Report
of Regional Consultation on the Common Regional Framework for ICZM
(Split, 26-27 September 2018)

Split, October 2018

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Introduction

1. By their Decision IG.23/7 taken at the COP20 (Tirana, Albania, 17-21 December 2017) the Contracting Parties (CPs) to the Barcelona Convention (BC) mandated the PAP/RAC to develop in the biennium 2018-2019 the full text of the Common Regional Framework (CRF) for Integrated Coastal Zones Management (ICZM), to be submitted for adoption by COP21. To that end, an open-ended Working Group (WG) of the CPs' representatives has been established, which met several times, drafted the document, sent it to the CPs for comments, and made appropriate amendments. In line with the recommendations, a team of 3 experts was constituted to work on the methodological approach in view of developing guidance factsheets on key interactions between groups of ICZM Protocol provisions and Ecological Objectives. The experts met with representatives of PAP/RAC in Rome in July to work together on a factsheet focusing on EO 1 Biodiversity, to be used as a model.

2. To present the work done by the expert team, discuss it and further improve the text of the document a Regional Consultation Workshop was held at PAP/RAC premises in Split on 26-27 September 2018. It was attended by 35 participants: representatives of the CPs, the UN Environment/MAP system, and experts working on the document. The list of participants is attached as Annex I.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting: welcome addresses, objectives and programme, organisation of work

3. The meeting was opened by Ms Ž. Škaričić, PAP/RAC Director, who welcomed the participants wishing them a pleasant stay in Split and fruitful work in the meeting. She pointed out that the CRF was the main document in the mandate of the PAP/RAC for the current biennium, and as such had a particular importance.

4. Mr. G. Leone, UN Environment/MAP Coordinator, congratulated the colleagues from PAP/RAC for the organisation of the Mediterranean Coast Day, as well as for having made PAP/RAC live throughout the past 40 years. He reminded everyone of the importance of the ICZM Protocol, one of PAP/RAC's main achievements. He insisted on the fact that the CRF had to be finished by the next COP meeting in Naples in December 2019, so that it was important to keep on advancing in its redaction. He pointed out that the CRF must be considered as a tool for the CPs to implement ICZM in the Mediterranean. As one of the fundamental principles of ICZM Mr. Leone mentioned integration, and the term took its sense in the current meeting given the presence of the National Focal Points or their representatives, as well as the Directors of other Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and members of the Coordinating Unit (CU) in Athens. Finally, he mentioned another important goal of the meeting, namely to add concrete actions and recommendations to the model of factsheet.

5. PAP/RAC Director was of the opinion that the current meeting could be considered as an expert meeting although it included the NFPs or their representatives since their opinions and

comments were welcome and necessary for finalising the text. The Agenda was adopted, as presented in the Annex II.

Agenda item 2: Short information on the progress of PAP/RAC programme of work after COP 20

6. PAP/RAC Director presented a short information on the progress of PAP/RAC programme of work after COP 20. She recapitulated for the participants the process of work that had been done since the adoption of the decision to develop the CRF:

- All the CPs have been invited to nominate their representatives in the Working Group for drafting the text of the CRF. Several CPs joined the group, which is still open for the others to join if they wish.
- Two meetings of the working group:
  * The first meeting in Split in March. On that occasion, the 1st draft of the text was discussed, amended and completed. The draft was then shared with all the CPs for comments and improvements.
  * The second meeting in Athens in May. The document was additionally improved and there had been a vivid discussion on the need to provide something which would be useful and made it immediately visible to everybody how this document can be operational, assist integration and be useful for a better coherence of the BC system, especially with regard to the overall objective which is to reach a good environmental status for the Mediterranean. The working group recommended PAP/RAC to engage appropriate experts to develop the tools to be provided in the CRF, and a team of 3 experts was constituted and worked on the methodological approach, as well as on the factsheet which was proposed.
- The experts met with the representative of PAPRAC in Rome in July to work together on the 1st draft of the factsheet which has to be considered as an example of what could be done for all the Ecological Objectives (EOs), or even better for all the clusters of the EcAp/IMAP process.

7. The presentation was followed by a lively discussion in which an important point was raised to be discussed during the current meeting: how can this operational document be used within the CRF? The participants were invited to make recommendations for its improvement. Also, the part of the document entitled “Recommendations” has to be filled in to start the discussion. The expertise and the knowledge of NFPs, as well as of the colleagues from different RACs participating to the meeting will be of great help to do so.

Agenda item 3: Short introduction to and general comments on the Draft of the Common Regional Framework for ICZM

8. PAP/RAC Director emphasised that the structure of the document followed exactly the decision adopted during the COP 20 and that the chapters have been developed according to the structure of the decision. One of the main objectives was to integrate MSP in the document as there is no other strategic document in the BC system regarding this important tool.

9. The representative of Italy insisted that clear links had to be identified between the CRF and the operational guidance document. Moreover, as long as the guidance is not developed it is considered inappropriate to agree on the full contents of the CRF because the Draft CRF and its guidance are strictly linked. The PAP/RAC Director explained that there were currently two documents because of the time shortage, but in the future the guidance will be included in the CRF. The meeting has to result in one canvas for the operational part which will have to be filled in by the experts. It is also important to determine where this operational part will be included in the CRF. Another possible option is to keep the Guidance document separate from the text of the CRF. The Guidance document should reflect, at the practical and operational level, the recommendations identified in the various chapters of the CRF.

10. In the discussion that followed numerous issues were raised, showing also some difference of opinions between the CPs which participated in the WG and those who didn't. In general, the frame of the existing document meets the expectation of the CPs and most of the countries were satisfied with the existing document.

Agenda item 4: Presentation of the methodology for linking ICZM Protocol and EOs and a factsheet example

11. One of the experts working on the document presented the methodology proposed for linking ICZM Protocol and EOs. He explained that the factsheet submitted for consideration by the meeting was not a goal in itself but a tool. It is a mean to cut cross all the information, recommendations and so on from other strategic documents such as all the BC Protocols, and then to produce recommendations for the CRF. The focus has to be placed on ICZM objectives and principles: the ecosystem management, sustainable development, addressing risk, hazards and climate change, etc. He added that the continuum from the river basin to the sea has to be studied in its totality, which explains why the vertical axis from the matrix is not divided according to the geographic areas.

12. The participants agreed that further work on the matrix was necessary in order to be more operational. Another point stressed by some participants was the importance of identifying gaps at the policy level, but without the need to give orientations for the sectoral activities. Accordingly, it is necessary to keep the work at the strategic level and help the sectors by providing them an overall framework. Another issue discussed was the need to structure the operational connotation of the guidance through the development of recommendations / approaches at regional and sub-regional levels, in order to provide a useful orientation instrument for the national level. Taken this point of view, the full text of the CRF already contains the strategic connotation and, therefore, the operational and practical aspects should be exactly the matter of the guidance document.

13. Recapitulating the morning session, two important issues should be pointed out:
- Operational part needs to be agreed on, i.e. what needs to be in the operational guidance?
- This is a document that needs to be used by decision makers: it needs to be clear, concise and easily understandable.

Agenda item 5: Methodology for linking ICZM Protocol and EOs: concrete proposals and recommendations

14. In the afternoon session, one of the most important issues raised was that of the spatial resolution/scale. High resolution can be a limiting factor for some CPs; therefore, it was suggested that the experts be given the mandate to propose a proper resolution level. Generally, the participants agreed that the first step of the assessment phase is to use the checklist of the existing action plans (ICZM and MSP-related) and to do screening to see what is related to the Protocol. After the assessment, the gaps will be detected, and the proposal for measures/solutions should be developed at an appropriate scale.

15. MAP Deputy Coordinator announced that the Components would screen all the policies, action plans, etc. and find where the gaps are. The recommendations should then be directed to the CPs who should then do second screening regarding the national context. PAP/RAC Director said that two countries have already done the screening at the national level: Algeria and Montenegro. These documents were prepared by experts, therefore these are not official documents, but permission will be asked from their Focal Points to share them. Within the CAMP France similar analysis was done: the relations of the ICZM Protocol provisions with the national legislation were explored, and this can be found on the CAMP France website. It was done at the local level (Var), but still using the national legislation.

16. The discussion then turned to the need to include the analysis of the maritime activities, especially those more relevant in the sea (energy, shipping, oil/gas exploration, …). One country thought it important to be included in order to balance the land-sea analysis. PAP/RAC explained that the matrix reflects the articles of the ICZM Protocol. If provisions of other Protocols are to be included, this needs to be decided on higher level, i.e. MAP Coordinating Unit, for example. France mentioned that the legal basis of this document is the Article 17, hence something with specific mention of maritime issues could be produced, but not at a regional basis. European Commission then followed up with handing out the brochure on different activities that are relevant for Land-Sea Interactions.

17. At this point it was recalled that the CRF was a soft-law document, and hence depended on mutual agreement which activities should be included, although preferably not going beyond the scope of the Protocol. The experts emphasised that there was a difference between producing a CRF document as guidelines, and the factsheet as an operational tool that demonstrates what needs to be contained in the CRF. Another possible operational tool was proposed, namely an online template or even a dedicated platform where all the CPs and the MAP Components would upload the needed information and data, and in future be able to download the outputs and the 'answers' to their questions on the practical application of ICZM. The result of such an operational tool is having a basis to provide more concrete recommendations at the regional level. The matrix itself should be able to be replicated at a sub-regional level (even local). It was noted that going into more details would complicate the original idea of the document. It was also reminded that one of the main ideas was to relate the Ecosystem Approach and the Protocol provisions, which could be done by clusters of EOs, and then certain particular elements should be specified, if needed.

18. Some participants insisted on the need to produce a consensual document with not too many details which could pose problems at national or bi-lateral levels. This document has to be of a

regional nature, flexible and taking into account all the research and processes done so far, in order to assist the countries to do work at the national level. A strong message was sent by several participants that the CRF cannot be a substitute for the work that will have to be done at the national level. At this point, one participant had reservations and informed that he would provide written comments.

19. One of the authors of the document described in more details the contents of the factsheet explaining why each element was included and what its purpose was. It was explained that the link with the ICZM Protocol, its objectives and principles clustered, was just a rationale, and how important it was to explain the relevant interactions. She proposed to better describe the link with the ICZM Protocol in the Matrix and the clusters.

