

***Workshop to discuss the First Draft of the Regional  
Framework for ICZM and MSP***

***(Athens, 5-6 April 2017)***





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**Introduction**

1. The preparation of the Regional Framework for ICZM is envisaged by Art. 17 of the ICZM Protocol, where the Contracting Parties commit themselves to “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”. UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021, in the Decision IG21/11 of COP19, indicates the definition of the Regional Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management as one of its key outputs. In addition, UNEP/MAP PoW approved for 2016-2017 envisages the preparation of the Conceptual Framework for MSP as an emerging issue in the entire Mediterranean Region. Taking into consideration the geographical coverage of the coastal zone, as defined by Art. 3 of the ICZM Protocol that includes both, terrestrial and marine parts, it seemed rational to consider the Conceptual Framework for MSP as a part of the Regional ICZM Framework.
2. Workshop to discuss the First Draft of the Regional Framework for ICZM and MSP was organised in Athens, Greece, on 5-6 April 2017, with the participation of nominated experts from thirteen Mediterranean countries in order to provide initial comments to the first draft, thus facilitating the preparation of the document to be discussed during the PAP/RAC NFP meeting in May 2017. The organisation of the workshop was supported by the Italian Ministry of Environment and Protection of Land and Sea.
3. A full list of participants is given in [Annex 1](#) and the Agenda as adopted by the workshop in [Annex 2](#).
4. At the initiative of the Greek Focal Point, back to back with the workshop, a meeting with the representatives of Greek authorities and institutions took place on April 7 with the view to support the country in the process of ratification of the ICZM Protocol.
5. Both meetings were environmentally friendly, with no printed materials and with sustainable catering and facility services. More information is given in [Annex 3](#).
6. The meeting was chaired by Ms Željka Škaričić, PAP/RAC Director, with Mr. Marko Prem, PAP/RAC Deputy Director, acting as Vice Chair.

**Opening session**

7. The workshop was opened by Ms Škaričić who welcomed the participants and thanked the Italian Ministry of Environment and Protection of Land and Sea who supported the organisation of the workshop. She highlighted the need to have good consultations, not just to ensure the adoption of the document but to prepare one that would be implemented.
8. Mr. Gaetano Leone, UNEP/MAP Coordinator, gave warm welcome to the participants, thanking the Italian Ministry for support. He pointed out the great progress made from the time the ICZM Protocol had entered into force, including additional progress in the ratifications and the preparation of several national

ICZM Strategies, that all demonstrates profound interest in and relevance of the ICZM Protocol. Taking all this into consideration, he expressed his expectation for a meaningful and relevant document to be presented at COP 20.

### ***General discussion on the Regional Framework***

9. The first agenda item was dedicated to the presentation of the scope, approach and general contents of the Regional Framework (RF). Ms Athena Mourmouris started her presentation by pointing out that the current document was a result of conclusions of the Background Document of the Regional Framework for ICZM, in terms of needs and obstacles that were the guidance for the structure and contents of the document. The Programme of Work (PoW) 2016-2017 envisaged the preparation of a conceptual framework for Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). Having in mind the basic definition of the coastal zone that includes both land and sea it has been suggested to combine the two tasks (RF for ICZM and conceptual framework for MSP) and prepare a Regional Framework for ICZM and MSP with the following main objectives: coherence/synergies of strategic documents and future actions; strengthening integration (and land-sea interactions); and providing guidance for effective implementation of the Protocol. Ms Mourmouris' presentation is available [here](#).

10. Ms Daniela Addis presented the legal aspects of the RF. She gave an overview of legal concepts regarding international law (treaty), requirements of the RF based on the ICZM Protocol, elements that need to be taken into consideration (mainly based on the ICZM Protocol) and possible instruments to adopt the RF. She also made a short comparison with the RF for Climate change which preceded the RF for ICZM. The presentation was concluded with some good practices in tackling LSI and MSP that make an important part of the RF. Ms Addis' presentation is available [here](#).

