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84<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the  
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment  
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Athens, Greece, 19-20 May 2017

**Reports of the 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> Meetings of the Executive Coordination Panel**

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UN Environment/MAP  
Athens, 2017



UNITED  
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UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECP.30/3



UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

9 November 2016  
Original: English

30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Valletta, Malta 5-6 October 2016

**Report of the Meeting**

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UNEP/MAP  
Athens, 2016

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## I. Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

1. The 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 5-6 October 2016, in Valletta, Malta. The meeting was chaired by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator and attended by the Heads of all MAP Components, as well as the UNEP/MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues. The list of participants is presented in Annex I to this report.
2. Mr. Gaetano Leone, UNEP/MAP Coordinator opened the meeting at 09.30 and introduced the provisional agenda.

## II. Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work

3. The Coordinator welcomed the ECP members and congratulated them for the organization of several successful events that took place since the 29<sup>th</sup> ECP meeting. He especially congratulated REMPEC for hosting the 30<sup>th</sup> ECP meeting and for the successful 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary high-level meeting that took place on the previous day.
4. The Coordinator also referred to recent and upcoming events of global dimension on oceans and marine issues as great opportunities in terms of visibility and to promote the work of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention and showcase the Mediterranean region as an example for environmental governance. He highlighted as upcoming opportunities, the 2017 “Our Ocean” Conference to be held in Malta, the fact that Malta will hold the EU Presidency in the first semester of 2017, the G7 meeting to be hosted by Italy, the high-level Conference organized by France in January 2017 on “Mediterranean Plan for blue growth”, the IPCC Special Report on climate change and the oceans and the cryosphere, the High-Level UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14 (co-hosted by the Governments of Fiji and Sweden), with this sequence of events being concluded by COP 20 of the Barcelona Convention at the end of 2017.
5. In view of his future planned attendance to several high level meetings, the Coordinator highlighted the importance of communicating the identity and work of the UNEP/MAP system in a concrete manner. ECP members agreed on the need for a more targeted UNEP/MAP communication strategy. Several proposals were discussed, including the possibility for each Component to prepare a short text on the issue, the possibility to hire a branding/communication expert, the possibility to further engage the Task Force on Information and Communication under the ECP and the possible need for a retreat. The need to increase the capacity/resources on Information and Communication was also highlighted in this respect.
6. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda that was prepared by the Secretariat, document UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECP.30/1. INFO/RAC informed the meeting that he would like to make a presentation on the InfoMAP under Any Other Matters, if time allowed. The Coordinator and MAP Components agreed.
7. The participants addressed all items of the Agenda during their two days meeting.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Identification of needs on branding/image making	INFO/RAC	November 2016
2.	Each MAP Component to send to the Coordinating Unit a short text on: “Who we are? What are we doing? Where we are going?”	All MAP Components	November 2016

3.	Suggestions in order to identify external company/expert to help build a UNEP/MAP system image	MAP Components, according to their expertise	November 2016
4.	Organization of a retreat on the vision and visibility of UNEP/MAP	Coordinating Unit	2017

### III. Agenda item 3: Follow-up to the 29<sup>th</sup> ECP meeting

8. The Coordinator presented a brief overview of the follow-up to the 29<sup>th</sup> ECP meeting based on the document UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECP.29/3. He thanked ECP members for their inputs and responsiveness in having fulfilled the major part of Action Items within the deadlines set at the 29<sup>th</sup> ECP meeting.

9. The Coordinator gave the floor to all ECP members to discuss progress and actions to be taken in the near future. He also reminded of the progress related to resource mobilization, referring to the voluntary financial contribution of the Italian government and the importance of UNEP/MAP partners and donors in the UNEP/MAP system's work.

10. On pending issues, the Coordinator informed MAP Components that the Planning and Priorities Tables was still under review by the Secretariat. Furthermore, regarding the introduction of a new template of the Host Country Agreements it was recognized that the progress since the previous ECP meeting was very limited.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
5.	Prepare compiled Planning and Priorities Table	Coordinating Unit	November 2016

### IV. Agenda item 4: Implementation of the PoW 2016-2017

11. The meeting examined the status of implementation of the PoW 2016-2017 (Decision IG.22/20). A tour de table was initiated by the Coordinator for MAP Components to inform on main events and activities. An electronic version of the tentative calendar of MAP events prepared by the Secretariat was available on-screen.

12. PAP/RAC updated ECP members on the success of the Regional Consultation meeting that took place back to back with the Mediterranean Coast Day, on 28-29 September 2016 in Barcelona, Spain. She also stressed the pertinent support received from SCP/RAC and Plan Bleu while highlighting it as a good example of cooperation between MAP Components. PAP/RAC then informed on the status of the work on the Regional Framework on ICZM and the Conceptual Framework on MSP as well as on the progress of CAMP Italy and CAMP France and the launch of a new INTERREG project related to tourism.

13. Plan Bleu referred to the MCSD peer-review process, the preparation of the MSSD dashboard (indicators) as well as the preparation of side events at COP 22 of UNFCCC. She also noted the importance to include activities on tourism within the work plan of each MAP Component, an issue for which a specific agenda item was foreseen in the meeting. INFO/RAC shared with MAP Components his difficulties in delivering. Reference was made to the the new ICZM reporting format and to the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS). He noted that a datacentre that would bring the BCRS and ICZM reporting systems together will be ready before the end of the current biennium.