20. MAP Deputy Coordinator, thanking the participants for the very good constructive discussions and inputs to the process so far, brought to the attention of the meeting the rationale for developing the operational guidance, as agreed at the expert meeting held in Athens in May 2018. As indicated in the first draft of the methodology paper prepared by PAP/RAC, the purpose is to develop a guidance tool that would support the countries at the national level to be aware of commitments and the existing policy development affecting marine and coastal environment of the Mediterranean within and outside the MAP system. She explained that, based on the assessment to be done by CORMON of relationship among EOs, Pressures and Sectors, the second layer of assessment will address interaction and integration among different EOs, that is the spirit of the ICZM. Based on this analysis, priority pressures/sectors will be identified and the related existing policy/regulatory commitments or obligations will be referred to or described in a summarised manner in the operational guidance to be included in the CRF. Once developed and agreed by the CPs, the implementation of this guidance at the national level should offer flexibility to accommodate specific situations and priorities.

21. The view expressed by a number of participants is that it will be up to the countries to prioritise which of the sectors are most important with greatest effects on the environment. EOs will differ from one county to another. The ICZM Protocol identifies what has to be done at the national level. The results of the assessment phase should be understandable from the document, and each country should do its own assessment. The proposal for this element to contain practical and operational instructions would result in a too large and unclear document. This document just provides orientation focusing on few sectors relevant to the whole region, while the concrete work should be done by each country at the local level, where the number of sectors to be taken into consideration can be several times higher. The CRF is intended to help the work to be done at the national level by suggesting what needs to be done at the regional level.

22. The EO1 matrix was introduced and it was explained how it complied with what had been said. To be the most efficient the matrix helps analyse the major interactions. It was mentioned that there existed other matrices by CORMON that should be used, and overlapping between tables has to be identified to avoid replication and allow for synergies in the MAP system.

23. One country representative highlighted again the need to create integrated monitoring system, and to reduce pressures and impacts of sectors on common ecosystems. The meeting was

reminded of the existence of investments available at both EU and non-EU levels to support the implementation of the policies. Another country representative supported such an approach with this being a framework document at the regional level to be adapted for the national level. She suggested that pilot projects were needed and mentioned the Boka Kotorska project in Montenegro as a good example of integration at the national level. She also offered help in providing good practices.

24. One of the authors said that the methodology could, for example, help the decision makers to get a better insight into pressures and impacts that might occur on the land as a result of development activities at sea, because pressures are not necessarily where people think. He stated that the ICZM Protocol should be linked with other protocols, especially the LBS one in the case of watershed impacts.

25. The discussion then focused on the matrix which resulted in some recommendations:

- Based on the analysis of the most important sectors to consider at the regional level, assessment has to be made at the national level to complement it.
- Time wise, more consultation is needed, maybe to be aligned with the May 2019 PAP NFPs meeting.
- The Italian representative expressed reservation regarding the current results of the methodology for the definition of the guidance, and expressed concern that the current orientation could lack the ability to implement a tool that would be sufficiently operational and practical. From the Secretariat point of view, with this CRF definition exercise an attempt is made to see what will be proposed to the CPs or not.

26. Summarising what has been agreed on, the experts acknowledged the fact that they were in a sort of experimental, learning-by-doing approach, which requires pragmatism. Some of the main elements to consider are:

- to reshuffle the table (not the matrix), to adapt different colours;
- instead of working with one EO, work on clusters of EOs; and
- try to come up with more detailed, precise recommendations – for one or two clusters in the beginning, and after a feedback go to the next step (this should be done by the end of this year).

27. Feedback was requested from everyone, not only CPs but also MAP Components. Major comments were that proper interpretation of data needed for coastal planning was possible only by proactive approach of all MAP Components, and that the CRF structure should be more synchronised/connected with the methodological guidance, especially the recommendations part. It was explained that a possible option could be to incorporate the methodological guidance into the main CRF document, making it one single document. Consultants said that it could be one single document with an operational part, but also that the methodological guidance could be separated, but strongly connected, because this guidance is more flexible to being changed.

Agenda item 6: Work on the individual chapters of the CRF: comments, suggestions, drafting

28. The main body of the CRF was shown on the screen and some minor changes were made directly in the text, as contained in Annex III. Regarding other comments:

- Chapter 5.2: monitoring of activities and monitoring of environment should be separated. In the same chapter, the database is mentioned but it is not said who will manage this database. It was clarified that no new databases would be created. It refers to the databases operated by INFO/RAC: IMAP-related database, databases of countries reporting protocol requirements, etc. This also reflects the need for cooperation with other components, more specifically with INFO/RAC.
- Chapter 5.4: the MSP chapter had a strong emphasis on economic aspects but little emphasis on environmental aspects. It was agreed that it should be worked on more, trying to balance environmental and economic aspects.

29. It was concluded that, although one cannot know before the document is ready for approval which parameters will have to be monitored, we can already start thinking on the indicators and other tools for measurement which can be put in the last part of the document. Also, there should be indicators which will measure the degree of implementation of the CRF and of the ICZM Protocol, and not indicators that will measure the state of the environment or the state of the development of the coastal zones. This kind of indicators could be part of the assessment phase which is part of the draft Guidance. The need was stressed to clarify what would be put in the last chapter, and the purpose of the CRF. The CRF is a tool for implementing the ICZM Protocol so that there is no need to have a new reporting exercise. However, since the CRF includes new elements like the MSP, it was suggested that the reporting format for the ICZM Protocol could be updated. To do so an official approval is required so, knowing that procedure of changing the reporting format it is very long, a proposal has to be made to and validated by the COP. A suggestion was made that perhaps one or two questions could be added to the reporting format and adopted at the same COP that will adopt the CRF.

Agenda item 7: Agreement on the next steps and distribution of tasks

30. PAP/RAC Director summarised the envisaged timeline: the text of the document will be updated and shared with everyone together with the new options for operational guidance to be proposed by the consultants by the end of the year. She stressed that, in order to adopt the document next year, the feedback from the CPs has to come in good time and as a result of internal consultations at the national level. Feedback should be provided within three weeks of receiving the document, at the latest. The other MAP Components are also expected to do so. By the end of January 2019, all comments will have to be provided. PAP/RAC NFPs meeting will be held in May 2019 when the document will be presented, and there may be a working meeting on this document on this occasion. By early July 2019 the new document will be sent for consultation to MAP NFPs in order to be finalised by the COP.

31. The representative of Italy proposed to show a possible alternative proposal of technical integration to the methodology guidance. After a short discussion on weather this kind of presentation is appropriate at the very end of the meeting or it should be shared by e-mail with the rest of the participants for further consideration, it was decided to show the proposal on the screen with no obligation to comment on it or adopt it during the meeting. The proposal is included in Annex IV and should be considered as an element of technical reflection for the group of experts, to be taken into account in order to produce appropriate updates to the methodology guidance.

Agenda item 8: Wrap-up and closure of the meeting

32. The representative of Slovenia thanked PAP/RAC for organising the meeting, as well as the "Mediterranean Coast Day" celebration that preceded it which was excellent. He also thanked the secretariat for taking the CRF exercise very seriously.

33. PAP/RAC Director thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for working together on this document. It was very useful to gather a majority of CPs and MAP Components to work jointly. She declared the meeting closed on 27 September at 1 pm.

ANNEX I

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ANNEX II

Agenda of the meeting

Wednesday, 26 September 2018

9:30 – 9:45	Opening of the meeting: welcome addresses, objectives and programme, organisation of work (UN Environment/MAP Coordinator and PAP/RAC Director).
9:45 – 10:00	Short information on the progress of PAP/RAC programme of work after COP 20 by the PAP/RAC Director.
	Questions and answers.
10:00 – 10:30	Short introduction to and general comments on the Draft of the Common Regional Framework for ICZM (PAP/RAC Director).
10:30 – 11:00	Presentation of the methodology for linking ICZM Protocol and EOs and a factsheet example (PAP/RAC Consultants).
	General discussion.
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break.
11:30 – 13:00	Methodology for linking ICZM Protocol and EOs: concrete proposals and recommendations.
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break.
14:30 – 17:00	Methodology for linking ICZM Protocol and EOs: concrete proposals (cont.).

Thursday, 27 September 2018

9:00 – 11:00	Work on the individual chapters of the CRF: comments, suggestions, drafting.
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break.
11:30 – 12:30	Work on the individual chapters of the CRF: comments, suggestions, drafting (cont.).
12:30 – 13:00	Agreement on the next steps and distribution of tasks.
	Wrap-up and closure of the meeting.

ANNEX III

Common Regional Framework with changes and annotations

I Introduction (Artt. 1, 17 and 18)

The ultimate objective of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean (ICZM Protocol) is to contribute to the vision for the Mediterranean Sea and coast as: "A healthy Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems that are productive and biologically diverse, contributing to sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations". (UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021).

As for Article 1 of the ICZM Protocol, the Contracting Parties (CPs) to the Barcelona Convention "shall establish a common framework for the integrated management of the Mediterranean coastal zone and take the necessary measures to strengthen regional cooperation for this purpose" to be implemented with the assistance of UNEP/MAP and its Components, and the overall coordination ensured by PAP/RAC.

Art. 17 of the ICZM Protocol on Mediterranean strategy for integrated coastal zone management, states that the CPs "undertake to cooperate for the promotion of sustainable development and integrated management of coastal zones, taking into account the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and complementing it where necessary. To this end, the Parties shall define, with the assistance of the Centre, a common regional framework for integrated coastal zone management in the Mediterranean to be implemented by means of appropriate regional action plans and other operational instruments, as well as their national strategies".

Art. 18, provides that "each Party shall further strengthen or formulate a national strategy for integrated coastal zone management and coastal implementation plans and programmes consistent with the common regional framework".

This Common Regional Framework (CRF) is to be considered as the strategic instrument meant to facilitate the implementation of the ICZM Protocol. It shall operate without prejudice to the ICZM Protocol, the provisions of which shall always prevail.

II Scope of the CRF (Artt. 3 and 8)

The combined Art. 4 of the Barcelona Convention and Artt. 3 and 28 of the ICZM Protocol identify the geographical scope and scale of the CRF inviting CPs, individually or jointly, to take for the Mediterranean Sea area – as defined in Art. 1 of the Barcelona Convention within the geographical coverage as defined by ICZM Protocol – all appropriate measures to prevent, abate, combat and to the fullest possible extent eliminate pollution of the Mediterranean Sea Area and to protect and enhance the marine environment and the natural resources in that Area so as to contribute towards its sustainable development and, in particular, to promote the integrated management of coastal zones, taking into account the protection of areas of ecological and landscape interest and the rational use of natural resources, coordinating, where appropriate, bilaterally or multilaterally their national coastal strategies, plans and programmes related to contiguous coastal zones.

ICZM needs to be approached at different geographic scales and administrative levels: at the Mediterranean scale addressing the entire sea basin through cooperation among all riparian states; at the sub-regional scale – where relevant and possible – addressing transboundary issues in sub-regions as defined for the purpose of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) roadmap implementation, and seeking synergies with other existing sub-regional strategies and plans; at the national and sub-national (local) scale in line with the regionally agreed principles.

