/RAC, as a valuable framework for accelerating MSP efforts in the Western Balkans. Albania is ready to engage, learn, and contribute.
  
13. Ms. Malika El Bayoudi from the Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development presented the Regional Coastal Scheme (SRL) project for the Tanger-Tetouan-Al Hoceima (TTA) region — a regulatory planning instrument established under Law 81-12 on the coastline. Designed with a 20-year horizon, the SRL adopts an integrated and participatory approach to ensure the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources. Its main objectives are to identify regional potentials and challenges, establish a shared strategic vision, address gaps in existing plans, and implement coordination mechanisms supported by monitoring and reporting systems. The SRL integrates climate change considerations and applies the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) approach to balance conservation, development, and sustainable coastal use. The planning process includes detailed spatial delimitation, regulatory zoning, and comprehensive diagnostics covering natural and cultural resources, demographic trends, infrastructure, economic sectors, and environmental pressures. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) were extensively used to support the analysis. The methodology involved stakeholder consultation through the Climagine process and a DPSIR (Drivers, Pressures, State, Impact, Responses) framework. Operational objectives and priority projects focus on ecosystem protection, land-use regulation, and sustainable valorization, supported by governance, awareness-raising, and research components. Although the SRL document is comprehensive, Morocco has requested additional financial support to address remaining gaps and fully align with national legal requirements for coastal planning.

14. The National ICZM Strategy for Lebanon and the Integrated Management Plan for Damour were presented by Mr. Adel Yacoub, PAP/RAC NFP, representative of the Ministry of Environment of Lebanon, both activities implemented under the GEF MedProgramme's Child Project 2.1. Lebanon's coastal zone, representing only 8% of the country's area yet hosting over half of the population and industrial activity, faces acute environmental degradation, regulatory fragmentation, and governance challenges. The government ratified the ICZM Protocol in 2017 and has since worked to align legal and institutional frameworks with its principles. The current initiative focuses on updating the 2015 National ICZM Strategy and drafting the ICZM Law, with progress including completing a diagnostic analysis, stakeholder interviews, and the first drafts of the strategy and law updates. An interdisciplinary team is leading this process, emphasising climate resilience, spatial planning, biodiversity protection, and participatory governance. A dedicated coastal platform (<https://lebanoncp.com/>) supports transparency and data sharing. The parallel development of the Damour IMP integrates water resource management and stakeholder input, with a joint workshop scheduled in July 2025. The finalisation of the strategy and law is expected by Q3 2025, with associated workshops planned. Despite significant national constraints, Lebanon's effort illustrates a structured, multi-layered approach to coastal governance.
  
15. The Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) for Israel was presented online by the Israeli FP, Ms. Yehudit Moseri, due to health reasons, which stopped her from attending the meeting at the last moment. The CAMP is implemented in cooperation with PAP/RAC and the Ministry of Environmental Protection. The initiative, launched following a 2021 agreement, covers the full length of the Israeli coastline and engages all 21 coastal authorities. Its overarching objective is to establish mechanisms and build capacity for implementing ICZM at the local level. A range of national policies supports the effort, including a National Outline Plan for the coastal zone and a Marine Spatial Policy. Key components include a comprehensive ICZM capacity-building course, the development of a practical planning and management guide based on ICZM principles, and tools to address climate change. The programme introduced a climate adaptation workshop series and published a dedicated booklet with recommendations for both local and national authorities. Notably, a national contest on sustainable beach amenities fostered innovation aligned with coastal resilience goals. Further actions addressed sustainable tourism, including guidelines for marine sports and lighting design in coastal areas. Additionally, Israel contributed to the regional effort to monitor land cover change using the CCI25 indicator. The CAMP Israel experience demonstrates a multi-level, stakeholder-inclusive approach with replicable ICZM capacity development and implementation models.
  
