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Synthesis and analysis on the current structure and functional organisation of the Barcelona Convention (UNEP/MAP) - Recommendations for biodiversity works and French issues

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Synthesis and analysis on the current
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of the Barcelona Convention
(UNEP/MAP)

-
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Anna Lizińska & Laurent Guérin

September 2021

UNITÉ MIXTE DE SERVICE PATRIMOINE NATUREL



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The Patrimoine naturel – PatriNat joint unit

Expertise and Data Center on Nature

Since January 2017, the “Patrimoine Naturel” joint unit conducts missions or knowledge for its three supervisory administrations, which are the French Nature French Office for Biodiversity (OFB) and the French Scientific Research Center (CNRS).

Its main objective is to provide expertise based on collection and analyses of data on biodiversity and geodiversity occurring in the French territories, and on mastering and providing new knowledge on ecology, evolution sciences and anthropology. This expertise, scientifically based approach, aims to contribute to clarify questions and propose answers to improve public policies on biodiversity, geodiversity and its relationships with societies and humans.

More about at: patrinat.fr

Co-directors:

Laurent PONCET, director in charge of the data centre

Julien TOUROULT, director in charge of reporting and valorisations



French Natural Heritage Inventory



Carried by the PatriNat joint unit, this inventory results from the association of scientists, local authorities, naturalists and nature protection associations, to synthesize the natural heritage in France. The data provided by partners are organised, managed, validated and published by the MNHN. This system is a key element of Nature and Landscapes Information System (SINP) and the French Observatory of Biodiversity (OFB).

To produce this important source of information, the Museum built a database linking data through taxonomic, geographic and administrative referential. It is thus possible to access lists of species by a municipality, by protected area or by 10x10 km mesh. Thanks to these reference systems, it is possible to produce summaries, whatever the source of information.

This information system makes it possible to consolidate information, which was previously dispersed. It concerns the mainland and overseas, both on land and at sea. It is a major contribution to naturalist knowledge, expertise, research in macro-ecology and the development of effective conservation strategies for natural heritage.

More about at: inpn.mnhn.fr

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Glossary of acronyms:

100 HS	Secretariat of the Programme for the Protection of Coastal Historic Sites
Barcelona Convention	Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean
BP/RAC or Plan Bleu/RAC	The Regional Activity Centre for the Blue Plan / Plan Bleu
CAMP	Coastal Area Management Programme
CELRL	Conservatoire de l'espace littoral et des rivages lacustres / The Conservatory of Coastal Space and Lake Shores
COP	Conference of Contracting Parties
CORESA	Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group –correspondence group on economic and social analysis
CORGEST	Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group –correspondence group on GES and targets
CORMON	Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group –correspondence group on monitoring
CP	Contracting Parties
DAEI	Direction de l'action européenne et internationale / Directorate for European and International Action
DAM	Direction des affaires maritimes / Directorate of Maritime Affairs
DDD	Direction du développement durable / Sustainable Development Department
DEB	Direction de l'eau et la Biodiversité / Department of Water and Biodiversity
DEPI	Division of Environmental Policy Implementation
DGALN	Direction générale de l'aménagement, du logement et de la nature / General Directorate of Planning, Housing and Nature
DML	Délégation à la mer et au littoral / Delegation to the Sea and the Coastline
EcAp	Ecosystem Approach
ECAP MED III	Support to Efficient Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach-based Integrated Monitoring and Assessment of the Mediterranean Sea and Coasts and to delivery of data-based 2023 Quality Status Report in synergy with the EU MSFD
ELM	Evaluation et protection des écosystèmes littoraux marins/Marine Littoral Ecosystems Assessment and Protection
EO	Ecological Objectives
ERS-RAC	Regional Activity Centre on Environment Remote Sensing
EU	European Union
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GES	Good Environmental Status
HELCOM	The Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission – also known as the Helsinki Commission
ICT	Information and communication technology
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IMAP	Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program
IMAP MPA	Towards achieving the Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean Sea and coast through an ecologically representative and efficiently managed and monitored network of Marine Protected Areas
IMO	International Maritime Organization
Info/RAC	The Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication
LBS	Land-based Sources
MAP	The Mediterranean Action Plan
MCSD	The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development
MEAE	Ministère de l'Europe et des affaires étrangères / Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs
MED	Mediterranean Sea
MED POL	Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean
MEDU	Coordinating Unit, Secretariat for the MAP
MI	Mission de coordination européenne et internationale / European and international affairs coordination mission
MMer	Ministère de la mer / Ministère de la mer

MOP	Meeting of Contracting Parties
MPA	Marine and Coastal Protected Areas
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
MSSD	Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
MTE	Ministère de la transition écologique / Ministry of Ecological Transition
MTF	Mediterranean Trust Fund
MTS	MAP Medium-Term Strategy
NAP	National Action Plan
NFPs	National Focal Points
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OSPAR	The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
OWG	online working groups
PAP/RAC	Priority Action Programme
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
QSR	Quality Status Report
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
REMPEC	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea
SAP-MED	Strategic Action Plan for Mediterranean Sea
SCP/RAC	The Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production
SG	Secrétariat général / general Secretariat
SGMer	Secrétariat général de la mer / General Secretariat of the Sea
SMEs	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SPA	Specially Protected Areas
SPA/RAC	The Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas
SPA-BD	Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity
UN	The United Nations
UNEP or UN Environment	The United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/MAP	The United Nations Environmental Programme's Mediterranean Action Plan
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WHS	World Heritage sites

1. Introduction

1.1 UNEP/MAP context and history

In 1975 sixteen Mediterranean countries and the European Community adopted the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP). It was the first Regional Seas' Programme under the United Nation Environment Programs (UNEP) umbrella Figure 1.

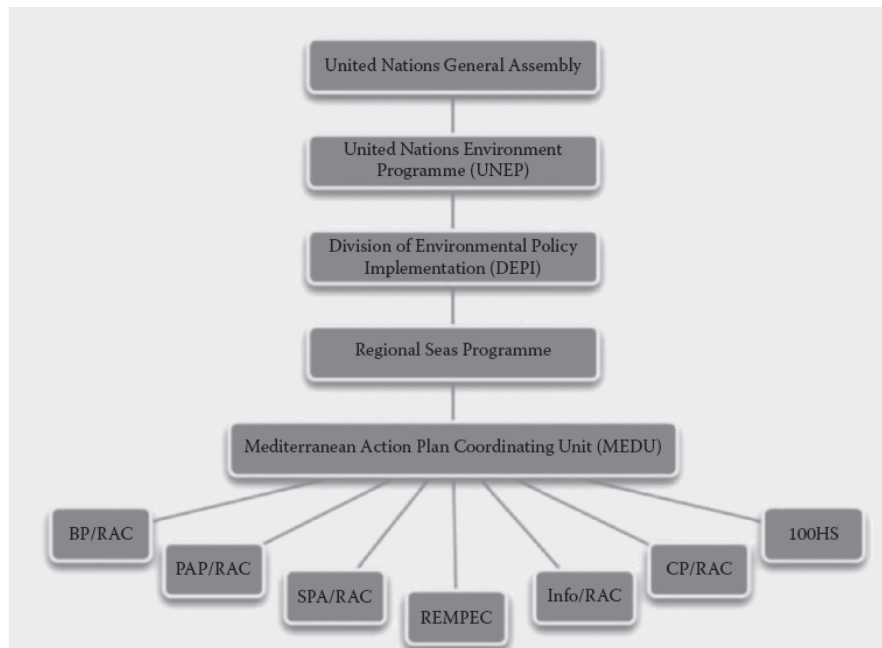


Figure 1: the institutional organisation of the United Nations Environmental Programme's Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) (Travers & Elrick-Barr, 2015)

Initially, MAP was focused on pollution. Over time, it expanded its concern to biodiversity, coastal management, and sustainable development. On the 10th of June 1995, the Convention was renamed the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean Sea, alias "Barcelona Convention" (from the city where it was agreed and signed). At this time, seven protocols of the Barcelona Convention were also amended and adopted:

- **Dumping Protocol** – the Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircrafts or Incineration at Sea was adopted in 1976, as amended on the 10th of June 1995, but amendments have not yet entered into force.
- **Emergency Protocol** – the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea replaced in 2002 by the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency, entered into force in 2004.
- **LBS Protocol** – the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities was adopted in 1980, as amended on 7 March 1996 and amendment entered into force in 2008.
- **SPA-BD Protocol** – the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean which replaced in 1995 the Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas, was adopted in 2010, amendments entered into force in 2011, 2014, 2015 and 2018.
- **Offshore Protocol** – the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil

was adopted in 1994 and entered into force in 2011. In 2016, it was complemented by the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan.