The CRF provides strategic orientations on how the ICZM Protocol is jointly implemented within the geographical coverage between the external limit of the territorial sea of the CPs and the limit of the competent coastal units as defined by the CPS, using coordinated and harmonized approaches.

ICZM is also an essential tool to fulfil the purposes of the Barcelona Convention within the Mediterranean Sea Area as it provides a commonly shared context with specific recommendations focusing on: (a) coherence of policies/strategic documents and orientation of actions; and (b) ways to strengthen integration and regional/sub-regional cooperation, taking also into consideration the land-sea interactions and the transboundary aspects.

The CRF is aimed to provide recommendations and measures to strengthen regional cooperation for:

- Processes: to accelerate achievement of results agreed and outcomes/outputs set out;
- Indicators: essential tools for tracking progress, supporting policy evaluation and informing the public and decision makers;
- Methods and practices: to achieve objectives and the general principles of the ICZM Protocol.

In addition, the 20th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 20, Tirana, Albania, 2017) adopted the decision IG.23/7 that envisages the introduction of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) into the system of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, implying the development, through this CRF, of appropriate means to include MSP in the implementation of the ICZM Protocol. In that respect, the CRF has two main objectives:

- to introduce MSP in the framework of the Barcelona Convention, and in particular link it to ICZM, considering MSP as the main tool/process for the implementation of ICZM in the marine part of the coastal zone and specifically for planning and managing maritime human activities according to EcAp goals (as specifically addressed by section 3 of the CF);
- to provide a common context to CPs for the implementation of MSP in the Mediterranean Region.

III Objectives and General Principles of the CRF (Artt. 5-7, 18, 19, 22, 28 and 29)

In order to promote ICZM through the CRF and achieve sustainable development of coastal zones by ensuring that the environment and landscapes are taken into account in harmony with economic, social and cultural development, the following objectives with related general principles are to be envisaged:

a) Use **the ecosystem-based management** to ensure **sustainable development and integrity of the coastal zone, its ecosystems and related services and landscapes,** by**:**

- taking into account in an integrated manner all coastal zone elements to respect carrying capacity, address cumulative impacts and prevent and/or reduce negative effects of natural disasters or risks and of development;
- taking into account land-sea interactions as a complex phenomenon involving the interactions of both, natural processes and human activities, as a criterion for defining areas to be managed and as a parameter in planning processes and procedures;
- formulating appropriate land/sea use strategies, plans and programmes for activities in the coastal zone, also through appropriate tools, in particular Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA);
- promoting cooperation between and among CPs in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures related to activities under their jurisdiction or control, which are likely to have a significant adverse effect on the marine and coastal environment of other CPs or areas beyond the geographical scope of the ICZM Protocol, on the basis of notification, exchange of information and consultation.

b) Address **natural hazards** and **the effects of natural disasters**, in particular **coastal erosion** and **climate change** by:

- taking into account the commitments to the Paris agreement on climate change, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to build climate change resilience and the Strategic Programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
- preparing timely management plans to prevent, reduce and minimize negative impacts to coastal zones;
- promoting ecosystem approach and /nature-based solutions to maintain or restore the natural capacity of the coast to adapt to changes;
- assisting in mainstreaming coastal adaptation into appropriate institutional and policy frameworks;
- participating in awareness raising, stakeholder engagement and capacity building for addressing coastal risks;
- promoting the use of best practices and best available data, information and tools.

c) Achieve **good governance** among actors involved in and/or related to coastal zones by:

- ensuring appropriate governance schemes, in particular cross-sectorial and multi-level institutional coordination and proper participation of all stakeholders in a transparent decision-making process;
- ensuring coherence and complementarity of all strategies, policies, plans, initiatives, planning processes and funding at all levels affecting coastal zones: to this end, further strengthening cooperation among components of the Barcelona Convention system and coordinated efforts, ensuring synergies with other related strategic documents and promoting integration and harmony among coastal environment, relevant socio-economic activities and human communities living in the coastal zones;
- promoting appropriate coordination between the various authorities competent for both the marine and the land parts of coastal zones in the different administrative services, at all relevant levels;

- organising the acquisition, exchange and use of the best available relevant information and data based in particular on Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) principles;
- promoting consistency and coherence of ICZM at regional and sub-regional level ensuring trans-boundary cooperation where appropriate;
- ensuring cooperation with all relevant/competent international and regional organizations.

IV Ecosystem-based Management for Good Environmental Status and Sustainable Development (Artt. 8-15 and 22-24)

The essence of the ecosystem-based management approach is to address the coastal zone as a continuum made of land and sea space, preserving the integrity of its ecosystems and dealing with the processes that occur in them and influence on them in an integrated manner (Fig. 1). This approach aims at ensuring sustainable use of natural resources and quality of life of coastal populations. Ecosystem-based management is inherently based on an integrated approach where the focus is on the ability to understand and address cumulative risks and effects on the natural world arising from human activities.

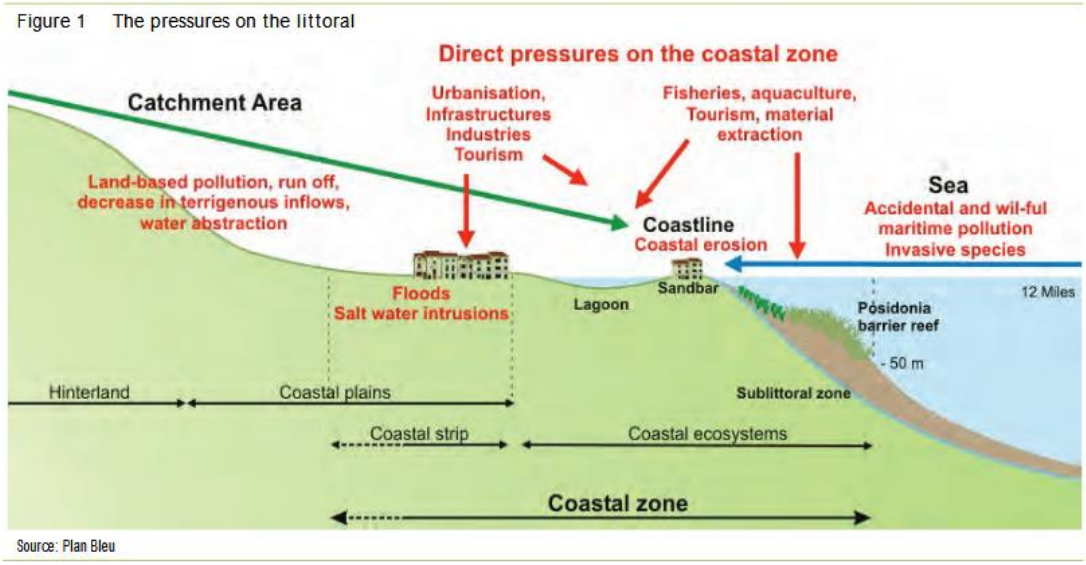


Figure 1: Pressures on the coastal zone (Source: Plan Bleu, 1995)

ICZM has evolved as the most appropriate approach to manage potential conflicts among various sectoral policies (conflicts for space, resources, infrastructures…), as well as between maritime and terrestrial policies by ensuring the integration dimension and the coherent governance of planning and management of the coastal zones and their activities on either land or sea parts. It provides for better coherence, maximizes synergies and increases coordinated implementation of sectoral policies with a view to ensuring the integrity of ecosystems, as well as adequately addressing land-sea interactions (LSI) and ensuring the compatibility of land and sea uses by implementing MSP and clarifying its links with ICZM.

Applying ICZM principles also allows for the integration of environmental protection into spatial planning and economic development i.e. the integration of policies and establishment of frameworks for cooperation among all concerned stakeholders. Their active participation, raised

awareness and sufficient capacity are the best guarantees of the needed change of behaviour towards environment: by acting on the source of pollution through the application of the prevention and precautionary principles it is possible to cope with the pollution before it happens, this being the crucial dimension for attaining sustainability. These challenges should be handled by applying the integrated approach to the management of coastal zones that helps control urbanization; preserve the integrity of coastal and marine ecosystems; and guide towards a sustainable use of natural and cultural resources.

IV.1 Reaching Good Environmental Status through ICZM (Artt. 5 and 6)

The objective of reaching Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast has been adopted by UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention as the ultimate objective to be reached by CPs, which have committed to apply the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) as an overarching principle.

EcAp can be defined as a holistic approach to land, water and living resources targeting sustainable delivery of ecosystem services in an equitable way. It goes beyond examining single issues, species, or ecosystem functions in isolation. Instead, it recognizes ecological systems for what they are: rich mixes of elements that interact with each other continuously. This is particularly important for coasts and seas, where the nature of water keeps systems and functions highly connected.

Therefore, achieving Ecological Objectives (EOs) and GES requires an integrated approach in order to address combined pressures and cumulative impacts in coastal and marine areas. This approach is actually embedded in the ICZM Protocol, which provides for reaching GES with regard to the targets of all three clusters of EOs: Pollution and eutrophication; Biodiversity and fisheries; and Coast and hydrography. These are all crucial for achieving GES, and tools used by ICZM contribute to a more comprehensive approach looking at the integrity of coastal ecosystems.

Note: Based on the Matrix of interactions between ICZM Protocol provisions of parts II and IV, Ecological Objectives and Main Regional Programmes and Plans contained in Annex I.2 of the Decision IG.23/7 adopted by COP 20, a separate paper has been produced related to the guidance for the implementation of ICZM as a process having the ecosystem-based management as one of basic principles and allowing to reach GES. This paper will be discussed and validated by PAP/RAC NFP, CU and MAP Components, and decision will be made on its use (integration) in the CRF.