16. Ms. Michelle Borg, PAP/RAC FP for Malta from the Planning Authority, presented the preparatory activities for the CAMP Malta. Following Malta's formal request for assistance during COP 23 in Portorož (2023), and its inclusion in the meeting's decision, preliminary activities commenced in 2024 with coordination between PAP/RAC and national stakeholders. The National Focal Point (NFP) consulted with key government entities, including the Planning Authority, the Ministry for Gozo and Planning, the Environment and Resources Authority, and the Ministry for Environment, Energy and Cleansing. A public call for tenders in June 2024 resulted in selecting AIS Environment to develop the draft Feasibility Study. Extensive communication between the consultants, NFP, and national authorities was undertaken to align project objectives and address identified challenges. The study links CAMP Malta's scope with the country's escalating coastal pressures, driven by a 20% population increase over the last decade and record tourism arrivals exceeding 3.6 million in 2024. Climate change risks and imbalances in coastal access and use were also highlighted. The finalisation of the Feasibility

Study is expected in 2025, with project objectives, activities, and budget to be submitted for approval via the UNEP/MAP system at COP 25. Implementation is planned for 2026–2027.

17. Mr. Emrah Söylemez, National Focal Point from Türkiye, presented the CAMP İzmir Project Feasibility Study. He first introduced the pre-CAMP activities, namely the Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) training. He continued presenting the project area (i.e. the Izmir Province), rationale and objectives, and the main issues and challenges. Among the proposed activities and expected outcomes he introduced the following: Marine and Land-Use Conflicts: Spatial zoning, GIS-based conflict resolution; Climate Adaptation and Resilience: Identifying vulnerable zones, restoring natural barriers, vulnerability assessment, adaptation strategies; Public Awareness and Community Engagement: Education programs, capacity building; Monitoring and Evaluation: Indicator-based monitoring, GIS and remote sensing tools; and establishment of the stakeholders and governance mechanism. He concluded with the timeline that envisages the signing of the CAMP Agreement in early 2026 and its implementation during 2026-2027.
18. Proposals for the governance framework in Tunisia were presented by Ms. Raja Abdelmalek, representative of the APAL from Tunisia, aiming to establish a national coordination mechanism for the implementation of ICZM, aligning with its 2020–2025 national ICZM strategy. With 70% of the population, 76% of tourism, and 87% of industrial activity concentrated along the coast, the need for an integrated, multi-sectoral governance framework is critical. The strategy's four axes focus on legal development (notably, Tunisia ratified the ICZM Protocol in November 2022), governance platform establishment, capacity building, and monitoring mechanisms. Comparative analysis with other ICZM Protocol signatories informed the institutional design. Two main options were proposed: (1) a subcommittee under the existing National Commission for Sustainable Development (CNDD), and (2) a newly established high-level ICZM authority under the Presidency. The preferred option is the creation of a “National ICZM Committee” within the CNDD, with broadened membership beyond ministries to include local authorities, national agencies, and civil society. A consultative council is also proposed to support coordination, knowledge exchange, and progress tracking. This structure aims to enhance intersectoral integration, foster ecosystem-based planning, and improve land-sea interaction management. The proposal reflects a strategic, participatory, and legally grounded approach to institutionalising ICZM in Tunisia.
19. The legal and governance frameworks for ICZM in France were presented by Ms. Emmanuelle Thiesse, from the Directorate-General for Spatial Planning, Housing and Nature (France). She outlined the evolution of the legal and governance framework for ICZM, emphasizing the shift from policy to practical implementation. Following the 2021 Climate and Resilience Law, the country has strengthened its strategic and legal tools, such as national and local coastal retreat maps, the update of the national strategy for integrated coastal zone management, and a “toolbox” of legal, planning, and financial instruments to support spatial reconfiguration. The French coastline, characterized by a diversity of coastal types and significant socio-economic pressures, is increasingly exposed to risks such as erosion, sea-level rise, and overdevelopment. The revised national strategy for coastal zone management (2025–2030), which is expected to be adopted by decree in summer 2025, sets out five strategic priorities: Deepening and sharing knowledge, engaging territories in an adaptation pathway, mobilizing adaptation tools, involving and raising awareness among stakeholders, financing coastal adaptation. France promotes participatory governance and nature-based solutions through

mechanisms such as the national shoreline observatories network, project-based partnerships, and locally adapted coastal strategies tailored to regional and local contexts. The *Basse Vallée de la Saône 2050* project in Normandy illustrates integrated planning by combining ecological restoration, infrastructure relocation, and stakeholder engagement. This approach highlights spatial adaptation as a response to climate challenges and underscores the importance of local leadership, coordinated financing, and legal innovation for resilient coastal management.