14. MED POL updated the meeting on existing projects and on two very important meetings on NAPs Implementation and CORMON Pollution including Workshop on Science Policy Interface (to be held in Marseille, France, on 17-18 and 19-21 October 2016 respectively), co-organized with Plan Bleu, and on the situation regarding the limited human resources capacity.

15. REMPEC updated on projects and on past and upcoming events. Reference was made to the technical committee on SOx Emission Control Areas (SECAs) and on the relevant feasibility study to be shared with the MAP Legal Officer. He also referred to the contingency plan for the Adriatic and the technical assistance related to offshore exploitation following the agreement between Cyprus/Greece/Israel. Additional updates were made on ballast waters and the implementation of the relevant COP Decisions. REMPEC stressed the fact of being under-staffed and currently short of projects to rely on. He suggested that the next PoW could be more flexible so that it can adjust to changes of circumstances during the biennium.

16. SPA/RAC updated ECP members on three projects and on several events prepared and co-organized as well as future planned activities, including the MPA Forum (Tangier, 28/11-1/12/2016). He also highlighted the existence of links with REMPECs work regarding alien and endangered species. He informed participants on the initiative of a MPA joint working Group with GFCM to be launched soon.

17. SCP/RAC updated on the series of events it has organized or attended as well as on future planned activities, including the meeting on the MSSD and SCP indicators (Barcelona, Spain, 17/10/2016), SwitchMed Connect (Barcelona, Spain, 18-20/10/2016) and the training of entrepreneurs. He highlighted the positive feedback so far and informed on new projects, while he thanked MED POL for the, soon to be signed, PCA on Marine Litter.

18. The Secretariat clarified that Contracting Parties should officially inform the Coordinating Unit for changes in regard to the designated Component Focal Points, and that one list of Focal Points as well as one list of “reporters” for the Barcelona Convention (BCRS) and ICZM reporting systems should be held centrally. It was suggested that a reminder shall be sent once a year to MAP Components on the update of Focal Points lists. In regard to the Resource Mobilization Strategy, the Secretariat updated ECP members that ToRs were under preparation, while for the baseline indicators for the MTS, work was to start soon. The Coordinator also reported on the progress regarding the MedProgramme submission to be examined by the GEF Council. Finally, the Coordinator noted that he shared with ECP members his mission reports, as promised during the 29<sup>th</sup> ECP meeting.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
6.	Update Coordinating Unit on upcoming events, to update the tentative calendar	MAP Components	November 2016
7.	Data center linking BCRS and ICZM reporting systems	INFO/RAC	Before end of biennium
8.	Send new Project Fiches to Coordinating Unit, if any	MAP Components	Dynamic
9.	REMPEC to share with CU (Legal Officer) the draft / feasibility study on the designation of SECAs	REMPEC	November 2016
10.	Creation of centralized lists of Focal Points	Coordinating Unit and MAP Components (to ensure relevant	Dynamic

		information is sent to Coordinating Unit)	
11.	Secretariat to send reminder once a year in regard to Component Focal Points nominations, making the process clear to all Contracting Parties	Coordinating Unit	-
12.	List / agendas of COP 22 Side events where MAP is involved	Plan Bleu	Early November 2016

#### V. Agenda item 5: Preparation of the Regional Framework on ICZM and the Conceptual framework for MSP

19. The Director of PAP/RAC updated MAP components on developments regarding the Regional Framework on ICZM (Decision IG.22/11) and the Conceptual Framework for Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), and especially on the consultation meeting held in Barcelona, Spain, on 28-29 September 2016. MAP Components were also reminded that their inputs are pertinent, as the Regional Framework on ICZM and the Conceptual Framework for MSP relate to the work of all MAP Components.

20. Discussing the main outcomes of the consultation meeting, PAP/RAC noted that there was agreement to present ICZM and MSP together and on the need for a guidance document and not for another legally binding document. PAP/RAC also added that a Roadmap for the implementation of the Regional Framework will be embedded at the end of the document, so as to provide a clear added value on its implementation.

21. On the timeline, the background documents will be completed by December 2016. The next steps is to share the latter with all MAP Components and with the Contracting Parties as a live document so to start working on the actual document of the Framework. The Framework is to be shared for a one month consultation in order to be discussed at the PAP/RAC NFPs meeting in April 2017 in Split, Croatia.

22. SPA/RAC noted that added value for marine biodiversity is much reduced if the Conceptual Framework on MSP does not go beyond territorial waters. PAP/RAC noted that the meeting in Barcelona agreed to retain for the time being the coverage in the territorial waters and then make an analysis of the implications of extending the geographical coverage.

23. The meeting also discussed the possibility to organize a side event on ICZM at COP20, and to use the opportunity of the ICZM Regional Framework to increase the number of ratifications of the ICZM Protocol.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
13.	Involvement of all MAP Components in the next stages of the preparation of the Regional Framework on ICZM and the Conceptual Framework for MSP	All MAP Components	Dynamic (emphasis in consultation phase, early 2017)
14.	Preparation of side event during COP 20	PAP/RAC (lead)	COP 20

## VI. Agenda item 6: Sustainable Tourism

24. The Coordinator introduced the issue of Sustainable Tourism and gave the floor to Plan Bleu to present the document entitled “Guidelines towards a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Tourism” and to update on the actions that can be undertaken within UNEP/MAP on Sustainable Tourism, being also one of the proposed main themes for COP 20.