IV.2 Addressing Land-Sea Interactions (Artt. 3, 5, 6, 9 and 22)

Understanding and addressing land-sea interactions (LSI) is crucial to ensure sustainable management and development of coastal areas and coherent planning of land and sea-based activities. Although there is not a single and recognized definition of LSI, they can be defined as "interactions in which land-based natural phenomena or human activities have an influence or an impact on the marine environment, resources and activities and *vice versa* interactions in which marine natural phenomena or human activities have an influence or an impact on the terrestrial environment, resources and activities". As a consequence of the above definition, three main levels of LSI should be taken on board:

- Interactions related to land-sea natural processes. Implication of such processes on coastal management and planning of alternatives for land and marine activities have to be identified and assessed, considering their dynamic nature. At the same time, human activities can interfere with natural processes, impacting on the coastal and marine environment. The analysis of expected impacts of land and marine activities – within the SEA framework – should include the evaluation of their effects on LSI natural processes and the potential consequent impacts on natural resources and ecosystem services.
- Interactions among land and sea uses and activities. Almost all maritime uses need support installations on land, while several uses existing mostly on the land part expand their activities to the sea as well. These interactions have to be identified and mapped, assessing their cumulative impacts, benefits and potential conflicts and synergies. Interactions between land and sea activities can extend further beyond the coastal zones, for example in terms of long-distance connections related to transport and energy distribution or fish migration up-stream and stemming need for blue corridors. Although the primary focus is on costs, identification and mapping of those wider connections and assessment of their environmental, social, economic and spatial implications are also important. It is important to note that the Art.9 of the ICZM Protocol requires that CPs "shall accord specific attention to economic activities that require immediate proximity to the sea". This is also one of the general principles of ICZM (Art.6 para g).
- Interactions of planning processes and plans for land and sea areas. It is important to ensure that legal, administrative, consultation and technical processes are coordinated (and hopefully linked) to avoid unnecessary duplications, incoherence, conflicts, waste of resources and/or excessive demand of stakeholders' efforts. The challenge is to plan and manage inshore and offshore activities in harmonized manner considering the functional integrity of the land-sea continuum. This also implies allocation of land space (and related infrastructure and services) to some maritime activities (and/or the allocation of maritime space to some land-based activities). Finally, the achievement of this coherence also requires alignment/integration of the different approaches, methodologies and tools applied respectively on land and at sea (Fig. 2).

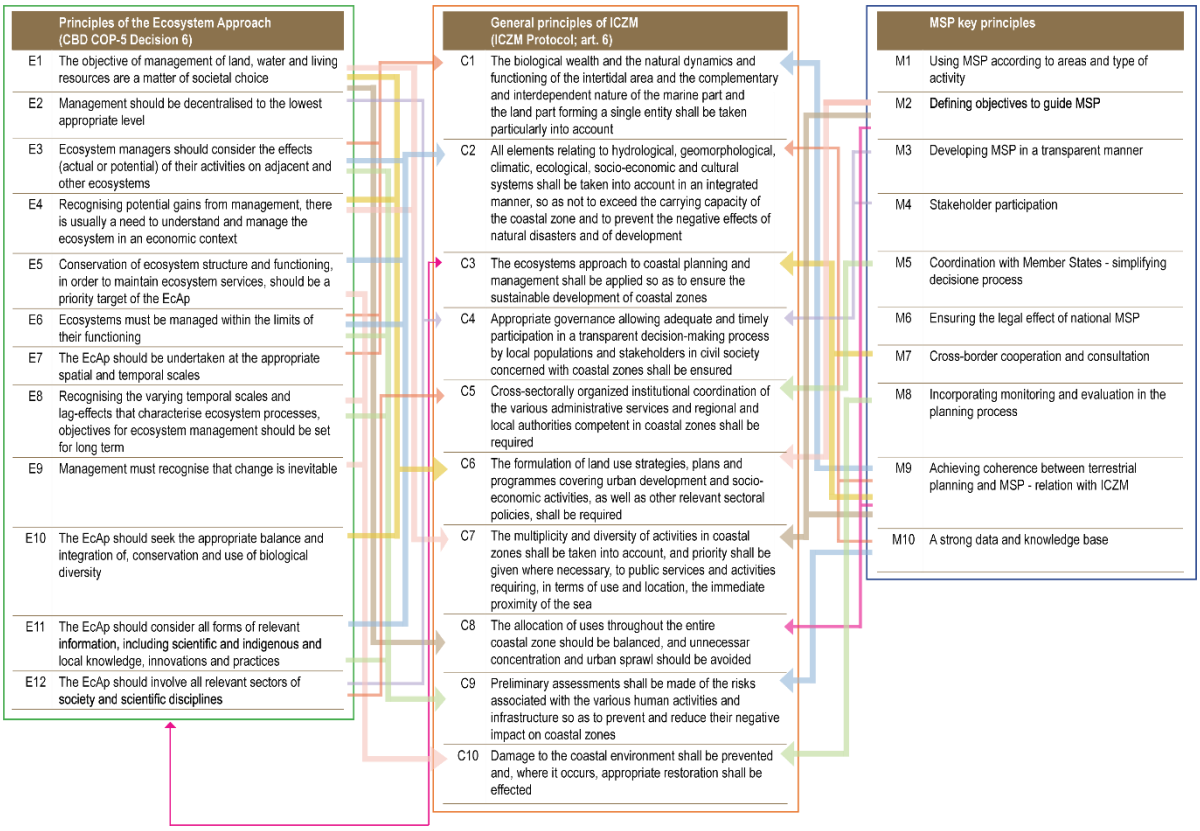


Figure 2: Links between EcAp, MSP and ICZM principles

LSI need to be addressed at a variety of spatial scales: (i) local scale to deal with specific issues and implement related actions, (ii) sub-national and national scales where strategies and plans can orientate specific LSI-related efforts, (iii) sub-regional where transnational cooperation may produce a common strategy for guiding national LSI efforts and address transboundary issues.

Natural risks and hazards, in particular climate change and coastal erosion, will influence on all three levels of LSI previously defined. The coastal zone is actually on the frontline for these climate challenges. Land-sea natural processes cannot be taken into consideration separately from the changes induced by humans in the nature. Sea level rise, extreme weather events and storm surges are expected to generate additional pressures resulting in alternation of the shoreline and increase of coastal erosion. Sea level rise will also impact the underground as it will amplify the salinization of coastal aquifers due to water extraction and other human activities. The increase of temperature will impact on both, terrestrial and marine ecosystems. Climate change impacts will also affect land and sea activities, for example aggravation of water conditions for tourism. Therefore, planning processes and plans for LSI should necessarily take into account expected climate change by adapting to the increase of uncertainty and to the higher likelihood of natural hazards and risks.

V Tools and Instruments to Implement the CRF (Artt. 16-22)

ICZM is a long-term strategic process that implies the availability and proper use of a variety of operational tools and instruments to ensure sustainable use and management of coastal zones, ensuring that needs for human settlement and economic activities minimise the impacts on the

natural resources and protect the fragile natural habitats, ecosystems, landscapes and cultural heritage from pollution and other types of degradation including those caused by natural risks and hazards. This refers primarily to the tools and instruments quoted in the ICZM Protocol itself, many of which already have certain "history and tradition" of use by the CPs, while others still need to be developed, explained, tested and verified.

Some of these tools and instruments are of major importance for implementing the ICZM Protocol but also for implementing other important policies and strategies in the Mediterranean coastal zones, in particular those adopted at the sub-regional level. Among these instruments, the following ones are of particular importance and relevance for the implementation of the CRF:

V.1 Monitoring of environment and activities (Artt. 8-21 and 25-29)

There is a need to monitor in a consistent way the environment of the coastal zone (both terrestrial and marine) *and* the human activities (coastal or not) that are likely to have an impact on it (individually or cumulatively):

- monitoring of marine *environment* should be based on the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP)[1];
- monitoring of terrestrial environment should be based on the best available experiences in implementing national monitoring programmes of the status of coastal environment (terrestrial biodiversity, coastal waters, air, soil), that is aligned with relevant UN MEAs, and where appropriate, EEA's requirement, including Directives of European Commission (e.g. Habitat and Bird Directives, Water Framework Directive, etc.)
- monitoring of marine and terrestrial environment should take into account the assessment of anthropogenic pressures (both at source and at sea) of human activities (land and maritime coastal activities) and their impacts that prevent the achievement of good environmental status (GES) of marine environment and environmental protection of terrestrial environment. Management of human activities aimed at reduction of the pressures, including their impacts on landscapes, cultural values, social patterns, has to be based on information collected through monitoring of marine and terrestrial environment, and their assessment as appropriate, including binding implementation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA);
- monitoring information should be accessible to all relevant stakeholders.

[1] Monitoring and assessment of the sea and coast, based on scientific knowledge, are the indispensable basis for the management of human activities, in view of promoting the sustainable use of the seas and coasts and conserving marine ecosystems and their sustainable development. COP 19 in 2016 agreed on the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP) in its Decision IG. 22/7 which lays down the principles for an integrated monitoring, which will, for the first time, monitor biodiversity and non-indigenous species, pollution and marine litter, coast and hydrography in an integrated manner. The IMAP implementation is in line with Art. 12 of the Barcelona Convention and several monitoring related provisions under different protocols with the main objective to assess GES. Its backbone are the 27 common indicators as presented in decision IG 22/7: Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme.

To this aim and according to Artt. 8-21 and Artt.25-29 of the ICZM Protocol, the CPs are encouraged to accomplish the following with the support of UNEP/MAP and its Components, as appropriate:

- *Use, strengthen and create appropriate mechanisms for regular monitoring and observation of the state and evolution of their coastal zones, of the resources and activities, governance systems, institutions, legislation and planning that may influence coastal zones, taking all necessary means to ensure public access to these information;* (Split into 2 – monitoring and governance, and clarify.)
- *Cooperate on definition and use of coastal management, resource use and economic activities indicators, taking into account existing ones, to ensure sustainable use of coastal zones and to reduce pressures that exceed their carrying capacity;*
- *Implement appropriate assessments on the use and management of coastal zones and ensure the results are utilized for formulation of adequate policy responses;*
- *Exchange scientific and technical information and experience, data and good practices, enhance provision of scientific and technical assistance through, inter alia, training of scientific, technical and administrative personnel, coordination of research programmes and carrying out of activities of common interest (such as ICZM demonstration projects), within the Mediterranean coastal zone network;*
- *Exchange available results and experiences in implementation of the integrated monitoring and assessment programmes of marine environment with other Regional Seas Conventions and the EEA and ensure exchanges with the European Commission/EU Member States on implementation of the MSFD and other relevant EU Directives.* (Add MSP Directive.)

V.2 Environmental Assessments (Artt. 19 and 29)

Environmental assessment i.e. SEA at strategic level for policies, plans and programmes, and EIA at operational level for individual projects and activities, are the frontline tools for the achievement of GES and sustainable development.

The contribution that EIA makes to the development of decision-making is widely acknowledged, and practically all of the Mediterranean countries apply this tool to large-scale development proposals. Scope for further progress exists, particularly in relation to the impact of climate change. Compared to EIA, SEA is still less developed and used although its importance in seeking to achieve better environmental quality through higher decision-making level for policies, strategies, plans and programmes is recognised by all the riparian countries. However, since SEA takes multiple forms and employs diverse methods and procedures, sometimes without an adequate legal framework and institutional set-up, difficulties still arise, particularly for comparability in a transboundary context.