- **Hazardous Wastes Protocol** – the Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted in 1996 and entered into force in 2008.
- **ICZM Protocol** – the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management was adopted in 2008 and entered into force in 2011. The Contracting Parties adopted in 2012 the Action Plan for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol and Common Regional Framework for ICZM in 2019.

During over 40 years, some changes were made in protocols. Main step and milestones are summarized in the Figure 2.

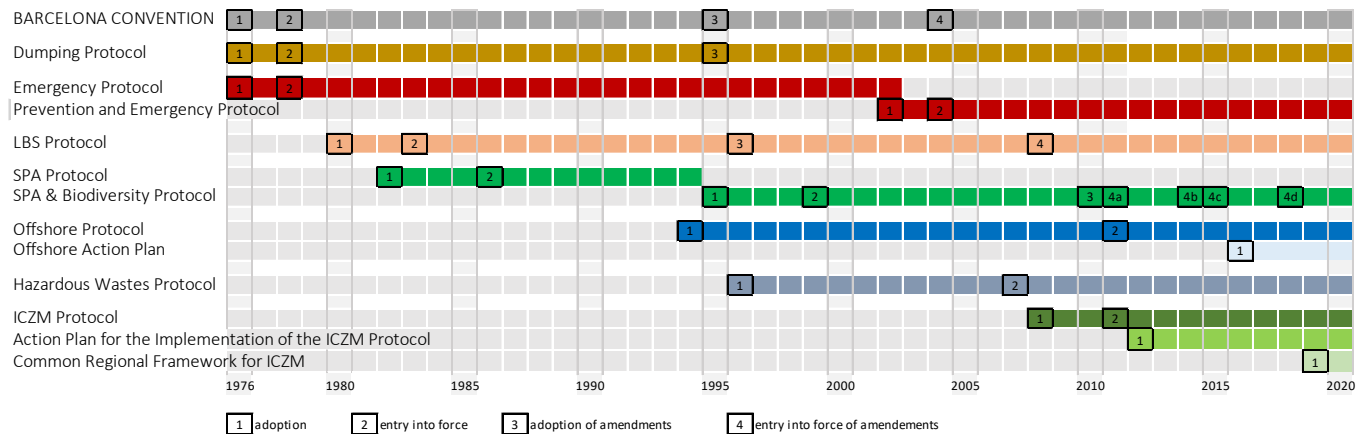


Figure 2: historical implementation of the United Nations Environmental Programme’s Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) (from Travers & Elrick-Barr, 2015)

Since 1995, the Barcelona Convention evolved into an integrated system for the governance of the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment and sustainable development (Raftopoulos, 2019).

Today, the Barcelona Convention and the associated UNEP’s Mediterranean Acting Plan (MAP) are more active than ever. The Figure 3 presents 22 Contracting Parties (Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, the European Union, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey) are working together to protect the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment and prepare regional and national plans to achieve sustainable development in this region. The United Kingdom is the only country with a Mediterranean part (Gibraltar) which is not a Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties.



Figure 3: Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties

Since **2008, the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp)**, in addition to the Barcelona Convention and its protocols, has been the guiding principle to define and progress towards the Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea. For marine and coastal areas, three strategic goals were identified: (i) to protect, allow recovery and, where practicable, restore the structure and function of marine and coastal ecosystems thus also protecting biodiversity, to achieve and maintain good ecological status and allow for their sustainable use, (ii) to reduce pollution in the marine and coastal environment to minimize impacts on, and risks to, human and/or ecosystem health and/or uses of the sea and the coasts, (iii) to prevent, reduce and manage the vulnerability of the sea and the coasts to risks induced by human activities and natural events. **These EcAp main goals were defined to plan sectorial analyses and management measures into a single integrated framework.**

In **2012**, the Contracting Parties (CP) adopted **11 Mediterranean Ecological Objectives (EO)** to progress towards GES. During the following year, the definitions of Good Environmental Status and targets were developed and adopted by the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP). Regarding MSFD, it is important to note a quiet good alignment between these EOs and MSFD GES Descriptors (Table 1), notably by sharing information during parallels implementations, and an active role of the European Member States.

Table 1: the Mediterranean GES Ecological Objectives versus MSFD GES Descriptors

Mediterranean Ecological Objectives	MSFD Descriptors
EO 1. Biodiversity	Descriptor 1. Biodiversity is maintained
EO 2. Non-indigenous species	Descriptor 2. Non-indigenous species do not adversely alter the ecosystem
EO 3. Harvest of commercially exploited fish and shellfish	Descriptor 3. The population of commercial fish species is healthy
EO 4. Marine food webs*	Descriptor 4. Elements of food webs ensure long-term abundance and reproduction
EO 5. Eutrophication	Descriptor 5. Eutrophication is minimised
EO 6. Sea-floor integrity*	Descriptor 6. The sea floor integrity ensures functioning of the ecosystem
EO 7. Hydrography	Descriptor 7. Permanent alteration of hydrographical conditions does not adversely affect the ecosystem
EO 8. Coastal ecosystems and landscapes	<i>No direct correspondence</i>
EO 9. Pollution	Descriptor 8. Concentrations of contaminants give no effects
	Descriptor 9. Contaminants in seafood are below safe levels
EO 10. Marine litter	Descriptor 10. Marine litter does not cause harm
EO 11. Energy including underwater noise	Descriptor 11. Introduction of energy (including underwater noise) does not adversely affect the ecosystem

*EO4 and EO6 have not been yet implemented, but some internal projects are planned to develop these EOs (August 2021)

In **2015**, the **first six-year MAP Medium-Term Strategy** ([MTS 2016-2021](#), [Decision IG.22/1](#)) and the **Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025** were adopted by COP 19. These strategies provide a policy framework for securing a future for the Mediterranean region, consistent with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

In **2016**, the **Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme** (IMAP) was adopted ([Decision IG 22/7](#)), based on the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp), its Ecological Objectives and its indicators (UNEP, 2017). The IMAP aims to improve harmonization between Contracting Parties, which mean to guide and facilitate implementation and adaptation of the national monitoring and assessment programs, in line with the IMAP standards. It is important to note that **the EcAp/IMAP indicators assess the state of the Mediterranean Sea, while the MSSD rather drives the assessment of the occurring pressures and drivers.**

In **2019**, the Barcelona Convention’s COP 21 adopted the [Naples Ministerial Declaration](#), which state the “need for a systemic change supported by forward-looking and innovative strategies, policies, and behaviours”. This document defined **four priority areas for action**: marine litter; biodiversity and marine protected areas; the blue economy; and climate change. It was also agreed in this Declaration to **integrate all of them into the Medium-Term Strategy (2022-2027)** of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention.

The Barcelona Convention **operates on the principle of voluntary implementation**. Individual entities have the task of persuading and accompanying changes in the laws of the Contracting Parties, rather than forcing these decisions under threat or punishment.

Even if this Convention is well documented and active, **the details of its structure, and moreover its functioning, are scattered, quite complicated to tackle and require to explore and analyse many information, not always publicly available.** The aim of this report is to provide this analysis and summary of the main elements of the structure and functioning of this Convention, as available in all the web sites and documents referred here, including inputs and reviews from several French actors among those currently active, and listed here, in different committees of this Convention. The final figure (also in A3 format as Annex 2) summarizes and illustrates all these elements, according to this analysis. This figure can be displayed besides the text of this report, during reading, to facilitate the understanding of this complex process. The numeric version of this report includes many hyperlinks (in blue) to complete and further detail each related element. Nevertheless, all documents and weblinks used for this report are reported in the Reference chapter. In conclusion, some **recommendations** are provided, as a result of this analysis, notably on biodiversity aspects and French issues.

2. Detailed structure of the Barcelona Convention

As described previously, the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) has a prominent role in the Mediterranean region, for the assessment and protection of the marine environment and its coastal region. The Contracting Parties decide on MAP strategies, budget and programme in pursuit of MAP's goal at their ministerial-level meetings: Meeting of the Contracting Parties (MOP), also called Conference of Parties (COP)¹, held every two years. The meeting frequency of all other elements are more variable or irregular. Current information on respective meetings' dates and frequencies is provided in this report as it was available in August 2021 at <https://www.unep.org/unepmap/meetings/calendar>.