25. Plan Bleu referred to the internal work and to workshops organized on the theme of Sustainable Tourism until now. She stressed the importance of the sector in terms of impact on coastal communities and on the marine environment, while recognizing that there is not yet a mandate to proceed with a strategy for sustainable tourism for the Mediterranean. The Coordinator noted that Sustainable Tourism would be proposed as a possible theme for COP 20, during the 83<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Bureau. He also acknowledged the fact that Sustainable Tourism might be considered as a controversial issue, but this could on the other hand trigger very interesting and constructive discussions.

26. The Coordinator while acknowledging the leading role of Plan Bleu on this topic, highlighted that Sustainable Tourism is very relevant to the work of all MAP Components. He also suggested that this was an opportunity for the MAP system to work together, as each RAC can relate to it in its own field of expertise and mandate. The expected outcome of such exercise would be to develop a robust document showcasing why this issue is now relevant to the MAP mandate, and proposing to the Contracting Parties a process to be followed in order for the issue of Sustainable Tourism to be dealt with in the UNEP/MAP system. He also proposed for the MCSD to be involved in the process, since their involvement will be beneficial to all partners. Reference was also made to the relevance of presenting Sustainable Tourism as a possible theme for COP 20, considering that the United Nations (General Assembly had approved the adoption of 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
15.	Plan Bleu to update the document on Sustainable Tourism, based <i>inter alia</i> on the ECP discussions	Plan Bleu	End of 2016

## VII. Agenda item 7: Preparation of the 2017 Quality Status Report

27. The meeting discussed the preparation of the 2017 Quality Status Report (2017 QSR) based on the draft concept table of contents and timeline for its preparation. MED POL noted the lack of resources and the tight deadlines, which make necessary the use of consultancy support. Inputs from MAP Components were discussed, setting a deadline for the end of 2016, since a consolidated first draft is expected by April 2017.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
16.	Input for the 2017 QSR zero draft	All MAP Components	20 December 2016

## VIII. Agenda item 8: Preparation of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Bureau meeting

28. The meeting discussed the final preparations for the 83<sup>rd</sup> Bureau meeting (Tirana, Albania, 25-26 October 2016). The discussion was based on the background documents for the 83<sup>rd</sup> Bureau meeting, and especially on the Report on Specific Issues (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.83/6).



29. The Coordinator updated ECP Members on the 83<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Bureau preparations, while the RACs presented the latest update on the progress regarding their Host Country Agreements.

30. The UNEP/MAP Programme Officer informed ECP members of the two additional Protocol ratifications from Italy and Israel.

31. ECP members were also updated on the issue of the analysis undertaken by the Secretariat for shifting to a thematic Focal Point system, while the challenges of the first edition of the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award were also discussed.

#### **IX. Agenda item 9: Preparations for COP 20**

32. ECP members elaborated on the possible main themes of COP 20, the scope and focus of the potential COP 20 decisions and the process for the timely preparation of the relevant documents.

33. The Coordinator informed ECP members that following the need to change the date of COP 20 due to its overlap with UNEA-3 dates, two alternative dates were proposed to the Bureau. He added that Sustainable Tourism and ICZM are the two themes proposed by the Secretariat as possible themes for COP 20, noting that there is the possibility to combine them. He also noted that the opinion of the host country of COP 20, Albania, on the COP theme is very important.

34. The Secretariat raised attention to the need of minimizing the number of Decisions to be adopted at COP 20, as a lesson learned from COP 19. It was agreed that the COP Decisions, and especially the one on the Programme of Work and Budget (PoW+B), will be the main subject of the 31<sup>st</sup> ECP Meeting. The Coordinating Unit will use a transparent process for the preparation of the PoW+B, involving all MAP Components from the early stage of its preparation.

35. Regarding the proposals on new COP decisions by MAP Components, the Coordinator stressed that these should be kept to a minimum and that proposals should be accompanied by a justification. INFO/RAC mentioned the possibility of a future COP decision on Data Policy, while SPA/RAC referred to a combined decision on SPAMIs and new bird species. MED POL noted that a legal analysis is needed to clarify if Guidelines need to be adopted through a COP decision.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
17.	Legal analysis on the need of COP decisions to adopt Guidelines	Coordinating Unit (Legal Officer)	Before end of 2016
18.	Proposals for COP 20 decisions (including justification) and for possible side events at NFP meeting and COP	MAP Components (to send to Coordinating Unit)	Before 31 <sup>st</sup> ECP Meeting
19.	Documents for MAP FP meeting and COP to follow UN format	MAP Components	Timely for respective meetings
20.	Preparation and distribution of a short set of principles, guidelines and timetable for the development of the POW+B	Coordinating Unit (to send to all MAP Components)	30 November 2016
21.	Check Project Documents to confirm if budget of Component FP meetings lay with the MAP Component	MAP Components	November 2016

**X. Agenda item 10: Date and Venue of the 31<sup>st</sup> ECP meeting**

36. The ECP decided its 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting to take place on 11-12 January 2017. SPA/RAC offered to host the meeting in Tunis, Tunisia.
37. Dates and venue for the 32<sup>nd</sup> ECP Meeting were also discussed. It was proposed to hold the meeting on 21-22 (or alternatively 28-29) March 2017, in Split, Croatia.
38. The Coordinator reminded participants of the proposal to hold an ECP retreat. SCP/RAC offered to host the retreat in Barcelona, Spain.
39. Plan Bleu informed that the provisional dates for the Plan Bleu Focal Points meeting are 25-26 April 2017.