The application of EIA and SEA supports the implementation of ICZM principles (Art. 6 of the ICZM Protocol) including the need to take into account all elements of natural and cultural systems in an integrated manner; the application of the ecosystems approach to spatial planning, preparation of policies and strategies; the timely participation in decision making and ensuring that economic activities minimise the use of natural resources and take into account the needs of future generations. SEA can be introduced through ICZM as an important integral part of the spatial planning process, providing a mechanism for the strategic consideration of environmental effects,

assessment of different planning options, and identification and evaluation of mitigation measures, thus ensuring the environmental sustainability.

Through the SEA process plans and policies addressing the coastal zone, whether geographically (e.g. coastal strategies) or thematically (e.g. plans for aquaculture development, tourism), can assist in creating a policy framework that steers development to more appropriate locations. Similarly to EIA, SEA is also an instrument that supports transparency and accountability as it provides an opportunity for the public to participate in the process and be aware of the decisions taken concerning the approved plans and policies.

Both environmental assessment processes seek to identify alternative options and the consideration of cumulative impacts, encouraging policy makers and decision takers to look at different policy and technological options and reflect on future scenarios that may result from approved plans and projects. The management of coastal zones is dependent on the application of similar long-term approaches in order to safeguard healthy ecosystems particularly within a changing climate.

Within a transboundary context, the application of SEA and EIA helps to foster co-operation between neighbouring States as both processes allow for consultations to be carried out when potential significant issues of a transboundary nature are identified through the evaluation process. As a result, whilst respecting national jurisdiction, the SEA and EIA can assist in fostering co-operation so that national plans and policies and projects undertaken have a higher potential to contribute towards regional efforts at safeguarding the Mediterranean.

For these tools to support ICZM it would be ideal to maintain a database of assessments undertaken and reports prepared with a view to monitor the type and degree of development related pressures on the coast; inform new environmental assessments to prevent duplication of efforts particularly where data is already available; and support other initiatives particularly EcAp implementation through the data collected and decisions taken. Such databases may be available at national and regional level, to enhance knowledge at the regional and facilitate transboundary co-operation. (No new data bases – clearly emphasize! Also, collaboration and contribution from components.)

In the context of the CRF, the following needs to be stressed:

- SEA forms an important part of the EcAp implementation;
- A transboundary SEA process, including transboundary consultation, should be activated when a policy, strategy, plan or programme is expected to have significant transboundary environmental effects;[2]

[2] As an example of good practice in transboundary cooperation between neighboring countries, carrying out a SEA of the Framework Plan and Program (FPP) for Exploration and Exploitation of Hydrocarbons in the Adriatic Sea is worth mentioning. The said FPP was developed in order to keep precise track of hydrocarbons exploration and exploitation activities, permit issuing, contract awarding, investor liabilities, imposition of charges and penalties as well as to keep track of the hydrocarbon reserve in the subsoil of the Adriatic Sea. It was produced by Croatian Hydrocarbon Agency together with the accompanying environmental report and, in accordance with the UN/ECE Espoo Convention and the Protocol on SEA to the 1991 UN/ECE Espoo Convention, competent authorities of the Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia were notified of the SEA process, the FPP and accompanying environmental report. In the process of transboundary SEA, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia forwarded their opinions on both documents, which were amended accordingly.

- SEA and EIA should assess impact on both land and sea, consider also mutual impacts of maritime activities on land and terrestrial activities on sea, based on most relevant LSI identified;
- SEA should take into account new and emerging issues in particular climate change and its impacts.

To this aim and according to Artt. 19 and 29 of the ICZM Protocol, the CPs are encouraged to accomplish the following with the support of UNEP/MAP and its Components, as appropriate:

- *Implement environmental assessments, taking into considerations cumulative impacts on the coastal zones and their carrying capacity. These may be based on the use of EcAp EOs and related indicators, as described in the methodology recently developed and tested by PAP/RAC*[3] (Does not touch national SEA and EIA processes. Note that it is an example.)*: by using EcAp indicators, the methodology enables assessing the value of marine and coastal natural environment as well as the level of the existing pressures on it. In addition, the methodology allows to identify spatial impacts of those pressures. It also enables the identification of the level of vulnerability of marine and coastal environment to the future (planned) activities by looking at the existing pressures, the extent of expected change and the capacity of the environment to adapt to the change. Such an approach enables identifying most fragile and valuable areas that need to be preserved from future degradation and, therefore, the locations where activities need to be planned carefully.*
- *Take on board LSI in environmental assessments (including the transboundary ones), in particular interactions and impacts that can alter the equilibrium of marine and terrestrial areas due to natural processes (such as coastal erosion, flooding, seismic events, saline intrusion…) as well as mutual impacts of maritime activities on land and terrestrial activities on sea that can alter the environmental stability and decrease the resilience of natural systems. Such interactions between land and sea might therefore involve complex interactions among environmental, social, economic and governance elements. Assessing such interactions should be done in the appropriate geographical scope, taking into considerations temporal dynamic of interactions as well.*
- *Acknowledging the complexity of the environmental assessment processes, in particular in transboundary context, adopt as means of cooperation guidelines on the procedures for notification, exchange of information and consultation at all stages, as appropriate, to be developed with the assistance of the Coordinating Unit (CU) and its Components. These guidelines should address the abovementioned issues (GES and related targets, LSI aspects including coastal erosion, cumulative impact and vulnerability assessment, carrying capacity) as well as issues such as climate change effects, life cycle analysis, etc.*

V.3 Coordination of planning processes and governance mechanisms (Artt. 6, 7, 14, 20, 28 and 29)

The establishment and smooth functioning of a multi-level governance mechanism is fundamental for achieving complex and ambitious goals of ICZM as it sets the scene for efficient management and cooperation. Success will depend on mutual feeding between international- and national-level

[3] The methodology was tested in Bokakotorska Bay, Montenegro (http://msp-platform.eu/practices/ecap-base-marine-vulnerability-assessment-basis-msp-montenegro).

cooperation frames as well as forging partnerships and linking local-scale initiatives to higher-level policies. Achieving a balance between strategic and local concerns is perhaps one of the most difficult issues in coastal zone management. Finally, a new challenge for all planning initiatives is to adapt to the new, considerably higher level of uncertainties brought by natural hazards, in particular climate change impacts on coastal zones.

To achieve the objectives of ICZM and facilitate integration through effective planning, there is a need for cross-sectorally organised institutional coordination of the various administrative authorities competent in coastal zones, covering both the marine and the land parts. There is also a need to put in place appropriate governance schemes allowing adequate and timely participation in transparent decision-making of local populations and stakeholders concerned.

To this aim and according to Artt. 6d-e, 7, 14, 20, 28 & 29 of the ICZM Protocol, the CPs are encouraged to accomplish the following with the support of UNEP/MAP and its Components, as appropriate:

- *Establish administrative schemes and processes facilitating horizontal (sectoral) and vertical (among different geographic scales and administrative levels) coordination of the ICZM implementation (such as intersectoral coordination bodies, joint working and training groups, etc.), adopt legal forms of promotion/setting out of such processes such as regulations and decrees at the national level or memoranda of agreement at the regional or sub-regional levels, participate in networking for ICZM in order to create the critical mass of people, experience and knowledge for its efficient implementation;*
- *Ensure the introduction and use of appropriate land policy tools in the process of coastal zone planning;*
- *Coordinate as appropriate, national coastal strategies, plans and programmes related to contiguous coastal zones;*
- *Ensure notification, exchange of information and consultation in cases of environmental assessments with transboundary implications, including transboundary environmental assessment, as appropriate,*
- *Stakeholder engagement early in the planning process….*

V.4 Marine Spatial Planning (Artt. 3, 5, 6, 10 and 11) (Add more on environmental component for better balance.)

Spatial planning of the coastal zone is considered an essential instrument of the implementation of the ICZM Protocol. One of the main objective of ICZM is to "facilitate, through the rational planning of activities, the sustainable development of coastal zones by ensuring that the environment and landscapes are taken into account in harmony with economic, social and cultural development" (Art. 5). Planning is recalled also in other articles of the ICZM Protocol, as in the case articles dealing with the protection of wetlands, estuaries and marine habitats (Art. 10) or the protection of coastal landscape (Art. 11).

Although MSP is not expressly mentioned in the ICZM Protocol, the geographical scope of the Protocol and the definition of the coastal zone given in its Art. 3 include both the land and the sea. It follows that planning should be equally applied to both components and that planning of marine space is already taken on board.

MSP is a cross-sectoral coordination and decision-making tool enabling public authorities and stakeholders to apply an integrated, policy-based, transboundary approach to the ecosystem-based regulation, management and protection of marine environment, considering the competition in seas for maritime transportation, oil and gas development, offshore renewable energy, offshore aquaculture, oil and gas mining, fisheries, sand and gravel mining, tourism and recreation, waste disposal and the other issues like marine conservation and military defence issues; and to analyze and allocate the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas for achieving ecological, economic and social objectives that have been specified through both technical and political process.

Economic aspects of MSP cover goals and objectives that contribute to the economic return obtained from the use of the marine resources and can be formulated as:

- ensuring sustainable growth of different maritime activities with affecting income and employment;
- ensuring secure environment for long-term investments;
- promoting efficient use of natural resources and reduction of conflicts among incompatible uses and between nature and uses, such as fisheries' relation with nature and, therefore, secure the long-term future of the industries that depend on them;
- ensuring maximum benefits derived from the use of the sea by encouraging compatible uses to be located within the same area and bring the most value;
- enhanced coherence with other planning systems;
- leading to reduced transaction costs for maritime activities.

Socio-spatial aspects of MSP process are also important. The social and cultural dimension of MSP cover goals and objectives that contribute to the well-being of the human population and ensure balanced socio-economic development in marine environment, such as objectives related to:

- supporting the environmental economy through promoting activities that depend on environmental quality such as recreation, fishing and tourism opportunities (diving, wildlife tourism, etc.);
- improving stakeholder involvement to and citizen participation in the planning process with establishing a transparent and structured mechanism in which the interests of different sectors can be represented and reconciled and potential conflicts and spatial impacts managed in a coordinated way;
- enhanced legal certainty for all stakeholders in the maritime arena;
- enhanced coordination and simplified decision processes;
- enhanced cross border cooperation;
- preservation of cultural and historical heritage;
- identification and preservation of social and intangible values specific to the region in terms of marine area usage;

- allocation of space for different uses through a comprehensive analysis, thus increasing security for business operations in the marine environment.