20. Mr. Marko Prem, Deputy Director and Ms. Marina Marković, Senior Programme Officer at PAP/RAC, presented the integration of TB EIA/SEA within the Barcelona Convention (BC) framework. They highlighted the importance of environmental assessments for protection and outlined PAP/RAC's activities related to this topic, including drafting guidelines, conducting feasibility studies, preparation of the legal study and in particular conclusions from the regional consultation meeting (6 February 2025), i.e. a two-step approach involving guidelines preparation and potential legally binding instruments. Strengthening CPs' capacities in dealing with such assessments was underlined, including, among other activities, to enhance capacity in synergy with global and regional mechanisms, involving national experts and authorities, information sharing, training programs, regional events, knowledge sharing portals and pilot assessments.
21. The meeting congratulated PAP/RAC on these studies and the implemented process. Countries mentioned they were willing to build capacity in this field, but nothing should be legally binding. The Italian Focal Point expressed gratitude and satisfaction with the outcomes of this activity, which they consider highly important and are supporting through financial contributions. He emphasised the significance of these processes and tools, highlighting their fundamental role in supporting other key frameworks, such as Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). The Libyan Focal Point highlighted the complex technical challenges encountered while attempting to follow the ESPOO procedure. He therefore emphasised the critical importance of capacity-building support to ensure effective implementation. The Israeli Focal Point stressed that, in the absence of specific SEA legislation in Israel, it is essential to maintain the non-binding nature of the activity. She underlined the importance of capacity building and exchanging experiences among countries.
22. Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) related activities were presented by Ms. Marina Marković, PAP/RAC Senior Programme Officer. She provided an overview of recent regional developments in MSP under the Barcelona Convention framework, following the adoption of Decision IG.26/10 at the 23rd Meeting of the Contracting Parties (2023). This decision endorsed a Conceptual Framework for MSP in the Mediterranean and called for its implementation through a dedicated MSP workspace, capacity-building efforts, and a regional MSP Working Group (WG). Following its adoption, the group was convened, comprising national representatives with technical expertise. Four meetings have been convened to date—two in person and two online—with the initial sessions contributing directly to the MSSD update and the latest focusing on a position paper for advancing MSP in the framework of the Barcelona Convention as well as terms of reference for the WG. The position paper outlines the current MSP landscape, including the achievements, challenges and gaps, highlights regional mechanisms (e.g. WestMED, UfM, EUSAIR), and identifies governance and practical implementation priorities. Recommendations include strengthening regional dialogue, capacity building, advancing tools and methodologies, information sharing, supporting national MSP processes, and implementing pilot activities. The presentation also highlighted the relevant regional projects addressing mainstreaming



biodiversity and climate goals into MSP and supporting a sustainable blue economy through MSP. National activities in Albania and Türkiye were also referenced, showcasing how regional and national efforts are increasingly aligned to advance sustainable blue economy and ecosystem-based marine planning and management. She concluded her presentation by soliciting PAP/RAC focal points to assist MAP in nominating pending representatives for the MSP group.