**XI. Agenda item 11: Any Other Matters**

40. The Meeting considered other issues, as follows:

(a) Updating of the SPA/RAC graphic charter

41. Concerns were raised by ECP Members, and especially SPA/RAC, regarding their naming that often proves to be not “market friendly” while causing frustration in communication. The use of an abbreviation or nickname/pseudonym was proposed as an alternative that could also help creating a sense of common identity between the RACs. The Coordinator stressed the need to have a common format in the abbreviation (i.e. the agreed acronym of the Centre followed by /RAC). He also noted that a change of the name of a MAP Component requires the agreement of the Contracting Parties.

42. The issue of graphic charter homogenization between MAP Components was also raised. SPA/RAC proposed that the existing Task Force on Information and Communication could make proposals on common rules for graphic charter format. REMPEC reminded ECP Members of the existence of a graphic charter containing UNEP/MAP technical rules on the use of logos and shared a printed copy with the ECP Members.

(b) Draft Reporting Template of MAP Components

43. REMPEC presented a Draft Reporting Template that takes into consideration the existing reporting processes of the MAP system and enables and facilitates data processing for reporting. REMPEC invited all ECP Members to consider, test and comment on this draft template. Its main goal is to allow the collection of data from all Components in one central database. It was noted that this is very useful for each Component but it may be too detailed for the Coordinating Unit to manage and check qualitatively. INFO/RAC suggested that it is more a management support tool than a reporting template.

(c) Importance of homogenous UN formatting and editing rules

44. The Coordinator welcomed progress already made in this field and stressed once again the importance of homogenous formatting and editing rules, based on UN guidelines. It was highlighted that respecting collectively such practices is extremely benefitting in terms of time and human capacity efficiency.

(d) Update on Human Resources at the Coordinating Unit

45. The Coordinator updated ECP Members on the new recruitments and ongoing recruitment processes at the Coordinating Unit. ECP Members were also informed of training opportunities offered by the UNEP Headquarters and the Coordinator warmly invited them to participate.

(e) Presentation of INFO/RAC on infoMAP (iMAP)

46. INFO/RAC made a presentation on the infoMAP architecture, noting that it is based on the SEIS architecture. MED POL highlighted the need to establish priorities since there are not adequate resources for all information and communication related activities. ECP members agreed with the proposal of INFO/RAC to use the groupware (groupware.info-rac.org) for uploading meeting documents.

47. On other issues, the Coordinator stressed the need for continuing resource mobilization, noting that opportunities should be explored and seized as appropriate, as long as they are relevant to the Programme of Work or/and the Mid-Term Strategy of UNEP/MAP and in full transparency with the rest of the system. ECP members noted the need that MAP Components follow a harmonized approach in resource mobilization and do not compete with each other.

48. The meeting also referred to the issue of publications. The Coordinator stressed the importance of publications for the visibility of UNEP/MAP, noting that there is a limited budget available. He proposed the issue to be discussed in the Information and Communication Task Force, and noted the possibility to recruit somebody at the Coordinating Unit or INFO/RAC. INFO/RAC will develop and share a common template, where each MAP Component can develop its own publications, using the UN publication format.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
22.	Proposals on common rules for graphic charter format (noting the UNEP rules for the use of logos)	Task Force on Information and Communication	Early 2017
23.	Research on updates in relation to the 2001 UNEP rules on logos/graphic charter	Coordinating Unit	November 2016
24.	Distribution of the draft Reporting Template	REMPEC	October 2016
25.	Test draft Reporting Template and provide feedback on its use	MAP Components	Before 31 <sup>st</sup> ECP meeting
26.	Support regarding information & communication services (e.g. upload of factsheets, update software/web hosting)	INFO/RAC	Before the end of the biennium
27.	Share the UN Editing Manual and Guidelines	Coordinating Unit	November 2016
28.	Advice on publications (incl. use of UN format, software and licensing)	Task Force on Information and Communication	-
29.	Develop and share with MAP Components a common template for publications	INFO/RAC	-

**XII. Agenda item 12: Closure of the Meeting**

49. The Coordinator thanked all participants and closed the 30<sup>th</sup> ECP meeting at 17.30.

**Annex I**

**List of participants**

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**Annex II**  
**Agenda**



## **Agenda**

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ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

6 February 2017  
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31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Tunis, Tunisia, 11-12 January 2017

**Report of the Meeting**

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UN Environment/MAP  
Athens, 2017

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## I. Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

1. The 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 11-12 January 2017, hosted by SPA/RAC in Tunis, Tunisia. The meeting was chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment)/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Coordinator and attended by the Heads of MAP Components (with the exception of INFO/RAC, undergoing a restructuring exercise), the UN Environment/MAP Deputy Coordinator and the UN Environment/MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues. The list of participants is presented in Annex I to this report.
2. Mr. Gaetano Leone, UN Environment/MAP Coordinator opened the meeting at 09.30 and introduced the provisional agenda.