Also, MSP is considered as one of the tools to implement the EcAp as a strategic approach towards sustainable development in the region that integrates all of its three components (environmental, social and economic) and guarantee that they are in balance. The relationship between EcAp and MSP is a two-way relation, as the second can contribute to the overall objective of achieving the GES, also through the identification of the appropriate location and intensity of maritime activities and strengthen the related regulatory framework.

The marine component of the coastal zone has traditionally not been affected by the same quantity and variety of pressures as the terrestrial part, with the result that for many years the management tools adopted have been sectoral ones mainly addressing transport, fisheries, infrastructure and environment protection. As a result, in coastal areas where spatial planning has been limited to the landward side, synergies in governance with a view to reduce environmental impacts and user conflicts at sea and along the lands and sea interface continue to be a challenge. Within this framework, MSP based on ecosystem-approach focuses on the sea part where the boundaries are defined according to ecologically significant areas, and it provides integration with the terrestrial part covering coastal area and its hinterland. Where spatial planning is extended to include the sea, regulatory procedures have improved co-ordination amongst the different regulators and also supported the application of tools such as environmental assessments. Measures taken through MSP for data collection and management, environmental monitoring, plan making, policy formulation, decision taking and enforcement, enhance the potential for considering land and sea interactions within an integrated approach, within a given territory.

The context of the specific coastal zone, in terms of existing regulatory frameworks, existing and predicted levels of pressures from human activities and the environmental characteristics usually guide how MSP is introduced. Different options exist where MSP can either be developed as a stand-alone discipline or as an extension to an existing regulatory mechanism ranging from land-use planning, environmental protection, fisheries management or transport management. The ultimate decision should ideally be guided by the aspiration to achieve the strongest co-ordination framework at a national level as possible, to achieve the objectives of the ICZM Protocol.

In this perspective MSP can be considered the main tool/process for the implementation of ICZM in the marine part of the coastal zone and specifically for its sustainable planning and management. Art. 3 of the ICZM Protocol also defines the geographic scope of the operational application of MSP that shall focus on the marine area within the territorial sea of a country. Requirement to take land-sea interactions into account is specified in Art. 6.

To this aim and according to Artt. 3 and 6 of the ICZM Protocol, the CPs are encouraged to accomplish the following with the support of UNEP/MAP and its Components, as appropriate:

- *Better address planning and management issues in the marine part of coastal zone;*
- *Support implementation of ICZM in the marine part of the coastal zone by applying MSP with a strong focus on LSI and in line with general framework of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, in particular with regard to:*

* *reducing marine-based source of pressure affecting the marine environment through spatial efficiency and control of temporal distribution of human activities;*
* *reducing conflicts between maritime uses and protection of areas with high naturalistic and ecological relevance;*
* *identifying areas to be protected in order to preserve processes and functions that are essential in achieving the GES;*
* *identifying environmental hotspot areas at sea where specific measures are necessary;*
* *identifying elements ensuring connectivity among relevant habitats.*

V.5 Land policy (Art. 20)

Within the scope of ICZM and taking into account land-sea interactions, it is essential to coordinate both land and marine planning in consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

Land policy is one of the tools to implement land-use planning. It defines rights of ownership, rules and principles on land and the natural resources it contains; legal frameworks on access and usage; validation and transfer of these rights of ownership. Applied to ICZM, land policy contributes to planning land activities, maintain unoccupied natural areas, and facilitate public access to the coast and the sea. It is a relevant tool to limit coastal environment degradation due to urbanization and occupation of coastal areas by human activities development. Furthermore, preserving natural coastal areas by implementing land-use instruments is an efficient and economical solution to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts.

Land policy is also an efficient tool not only in term of land-use planning but also to protect coastal landscapes, islands and cultural heritage.

As pressures and pollutions on marine environment mainly come from the land, land policy contributes to limit these pressures at the root and to conserve both terrestrial and marine coastal environment. When applying land policy instruments, it is important to take into account land-sea interactions. There are different kinds of land policy instruments and measures. Indicative analyses and good practices on the most specific instruments are detailed below.

Land acquisition is one of the instruments to preserve coastal natural areas. Within the scope of ICZM, it is advisable to facilitate amicable acquisition procedures for the benefit of public or private organizations in charge of the sustainable conservation of coastal areas, by pre-emption, land donation, and expropriation if necessary. The advantage of land acquisition is that it provides a strong and durable protection of a territory. It has to be used in the scope of a local planning strategy accommodating development, population and environment protection.

The main challenges for the implementation of acquisition mechanisms is its funding resources and establishment of efficient administrative and legal procedures. The pre-emptive right can facilitate public land acquisition procedures. It allows public authorities aiming at acquiring sensitive coastal zones with the objective of sustainably managing them to take priority over the acquisition.

Concession is a land policy instrument that allows a land owner to grant the management of a specific site to a beneficiary (the concessionary) in return for usage fees. The beneficiary is in charge of implementing long-term management activities. Concession also enables a State or municipalities to authorize provisionally on their public domain a private occupation, in return for fees. This practice[4] is also a way to raise funds (via the concession fees) that can be reinvested in ICZM activities. This kind of contractual relation also enables to consider a non-permanent occupation on areas potentially vulnerable to immersion or coastal erosion risks, in the perspective of their temporary touristic or economic valorisation.

Separation between ownership and right of use is a potential instrument for ICZM land policy: a land owner consents to a loss of a part of the rights he exercises on his land. For example, to renounce to build or to destroy natural or patrimonial elements of the site in exchange of compensations. These deliberate abstentions can also be combined to obligations of actions to ensure the management of the coastal site. There are different kinds of practices for separation of ownership, including easement, which is an obligation imposed to a land owner for the benefit of another land owner that can be applied to ICZM. For example, in order to facilitate the access of public to the coast, an easement can be designed to establish a right of way along the coastline on private properties bordering maritime public domain.

Land Stewardship is a land policy tool that involves landowners and users in the conservation of nature and landscape, with the support of civil society. Through voluntary agreements between land owners/users and land stewardship organizations (also known as land trusts), land stewardship enables to conserve, manage and restore the environment. The stewardship approach is an especially helpful concept in the many instances where sustainable management — rather than absolute protection or preservation — of coastal areas is the objective. In the Mediterranean region this instrument is used for example by the region of Catalonia (Spain) who developed a network for the land stewardship[5]. There are three level of land stewardship agreements between land owner and land stewardship organization: management support agreements; management transfer agreements; and property transfer agreement.

To this aim and according to Art. 20 of the ICZM Protocol, the CPs are encouraged to accomplish the following with the support of UNEP/MAP and its Components, as appropriate:

- *Conduct a diagnosis of sensitive coastal zones threatened by urbanization and climate change on the whole coastal zones in order to identify priority areas to acquire or protect, and design a coastal areas acquisition and protection strategy in addition to land-use planning activities;*
- *Elaborate a land register, or an equivalent land tool, that provides accurate and mapped land property information, and couple it with relevant knowledge on occupation and usage of coast line areas;*
- *Apply land policy instruments and mechanisms in coordination with spatial planning, including marine spatial planning, as land policy is an essential tool to limit at the root pressures coming from the land;*

[4] This public domain concession is regularly practiced by the SPNL in Lebanon.
[5] Xarxa de Custodià del Territori (XCT)

- *Support continuous scientific observation of coastal zones' evolutions, in particular observations and climate change impacts scenarios, in order to support decision-making in coastal planning and development;*
- *Exchange experience and good practices on land policy instruments and mechanisms, in particular through a network of coastal zone management agencies and/or administration.*

V.6 Economic, financial and fiscal instruments (Art. 21)

Sustainable funding of actions reducing pressures affecting the Mediterranean coastal zones is essential to effectively implement sustainable management and achieve a good environmental status in the region. Funds for ICZM are mainly available through national governmental budgets, donors' programmes, voluntary contributions, partnerships with private sectors, and other financial mechanisms (including e.g. specialized environmental funds). Fiscal instruments (including taxes and subsidies) and market mechanisms (payment for ecosystem services, for example) are commonly introduced to address externalities and help achieve environmental protection goals.

Environmental fiscal instruments for coastal zone have two different purposes. Some instruments only have a financial objective; they are created to generate funds for public budgets. In this case, it is recommended that these funds be redistributed to fund ICZM activities. Some other fiscal instruments have a strategic objective to affect stakeholders' practices. They are created to influence economic stakeholders and people's behaviour through incentives or dissuasive instruments.

In addition to the establishment of fiscal instruments to generate funds or support stakeholders' change of practice, it is also important to reduce or avoid fiscal instruments and subsidies that have a negative impact on the environment (environmentally harmful instruments). It mainly concerns fiscal and economic incentives aiming at promoting sectoral economic activities on the coastal zones that go against ICZM objectives. For example, fiscal instruments supporting natural areas destruction (subsidies for wetlands drainage). In the process of reforming the environmentally harmful instruments, distributional impacts and trade-offs should be carefully considered.

Regarding taxes generating incomes, there are a few Mediterranean examples of good practices of redistribution towards ICZM actions: the establishment of a tax on building construction work that is redistributed to local public authorities to implement land policies contributing to coastal areas conservation[6], or the allocation of fishing license fees or tourist tax to local authorities' environmental budgets [7]. The decision to allocate incomes generated by a tax to a specific budget is of course a political decision, however ICZM stakeholders can orientate these decisions by identifying relevant actions to fund and fiscal incomes that could be redistributed. Some taxes can also be specifically created to fund coastal and marine conservation. For example, a tax on passengers on board maritime transports going to protected natural areas. The tax is collected by

[6] French example of the Regional Tax on sensitive natural areas.
[7] This example is established in Morocco.

transports companies for the benefit of the public entity managing the protected natural area and is assigned to the preservation of the area[8].

Fiscal incentive can also be established, for example the system of land donations through tax compensation payment schemes (payment in kind), which can help to place land under public ownership, that can be transferred to organizations in charge of their sustainable management[9].

Some fiscal instruments aim at supporting stakeholders in a change of practice in favour of the of coastal areas conservation. For example, relating to changing behaviours, plastic bags tax has been introduced in some Mediterranean countries such as Croatia, Greece, Malta, Slovenia and Spain[10].

Consideration of ecosystem services: Ecosystem services are the benefits people get from ecosystems without having to pay directly to obtain them. Coastal zones, both the terrestrial and marine part, provide many ecosystem services, that are however threatened by increasing pressures on the environment. The loss of these services would require to develop costly alternatives. It is therefore necessary to raise awareness of the economic value of ecosystem services. Investing now in the natural capital would enable to save money on the long term.