23. Awareness Raising Activities implemented under the Mediterranean Coast Day campaign were presented by Ms. Veronique Evers, PAP/RAC Programme Officer. She reminded the meeting that there were two components to the celebration: the first one being the live event, which this year will be organised in Tunisia, and the second being the online campaign, to which all countries are invited to contribute to promote their Ministries and institutions in charge of coastal management. For this purpose, PAP/RAC will send a questionnaire to the focal points. Based on the inputs that will be provided, short texts will be elaborated by the communication team.
24. Following the presentation of Mrs Evers, Mrs Raja Abdelmalek, Tunisian representative, confirmed that Tunisia was happy to organise the event this year. At this occasion, the preliminary results of an MSP pilot activity starting in May 2025 in the island of Djerba with a local NGO would be presented. She told the meeting that Coast Day was only one of the numerous activities the country was implementing this year. A pilot project will be launched in the Sagia coastal region to conduct a participatory assessment of the area, including zoning of vulnerable zones and maritime uses. It will involve experts, a local NGO, and community members through workshops and school educational activities. A seagrass restoration action may also be undertaken. Also, a strategic effort will be initiated to define the main directions of the ICZM Strategy for 2026–2030. This will include an evaluation of the current strategy, the integration of MSP consideration in the ICZM Strategy, an update of the stakeholder analysis, and the proposal of an integrated governance model. The Tunisian representative also asked PAP/RAC to support elaborating a new ICZM strategy for 2026 – 2030.
25. In the discussion that followed, a question was raised on the procedure for the nomination of the International Coast Day. Mr. Mavroeidis explained that the process is complex, but a decision should first be taken at the COP level, and then one country should take the lead and propose it at the UN assembly. Drawing a relevant conclusion from this meeting related to Coast Day was proposed. Another clarification was asked on the definition of 'institution' as this year's Coast Day topic. Ms. Evers provided clarification that, in addition to the ministries and national level administration, NGOs and other institutions (academia, research, etc), which contribute significantly to coastal zone management, can be involved.
26. Ms. Veronique Evers introduced capacity-building activities. She outlined PAP/RAC's strategic approach to capacity building as an essential contribution to the sustainable management of coastal zones in the Mediterranean. Given the increasing complexity of tools such as ICZM, Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), and IMAP indicators, PAP/RAC has expanded its training offer, combining online courses (notably via the MedOpen platform) with in-person and hybrid formats tailored to national needs. Specialised courses, including recent ones on MSP and the CCI 25 indicator, have already trained numerous experts. The initiative also includes collaboration with academic institutions, such as the Virtual University of Syria, and national workshops in countries like Lebanon, Montenegro, and Tunisia.

The dual objective is to harmonise regional practices and strengthen local expertise, building more resilient and inclusive coastal governance across the Mediterranean.

27. A question was raised in the discussion related to the formal recognition of the MedOpen course for the students. Ms. Evers explained that PAP/RAC has signed MoUs with two universities (Morocco and Algeria), where the course is recognised as official.
28. The conference on Nature-based Solutions for Coastal Protection and Resilience was presented by Ms. Yiota Lazarou, PAP/RAC FP from the Republic of Cyprus. She said that the preparation of this capacity-building event was inspired by the "Workshop on the draft Guidelines on NbS for adaptation to climate change in different coastal typologies" organised by PAP/RAC in Rome, Italy, in March 2024. She stated that her country is currently focused on hard infrastructure for coastal protection and the need for soft measures that could stop the destruction of valuable coastal areas. The conference's objectives were to inform stakeholders about the importance of NbS for coastal protection and resilience and to emphasise the implementation of the ICZM Protocol, which has not yet been ratified in Cyprus, but efforts are being made towards ratification. The conference was organised through the Pandoteira project. Among the main keynote speeches, she mentioned presentations on the ICZM Protocol, guidelines on NbS, examples of coastal adaptation measures, and challenges for Cyprus' coastal infrastructure. There was very positive feedback from the participants, but she regretted that coastal municipalities had not attended this event. She informed the meeting that the NbS Guidelines document is being translated from English to Greek and that her country plans to organise a beach clean-up and information day event for the Coast Day in September 2025.
29. Capacity-building activities, including the one in Cyprus, where several diverse stakeholders participated, were very much welcomed. The problem of no participation by the municipalities where the major works occur raised some questions and proposals on how to get them involved (e.g., lobbying). Also, one representative elaborated on the issue of the decision makers' long-term and short-term processes and objectives. However, he believes it would be a good solution if the responsibility of not taking action for challenges today had financial implications. Another comment related to the NbS was that NbS is not a miracle and that such solutions must be combined with other options for long-term stability and resilience of coastal areas. The DesirMED project, which focuses on governance and financing, was mentioned, where the experience of establishing a partnership and advisory committees for implementation purposes may secure better integration. Through coastal plans, such coordination and governance mechanisms can be established to ensure the long-term continuity, despite the short-term cycles of elected policymakers.
30. MSP training in Türkiye, Ankara, June 2024 was presented by Mr. Emrah Söylemez, PAP/RAC FP for Türkiye, who introduced an overview of national efforts to strengthen MSP capacities, highlighting a structured training initiative developed under the coordination of the Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change. Recognising the strategic importance of MSP for sustainable marine and coastal governance, the training programme targeted 37 national and local experts from 20 institutions. The initiative aimed to raise awareness, build technical capacity, and support the practical implementation of MSP principles in line with international frameworks, including the ICZM Protocol. The presentation outlined the key training modules addressing governance, ecosystem approach, data management, land-sea interactions, climate change integration, and funding opportunities. Presented case studies from Mediterranean and Black Sea countries, lively discussions, and a practical MSP