## II. Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work

3. The Coordinator welcomed the ECP members and noted that the meeting will mainly focus on the preparation of a more advanced draft of the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (PoW 2018-2019).
4. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda that was prepared by the Secretariat, document UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECP.31/1. SCP/RAC recommended to include in the agenda a very brief discussion on the performance review of SCP/RAC and INFO/RAC to be prepared for COP 20, REMPEC a discussion on the reporting template between MAP Components and the UN Environment/MAP Coordinator a short agenda point on the evaluation of procurement practices. The participants agreed to discuss these issues under Any Other Matters, if time allowed.

## III. Agenda item 3: Follow-up to the 30<sup>th</sup> ECP meeting

5. The Coordinator referred to the recent developments since the previous ECP meeting (5-6 October 2016, Valetta, Malta) in relation to resource mobilization, participation in international and regional events and reach-out activities. He also referred to a recent restructuring in ISPRA that lead to changes in INFO/RAC.
6. In relation to the possible involvement of UN Environment/MAP in the Volvo Ocean Race related events, SCP/RAC Director noted the Centre's collaboration with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, while PAP/RAC Director noted that international sailor Didac Costa was elected "Ambassador for the Coast" during the 2017 Coast Day celebrations.
7. The Coordinator reminded the ECP Members to send project fiches for the new projects (non-MTF funded).
8. He then gave them the floor for possible updates on the progress regarding the status of Host Country Agreements. Following a brief discussion, he stressed that an analysis is needed of what exists and what is missing, of the legal situation and of the requirements for a new template. Each MAP Component will do this analysis and the overall outcome will then be discussed with the Bureau.
9. The Plan Bleu/RAC Director also informed the meeting of a change in the Centre's structure.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Send new Project Fiches to Coordinating Unit	MAP Components	Dynamic
2.	Analysis of Host Country Agreement status for each MAP Component	MAP Components	End of March 2017

#### IV. Agenda item 4: Implementation of the PoW 2016-2017

10. The Deputy Coordinator informed the meeting that the updated planning and priorities table will be sent to MAP Components and will show the process and deliverables for 2016. The MAP Components are to provide feedback on needs of changes for 2017 (proposals for budget revision for 2017). It was noted that revisions of more than 20% need UN Environment Nairobi HQ approval.

11. The Coordinator noted that efforts should be made to send meeting documents in all languages within the deadline and that meeting documents should follow UN Guidelines. He also emphasized the advantages on preparing a limited number of concise documents for meetings.

12. MAP Components updated the meeting regarding their upcoming events and especially the venue and dates of their Focal Points Meetings. Based on this information it was decided that an updated calendar of events will be prepared by the Coordinating Unit and will be distributed to MAP Focal Points. MAP Components will continue providing updates on meetings and events.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
3.	Updated Planning and Priorities Table for 2016 to be shared with MAP Components	Coordinating Unit	January 2017
4.	Needs of budget revisions for 2017	MAP Components	Early February 2017
5.	Updated calendar of events to be prepared and sent to MAP Focal Points	Coordinating Unit	January 2017
6.	Update Coordinating Unit on upcoming events	MAP Components	Dynamic

#### V. Agenda item 5: Preparation of the 2018-2019 UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and budget

13. The Deputy Coordinator referred to the document entitled “Draft guiding elements for the preparation of 2018-2019 UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) and budget”, that was sent to the ECP Members before the meeting. The meeting welcomed the document and the early involvement of all MAP Components in the process and discussed the “Roadmap and consultation process”, which was presented in section IV of the document. Following the discussion the process was fine-tuned, as follows:

- Overall agreement on key deliverables for the 2018-19 (to take place during the meeting).
- Deputy Coordinator to send updated version with comments / simplified to each MAP Component in Excel (by the end of next week).
- Each MAP Component to finalize the first draft, without budget (by the end of January). The format of the table will contain: Key outputs, main activities, key deliverables, and remarks.
- Coordinator to send a letter to MAP Focal Points informing them on the process (end of January).
- Informal consultation of MAP Component FPs, with copy to MAP FPs (beginning of February with a 2 week consultation period).
- Revised version to be prepared by the Coordinating Unit (end of February).
- Work on budget by all MAP Components and aggregation by Coordinating Unit (March).
- Revised version and budget to be discussed and finalized in next ECP meeting (29-30 March).
- Then the process will follow the steps presented under section IV(4) of document “Draft guiding elements for the preparation of 2018-2019 UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) and budget”, starting with the discussions at the MAP Components’ Focal Points meetings.

14. Following the agreement on the roadmap/timetable a detailed discussion was conducted on the activities proposed by each MAP Component in order to reach an overall agreement on the key deliverables. It was clarified that while thematic activities needing relevant expertise will be included under the three Core and the three Cross-cutting themes, the Overarching theme (Governance) will include a streamlining of what will be delivered in an integrated manner.

15. For activity 1.5.1 on the InfoMAP platform, SPA/RAC Director noted that the Centre could facilitate the process until INFO/RAC can take the lead following its recent restructuring. This process will also need the involvement of all MAP Components and was therefore decided to establish a new Task Force on Data Management. It was noted that this Task Force can also examine the issue of a common reporting template of MAP Components, which takes into consideration the existing reporting processes of the MAP system and enables and facilitates data processing for reporting.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
7.	Actions for the preparation of the PoW 2018-9 as described in the roadmap presented in paragraph 14	Coordinating Unit and all MAP Components	As described in the roadmap presented in paragraph 14
8.	Information on updated list of MAP and Components' Focal Points from Libya	UN ENVIRONMENT/MAP Coordinator	January 2017
9.	Establishment of Task Force on Data Management	SPA/RAC and then INFO RAC	February - March 2017

## VI. Agenda item 6: Baseline values for evaluation of the MTS implementation

16. The meeting discussed the issue of defining baseline values for evaluation of the MTS implementation. On the way forward, they suggested to hire a consultant to assist the Secretariat to derive baseline values, subject to the availability of resources.