Payments for ecosystem services (PES) consists of paying for the provision of a service: stakeholders are paid provided that an identified ecosystem service is maintained or restored. In the scope of ICZM, PES can be payments made to farmers or landowners who agreed to implement actions to manager their land providing an ecosystem service. Given that payment provides an incentive to land owners and managers, PES are considered as a market mechanism, similar to taxes or subsidies. The aim is to support natural resources conservation with a specific objective (buffer zone for immersion or flooding, blue carbon sink, wetlands for natural water sanitation etc.).

Use of economic analysis for the assessment of various ICZM policy options, measures and projects:

Economic analysis and evaluation tools can support efficient decision-making relating to ICZM policies and projects. The cost-benefit analysis consists in a set of methodologies for economic valuation of the environment. It is used to value the change in ecosystem services caused by a project or a policy. The cost-efficiency analysis compares the cost and efficiency of two alternative strategies to achieve the same objective. In the scope of ICZM, this approach enables to define coastal conservation objectives and to analyze the means to achieve it in the most efficient way. Finally, multi criteria decision analysis is a methodology for supporting complex ICZM decision-making situations with multiple and often conflicting objectives that stakeholders value differently. All these economic analysis and evaluations tools also contribute to raise awareness of ecosystem services values.

To this aim and according to Art. 21 of the ICZM Protocol, the CPs are encouraged to accomplish the following with the support of UNEP/MAP and its Components, as appropriate:

- *Strengthen Mediterranean stakeholders' capacities to identify available resources and programmes, develop financial proposals and monitor allocated funds in an efficient way;*

[8] French example of the Tax on maritime passengers going to protected natural areas.
[9] French example of dation in payment.
[10] Surfrider Foundation. *Time for Europe to act against plastic bag pollution*. 2018. 24p

- *Develop sustainable funding strategies for ICZM implementation at the national and regional scale;*
- *Share information on good practices and results achieved with implementation of economic, financial and fiscal instruments in the region. Instruments that have proved their effectiveness could be considered to be applied in other countries;*
- *Work towards a better redistribution of public revenues for ICZM funding in order to ensure sustainable funding and reduce dependence on external funds. For example, public revenues from public maritime domain usage fees or public properties fees could be allocated in priority to ICZM activities;*
- *Promote the application of relevant economic/ market-based instruments for the ICZM implementation;*
- *Gradually reduce environmentally harmful subsidies while putting in place compensatory measures to address socio-economic losses that might occur;*
- *Strengthen the use of economic analysis for the assessment of various ICZM policy options, to ensure sustainability and efficient decision-making in formulating ICZM plans and strategies;*
- *Strengthen the use of valuation of ecosystem services to raise awareness of the economic value of coastal ecosystem services.*

V.7 Training, communication and information (Artt. 14, 15, 25 and 26)

In order to contribute to the effective implementation of ICZM and to achieve a good environmental status in the Mediterranean region, it is important to establish training communication, awareness and research tools within CPs but also at a regional scale. These tools should be aimed at policymakers, economic stakeholders involved in land and marine activities, associations, universities and researchers, civil society.

Trainings should in particular focus on economic benefits of coastal environment conservation, environmental assessment and conflict management. Within these trainings and ICZM tools, it is essential to include components to facilitate the understanding and appropriation of the ICZM Protocol itself by Mediterranean stakeholders. As a legally binding tool, the Protocol is a strong advocacy tool in favour of ICZM that can be used by local stakeholders as an argument when facing criticism on the legitimacy of ICZM local policies.

Regarding research tools and mechanisms, they should support multidisciplinary scientific research on ICZM. The objective is to increase knowledge on ICZM in order to facilitate public and private decision making and to contribute to public information. Public should be involved in ICZM decision-making via public consultation tools.

To this aim and according to Artt. 14, 15, 25 and 26 of the ICZM Protocol, the CPs are encouraged to accomplish the following with the support of UNEP/MAP and its Components, as appropriate:

- *Develop tools and trainings on ICZM good practices for Mediterranean local stakeholders;*
- *Develop tools and trainings on the ICZM Protocol itself to facilitate its appropriation and usage by Mediterranean stakeholders;*

- *Include components on sustainable management of coastal and marine areas in universities relevant programmes to train future ICZM professionals;*
- *Develop mechanisms to support multidisciplinary scientific research on ICZM and on the interactions between human activities, their impacts on coastal areas and innovative solutions to make economic practices more sustainable;*
- *Develop dissemination tools to make scientific research results available to all.*
- *Involve public participation in ICZM plans and programmes and ICZM related decision-making.*

V.8 International Cooperation for the Implementation of the CRF (Artt. 16, 25-28)

The success of ICZM largely rely on the cooperation among CPs supported by international organisations, institutions and fora. Many instruments and tools are already provided or foreseen within the Barcelona Convention system, for which guidance should be provided in particular to enhance synergies among them for the purpose of implementing the ICZM Protocol and the CRF:

a) In the field of monitoring and observation (Art. 16)
   - IMAP with GES set as the ultimate environmental goal to be reached by managing anthropogenic pressures on coastal and marine environment in an attempt to ensure sustainability;
   - Standardised and harmonised national coastal inventories, as well as reporting on state and evolution of coastal zones;
   - Reporting processes on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;
   - Mediterranean coastal zone network including an ICZM Platform as a hub for ICZM-labelled initiatives, CAMP and other projects, information, documentation, as well as a networking device for decision- and policy-makers, practitioners and other ICZM-prone actors at all levels.

b) In the field of ICZM/coastal strategies preparation and implementation (Art. 28)
   - Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), which rely on the Barcelona Convention system for its Objective 1 on Ensuring sustainable development in marine and coastal areas and its Strategic Direction 1.1. Strengthen implementation of and compliance with the Protocols of the Barcelona Convention and other regional policy instruments and initiatives supplemented by national approaches;
   - Regional strategies, plans and programmes for contiguous coastal zones, which will use SEA and EIA in transboundary context as one of the main tools (Art. 28).

c) In the field of training and research, technical and scientific cooperation (Artt. 25-27)
   - MedOpen virtual training course as an excellent way of teaching on ICZM principles, objectives and ways of implementation;
   - Info/MAP platform for stocking and exchange of interoperable data and information;
   - Cooperation within research projects tailored for the need of multi-sectoral coastal zone management, focused on science-policy interface.

The timely and proactive involvement of international donors is also instrumental to the effective implementation of the above-mentioned activities. The donors should be involved in an early stage to ensure that the activities identified under the CRF will be framed in project proposals which would meet the specific requirements of each funding organization. In the recent past, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has been active in supporting the ICZM process in the region. This support has been renewed in 2016 through the approval of the "GEF Adriatic" project and of the "Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security" currently under development. The European Commission expressed interest in supporting the ICZM process in coordination with MSP and IMAP. Efforts should be made to inform these and other donor organisations active in the Mediterranean to maximize their support to the CRF.

VI Implementation of the CRF

A considerable number of sectoral policies and related tools have been developed within the Barcelona Convention system addressing pollution, biodiversity, climate change, socio-economic aspects, marine litter, key economic sectors, etc. the implementation of which contributes to the protection of the coastal zone. The commitment made by the CPs with regard to these policies is supposed to be implemented in a coordinated manner. However, the sectoral approach still prevails in the mind of actors and stakeholders, and integration is seen as an additional burden instead of an added value that increases efficiency and allows the rationalisation of effort, time and money.

Aware of the need to provide a strategic framework for better coherence and efficiency of the Barcelona Convention system, at their 19th Ordinary Meeting (COP19) held in Athens in February 2016 the CPs adopted the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 (Decision IG.22/1) as a guiding document aimed at ensuring synergy, harmonisation of efforts and optimisation of the use of resources.

This objective has been fully reflected in the UNEP/MAP biennial Programmes of Work (PoW), in particular through its Cross-cutting Theme 1 on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) as "a transversal policy, with strategic options, plans and management measures, which can integrate and reflect on the same coastal geographic unit (with its terrestrial and marine parts) all thematic policies and horizontal dimensions, encompassing development measures, environmental protection, SCP, adaptation to climate change, etc.".

Given the definition of the coastal zone in the ICZM Protocol, almost all other Protocols of the BC are related in one or the other way to it. Thus, ICZM can and should provide support to the implementation of several of these Protocols, and therefore the relevant objectives and provisions of these Protocols should be taken into account in all ICZM related activities. *In view of maximizing synergies with other policies, ICZM activities should also take into consideration, on an exceptional basis, some technical guidelines adopted by the Contracting Parties, which do not have the same legally binding character as the Protocols and Regional Plans, but provide guidance and obligations, as it is the case of four guidelines approved in the framework of the Dumping Protocol.* At the same time, policy decisions and action plans stemming from the other Protocols should be coherent with the ICZM objectives and complementary to the ICZM ones.

To the aim of enhancing the coastal zone management practice, the UNEP/MAP Secretariat and its Components commit themselves to provide the following specific assistance to the CPs for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol and CRF:

At the regional / sub-regional level

- Enhancing the coherence of the legal and strategic framework for the protection and management of the coastal-marine environment by acceding to, implementing, coordinating and enforcing the instruments that are already in force, as well as adapting them as necessary;

  - ✓ **Regional** Strategies, including:
    - Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025;
    - Strategic Action Programme to address pollution from land-based activities (SAP-MED);
    - Strategic Action Programme for the conservation of biological diversity in the Mediterranean region (SAP-BIO);
    - Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021);
    - Ballast Water Management Strategy.
  - ✓ **Other Regional Frameworks**, such as the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas (RFCCA[11]);
  - ✓ **Thematic Action Plans (AP)**, such as the Offshore AP; the Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) AP; the SAP-BIO related Action Plans adopted at regional level in order to ensure better protection of specific species and habitats, including:
    - Action Plan for the management of the Mediterranean Monk Seal;
    - Action Plan for the conservation of Mediterranean marine turtles;
    - Action Plan for the conservation of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea;
    - Action Plan for the conservation of marine vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea;
    - Action Plan for the conservation of bird species listed in annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol;
    - Action Plan for the conservation of cartilaginous fishes (Chondrichtyans) in the Mediterranean Sea;
    - Action Plan concerning species introductions and invasive species in the Mediterranean Sea;
    - Action Plan for the conservation of the coralligenous and other calcareous bio-concretions in the Mediterranean Sea;
    - 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.
  - ✓ **Regional Plans** adopted in line with the provisions under the SAP MED and in the framework of the article 15 of the LBS Protocol aiming at pollution prevention and reduction:

[11] Decision IG.22/6 'Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas'.