The MAP is functioning at three connected levels (UNEP, 2017):

- **Institutional:**
 - Contracting Parties (meeting at the MOPs/COPs, see paragraph [2.1](#))
 - UNEP, or UN Environment, composed of a Coordinating Unit (see paragraph [2.2](#)) and seven components: Regional Activity Centres (see paragraph [2.7](#))
 - Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development as an advisory body (see paragraph [2.4](#))
 - the compliance committee (see paragraph [2.5](#))
- **Regulatory:**
 - seven Protocols (see chapter 1.1)
 - many COP decisions (see www.unep.org/unepmap/meetings/cop-decisions)
 - the IMAP dedicated committees (see paragraph [2.8](#))
 - several strategies and action plans (see chapter [5](#) for the current state of art)
 - committees of the national focal points nominated by Contracting Parties (see paragraph [2.9](#))
- **Implementation-related:**
 - Partnerships of inter- and non-governmental organisations (see <https://www.unep.org/unepmap/fr/who-we-are/partnerships>).
 - the Bureau (see paragraph [2.3](#))
 - the executive coordination panel (see paragraph [2.6](#))
 - Meetings, activities and reports of all functional unit for the delivery of its mandate and deliverables
 - programmes from strategies and action plans (see chapter [5](#) for the current state of art)
 - projects (see [annex 1](#) for the historical list and current weblinks and description of the main projects)

2.1 The Conference of the Parties (COP or MOP)

The Conference of Parties, is the **decision-making functional unit composed of representatives at the ministry level** of the 22 Contracting Parties.

The main tasks are to:

- review national inventories of marine pollutions.
- review progress on implementing the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, and recommendations adopted by the Contracting Parties.

¹ Acronyms used interchangeably - Meeting of the Contracting Parties MOP is equal to Conference of Contracting Parties COP (Raftopoulos 2019)

- consider amendments to the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, and annexes.
- establish additional working groups as needed.
- discuss and approve a budget.

Meeting frequency: every 2 years.

Next and 22nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 22) will take place on 7-10th of December 2021 in Antalya (Turkey) - to be confirmed

2.2 Coordinating Unit (MEDU) - Secretariat for the MAP

This unit is **coordinating in continuous all works undertaken in the Barcelona Convention**, and is based in Athens (Greece).

The main tasks are to:

- advise about the development of national legislation or policy and international rules in line with the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.
- monitor its implementation by the Contracting Parties.
- coordinate with other international bodies and integrate new relevant agreements between Contracting Parties.
- represent the Barcelona Convention to the public and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
- disseminate information among the Contracting Parties, including lessons learned during the implementation.
- coordinate meetings of the Contracting Parties and prepare their reports.
- advice on the financial arrangements for the Barcelona Convention.
- coordinate the implementation of the Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity Protocol and the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Protocol.
- prepare reports for the National Focal Points and the Bureau.

2.3 The Bureau

The “bureau” **guides and advices the MAP Secretariat during the period between the COP biannual meetings**. It is composed by six rotating representatives of the Contracting Parties, selected during the Meeting of the Contracting Parties. The Bureau regularly consults with, and advises the Secretariat, according to the successive status reports provided by the Secretariat.

Bureau members for 2020-2021:

President: Mr Giuseppe Italiano (Italy); Vice-Presidents: Mr Yann Wehring (France), Ms Ayelet Rosen (Israel), Ms Ivana Stojanovic (Montenegro), Mr Mehmet Emin Birpınar (Turkey); Rapporteur: Mr Rachid Firadi (Morocco).

The main task is to:

- review and provide guidance on the ongoing implementation of the Programme, according to the decisions made during the COPs.

The meeting frequency seems to be quite irregular. According to the available information, meetings were planned 3 times a year for some specific years, and for other years, the members met only once.

Last and 91st Meeting of the Bureau was held on 11th March 2021 by videoconference.

There is currently no information available about the next meeting.

2.4 The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCS D)

The MCS D was created in 1996 and includes representatives of the 22 Contracting Parties and 21 additional members representing local authorities, businesses, the scientific community, NGOs, and intergovernmental organizations. Three additional members are selected according to their specific expertise depending of the topical focus of the MCS D during its term.

The main tasks are to:

- provide inputs, as advisory unit, to the CPs regarding the alignment of the MAP activities with sustainable development goals.
- make proposals within the MAP framework.
- facilitate adoption (in 2005) of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) and its revision in 2015 for the period 2016-2021.
- assist individual Contracting Parties in developing a National Strategy for Sustainable Development.

The Contracting Parties have to consider all recommendations of MCS D (Raftopoulos 2019).

There are two kinds of meetings in this Barcelona Convention functional unit: meeting of the Steering Comity of MCS D or meeting of all MCS D members. Each year there is a meeting of the Steering Comity of MCS D or of all MCS D members (the same year as COP for this last one).

Last and 19th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCS D) was held on 17-19th June 2021 by videoconference.

There is currently no information available about the next meeting.

2.5 The Compliance Committee

The Compliance Committee was settled in 2008 ([Decision IG.17/2](#), paragraphs 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, MOP 15), and established as a **subsidiary organ of the Conference of the Parties** ('COP') in the institutional structure. It includes 7 members and 7 alternate members. Members and alternate members are both nominated by the Contracting Parties and elected by COP, taking into consideration equitable geographical representation and ensure rotation at each cycle of its terms. The members have to serve in their capacity, objectively and in the best interest of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. They have expertise related to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, in areas including scientific, technical, socio-economic, legal, or other related fields. The Compliance Committee is governed by the decisions adopted by the COP. This includes the adoption of the biennial Programme of work of the Compliance Committee and the election of its members.

The main tasks are to:

- address specific situations of actual, or potential, non-compliance by individual Parties with the provisions of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.
- address general compliance issues, at the request of the COP, such as recurrent non-compliance problems, including reporting, notably considering the reports referred to in Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention and any other report submitted by the Parties.
- any other issue at the request of the MOP ([Decision IG.17/2](#) (Consolidated text), IV 17).

Procedures to promote compliance and address cases of non-compliance (Raftopoulos, 2019):

The compliance procedure can be started by (1) Contracting Parties, (2) the Secretariat or (3) the Compliance Committee according to the following options:

- (a) Self-trigger procedure: A Party may submit its own actual or potential situation of non-compliance.
- (b) Party-to-Party trigger procedure: A Party may submit another Party's situation of non-compliance.

(c) Secretariat's trigger procedure: The Secretariat may make a referral to difficulties faced by a Party in complying with its obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

(d) Compliance committee trigger procedure: The Compliance Committee may make a referral to difficulties encountered by a Party in the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. Under this procedure, communications addressed to the Compliance Committee by the public or observers are subject to the "Admissibility Criteria of Relevant Information Sources and Procedures" under Paragraph 23bis of the Procedures and Mechanisms on Compliance under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocol, as described in the annex I of the [Decision IG. 23/2](#).

The **Compliance Committee** may take the following measures with a view to **promote compliance and address cases of non-compliance**:

- to give advice and, as appropriate, and facilitate assistance.
- to invite and/or assist the Party concerned to draw up a plan of action to progress towards compliance.
- to invite the Party concerned to submit progress reports on its efforts to comply with the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.
- to make recommendations to the meetings of Contracting Parties in case of non-compliance.

Meeting frequency: yearly.

Last and 17th Meeting of the Compliance Committee was held on 7-9th of June 2021 by videoconference.

There is currently no information available about the next meeting.

2.6 Executive Coordination Panel

Established in 2008, this functional unit is chaired by the Secretariat and members are the directors of each Regional Activity Centres (RAC) and of the Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean (MED POL).

The main tasks are to:

- coordinate RACs and MEDPOL activities.
- promote RACs' and MEDPOL's accountabilities to the Contracting Parties.

Meeting frequency: 4 times a year.

Last and 45th Executive Coordination Panel Meeting was held on 12th of September 2021 by videoconference.

There is currently no information available about the next meeting.

2.7 MED POL and Regional Activity Centres (RAC)

As part of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), the Mediterranean Contracting Parties agreed the UNEP Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean (MED POL), and also the creation of several Regional Activity Centres (RAC) to support its implementation. MED POL and RACs are based in different Mediterranean Countries (Figure 4). Each respective tasks and functions of these units are detailed in the following paragraphs.

The main generic tasks are to:

- collect data and model the relationship between the environment and socio-economic development.
- plan integrated coastal management and train local bodies.
- elaborate and propose: management plans for protected species, guidance on monitoring tools and methods, data sharing among specialists and other organizations, and action for public awareness on biodiversity issues.

- ensure communication services and technical support to the Secretariat and other entities associated with the Barcelona Convention and related public awareness projects.
- promote the development and dissemination of clean technology through research, training, and experts' exchanges.
- assist Contracting Parties to prevent and respond to marine pollution emergencies.
- promote protection and sustainable development of historical sites approved by the Contracting Parties.
- prepare draft decisions for consideration at the Meeting of the Contracting Parties.



Figure 4: location of MED POL and Regional Activity Centres of the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan with the protocols they are responsible for. Source: www.planbleu.org

2.7.1 MED POL – The programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean

MED POL is the first MAP operational programme, which operational unit is hosted in Athens. Its main objectives are to work to prevent and eliminate land-based pollution of the Mediterranean, also including dumping by ships and more recently underwater noise. Through MED POL centre, UNEP monitors and studies pollution in the Mediterranean Sea area, and facilitates National Action Plans (NAP) to prevent and remedy pollutions. These national action plans are key elements of the compliance of Contracting Parties with the implementation of the following Barcelona Convention's Protocols: The **Dumping Protocol**, the **Land-Based Sources Protocol**, and the **Hazardous Wastes Protocol**.