challenge exercise were utilised to ensure effective learning. This workshop enhanced the technical and strategic understanding of MSP in Türkiye, created a foundation for regional cooperation and opened dialogue on institutional integration of MSP and ICZM, sectoral coordination under a sustainability framework and application of international best practices in Türkiye's coastal and marine planning. The presentation underscored the relevance of ongoing capacity-building as a cornerstone for informed marine governance and cross-sectoral collaboration.

31. Participants congratulated Türkiye on the successful and well-focused training initiative, expressing interest in how the knowledge gained from such events can be effectively applied in practice. Mr. Söylemez affirmed his confidence that participants have brought valuable insights from the training back to their institutions, which he believes will positively contribute to the ongoing preparation and implementation of MSPs in Türkiye. The Lebanese Focal Point expressed a strong interest in organising a similar training programme in Lebanon, recognising its potential to enhance national capacity in MSP.

#### **Agenda item 4: Programme of Work for the biennium 2026-2027**

32. The PAP/RAC Director briefly introduced the procedure for finalising the PAP/RAC PoW and its adoption as a part of the consolidated UNEP/MAP PoW. She presented the proposed 2026-2027 PoW structured according to the UNEP/MAP MTS 2022-2027 and considered the Action Plan adopted within the Common Regional Framework for ICZM by COP 21 (Naples, Italy, December 2019). The proposed PoW contributes to six MTS programmes, namely: P2 – Towards healthy Mediterranean ecosystems and enhanced biodiversity; P3 - Towards a climate resilient Mediterranean; P4 - Towards sustainable use of coastal and marine resources including circular and blue economy; P5 - Governance; P6 - Towards monitoring, assessment, knowledge and vision of the Mediterranean Sea and coast for informed decision-making; and P7 - For informed and consistent advocacy, awareness, education, and communication. The PowerPoint presentation is available [here](#).
33. Participants agreed that the PoW is ambitious, which is positive as it reflects a clear vision. It was reminded to secure support for the countries that haven't ratified the ICZM Protocol yet. PAP/RAC PoWs have always been ambitious and have consistently delivered results. Therefore, participants strongly supported the PoW and expressed the need to increase the budget necessary for its successful implementation.

#### **Agenda item 5: Conclusions and recommendations of the meeting**

34. The conclusions and recommendations, as drafted by the secretariat of the meeting and adopted by the participants, are given in Annexe III to this report.

#### **Agenda item 6: Closure of the meeting**

35. The Chair thanked PAP/RAC for organising the meeting and the participants for contributing to the deliberations.

36. The Director of PAP/RAC expressed her gratitude to all participants for their active engagement and valuable contributions, which were instrumental to the success of the meeting. She emphasised that PAP/RAC would continue to seek their views and input, as the Centre's effectiveness and productivity rely on its partners' ongoing collaboration and support. She also thanked the PAP/RAC team for their dedication and the interpreters and technical staff for their efficient and professional assistance.
37. The Chair declared the meeting closed on 7 May 2025 at 13:30 hours.