11. The presentations were followed by a discussion in which it was pointed out that the legal basis was essential for defining the contents and the future steps for the adoption of the document. In the vivid discussion different views were expressed, including those that:

- RF is a formal instrument of the Barcelona Convention (BC), with legal relevance that binds the Contracting Parties (CPs) to its implementation that should be verified by the Compliance Committee; based on the agreement with the CPs, some parts of it could have the character of a guiding document;
- RF shall be adopted by the CPs in the form of Decision that makes it politically and ethically binding, so there is no need for additional legally binding status;
- Binding does not mean more efficient. There are serious problems at administration level – adding additional administrative burdens will not be productive;
- The parties that have ratified the Protocol are also deciding about the RF and can decide what is binding;
- Coordination is the essence of the BC, so it is not in the spirit of the BC to exclude some Parties in reaching common decisions. In addition, all CPs should be encouraged not just to discuss but also to implement the RF, even if they haven't yet signed or ratified the Protocol;
- National strategies will implement the Protocol, including the regional coordination for which the RF is the key. Thus, the national strategies must be consistent with the RF. The adopted national strategies need to be readopted in order to be in line with the RF so that they do not contrast each-other;
- Flexibility and adaptability are the key terms. Both, national strategies and the RF need to implement the ideas of the Protocol. If this is the case, there is no risk that the two will not be complementary. Therefore, there is no need for the already adopted strategies to undertake the process of adaptation to RF.

It was concluded that the legal and institutional explanations for some of the questions raised would come from the Coordinating Unit. However, the final position on how to approach the issues raised will come from the CPs.

The participants also pointed out that the objective of the RF was to support countries in a coherent and coordinated implementation of the Protocol; in some countries national legislation can be an obstacle for full Protocol implementation.

12. Some country representatives supported the document in terms of contents and structure, but highlighted the need to add some more concrete recommendations and examples. Other countries objected to the structure itself of the proposal, as inappropriate to define the RF. Therefore, the discussion revolved around the need to change or improve the basic structure of the document, mainly related to the possibility of:

- adding relationship between the RF and the main component of the ICZM Protocol focusing on regional cooperation;
- adding the process of moving from the RF to regional and sub-regional action plans, and then to national strategies;
- highlighting the application of the environmental assessment processes at the (sub)regional /transboundary level, where indications of “when” and “what” would be the appropriate elements to take into consideration, without describing technical procedures;
- within each strategic objective (SO) introducing a clear distinction between the descriptive part and recommendations, with more operational wording;
- introducing description of the steps made and decisions taken in terms of selecting SOs; clarify firstly what the obstacles that we want to tackle with the RF are;
- changing the nature or removing SO2 and SO3; SOs on LSI and EcAp are the key;
- shortening the document;
- excluding MSP from the title but keeping the basic guidance in the Annex;
- excluding political assumptions related to the EU and the UfM, such as referring to any as being the privileged partner, since the RF is an operational document to support the coordinated and coherent implementation of the ICZM Protocol at regional and sub-regional levels.

13. As part of the discussion, the Lebanese representative stated that Lebanon had ratified the ICZM Protocol, although the Coordinating Unit had not received any official confirmation on that. Careful consideration will be given to this issue as soon as possible.

#### ***Discussion on the individual chapters of the Regional Framework***

14. At the beginning of this session, Ms Marina Marković, PAP/RAC Programme Officer, presented the experience of Montenegro in using the EcAp indicators for the preparation of MSP. She presented a methodological process composed of two main steps: i) utilisation of EcAP for marine vulnerability assessment; ii) utilisation of marine vulnerability for the preparation of MSP. Ms. Marković’s presentation is available [here](#).

15. After the presentation a brief discussion followed to further explain the process of and responsibility for the implementation of the project, where it was pointed out that the project had been initiated and funded by the Montenegrin Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism and implemented by PAP/RAC. It was also highlighted that the presented process only included the preparation

and initial testing of the methodology that would be fully demonstrated in the preparation of MSP in Montenegro over the following 2 years.

16. Ms Athena Mourmouris briefly presented the first strategic objective (SO): Achieving good environmental status (GES) of coastal and marine areas. She pointed out the relevance of EcAp for ICZM and MSP, mainly in terms of: defining the area to manage; ensuring compatibility of uses; and applying Ecosystems-Based Management and tools. Since ecological objectives and indicators for ICZM go beyond those for marine waters she proposed to expand EcAp to better reflect coastal objectives and/or indicators. The presentation of SO1 is available [here](#).

17. In the discussion that followed additional explanations on the selection of strategic objectives were provided. It was highlighted that clear statements on the rationale for the selection of SOs was necessary in the document. In addition, it was pointed out that SO1 was essential for the whole mechanism, and as such needed to be articulated with specific parts linked with the EOs and OOs of EcAp. In addition, it should be more balanced with the others, with clear and implementable recommendations. Proposals were made to include some concrete tools that can be used, such as vulnerability assessment. Different views were expressed on the proposed need to expand EcAp indicators for the coastal area, from reservation to support.

18. Ms Athena Mourmouris and Mr. Christoph Le Visage presented the second SO: Ensuring integration, political will and common vision. As part of this SO, the emphasis was placed on promoting integration, agreeing on a common regional vision and objectives, and orienting the national vision of CPs, mainstreaming to all policies, strategies, plans, programmes, actions and projects. The presentation of SO2 is available [here](#).