The main tasks are to:

- assess the status and trends of the quality of the marine and coastal environment, in relation to pollution.
- promote policy reforms for the implementation of national action plans, including programmes and measures for the reduction and gradual elimination of pollution.
- catalyse and facilitate the completion of the pollution reduction actions, as listed in National Action Plans.

- assess regularly the loads of pollution reaching the Mediterranean and the determination of trends in coastal areas, including pollution hot spots.
- collect, analyse and disseminate data and information on pressures and on the state of the marine and coastal environment, in relation to pollution.
- provide capacity building and technical assistance to support the Contracting Parties in the aforementioned areas.

Meeting frequency of the MED POL Focal Points: meetings since 1981, then every 2 years since 1997

Last meeting of the MED POL Focal Points was held on 25-27th May 2021 by videoconference, the second part of this meeting will be on 6-7th October 2021 also by videoconference.

There is currently no information available about the next meeting.

2.7.2 PAP/RAC – The Regional Activity Centre for the Priority Action Programme (Croatia)

Established in 1977 the Priority Action Programme RAC is hosted in Split (Croatia). PAP/RAC main objective is to contribute to the **sustainable development of coastal zones and sustainable use of their natural resources**. It is composed of nine multidisciplinary experts who co-operate with National Focal Points, international and national institutions, and external experts to support, ratify and implement the **integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) Protocol** and **implement the Mediterranean Strategy for Suitable Development**.

The main tasks are to:

- assist Mediterranean countries - through methodology, guidelines, tools, techniques and practical ICZM projects - in the implementation of the [Article 4\(i\) of the Barcelona Convention](#).
- meet their obligations under the ICZM Protocol and implement the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
- carry out the tasks assigned in [Article 32 of the ICZM Protocol, 2008](#).
- coordinate the Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP), which is aiming to implement practical integrated management projects in selected Mediterranean coastal areas, by applying ICZM.

Meeting frequency of the PAP/RAC Focal Points: meetings since 1982, then every 2 years since 2015; no meeting in 2019

Last meeting of PAP/RAC Focal Points was held on 24-25th of May 2021 by videoconference.

There is currently no information available about the next meeting.

2.7.3 REMPEC - The Mediterranean Regional Centre for Emergency Action against Accidental Pollution

Originally established in 1976 as the Regional Oil Combating Centre (ROCC), and replaced in 1989 by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), this unit is administered by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and hosted in Malta. REMPEC's main objective is to contribute to prevent and reduce pollution from ships, and combating pollution in case of emergency. REMPEC is assisting the Contracting Parties in meeting their obligations under the **Prevention and Emergency Protocol** and **Offshore Protocol**.

The main tasks are to:

- assist Mediterranean coastal states and build national capacities to prevent, or act, in the event of major marine pollution incidents.
- facilitate cooperation between countries in combating accidental marine pollution from a range of hazardous substances, including oil.

Meeting frequency of the REMPEC Focal Points: meetings since 1998, then every 2 years since 2003
Last and 14th REMPEC Focal Points Meeting was held on 25th of May-2 June 2021 by videoconference.
There is currently no information available about the next meeting.

2.7.4 Plan Bleu/RAC - The Regional Activity Centre for the Plan Bleu

Established in 1977, the Plan Bleu/RAC is hosted in Marseille (France). Plan Bleu promotes a systemic and prospective approach for the Mediterranean environment and development issues, by observations and assessments. Its experts produce scenarios for reconciling the environment and socio-economic development, to help CPs to make decisions for the future of the Mediterranean Sea. This unit both contributes to the ICZM protocol and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.

The main tasks are to:

- observe environment and socio-economic development to guide decision-makers.
- shape possible futures (scenarios) for sustainable development.
- monitor the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.
- integrate climate change as a priority.
- support the transition towards a green and blue economy.
- provide socioeconomic insights for the appropriate management of Mediterranean resources.

Plan Bleu/RAC staff members (June 2021):

- Director: François Guerquin
- Deputy Director: Lina Tode
- Programmes Manager: Céline Dubreuil
- Programme Manager MED: recruitment in progress
- Executive assistant, bilingual secretary: Sandra Dulbecco
- Project coordinator: Mickael Karner
- Programme Officer – Regional Observatory: Antoine Lafitte
- Project Officer “Capitalization and science-policy-practice interfaces”: Gloria Lazaro
- Communication Officer: Pauline Simon
- Accountant: Isabelle Rossi
- Human Resources Manager: Florian Agullo

Meeting frequency of the Plan Bleu/RAC Focal Points is not clear. On the Barcelona Convention web sites only one historical meeting in 2017 was found.

Last Plan Bleu/RAC Focal Points Meeting was held on 19-20 May by videoconference.

There is currently no information available about the next meeting.

2.7.5 SPA/RAC - The Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas

Established in 1985, the Specially Protected Areas is hosted in Tunis (Tunisia) and focuses on biological diversity. Its main goal is to protect Mediterranean ecosystems, habitats and species. It develops management plans, information tools for monitoring, promotes awareness campaigns and the circulation of information among specialists and relevant international organizations, including NGOs. It also prepares the reports and technical studies that may be required for the implementation of the **SPA/BD Protocol**.

The main tasks are to:

- create and update [databases on Specially Protected Areas \(SPA\) and protected species](#).
- create and update [directories of Mediterranean specialists and organizations](#) in various fields covered by the SPA/BD Protocol.
- create and update a bibliographic database.
- create and update other databases as of relevance to the SPA/BD Protocol, like [the Mediterranean Biodiversity Platform](#).
- identify, establish and manage Specially Protected Areas, including the preparation of management plans for their marine parts, within the context of national, subregional and regional programmes.
- prepare and implement National Action Plans for the protection of endangered species and habitats.
- strengthen CPs' capacities to deal with issues relating to the conservation and management of Mediterranean biodiversity.
- exchange scientific and technical information about current and planned national research and monitoring programmes.
- draw up and implement training programmes.
- cooperate with national, regional and international organizations.

Meeting frequency of the SPA/RAC Focal Points: meetings since 1987, then every 2 years since 1999

Last and 15th Meeting of the Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity (SPA/BD) Thematic Focal Points was held on 23-25th of June 2021 by videoconference.

There is currently no information available about the next meeting.

2.7.6 SCP/RAC - The Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production

Established in 1996 as the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC), and renamed in 2013, this unit is hosted in Barcelona (Spain) by the Catalan Waste Agency. SCP/RAC is a centre for international cooperation on development and innovation based on the sustainable consumption and production approach, contributing to these aspects in the Barcelona Convention. In 2009 the international "[Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants \(POPs\)](#)" was included in the SCP/RAC's area of activity. Since then, these pollutants are a priority in many of the SCP/RAC's activities.

The main tasks are to:

- support the CPs of both conventions in the development of national policies and measures for the circular economy.
- provide advice and advocacy services to interested countries and international entities for the integration of eco-innovation, pollution prevention and the use of alternatives to toxic chemicals, as strategic axes in international policies for environmental protection and sustainable development.
- promote the creation of new business models and green jobs based on eco-innovation through the training and support of entrepreneurs and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), the provision of services for business development, networking activities and the facilitation of access to financing.
- promote a Mediterranean network of entrepreneurs, companies, financial entities and investors, and civil society organizations, for the green economy.
- foster the introduction of solutions on eco-innovation, circular economy and safe alternatives to toxic chemicals for SMEs and financial entities through the provision of advisory services, training and support in the implementation of measures.

Meeting frequency of the SCP/RAC Focal Points: 4th meeting of RAC/CP in 2003, then every 2 years since 2013

Last 12th SCP/RAC Focal Points Meeting was held on 1-3 June 2021 by videoconference.

There is currently no information available about the next meeting.

2.7.7 INFO/RAC - The Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication

The INFO/RAC was established in 2005, replacing the Regional Activity Centre on Environment Remote Sensing (ERS-RAC, 1993-2005), and is hosted in Rome (Italy). INFO/RAC is mandated to establish a **common information management infrastructure** to facilitate and support information and communication activities across MAP.