17. The participants decided to consider at this point only the indicators presented under the PoW 2016-7 (1<sup>st</sup> page, under the Governance theme). The consultant would then suggest if any further indicators should be included due to the longer time frame/context of the Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 in relation to the PoW 2016-2017. It was also suggested to examine the possibility to consider also the list of indicators presented to the MAP Focal Points before COP 19, which were finally rejected as premature. Finally, the meeting decided to take as a basis the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2016 in order to derive the baseline values.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
10.	Initiate process to hire a consultant for the baseline values for evaluation of the MTS implementation	Coordinating Unit	February 2017

## VII. Agenda item 7: Preparations for COP 20

18. ECP members elaborated on the main theme of COP 20, based on the suggestion of the Bureau at its 83<sup>rd</sup> Meeting (25-26 October 2016, Tirana, Albania). It was agreed that the focus should be on the implementation of SDG14 in the Mediterranean looking at one specific sector, e.g. tourism. A possible further refinement of the theme could be to focus on the promotion of sustainable solutions for tourism to protect the environment and to implement SDG14.

19. It was agreed to inform the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) to take this in consideration when discussing the theme of the next MCSD meeting (planned for June 2017). The meeting suggested that, if the focus of COP 20 is on tourism, it may be advisable to invite the World Tourism Organization as well as Ministers of Tourism.

20. The preliminary list of possible decisions to be adopted at COP 19 was discussed. The meeting decided to focus on a concise list of aggregated decisions and to further refine the list and cluster possible decisions based on the PoW 2018-2019, which is under preparation.

21. The Coordinator asked the ECP Members to suggest side events for the COP, the MAP National Focal Points (NFP) Meeting and the MCSD. Suggestions should be sent to the Coordinating Unit before the end of March 2017, accompanied by a text of half to one page on the subject/organization of the side event.

22. The meeting also decided that the MAP NFP Meeting should be held in the week 11-15 September 2017.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
11.	Legal analysis on the need of COP decisions to adopt Guidelines	Coordinating Unit (Legal Officer)	By Mid-March 2017
12.	Proposals for possible side events at MCSD meeting, MAP NFP meeting and COP (half to one page text on the subject/organization)	MAP Components (to send to Coordinating Unit)	Before end of March 2017

#### **VIII. Agenda item 8: Preparation of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development - Involvement of all MAP Components**

23. The meeting discussed preparations for the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, to take place in June 2017. The participants stressed that the responsibility of the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) lies with the Contracting Parties, the partners and stakeholders, as well as with UN Environment/MAP.

24. The ECP members discussed the document “MAP Components & Partners – Follow-up of the MSSD 2016-2025 implementation – Progress done towards achievement of Targets and Flagship initiatives” that was prepared by Plan Bleu/RAC and was sent to ECP members before the meeting. They suggested that it was probably not the most efficient way for MAP Components to report, taking also into account the proliferation of reporting exercises, but that it could be further refined in the future as a useful tool for the reporting of partners on the implementation of the MSSD (and possibly linked to the MSSD indicators, when these are finalized).

#### **IX. Agenda item 9: Date and Venue of the 32<sup>nd</sup> ECP meeting**

25. The ECP decided its 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting to take place on 29-30 March 2017. PAP/RAC offered to host the meeting in Split, Croatia.

#### **X. Agenda item 10: Any Other Matters**

26. The Meeting considered other issues, as follows:

- (a) Main elements of the Regional Framework on ICZM and the Conceptual Framework for MSP

27. The PAP/RAC Director informed participants on the more refined document with two annexes that was sent before the meeting. After a brief discussion, it was decided that PAP/RAC will send a more detailed version by the end of January for comments by all MAP Components.

- (b) Sustainable Tourism

28. The meeting recalled the discussion on this issue under Agenda Item 7.

- (c) Update on the preparation of the UN Environment/MAP communication strategy

29. ECP members elaborated on the process of updating the strategy, in order to guide the relevant work of the Information Task Force. They suggested that the Communication Task Force should make an assessment on what has been implemented from the previous communication strategy of UN Environment/MAP. To this end, the ECP Members would send possible comments within January. Depending on availability of resources, a meeting of the Task Force or the hiring of a consultant could be also anticipated. The Coordinator stressed the lack of communication capacity/trained personnel in the Coordinating Unit, while the SPA/RAC Director noted that the Centre has already done some relevant work in this field, which he would share with participants.

- (d) Update on the preparation of the 2017 Quality Status Report

30. A short update on the process was provided by the Coordinating Unit, noting that the more detailed timeline will be discussed at the CORMON meetings planned for the end of February-beginning of March (Madrid, Spain).

- (e) Gender policy

31. The UN Environment/MAP Programme Officer made a presentation on the Gender Policy of UN Environment and on how it can be reflected within the work of UN Environment/MAP. He suggested that for further information, ECP Members could contact the Gender Focal Point for UN Environment/MAP, Ms. Gyorgyi Gurban.