## ANNEXE I

### List of participants

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## ANNEXE II

### Agenda

#### Tuesday, 6 May 2025

9:00 – 09:30 <sup>1</sup>	Registration of participants.
09:30 – 09:45	<b>Agenda item 1: Opening and organisational matters</b> Opening of the meeting: welcome addresses, objectives and programme, organisational matters, Provisional agenda (by Tatjana Hema, UNEP/MAP and Daria Povh Škugor, PAP/RAC).
09:45 – 10:30	<b>Agenda item 2: Progress Report for the period 2024-2025</b> (20' presentation by Daria Povh Škugor, PAP/RAC). Discussion.
10:30 – 11:15	<b>Agenda item 3: Presentation of the main activities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IMAP implementation: CORMON Coast and Hydrography and contribution for EcAp Coordination Group (15' by Marko Prem, PAP/RAC);</li> <li>- GEF MedProgramme Child Project 2.1 and SCCF (15' by Daria Povh Škugor, PAP/RAC).</li> </ul> Discussion.
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee break.
11:30 – 13:00	<b>Presentation of the main activities (cont.):</b>  <b>National Coastal Strategies, Plans and Programmes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coastal Plan for the Boka Kotorska Bay, Montenegro (15' by PAP/RAC FP for Montenegro);</li> <li>- Coastal Plan for the Tanger-Tetouan-Al Hoceima Region, Morocco (15' by Farah Abdelilah / Naoual Zoubair, PAP/RAC FP for Morocco);</li> <li>- National ICZM Strategy for Lebanon and Integrated Management Plan for Damour (20' by Adel Yacoub, PAP/RAC FP for Lebanon);</li> </ul> Discussion.
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break.
14:00 – 15:00	<b>Presentation of the main activities (cont.):</b> <b>CAMP results:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CAMP Israel (15' by Yehudit Mosseri, PAP/RAC FP for Israel).</li> </ul> <b>CAMP preparatory activities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CAMP Malta (15' by Michelle Borg, PAP/RAC FP for Malta);</li> <li>- CAMP Türkiye (15' by Emrah Söylemez, PAP/RAC FP for Türkiye).</li> </ul> Discussion.

<sup>1</sup> EET (Eastern European Time) UTC/GMT +2 hours.

15:00 – 15:45	<p><b>Governance, Legal and Institutional Frameworks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proposal for governance framework in Tunisia (15' by Raja ABDELMALEK, APAL, Tunisia);</li> <li>- From Policy to Practice: Legal and Governance Frameworks for ICZM in France (15' by Emmanuelle Thiesse, General Directorate of Planning, Housing, and Nature, France).</li> </ul> <p>Discussion.</p>
15:45 – 16:00	Coffee break.
16:00 – 16:30	<p>Integration of Transboundary EIA/SEA in the context of the BC and its Protocols. (15' by Marko Prem &amp; Marina Marković, PAP/RAC).</p> <p>Discussion.</p>
16:30 – 17:00	<p>Marine Spatial Planning related activities (15' introduction by Marina Marković, PAP/RAC).</p> <p>Discussion.</p>

### **Wednesday, 7 May 2025**

9:00 – 09:30	<p>Awareness Raising – Mediterranean Coast Day (15' introduction by Veronique Evers).</p> <p>Discussion.</p>
09:30 – 10:00	<p>Capacity Building activities (10' introduction by Veronique Evers).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conference on Nature-based Solutions for coastal protection and resilience, Cyprus, October 2024 (10' by Yiota Lazarou, PAP/RAC FP for Cyprus);</li> <li>- MSP training in Türkiye, Ankara, June 2024 (10' by Emrah Söylemez, PAP/RAC FP for Türkiye).</li> </ul> <p>Discussion.</p>
10:00 – 11:30	<p><b>Agenda item 4: Programme of Work for the biennium 2026-2027</b> (15' introduction by Daria Povh Škugor, PAP/RAC).</p> <p>Discussion.</p>
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee break.
12:00 - 12:30	<b>Agenda item 5: Any other matters</b>
12:30 - 13:30	<p><b>Agenda item 6: Conclusions and recommendations</b> Introduction by PAP/RAC, discussion and adoption.</p>
13:30	Closure of the meeting.