The main tasks are to:

- provide communication services and technical support to the MAP Secretariat and the other MAP regional components (RACs).
- enhance public awareness and establish multi-sector working partnerships that enable sustainable development across the Mediterranean region.
- design and implement a common environmental and spatial data infrastructure and network services for information among Mediterranean coastal States, as a support to the Contracting Parties in carrying out coordinated activities at the national and regional levels, for the full implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD).
- promote networking on Information and Communication Technologies.
- provide technical assistance to Contracting Parties for online reporting activities.
- improve the environmental and spatial data flow management, information sharing and reporting mechanisms, through regional cooperation and appropriate training.
- improve the MAP corporate communication, promote education initiatives, participation and ownership of Contracting Parties.
- establish long-term, working partnerships among MAP Components, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders.
- promote public participation and raise awareness on the activities of UNEP/MAP, of the Barcelona Convention and related programmes on the environmental and sustainable development policies of individual CP of the Convention.
- strengthen the knowledge base for bridging the gap between science, environmental monitoring, and policymaking in the Mediterranean region, considering existing efforts at the Euro-Mediterranean level, and focus on good practices relevant to the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and the MSSD.
- promote the sharing of experiences and results stemming from environmental research and innovative technologies, including those resulting from Earth observation initiatives, and relevant to the Mediterranean environment and sustainable development, such as the Group on Earth Observations and the Global Monitoring for the Environment and Security.
- promote the use of the best available Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for the reduction of the overall ecological footprint of MAPs components, contributing to the greening of the Barcelona Convention.

Meetings frequency of the INFO/RAC Focal Points: first meeting of ERS/RAC was in 1994. Information about INFO/RAC Focal Points meetings were not available on Barcelona Convention sites.

Last INFO/RAC Focal Points Meeting was held on 8-9th of June 2021 in Rome (Italy).

There is currently no information available about the next meeting.

2.7.8 100 HS - Secretariat of the Programme for the Protection of Coastal Historical Sites

This unit was established in 1996 and aims at helping to **protect the threatened Mediterranean sites of historical interest**, and to provide training for site management. It was leading a programme for 100 Coastal Historic Sites of Common Mediterranean Interest aiming to protect historical sites, including monuments, natural areas, and landscapes. The Program was carried out from 1987 to 2003, in link with the UNESCO World Heritage sites (WHS). At the 12th COP meeting, the 100 Historical Sites Programme was integrated into the MCSD. At the 13th COP meeting, **this unit was transformed into a program for Mediterranean Cultural Heritage and Suitable Development**. In the ICZM Protocol, the cultural heritage is mentioned. However, no new program for heritage was developed in the last years (Dang, 2013).

2.8 The IMAP dedicated committees

As described in the paragraph 1.1, besides the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP), applying the Ecosystem Approach, is an important pillar and driver of the works conducted under the Barcelona Convention, notably for biodiversity. **This IMAP approach is comparable to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) which is implemented since 2008 at the EU level**. The description below of the next functional units, mainly dedicated to IMAP, will introduce the chapter 0, where their functional organisation and elements of works will be further detailed, as a transition between the regulatory and implementation-related levels of the Barcelona Convention.

2.8.1 EcAp-CG – The Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group

The Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group (EcAp-CG) was created in 2012 **to manage the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach and the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme** (see paragraph 3.1). It is composed of Contracting Parties' representatives, and cooperates with **three specific technical correspondence groups (CORGEST, CORESA, CORMON)**, which are composed of nominated national experts and invited experts from each respective MAP component. These technical groups aim to discuss and prepare the technical elements of the documents to be discussed and forwarded by EcAp-CG to COP for adoption. Recently (Spring 2021), **thematic online working groups (OWG)** were re-activated. These groups aim to discuss in details, between nominated and invited experts and related RAC and UNEP/MAP secretariats, the technical documents to produce advanced draft for the next related CORMON meeting. The OWG on biodiversity pre-existed from 2010 to 2014 and several sub-groups are now existing depending on the MAP biodiversity component (Table 2).

EcAp-CG meeting frequency: yearly

Last EcAp-CG meeting was held on 13th of September 2021 by videoconference.

The three dedicated technical correspondence groups and related subgroups are:

- **CORGEST (correspondence group on GES and Targets)** - 3 subgroups:
 - pollution and marine litter
 - biodiversity and fisheries
 - coast and hydrography

CORGESTs met separately during the 1st EcAp cycle, from end 2012 to 2015, and contributed to produce the [IMAP guidance](#) (UNEP, 2016) and adoption of the current [Ecological Objectives and associated indicators](#).

These groups didn't meet since, and are **currently not active anymore**.

- **CORMON (correspondence group on monitoring)** - 3 subgroups:
 - pollution and marine litter
 - biodiversity and fisheries

- coast and hydrography

CORMON subgroups met occasionally during the 1st EcAp cycle, from end 2012 to 2015, but are more and more active since 2016, notably in link with the preparation of the next (2023) Mediterranean Quality Status Report. These subgroups contribute to **review technical IMAP documents on implementation of monitoring and assessment**, which are **drafted by the UNEP and/or related RAC secretariat**, mainly from **inputs by related programmes, actions, projects** (See chapter 5 and annex 1) **and/or internal contractors (generally anonymised)**.

CORMONS' meeting frequency: irregular, currently twice a year to prepare the MED QSR 2023. The "integrated" CORMONS met together early December 2020. The Pollution and Biodiversity CORMONS met last time separately before summer 2021. The next meetings are planned in Autumn 2021 for Coast & Hydrography, and in March 2022 for others.

Online Working Groups' meeting frequency: irregular, generally at least 1 month before related CORMON. Most of the biodiversity online working groups (except habitats) met in Spring 2021. There is currently no information available about the next meetings.

Table 2: French representatives of EcAp-CG, CORMONS and related Online Working Groups (as available in August 2021)

Working Group	Entity	Focal point
EcAp coordination group	Ministère Transition Ecologique	Laure Ducommun
CORMON Pollution & marine litter	Ministère Transition Ecologique	Emmanuelle Thiesse
Eutrophication	OFB, AERMC	Dorothee Vincent , Pierre Boissery
Contaminants	Ifremer, AERMC	Jacek Tronczynski , Pierre Boissery
Marine litter	Ifremer, Cèdre	François Galgani , Camille Lacroix
CORMON Biodiversity & fisheries	UMS PatriNat (OFB, MNHN, CNRS)	Laurent Guérin , Anna Lizińska
Marine mammals	UMS Pelagis	Jérôme Spitz
Marine Turtles	MNHN	Françoise Claro
Seabirds	MNHN	Antoine Chabrolle
Non-native marine species	UMS PatriNat (OFB, MNHN, CNRS)	Laurent Guérin
Marine (benthic) habitats	Ifremer	Alexandre Robert
Marine (pelagic) habitats	OFB	Dorothee Vincent
CORMON Coast & Hydrography	BRGM	Olivier Brivois

- **CORESA (correspondence group on economic and social analysis)**

CORESA's first meeting was held by Plan Bleu/RAC in Sophia-Antipolis (France). This First CORESA Group Meeting congregated national experts from 11 Mediterranean countries, five international experts, including a delegate of EU DG Env. and a representative MAP Coordination Unit. No other information was found on any other or future activity planned for this group.

2.8.2 Medium-Term Strategy Focal Points

The main aim of the Medium-Term Strategy Focal Points is to **coordinate the MAP activities in protecting the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and contribute to the sustainable development** of the Mediterranean Region through MAP biennial Programmes of Work during successive 6- year periods. The draft report on the evaluation of the implementation of the UNEP/MAP medium-term strategy 2016-2021 was recently published as a [working document \(UNEP, 2021\)](#) for the meeting of the MAP National Focal Points on the medium-term strategy (2022-2027).

Meetings frequency of the Medium-Term Strategy Focal Points is not available in UNEP/MAP Calendar.

Last meeting of the Focal Points on the Medium-Term Strategy was held on 13-15th of April 2021 by videoconference.

There is currently no information available about the next meeting.

2.9 National Focal Points committees

Each Contracting Party has established a National Focal Point who is **responsible to report on domestic implementation of the MAP goals and Protocols**. National Focal Points (NFPs) also assess the progress made in implementing the Action Plans based on the national reports and to **contribute to a regional report drafted by RACs**. This regional report suggests recommendations, to be submitted to the Contracting Parties and, where necessary, proposes amendments to the schedule appended to each Action Plan, and keeping up links of collaboration and consultation with many intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations. Members of this functional unit are **at the Ministry level** to coordinate and ensure the review of works' progress and ensure the implementation of these regional recommendations at the national level. Current French national points and ministries' department involved are detailed in the Table 3.

The main tasks are to:

- be responsible and report on the implementation of the MAP goals
- consult with the Secretariat, between meetings of the Contracting Parties, to review the output of working groups and draft decisions to submit to Contracting Parties for adoption.
- Coordinate directly with MED POL and all the RACs.

Meeting frequency: every 2 years.