19. In the short discussion that followed it was stated by some representatives that the RF was the first level of implementation of the ICZM Protocol: a strategic but also technical document that cannot imply any political issues at any level. That calls for deleting or redrafting some paragraphs, such as 40 and 41. Overall, a change of vocabulary might be needed. Some other participants agreed with the approach of having a vision but required some more explanations and details on how to reach it. Direct references to the RF on CC were also requested.

20. Mr. Samir Grimes and Mr. Christophe Le Visage presented the third SO: Completing the enabling environment. They presented the enabling factors of major importance for the implementation of ICZM and MSP falling within the fields of governance, institutions and legislation, knowledge and technical support. The presentation of SO3 is available [here](#).

21. The presentation was followed by recommendations made by some participants to fully change that SO and perhaps replace it with another, addressing operational common tools to implement the RF and enhancing cross-border cooperation, avoiding the simple focus on the national level. It is important not to just repeat ten-year old gaps but to be as concrete as possible on who and how to overcome these gaps, preferably on transboundary or sub-regional level. It was also pointed out that it was important to define strategic objectives to the level of implementation, identifying those responsible for the implementation. Such an approach can be used as a filter to identify what is feasible and what needs to be a part of strategic objectives.

In response to these suggestions it was pointed out that SO3 addressed many gaps identified as part of the preparation of the Background Document and fruitful discussions on the document in Barcelona. Also, the

current document was the result of a number of compromises between different needs of the CPs. Based on the inputs received, an updated version will be prepared, shortening/changing the scope of some objectives, in particular SO3, by focusing on key strategic elements and moving the rest to annexes. It was deemed as highly relevant to provide a robust description on how to apply the process for SEA as a key tool for the implementation of the RF, including the MSP. There is a possibility of including some examples in the annexes as well.

Following the existing recommendation in the SO3 on creating networks of coastal agencies, France (Conservatoire du littoral) offered its support to this practical approach.

22. Mr. Emiliano Ramieri presented the fourth SO: Addressing land-sea interactions. He pointed out three main types of land-sea interactions (interactions due to land-sea natural processes; interactions of uses and activities; interactions of planning processes and plans), as well as types of possible activities reflecting those interactions. The presentation of SO4 is available [here](#).

23. In the discussion that followed the following was pointed out:

- SO4 is an important strategic objective. It has presented well the description of the objective but it should be more ambitious in recommendations and guidance. Like in other SOs, less focus is placed on the regional cooperation than on the national level. Having in mind that the document is a Regional Framework, it is important to have more details on how to enable cooperation at the regional level.
- MSP is instrumental for achieving LSI; but currently MSP has not a formally defined objective or process within the Barcelona Convention system. It is difficult to carry out MSP without a legal framing for MSP within the Barcelona Convention. It is not enough to consider it as just a tool, as MSP may require institutional and legal changes.
- In replying to this issue it was pointed out that the idea was to introduce MSP as part of the RF in order to ensure its integration with ICZM. However, the legal status of MSP needs to be discussed by the CPs and MAP.
- It was suggested to include regional analysis on specific land-sea interactions in the introductory chapter. The LSI matrixes prepared as part of the CAMP Italy could be useful for this. Also, it was proposed to remove the description of CAMPs as part of this chapter, as they go beyond the LSI itself.

24. Mr. Ramieri continued his presentation by presenting the Annex 2: Guidelines for MSP. He highlighted that it was important to capitalize on the existing experiences, without providing an additional step-by-step approach. The annex itself should be in the form of prescriptive check-list, a guiding reference for MSP, with specific focus on cross-border cooperation. The presentation of Annex 2 is available [here](#).

25. Following the presentation, recommendations were made on the need to develop a clear guidance, operational elements to help the technical level undertake the tasks. Proposals were also made to define specific contents for each MSP step, adding the existing experiences which demonstrate ICZM and MSP links. It was pointed out that the document highlighted four main processes: ICZM, MSP, LSI and EcAp. It is important to develop those four processes together and not as stand-alone concepts. In addition, operational instructions on how to use SEA are needed.

26. A short discussion on the links and boundaries between ICZM and MSP followed. It was pointed out that there could be differences between ICZM and MSP, having in mind the legal but also their geographical

scopes. Therefore, further explanations on how these two could be coordinated are needed. Regarding the geographical coverage, it was pointed out that within the EU MSP is to be applied for EEZ while the ICZM Protocol goes up to the external limits of the territorial waters. Therefore, it is important to understand how to approach the area beyond the territorial waters.