32. The meeting did not discuss the performance review of SCP/RAC and INFO/RAC to be prepared for COP 20 that will be looked into at the next available opportunity.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
13.	Refined document on ICZM and MSP frameworks	PAP/RAC	31 January 2017
14.	Assessment on what has been implemented from the previous communication strategy of UN Environment/MAP	Communication Task Force	February-March 2017
15.	Comments on process for the update of the communication strategy	SPA/RAC and all MAP Components	January 2017

## **XI. Agenda item 11: Closure of the Meeting**

33. The 31<sup>st</sup> ECP meeting was closed at 18.00 on Thursday 12 January 2017.



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**Annex II**  
**Agenda**

## **Provisional Agenda**

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
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| <b>Agenda item 3</b>  | Follow up to the 30 <sup>th</sup> ECP meeting  |
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| <b>Agenda item 9</b>  | Date and Venue of the 32 <sup>nd</sup> ECP meeting   |
| <b>Agenda item 10</b> | Any Other Matters  |
| <b>Agenda item 11</b> | Closure of the Meeting   |



UNITED  
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UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECP.32/3



UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

15 May 2017  
Original: English

32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Split, Croatia, 29-30 March 2017

### **Report of the Meeting**

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

UN Environment/MAP  
Athens, 2017

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## I. Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

1. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 29-30 March 2017, hosted by PAP/RAC in Split, Croatia. The meeting was chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment)/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Coordinator and attended by the Heads of MAP Components, the UN Environment/MAP Deputy Coordinator and the UN Environment/MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues. The Senior Consultant for the update of the Resource Mobilization Strategy also attended the meeting. The list of participants is presented in Annex I to this report.
2. Mr. Gaetano Leone, UN Environment/MAP Coordinator opened the meeting at 10.30 and introduced the provisional agenda.

## II. Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work

3. The Coordinator welcomed the ECP members and noted that the meeting will mainly focus on the preparation of a more advanced draft of the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (PoW 2018-2019) and on preparations in view of COP 20.
4. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda that was prepared by the Secretariat, document UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECP.32/1. The participants agreed to address under “Any other Matters” the issue of procurement by the Regional Activity Centers.

## III. Agenda item 3: Follow-up to the 31<sup>st</sup> ECP meeting

5. The Coordinator presented a brief overview of the follow-up to the 31<sup>st</sup> ECP meeting based on the document UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECP.31/3. The ECP discussed progress and actions to be taken, and the RACs presented the latest updates regarding the analysis of the status of their Host Country Agreements.
6. The Coordinator referred to the recent developments since the previous ECP meeting (Tunis, Tunisia, 11-12 January 2017) in relation to resource mobilization, participation in international and regional events and bilateral meetings. The need to proceed with the baseline values for the evaluation of the MTS implementation was highlighted and it was proposed to group this task within a wider one.
7. The Coordinator reminded the ECP Members to send project fiches for the new projects (non-MTF funded) to the Coordinating Unit, in order for the latter to update the current compilation. The meeting agreed that there is no need to prepare a separate document for COP 20 on the performance review of SCP/RAC and INFO/RAC, since this issue can be addressed in an introduction to the PoW.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Send new Project Fiches to Coordinating Unit	MAP Components	Dynamic
2.	Suggest side events to take place during all MAP Governance meetings until COP 20	MAP Components	April/May 2017
3.	Revised draft of the Terms of Reference for Communication Strategy	Coordinating Unit	End of April 2017
4.	Each MAP Component to send to Coordinating Unit two paragraphs on the status, challenges and proposed way forward regarding their Host Country Agreements	MAP Components	End of April 2017



5.	Legal Officer to update on the legal analysis on guidelines	Coordinating Unit	April 2017
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#### IV. Agenda item 4: Implementation of the PoW 2016-2017

8. The Coordinator updated the ECP on meetings and events where the Coordinating Unit participated, and provided information about bilateral meetings and collaboration with Contracting Parties and partners, such as the Union for the Mediterranean, IMO, GFCM and WWF MedPo.

9. The meeting examined the status of implementation of the PoW 2016-2017 (Decision IG.22/20), including the needs of budget revisions for 2017.

10. The Coordinator reminded that efforts should be made to send meeting documents in all languages within the deadline and that meeting documents should follow UN Guidelines. He also emphasized the advantages of preparing a limited number of concise documents for meetings.

11. He then referred to the upcoming MAP events, namely the MAP II Assessment Meeting on 16-17 May 2017, the 17th MCSDD Meeting on 4-6 July 2017, the MAP Focal Points Meetings on 12-15 September 2017 and the 13th Compliance Committee Meeting on 26-27 September 2017. MAP Components updated the ECP on their upcoming events and committed to continue providing updates on meetings and events to the Coordinating Unit, so that these can be registered in the MAP tentative calendar.

12. The Coordinator welcomed and presented to the MAP Components the new MAP Senior Consultant on Resource Mobilization, Ms. Vera Weill-Halle. Ms. Weill-Halle presented the main concepts of the revised Resource Mobilization Strategy, while she arranged to have bilateral discussions with the ECP members at the sidelines of the ECP meeting. The meeting discussed the preparation of the updated Resource Mobilization Strategy, stressing the need to link it with the relevant policies (e.g. the MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021) and the Communication Strategy to be prepared for possible adoption as COP 20. Reference to the need to increase capacities to enable successful resource mobilization was also made by participants.