Last Meeting of the MAP National Focal Points was held on 14-17th of September by videoconference

Table 3: UNEP/MAP French Focal Points and respective ministries' departments (as available in August 2021)

Working group	Ministry/department	Focal point
MAP Contracting Party	MTE/SG/DAEI MEAE/DDD	Benoît Rodrigues Clément Payeur
MCSD	MMer/DML	Anne-France Didier
MED POL	MTE/DGALN/DEB	Emmanuelle Thiesse
SCP/RAC	MTE/	Sylvain Chevassus
REMPEC	SGMer MMer/DAM	Marie-Sophie Dufau Richet Océane Rignault
INFO/RAC	MTE/SG/DAEI	Benoît Rodrigues
Plan Bleu	MTE/SG/DAEI	Benoît Rodrigues
EcAp-CG	MTE/DGALN/DEB/ELM3	Laure Ducommun
PAP/RAC	CELRL	Fabrice Bernard
SPA/RAC	MTE/DGALN/DEB/MI	Jean Vermot

SGMer=Secrétariat général de la mer/General Secretariat of the Sea, MTE=Ministère de la transition écologique/Ministry of Ecological Transition, MEAE=Ministère de l'Europe et des affaires étrangères/Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, MMer=Ministère de la mer/Ministère de la mer, DML=Délégation à la mer et au littoral/Delegation to the Sea and the Coastline, DAM=Direction des affaires maritimes/Directorate of Maritime Affairs, DDD=Direction du développement durable/Sustainable Development Department, SG=Secrétariat général/General Secretariat, DAEI=Direction de l'action européenne et internationale/Directorate for European and International Action, DGALN=Direction générale de l'aménagement, du logement et de la nature/General Directorate of Planning, Housing and Nature, DEB=Direction de l'eau et la Biodiversité/Department of Water and Biodiversity, ELM=Evaluation et protection des écosystèmes littoraux marins/Marine Littoral Ecosystems Assessment and Protection, MI=Mission de coordination européenne et internationale/European and international affairs coordination mission, CELRL=Conservatoire de l'espace littoral et des rivages lacustres/The Conservatory of Coastal Space and Lake Shores

3. Functional elements of the Barcelona Convention - the IMAP case study

3.1 Implementation of the Ecosystem approach and the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP)

(from <https://www.unep.org/uneppmap/what-we-do/ecosystem-approach>)

After the description in the previous chapters of the structure and functional units of the organisation of the Barcelona Convention, the following chapters will detail **the process to produce a UNEP/MAP Decision, to illustrate their functional links**, and list the current strategies, action plans and programmes arisen from this process.

The UNEP/MAP delivered in 2017 its first **Quality Status Report for the Mediterranean** ([2017 MED QSR](#)), endorsed by COP 20 [Decision IG.23/6](#). The report built upon existing data, complemented with inputs from numerous sources and was prepared following a multi-step comprehensive review process, involving all relevant MAP Components, Contracting Parties and key partners.

IMAP implementation has since progressed with the establishment of national IMAPs, development of a centralized data collection and management infrastructure ([IMAP Info System](#)), refinement of technical specifications on IMAP common indicators, building of knowledge on candidate indicators, and development of methodologies for integrated assessment. A specific roadmap is currently under implementation for the preparation of a fully-data based Quality Status Report in 2023 (2023 MED QSR), as adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2019, through their COP 21 [Decision IG.24/4](#).

The development and review of relevant action plans and programmes under the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap implementation is looked at on a multilayer perspective, covering all the aspects of the legal and policy framework of the UNEP/MAP- Barcelona Convention. **The Ecosystem Approach has been raised by the Contracting Parties to the programmatic level, and reaffirmed as an overarching principle of the Barcelona Convention, and as such has been integrated into the legal and policy framework of the Barcelona Convention**, including legally and non-legally binding instruments.

In order to ensure an efficient and coordinated implementation of the Ecosystem Approach roadmap, a **multi-level governance mechanism has been established**, comprising the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group (composed of Contracting Parties representatives), and its three specific correspondence groups, (CORGEST, CORMON and CORESA), which are composed of national experts designated by the Contracting Parties, invited experts and respective MAP components and secretariat.

The Ecosystem Approach Roadmap is implemented through activities included in the biennial UNEP/MAP Programmes of Work, while additional external resources are mobilized to support the different steps of its implementation. Three [Projects](#) were recently funded by EU, namely the IMAP MPA, ECAP MED III, and Marine Litter MED, which expect to boost the implementation of IMAP towards delivery of the next 2023 MED QSR.

A mid-term review of the implementation of the EcAp roadmap was prepared and reviewed by the 6th Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group, in 2017. An updated progress report was reviewed by the 7th Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group, in 2019, reaffirming a satisfactory progress and on-track implementation of the roadmap.

3.2 Technical implementation of the Ecosystem Approach

Following the adoption - in line with the protocols, strategies and programmes - of the budgets, workplans and inter-annual terms of reference of all functional units described in the previous chapters, the technical works are coordinated by the institutional units (Secretariat and RACs) and submitted to the regulatory units (National Focal Points, EcAp-CG). There are several parallel sources for the technical inputs, coordinated by each respective RAC and UNEP/MAP secretariat (Figure 5). Action plans, programmes and ongoing projects also contributes significantly. Private contractors (by UNEP/MAP) are also frequently asked to initiate reports and working documents on a specific issue. In any case, the next important steps

to progress these technical inputs is their review by the relevant technical group (e.g. CORMON, thematic online working group). Other partners of the Convention, like NGOs, are also consulted and may contribute through these technical working groups. When the technical and scientific background is consolidated, the working document is forwarded, by the coordinating RAC, as a policy document to the EcAp Coordinating Group and the National Focal Points.

3.3 Elaboration of working documents for a meeting of NFP or EcAp-CG

Each RAC is responsible for preparing working and information documents for the meeting of the National Focal Points (NFP). All materials to be discussed are sent to NFP or EcAp-CG at least one month before the planned meeting, for review and potential comments. The UNEP/MAP Secretariat does not participate directly to this preparation, but assists the RAC and ensure the respect of the procedures during each meeting.

3.4 Preparation of draft COP Decisions

The Secretariat plays a large role in the decision-making process under the Barcelona Convention by coordinating the drafting of Decisions and coordinating the regulatory process at this step, assisted by the Bureau (Figure 5). Based on previously agreed technical inputs and policy documents, the Secretariat and the Bureau prepare reports and proposition of decisions, which are then reviewed and amended by the relevant RAC and National Focal Points. The resulting draft decisions can afterwards be submitted to all Contracting Parties at the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties. The general process and timeline to submit a draft decision (in the year of the COP meeting) is generally:

- April – May: meetings of National Focal Points of relevant RAC
- June: meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)
- September: meeting of Coordination Unit with National Points for MAP
- December: COP meeting

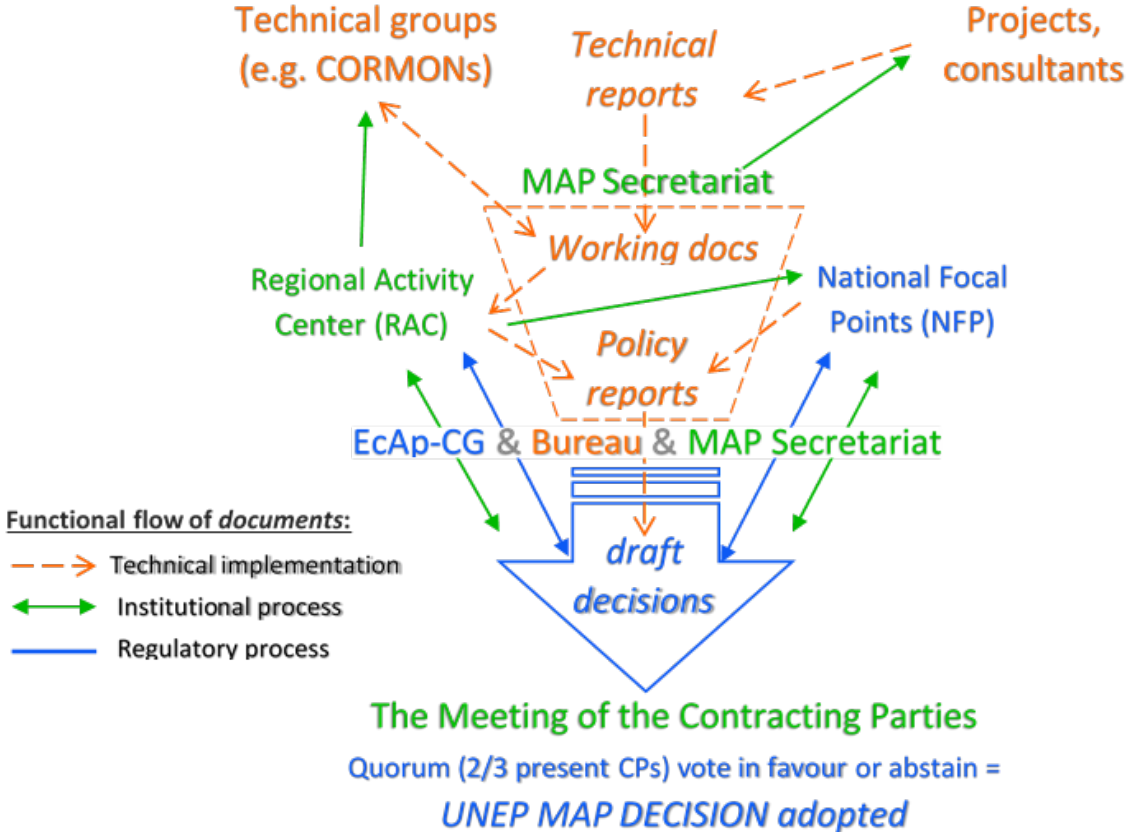


Figure 5: schematic of the functional elements and flow of the UNEP/MAP process (Barcelona Convention)