27. Providing response to these issues it was stressed that, as part of the RF, the scope of MSP should be coherent with the ICZM Protocol (and the Barcelona Convention). Some participants proposed that only a minimum limit be given and not the maximum one, so that those countries that need to go beyond the limits of their territorial waters can do so without conflicting with the tasks undertaken as part of the BC requirements. Some other stated that MSP could be problematic for their countries so that further official consultations might be needed.

28. Therefore, legal advice on the geographical limits of MSP (as part of the BC) is needed, as well as on its legal status: if it would require a specific legally binding document or it would be applied using the existing legal mechanisms, i.e. the Protocols. However, it was highlighted once again that this issue was closely linked with the legal status of the RF itself. Legal explanation will be given, but it can be expected that the body of the document can be legally binding and annexes could be considered as technical explanations, without legally binding nature. The invited legal expert added that, even if the document itself is legally binding, it can precise which parts of it are strictly legally binding and which are not.

29. The final presentation was given by Mr. Le Visage who presented the Annex 1 related to Indicators to monitor the implementation of the RF. It was highlighted that the aim was to provide indicators to assess the process and check whether all steps of the ICZM process had been implemented. The presentation of Annex 1 is available [here](#).

30. In the discussion that followed, participants expressed reservation towards the presented annex, largely due to the fact that those were mainly process indicators. The proposal was to first agree on the status and structure of the document and, based on that, to have the decision on the overall Annex 1.

31. Concluding the discussion, possible approaches towards the presentation of the RF at the COP were raised. The Italian representative presented three possible options:

- In the NFPs meeting discuss if a fully developed document can be presented at COP (very difficult – not really implementable);
- At the next COP only a first phase document is presented, with the structure and initial contents. If the document is accepted, a full RF is prepared in the next biennium;
- A light strategic RF is presented at the next COP, with a clear vision and mandate to prepare regional/sub-regional action plans in the next biennium to address the operational parts, taking into consideration sub-regional features;
- Italy is willing to support the organisation of an additional workshop before the COP to further elaborate the agreed option.

While the Slovenian representative supported the sub-regional approach, in particular taking into consideration the cooperation and the process as part of the Adriatic-Ionian Strategy (EUSAIR), the Israeli representative expressed the need to be more pragmatic, strengthening a Mediterranean vision, with less emphasis on the sub-regional level.



32. Ms Škaričić summarised the discussion, highlighting the steps that will take place before the PAP/RAC NFP meeting:

- Restructuring and reformulating of parts of the document/paragraphs will be done;
- Descriptive (short) and prescriptive parts (adding recommendations at different levels: regional, sub-regional and national) will be clearly separated;
- Changing focus and titles of some SOs: EcAp and LSI are acceptable as focus for most of the participants, although they must be better articulated and detailed, while the other two SOs are more difficult to be re-shaped. They will be re-formulated, making them more action oriented, as much as possible in the short time available;
- UNEP/MAP will reflect on how ICZM and MSP can be implemented by the various MAP mechanisms (not only the ICZM Protocol). However, it needs to be underlined that most of the actions rely on the CPs;
- A preliminary definition of MSP within the context of the BC (institutional, legal, contents and processes) is also needed, taking into account its different legal status and maturity of scientific and technical definition;
- All comments from the participants need to be received preferably by Friday, April 14.

Also, the participants were reminded that the final version of the document, that needs to be discussed by the MAP FPs, needs to be sent by July. Owing to the kind offer by the Italian representative, additional technical workshops could be organised.

33. Thanking the participants for fruitful deliberations, Ms Škaričić declared the workshop closed on 6 April 2017, at 1 p.m.

**ANNEX I**  
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<b>INTERPRETERS / INTERPRETES</b>	
Ms. Catherina JOURDA	
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## ANNEX II

### Agenda

Wednesday, 5 April 2017

- 9:30 – 9:45 Registration of participants.
- 9:45 – 10:00 Opening of the meeting: welcome addresses, objectives and organisation of work (G. Leone and Ž. Škaričić).
- 10:00 – 11:00 Short information on the results of the previous steps: Background Document, consultation process, inputs from the Contracting Parties (5' introduction by Ž. Škaričić).
- Scope, approach and general contents of the Regional Framework (15' introduction by A. Mourmouris).
- Legal aspects to be taken into account with regard to the Regional Framework (10' introduction by D. Addis).
- General comments by participants.
- 11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break.
- 11:30 – 12:30 Short introduction to and discussion of the individual chapters of the Regional Framework: Introductory chapters.
- 12:30 – 13:00 Using EcAp/IMAP indicators for MSP: Experience from Montenegro (10' presentation by M. Marković).
- Discussion.
- 13:00 – 14:30 Lunch break.
- 14:30 – 15:30 Short introduction to and discussion of the individual chapters of the Regional Framework: SO 1 on Ecosystem Approach (10' introduction by A. Mourmouris).
- 15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break.
- 16:00 – 16:30 Short introduction to and discussion of the individual chapters of the Regional Framework: SO 2 on Common Vision (10' introduction by A. Mourmouris).
- 16:30 – 17:30 Short introduction to and discussion of the individual chapters of the Regional Framework: SO 3 on Enabling Environment (15' introduction by Ch. Le Visage and S. Grimes).