## ANNEXE III

### Conclusions and recommendations

1. The meeting takes note of the progress achieved in implementing the PAP/RAC Programme of Work (PoW) in the current biennium, acknowledging the quality and variety of activities implemented, which are all in line with the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) for 2022-2027 adopted by COP 22 (Antalya, Türkiye, December 2021) as well as with the Action Plan for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol in 2020-2027 adopted by COP 21 (Naples, Italy, December 2019).
2. The meeting takes note of the slow ratification process for the ICZM Protocol in several Contracting Parties (CPs) and invites all other CPs that have not yet started the process of ratification to start the ratification procedure.
3. The meeting finds very useful and interesting the presentations of both region-wide initiatives (e.g., GEF MedProgramme, EcAp/IMAP, MSP Working Group, EU HORIZON projects) and national-level activities (e.g. CAMPs, coastal plans, national ICZM strategy, capacity building initiatives, etc.), the modality of work and results of which can serve as an inspiration for future similar activities around the Mediterranean region. Presentations of the projects implemented by the beneficiary countries are particularly welcome.
4. The meeting appreciates the efficient use and combination of several funding sources complementing the MTF funding for implementing ICZM, such as GEF MedProgramme, EU funding instruments and voluntary contributions by some CPs.
5. The meeting welcomes the work carried out within the GEF MedProgramme, highlighting the importance of the Guidelines for Coastal Plans to be finalised.
6. The meeting appreciates the work carried out on the contribution of the Coast and Hydrography Cluster to the EcAp/IMAP revision process. It specifically recommends including Candidate Common Indicator (CCI) 25 on land cover change in the list of IMAP Common Indicators (CIs) and further simplifying the guidance factsheet for CI 15 on hydrography. The meeting also supports the inclusion of the proposed climate-related indicators as candidate indicators in the IMAP indicator list, as well as the proposed role of PAP/RAC Focal Points in the implementation of the IMAP/EcAp policy, as it helps clarify the workflow between CORMONs and other MAP decision-making bodies.
7. The meeting welcomes the progress made in implementing the Decision on applying MSP in the Mediterranean. In particular, it acknowledges the establishment of the Working Group on MSP. It recognises the group's significant achievements, notably its support to the MSSD process and its contribution to preparing the Position Paper for Advancing MSP in the Mediterranean. The meeting encourages the continued work of the MSP Working Group and expresses its commitment to supporting the nomination process for the remaining members. It also acknowledges the MSP-related activities undertaken at the national level and encourages further efforts in this regard. Albania and Lebanon expressed interest in this activity, particularly for capacity building.
8. The meeting recognises the particular importance of environmental assessment, especially in a transboundary context of the Mediterranean. It therefore appreciates the activities carried out by the Centre during the current biennium and supports the proposed steps to advance

transboundary EIA/SEA further, as concluded at the regional consultation meeting held in Athens on 6 February 2025, to be reflected in the relevant decision at the next COP. The meeting also encourages the CPs to participate in this process actively.

9. The meeting supports the presented Programme of Work (PoW) as being positively ambitious, highlighting the importance of PAP/RAC's role in future actions, especially having in mind the need to steer the ICZM process from planning, through monitoring, towards designing and implementation. Therefore, the meeting endorses the inclusion of the activities proposed by PAP/RAC in the consolidated UNEP/MAP PoW for the biennium 2026-2027 and recommends them for endorsement by the meeting of MAP NFPs.
10. The meeting recommends enhancing PAP/RAC in terms of human and financial resources, from MTF and other financial sources, particularly to strengthen activities related to implementing the ICZM Protocol, MSP and coastal resilience through climate change adaptation.
11. The meeting encourages PAP/RAC to present its activities at the UNOC, COPs and all other relevant international events.
12. The meeting invites countries to send proposals for hosting the Coast Day in the next biennium.
13. The meeting proposes to the MAP Focal Points and subsequently to the COP to initiate the procedure for nominating the Coast Day as the UN Observance Day.