3.5 Decision-making process

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the decision-making dedicated body. The Contracting Parties may only consider substantive decisions that are supported by a report from the Executive Director of the Secretariat on the administrative and financial implications of those decisions. The quorum at the COP meeting is constituted by two-thirds of the Contracting Parties. The vote of two-thirds majority of the Contracting Parties present is required to agree on draft decisions. To have a voting ability, a Contracting Party cannot have more than 24 months interruptions in budget contributions.

3.6 Barcelona Convention resources

The biannual meeting of the Contracting Parties also discusses and approve a Programme Budget, whose proposal is prepared by the Coordinator of the UNEP/MAP Secretariat.

The MAP Programme is primarily funded by the Contracting Parties' contributions to the [Mediterranean Trust Fund \(MTF\)](#) of which the UNEP is the trustee. UNEP manage it in accordance with approved financial rules and regulations ([Decision IG.21/15](#)).

Budget adoption process:

The Contracting Parties' relative contribution levels in the MTF derive from the [United Nations assessment scale method](#) ([UN 2018°](#), [UN 2019](#)). Assessment scale determines how much each country contributes to the UN regular budget and is connected with estimations of gross national income.

Other main sources of funding to support specific projects and activities include voluntary contributions from the European Union, UN agencies, and the [Global Environment Facility \(GEF\)](#). The Contracting Parties also agreed to establish an operating reserve of 15% of annual expenditures.

The base currency of the United Nations is the US dollar. However, Conference of Parties shall decide on the budget in Euros. That is why the Coordinator of the Secretariat prepares the budget estimates for the following biennium in both currencies, detailing Euros and US Dollars showing planned projected income and expenditures for each year of the biennium (Figure 6). The next step is the consultations with the

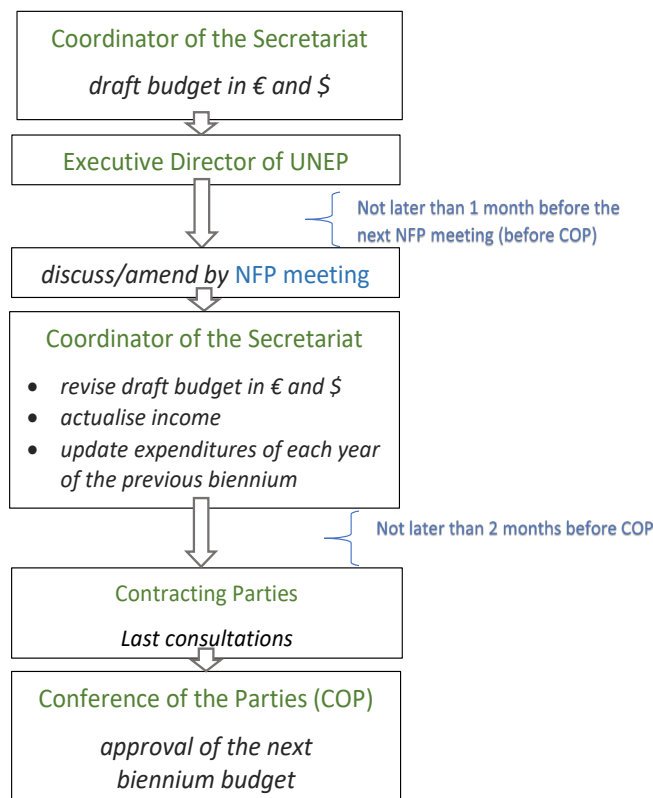


Figure 6: schematic of budget adoption UNEP/MAP process (Barcelona Convention)

Executive Director of UNEP, after then, the draft document is sent to all Contracting Parties at least one month before the next meeting of the National Focal Points for their consideration before the next COP. Then the Coordinator updates and sends the revised estimates, as well as the actual income and expenditure for each year of the previous biennium, to all Contracting parties at least 2 months before the next COP, at which the budget is to be adopted.

Example of the 2020-2021 biennium budget:

In the 2020-2021 biennium, the revenues of the MTF are estimated at 16 241 982 euro (Table 4). The Contracting Parties expect to fund 70% of the total budget through contributions to the MTF, with France, Spain and Italy (European Member States), but also Turkey, being the largest donators (Table 5, [Decision IG.24/14](#)). The remaining budget from previous MTF was 18.1 % and EU contribution 4.2 %.

Table 4: expected incomes to the MTF in 2020-2021

	Proposed 2020	Proposed 2021	Total 2020-2021	
<i>Income</i>	(€)	(€)	(€)	%
Expected Ordinary Income				
MTF Ordinary Contributions	5,706,788	5,706,788	11,413,576	70.3
EU Discretionary Contribution	596,484	596,484	1,192,968	7.3
Greece hosting contribution	344,800	344,800	689,600	4.2
TOTAL of Expected Ordinary Income	6 648 072	6 648 072	13 296 144	81.9
Unutilized previous budget MTF Balance	1 437 336	1 508 502	2 945 838	18.1
Total Available Funds	8 085 408	8 156 574	16 241 982	100

Table 5: country expected contribution in the MTF for 2020-2021

Contracting Parties	Proposed Ordinary Contributions (€)		
	2020	2021	2020-2021
Albania	3 467	3 467	6 933
Algeria	59 801	59 801	119 603
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5 200	5 200	10 400
Croatia	33 367	33 367	66 735
Cyprus	15 600	15 600	31 201
EU	142 670	142 670	285 339
Egypt	80 602	80 602	161 203
France	1 918 407	1 918 407	3 836 815
Greece	158 603	158 603	317 207
Israel	212 338	212 338	424 676
Italy	1 433 064	1 433 064	2 866 128
Lebanon	20 367	20 367	40 734
Libya (State of Libya)	13 000	13 000	26 001
Malta	7 367	7 367	14 734
Monaco	4 767	4 767	9 534
Montenegro	1 733	1 733	3 467
Morocco	23 834	23 834	47 668
Slovenia	32 934	32 934	65 868
Spain	929 953	929 953	1 859 906
Syrian Arab Republic	4 767	4 767	9 534
Tunisia	10 834	10 834	21 667
Turkey	594 113	594 113	1 188 225
TOTAL ORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS (MTF)	5 706 788	5 706 788	11 413 576

For the 2020-2021 biennial programme of work, the Contracting Parties , during 21st COP (2 - 5 December 2019, Naples, Italy) approved expenditures of approximately 16.2 million euros (Table 6, [Decision IG.24/14](#)).

Table 6: planned commitments to be covered by MTS in 2020-2021

<i>Commitments</i>	<i>Proposed 2020</i>	<i>Proposed 2021</i>	<i>Total 2020-2021</i>
Activities	2,343,867	2,514,085	4,857,952
Positions and administrative costs (without Greece hosting)	4,743,379	4,786,726	9,530,105
Programme Support Costs	828,000	855,764	1,683,764
<i>TOTAL Regular Commitments</i>	7 915 246	8 156 575	16 071 821
<i>Provision for Working Capital Reserve</i>	170 163		170 163
<i>Total</i>	8 085 409	8 156 575	16 241 984

4. Synthesis: Barcelona convention's structural and functional map

The Figure 7 summarises and illustrates the current structure and functional organisation of the Barcelona Convention (UNEP/MAP). The acronyms, functional units and links are described and detailed in the previous chapters.