Thursday, 6 April 2017

9:30 – 10:30	Short introduction to and discussion of the individual chapters of the Regional Framework: SO 4 on Land-Sea Interactions (10' introduction by E. Ramieri).
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break.
11:00 – 11:30	Short introduction to and discussion of annexes: Annex 1 on Progress Indicators (10' introduction by Ch. Le Visage).
11:30 – 12:30	Short introduction to and discussion of annexes: Annex 2 on Guidance for MSP (10' introduction by E. Ramieri).
12:30 – 13:00	Wrap up and recommendations for the next steps.
13:00	Closure of the meeting.



## ANNEX III

### Greening the meeting

All parties involved were informed from the beginning about the sustainability component of the meeting. Meeting participants were reminded of green behaviour (the meeting information to participants). The PAP/RAC staff in charge of making the meeting sustainable followed the sustainability management policy covering the four governing principles of sustainable development relating to event management (i.e. inclusivity, stewardship, integrity and transparency) and implemented an action plan using the “sustainable event toolkit”, as follows:

1. Communication & materials: In communication with meeting participants electronic means of communication were used (e.g., e-mail, “drop box” for dissemination of meeting documents). Only the printed Agenda of the meeting (in English and French) hung at the conference room. Following the hotel policy, the hotel/venue staff provided pens and paper for participants (upon conclusion of the meeting, the hotel staff collected the rest of materials). Table plates and badges were reused - the participants were encouraged at the beginning and after the meeting to return their badges and to put them in the "Green your badge" box (made of 100% recyclable material). Lights and equipment were turned off when not in use.
2. Location: Athens (Greece) was, among others, chosen in order to encourage direct flights and in that way to minimize CO2 emissions. However, when booking the flight tickets also the (lowest) flight prices had to be taken into consideration. The venue of the meeting (the Golden Age hotel) was within walking distance to public transport (a metro and a bus stop). The meeting room located on the mezzanine floor of the hotel had natural daylight (daylight was used whenever possible). The size of the meeting room was adapted to real needs (exact number of participants calculated in advance, and hotel staff at the venue informed in time). Free Wi-Fi available at the venue. The venue was a non-smoking area.
3. Transportation: Participants were instructed on how to get from the airport to the hotel/venue by public transportation (metro, bus). Carbon emissions from travel to/from the meeting location were calculated and communicated to participants (see “Calculation of GHG emission” in the end of this Annex).
4. Accommodation: Since PAP/RAC was not responsible for booking accommodation, the participants were recommended to book either the hotel at which the meeting took place/the venue, or the hotels located in the vicinity of the venue (the PAP/RAC staff who attended the meeting was accommodated at the venue). All recommended accommodation was within walking distance to public transport (a metro and a bus stop), accessible for those with special needs, and with free Wi-Fi. Water saving recommendations available in guest rooms/ toilets (i.e., towel and sheet re-use - changing bed linens and towels as necessary or at request). Energy-efficient lighting (or room cards to turn on/off the light) was in place. Hotel rooms were equipped with independently controlled air-conditioning. Restaurant offered the Mediterranean cuisine. All food offered for the breakfast was cooked and prepared with fresh and traditional products.
5. Catering for coffee breaks/waste collection: Coffee breaks were organized at the meeting venue. Exact number of participants was calculated in advance, and hotel staff at the venue was informed in time to avoid waste. Reusable cups and plates, cutlery and glassware were used. Note: Although hotel staff was asked in time to use bulk dispensers for serving sugar, tea, milk and cream, this was not possible due to hotel management policy. So, sugar, tea, milk and cream were served in single containers. Drinking water was served in jugs.
6. Calculation of the GHG emissions: The GHG emissions due to travel to and from the event for 20 participants were **5,111.87 kg CO2 equivalent**. Avoided emissions due to not using paper and plastic bottles were **23.875522 kg CO2 equivalent**.

Photos evidencing actions in place