- (2013) RP on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean;
- (2012) RP on the reduction of inputs of Mercury; RP on the reduction of BOD5 in the food sector; on the phasing out of Hexabromodiphenyl ether, Hetabromodiphenyl ether, Tetrabromodiphenyl ether, and Pentabromodiphenil ether; RP on the on the phasing out of lindane and endosulfane; RP on the phasing out of perfluorooctane solfonic acid, its salts, and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride; RP on the elimination of Alpha hexachlorocyclohexane, Betahexachlorocyclohexane, Chlordecone, Hexabromobiphenyl, and Pentachlorobenzene;
- (2009) RP on the Phasing Out of DDT; RP on the reduction of BOD5 from urban waste water; RP on the elimination of Aldrin, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Endrin, Heptachlor, Mirex, and Toxaphene.

✓ **Roadmaps**, such as the MPAs Roadmap[12], the EcAp Implementation Roadmap[13];

✓ **Bilateral or multilateral agreements**. As set forth in Art. 3, para 2 BC, the Contracting Parties may enter into bilateral or multilateral agreements, including regional or sub-regional agreements, provided that such agreements are consistent with the BC and the Protocols and conform to international law. Copies of such agreements shall be communicated to the CU. (e.g. the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on port State control (PSC) in the Mediterranean region (Mediterranean MoU)).

- Providing guidance for consistent and complementary implementation of ICZM and MSP, particularly addressing LSI;
- Tailoring the existing and developing new methods and tools to operationalise the EcAp concepts within ICZM and MSP, such as: guidelines for the implementation of EcAp, cumulative impact assessment, ecosystem service mapping and quantification, identification of blue corridors, etc.;
- Developing additional coastal indicators to complement the existing, predominantly marine-oriented EcAp indicators so as to better reflect the interaction between terrestrial and marine ecosystems, habitats and species, and to reduce pressures of economic activities that exceed the carrying capacity, taking into consideration existing sets of indicators, such as the IMAP, NAPs, MSSD, SCP, and SDG indicators, in view of maximising synergies and facilitating monitoring and reporting. An indicative list of existing indicators that could be used as potential ICZM indicators is provided below:

  1. Length of coastline subject to physical disturbance due to the influence of man-made structures
  2. Land use change
  3. Integrity and diversity of coastal ecosystems, landscapes and their geomorphology are preserved
  4. Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate
  5. Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically

[12] Decision IG.22/13 'Roadmap for a Comprehensive Coherent Network of Well-Managed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to Achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean'.

[13] Decision IG.20/4 'The ecosystem approach Roadmap'.

6. Percentage of protected coastal and marine areas [under national jurisdiction];

- Providing guidance for the establishment of standardised and harmonised national coastal inventories, as well as for the reporting on the state and evolution of coastal zones;
- Providing guidance for a timely and proper response to the emerging issues, such as in the case of climate change;
- Harmonising the SEA procedures across the Mediterranean Region and strengthening of national capacities to carry out SEA, including the transboundary context;
- Promoting codes of good practice among public authorities, economic actors and non-governmental organisations;
- Updating and delivery of educational programmes, training and awareness raising on ICZM;
- Boosting the network of ICZM and MSP initiatives, in particular CAMPs and CAMP-like projects.

At the national level

- Supporting the preparation of National ICZM Strategies based on the Guidelines for National ICZM Strategy[14], to consider and enhance their consistency with the ICZM Protocol, taking also into account national action plans developed in the framework of other BC Protocols and Regional Plans, including those related to land-based sources of pollution, SCP, biodiversity, etc.;
- Supporting the development or updating of National Action Plans (NAPs) in line with the provisions of the relevant Protocols, strategic action plans and regional action plans;
- Supporting the implementation of CAMPs and other ICZM and MSP projects for selected coastal zones.

Note: Based on the Matrix of interactions between ICZM Protocol provisions of parts II and IV, Ecological Objectives and Main Regional Programmes and Plans contained in Annex I.2 of the Decision IG.23/7 adopted by COP 20, a separate paper has been produced related to the guidance for the implementation of ICZM as a process having the ecosystem-based management as one of basic principles and allowing to reach GES. This paper will be discussed and validated by PAP/RAC's NFP, CU and MAP Components, and decision will be made on its use (integration) in the CRF. This implies that the above list of regional and sub-regional documents could be presented in a different way and in a different place in this document.

VII Evaluation and assessment of the implementation of the CRF

Identification of progress indicators and/or assessment tools;
Harmonised assessment of the implementation of the ICZM Protocol and the BC system, such as through IMAP/international frame.

Reporting through existing reporting format for the ICZM Protocol.

[14] UNEP/MAP/PAP: Guidelines for the preparation of National ICZM Strategies required by the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol for the Mediterranean. Split, Priority Actions Programme. 2015. http://pap-thecoastcentre.org/pdfs/National%20ICZM%20Guidelines.pdf and http://pap-thecoastcentre.org/pdfs/National%20ICZM%20Guidelines%20FR.pdf

Possible additional questions to the reporting format that could be adopted by COP, jointly with the CRF.

ANNEX IV

Alternative proposal of technical integration to the methodology guidance

INTEGRATIVE TECHNICAL STEPS TO THE METHODOLOGY

Step 1 - From table 1 identify the frame of the environmental State at regional and Sub-regional level using the EO Common Indicators and connecting the environmental state with the main Impacts and related Pressures affecting it. Identifying also the relevant gaps to fill.

This first step should include the analysis of the interactions between EOs and provisions of the ICZM Protocol through the matrix considering the three main aspects:

1. **Geographic**: landward - interface - seaward in order to follow the geographical logic of the coast zone (from land to sea; adding islands as a specific component)
2. **Dimensional**: Regional (Mediterranean) - Sub/regional - National level
3. **Temporal**: Short, Medium, Long-term plans and activities

EO 1	Biodiversity is maintained or enhanced. The quality and occurrence of coastal and marine habitats and the distribution and abundance of coastal and marine species are in line with prevailing physiographic, hydrographic, geographic and climatic conditions.
Common indicators	CI 1: Habitat distributional range CI 2: Condition of the habitat's typical species and communities. CI 3: Species distributional range (related to marine mammals, seabirds, marine reptiles) CI 4: Population abundance of selected species (related to marine mammals, seabirds, marine reptiles CI 5: Population demographic characteristics (e.g. body size or age class structure, sex ratio, fecundity rates, survival/mortality rates related to marine mammals, seabirds, marine reptiles).
Cluster	Biodiversity and fishery, EOs 1,2, 3, 4, 6

Step 2 - From table 2 undertake the analysis of the Relevant (official) **international/ regional and sub-regional legal and policy instruments**. From this assessment it should be possible to identify the actions, activities, methodologies, approaches already developed to mantain or achieve the Good Environmental Status.

Identified interactions	Relevant provisions of the ICZM Protocol	Linkage with other Barcelona C. Protocols	Relevant (official) international/ regional legal and policy instruments
Interactions related to state of coastal and marine areas			
Marine habitats	Art 10.2 Art 16.1 (inventories)	SPA Protocol	Strategic Action Plan for the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean (SAP-BIO); Action Plan for the conservation of marine vegetations; Action Plan for the Conservation of the coralligenous and other calcareous bio-concretions in the Mediterranean Sea; 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 Natura 2000 at sea (EU)
Dunes, wetlands and estuaries	Art 10.4 and 10.1	SPA Protocol	Ramsar Convention (1971) Natura 2000 on land (EU) Action Plan for the conservation of marine vegetation
Coastal forests and woods	Art 10.5	SPA Protocol	Natura 2000 on land (EU)
Coastal landscapes	Art 11 Art 8.1	SPA Protocol LBS Protocol	European Landscape Convention
Cultural heritage	Art 15.1; Art 13.2 Art 13.3 (underwater)		Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage Convention Euromed Heritage programmes

Interactions addressing activities at stake				
Coastal zone Landward	Urban sprawl	Art 8		Action plan for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol
	Agriculture	Art 9.2a Art 5c (water use)	LBS Protocol	Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production
	Industry	Art 9.1d	LBS Protocol	Mediterranean Strategy for SD
	Mining	Art 9.2e	LBS Protocol	
	Land filling	Art 9.1c	LBS Protocol	
Land-Sea Interface	Infrastructures (ports, roads, etc.)	Art 9.2		
	Energy production	Art 9.2		
	Desalination plants	Art 9.2		
Coastal zone Seaward	Fishing	Art 9.2	FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF)	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)
	Aquaculture	Art 9.2	CCRF	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM
	Tourism	Art 8.3; Art 9.2		
	Maritime transport	Art 9.2	Prevention and Emergency Protocol Offshore Protocol	IMO
	Sand extraction	Art 9.2		

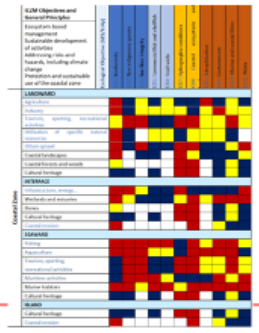
Step 3 - Link the information from table 1 with the ones from table 2 to address the provisions of the ICZM Protocol

Given the dynamic nature of the ICZM and the need for integration of the different elements in clusters, consider to use a system for a dynamic update of the information. A possible solution could be a **software tool** with:

1) **Inputs System** (to update information and data deriving from the dynamic P-S-I variation over time and the data and information that come from the gaps filling)

2) **Outputs System** (the Users enter their environmental information (Pressure, State, Impact conditions) and the system process the information automatically recalling possible solutions, approaches and methodologies to achieve the Good Environmental Status, picked up by the assessment of international / regional and sub-regional legal and policy instruments identified)

The structure of the system should take into consideration the Cumulative Effects Assessment through the use of the already existing instruments of Multi Criteria Analysis, which allow to model the Environmental System by simulating the resulting effect from a plurality of pressures on the environmental Status.



EO 1	Biodiversity is maintained or enhanced. The quality and occurrence of coastal and marine habitats and the distribution and abundance of coastal and marine species are in line with prevailing physiographic, hydrographic, geographic and climatic conditions.
Common indicators	CI 1: Habitat distributional range CI 2: Condition of the habitat's typical species and communities. CI 3: Species distributional range (related to marine mammals, seabirds, marine reptiles) CI 4: Population abundance of selected species (related to marine mammals, seabirds, marine reptiles CI 5: Population demographic characteristics (e.g. body size or age class structure, sex ratio, fecundity rates, survival/mortality rates related to marine mammals, seabirds, marine reptiles).
Cluster	Biodiversity and fishery, EOs 1,2, 3, 4, 6

Interactions addressing activities at stake				
Coastal zone Landward	Urban sprawl	Art 8		Action plan for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol
	Agriculture	Art 9.2a Art 5c (water use)	LBS Protocol	Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production
	Industry	Art 9.1d	LBS Protocol	Mediterranean Strategy for SD
	Mining	Art 9.2e	LBS Protocol	
	Land filling	Art 9.1c	LBS Protocol	