13. In conclusion, the Coordinator stressed the importance of all ECP members joining hands for the preparation of project proposals, participation at global and regional events, especially considering the increased interest in the Mediterranean region. In this respect, he referred to upcoming events of global dimension as great opportunities in terms of visibility and for delivering a strong message on behalf of the MAP system.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
6.	Update of Planning and Priorities Table	MAP Components and Coordinating Unit	April/May 2017
7.	Organize a meeting with UfM	Coordinating Unit	Spring/early summer 2017
8.	(a) INFO/RAC Focal Points Nomination Process initialized, (b) Discussion with MAP Components on their information-related needs, and (c) INFO/RAC to lead the work of the Task Force on Information Management	INFO/RAC	May 2017

## V. Agenda item 5: Preparation of the 2018-2019 UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and budget

14. The preparation of the 2018-2019 UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget was the core agenda item of the meeting. Participants discussed the revised version of the 2018-2019 UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work, including the first draft of the Budget, and elaborated on the next steps.

15. The Deputy Coordinator informed ECP members of the process, thanking them for the commitment that all MAP Components had shown and for their teamwork. The first draft received from each MAP Component was discussed in detail. In this respect, the meeting tasks were fully accomplished and it was agreed that the Deputy Coordinator would provide further comments to MAP Components in order for them to develop a revised detailed table of the POW, within the framework of the 2016-2021 Mid-Term Strategy, to share with their respective Focal Points. The main principles of the budget distribution were also discussed. The process of coordinated preparation of the POW was agreed to continue as agreed, in the planning and timetable paper prepared for this purpose.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
9.	CU to send comment to each RAC on its proposed PoW	Coordinating Unit	First week of April 2017
10.	CU to send consolidated version of Governance part of the PoW to MAP Focal Points	Coordinating Unit	May 2017
11.	MAP Components (a) to send their part of the PoW as working documents for their respective FP Meetings, and (b) to encourage their Focal Points to communicate with the MAP Focal Points on the PoW	MAP Components	April/May 2017

## VI. Agenda item 6: Regional Framework on ICZM and Conceptual Framework for MSP

16. The members of the ECP expressed their opinions and comments on the draft document of the Regional Framework for ICZM and the Conceptual Framework for MSP, which was provided by PAP/RAC before the meeting, in view also of the technical meeting to take place on this issue on 5-6 April 2017, in Athens, Greece.

17. The PAP/RAC Director mentioned that this document was based on several consultations and on written comments received, while trying to be as concise as possible. The Coordinator expressed the view that this was a good first draft and stressed that he is looking forward to next week's meeting, and that collaboration on this matter does not end here, but will continue until COP 20.

## VII. Preparations for the upcoming MAP/Barcelona Convention bodies' meetings

18. The members of the ECP discussed upcoming meetings of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system, including the 84<sup>th</sup> Bureau meeting (Athens, Greece, 19-20 June 2017), the 17<sup>th</sup> MCSDD meeting (Athens, Greece, 4-6 July 2017) and COP 20 (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017). *Inter alia*, they discussed the focus, main documents and expected deliverables of the meetings as well as possible side events.

19. The Coordinator encouraged MAP Components to produce as few and as short as possible documents, in line with the UN Editing Guidelines. He also pointed out that due to financial constraints, RACs should arrange, where possible, their own translation arrangements for the Working

Documents they are responsible for. He noted that the progress reports for these meetings should be more representative of MAP's impact (e.g. input to UNEA-3) and need to consider issues of visibility and dissemination. He also expressed his appreciation of the RACs substantial contribution to this collective effort. The meeting agreed that a "Note from The Secretariat" should be prepared to accompany each draft Decision.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
12.	Inputs to documents in view of the 84 <sup>th</sup> Bureau Meeting	All MAP Components	End of April 2017
13.	Proposals on speakers/resource persons, format and discussions for the 17 <sup>th</sup> MCSD Meeting	All MAP Components	April 2017
14.	Suggestions on the List of Decisions and potential theme for COP 20	All MAP Components	Mid-May 2017

#### **VIII. Agenda item 8: Date and Venue of the 33<sup>rd</sup> ECP meeting**

20. The ECP decided on the date and the venue of its 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting which is currently set to take place on 10 September 2017, in Athens, Greece.

#### **IX. Agenda item 9: Any Other Matters**

21. The meeting considered other issues raised by its members. In this respect, the following issues were discussed:

22. The Coordinator updated participants on rules and procedures for meetings organized by the Coordinating Unit and MAP Components. In this respect, reference was made to UN guidelines regarding travel arrangements and DSAs and it was stressed that the relevant procedures should be followed.

23. Regarding the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award, the Coordinating Unit briefly updated participants on the issue and on the future steps, following reception of the voluntary contribution for the Award by Turkey.

24. On the issue of RAC's procurement, the Coordinator thanked the ECP for participating in the relevant exercise. The ECP members briefly shared their experience on completing this difficult exercise.

25. The meeting was closed by the Coordinator at 17:30 on 30 March 2017.

	Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline
15.	ECP members to disseminate the outcome of the discussion on preparation and organization of meetings to their staff	ECP members	April/May 2017
16.	Preparation of public voting survey for the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award	INFO/RAC	August/September 2017

**Annex I**

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**Annex II**  
**Agenda**

## **Agenda**

- Agenda item 1**      Opening of the Meeting
- Agenda item 2**      Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work
- Agenda item 3**      Follow up to the 31<sup>st</sup> ECP meeting
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