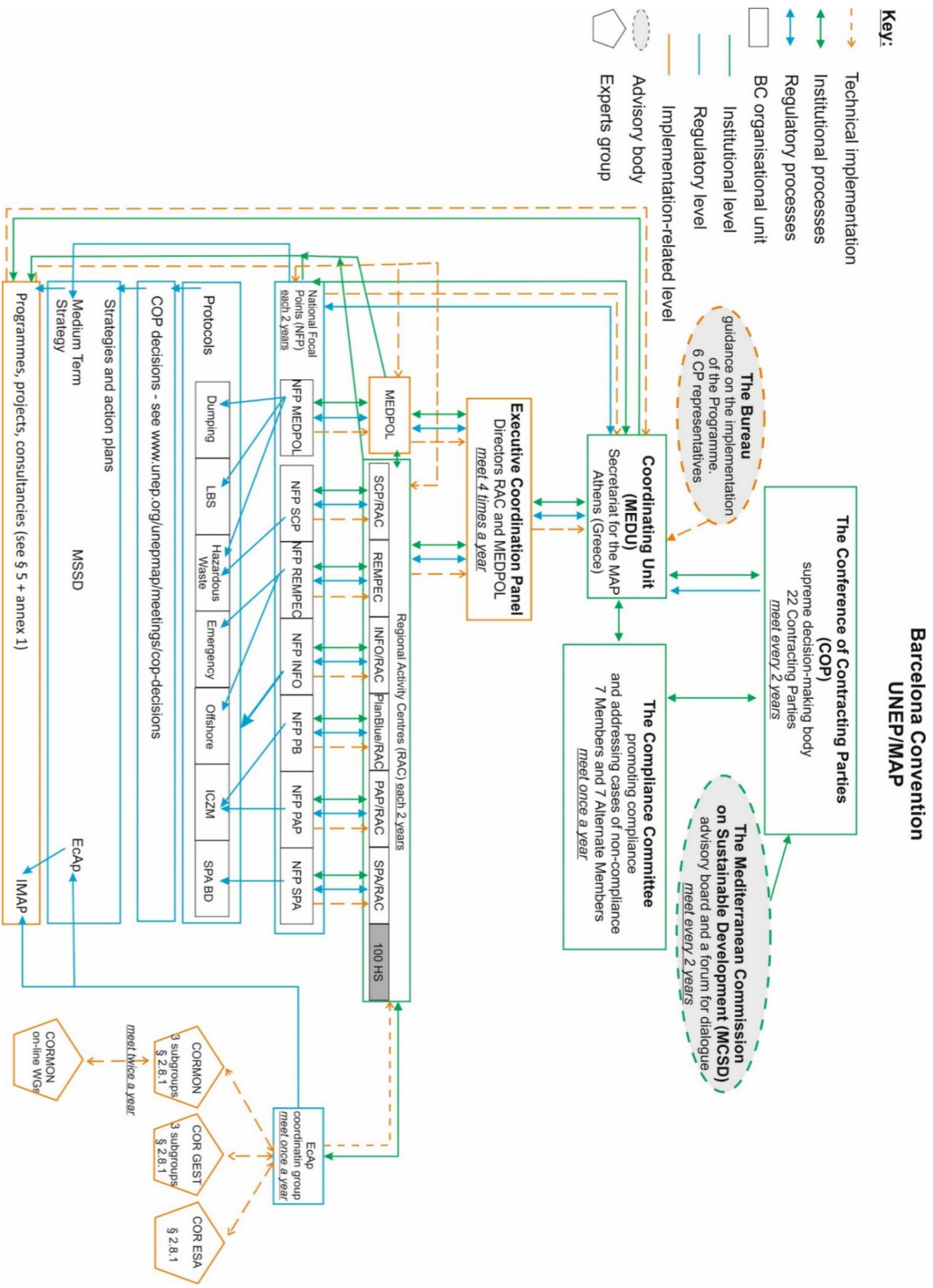


Figure 7: functional map of the Barcelona Convention structure and organisation

5. Current strategies, action plans and programmes arisen from the Barcelona Convention

The Barcelona Convention's process is defining and implementing several strategies, action plans and programmes, in link with its Protocols. All these elements aim to complement each other, and to progress towards achieving the overarching goals. Strategies are more conceptual and policy-making orientated, while action plans and programmes are defined and conducted to concretely implement operational application of these strategies. The current state of art on these elements is listed below, with each respective web links for further detailed information:

Pollution

Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land-based Activities (SAP MED, 1997) ([UNEP, 1997](#))

Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) ([Decision IG.22/4 - 2016](#)).

Mediterranean Offshore Protocol Action Plan ([Decision IG. 22/3 - 2016](#))

Regional Plan on reduction of input of BOD by 50% by 2010 from industrial sources for the Mediterranean region (UNEP, [2003a](#)), (BOD - biochemical oxygen demand)

Strategic framework on marine litter management ([Decision IG.20/10 - 2012](#))

Regional Plan for the reduction by 20% by 2010 of the generation of hazardous wastes from industrial installations for the Mediterranean region ([UNEP 2003 b](#))

Plan for the management of hazardous waste, including an inventory of hazardous waste in the Mediterranean region ([UNEP/MED POL 2003 a](#))

Plan for the management of PCBs waste and nine pesticides for the Mediterranean Region ([UNEP/MED POL 2003 b](#))

Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity Protocol

Strategic Action Plan for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (SAP BIO) in the Mediterranean Region ([UNEP, 2003 c](#))

Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management (BWM), including its Action Plan and Timetable as well as the "General Guidance on the Voluntary Application of the D1 Ballast Water Exchange Standard by Vessels Operating between the Mediterranean Sea and the North-East Atlantic and/or the Baltic Sea" ([Decision IG.20/11 - 2012](#)).

Regional Working Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea including the High Sea ([Decision IG.19/13 - 2009](#))

Roadmap for a comprehensive, coherent network of a well-managed network of Marine Protected Areas to Achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean ([Decision IG.22/13 - 2016](#))

Regional Strategy for the Conservation of Mediterranean Monk Seal (First adoption: Decision IG.21/4 - 2013; Last update: [Decision IG.24/7 - 2019](#))

Action Plan for the management of the Monk Seal in the Mediterranean ([UNEP 1987](#))

Action Plan for the conservation of Mediterranean Marine Turtles (First adoption: 1989; Last update: [Decision IG.24/7 - 2019](#))

Action Plan for the conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea (First adoption: 1991; Last update: [Decision IG.22/12 - 2016](#))

Action Plan for the conservation of Marine Vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea (First adoption: 1999; Last update: [Decision IG.24/7 - 2019](#))

Action Plan for the conservation of Cartilaginous Fishes (Chondrichthyans) in the Mediterranean Sea (First adoption: 2003; Last update: [Decision IG.24/7 - 2019](#))

Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine and Coastal Bird Species listed in Annex II to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (First adoption: 2003; Last update: [Decision IG.23/8 - 2017](#))

Action Plan concerning Species Introductions and Invasive Species in the Mediterranean Sea (First adoption: 2003; Last update: [Decision IG.22/12 - 2016](#))

Action Plan for the conservation of the Corraligenous and other calcareous bio-concretions in the Mediterranean Sea (First adoption: Decision IG.17/15 - 2008; Last update: [Decision IG.22/12 - 2016](#))

Action Plan for the conservation of habitats and species associated with seamounts, underwater caves and canyons, aphotic hard beds and chemo-synthetic phenomena in the Mediterranean Sea (Dark habitats) ([Decision IG.21/4 - 2013](#))

Integrated Coastal Zone Management Protocol

Action Plan for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol 2012-2019 ([Decision IG.20/2 -2012](#))

Common Regional Framework for ICZM ([Decision IG.24/5 - 2019](#))

Conceptual Framework for Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) ([Decision IG. 23/7 - 2017](#))

Sustainable Consumption and Production

Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean ([Decision IG.22/5 - 2016](#))

Climate Change adaptation

Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas ([Decision IG.22/6 - 2016](#))

Cross-cutting issues

The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025 ([PlanBlue/MSSD](#)) provides an integrative policy framework for all stakeholders, including MAP partners,

Ecosystem Approach to the management of human activities that may affect the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment for the promotion of sustainable development COP 15 [Decision IG.17/6](#)

6. Conclusion and recommendations, notably for biodiversity works and French issues

The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean was the first ever of the [six current Regional Sea Convention](#) managed by UNEP. It was established to support Mediterranean countries, through their wide range of resources, cultural and political variety, notably to facilitate coordination and build capacities. The Barcelona Convention system is a unique framework of cooperation, dealing with environmental status of habitats, ecosystems and living resources of the Mediterranean Sea and sustainable development of the whole region. The governance and functioning are structured around a complex set of institutional, regulatory and technical units and committees, which are described in the previous chapters. Many administrative officers, policy-makers and scientists are involved all along the processes leading to multiple products and documents, disseminated through a lot of websites, more or less linked, and more or less visible.

One of the main recommendations, which this report aims to contribute to, is to clarify and make more transparent the functioning and production of the UNEP/MAP processes. **Because of the multitude of parallel works conducted in various projects, technical groups and committees, with challenging timelines, the flow of information is dense and complex. A unique platform, linking and coordinating all websites of the different functional units,** would help to organise and summarise main information about this Convention (structure, processes, strategies, activities, databases, reports etc.) with an interactive (hyperlinks) functional map of all its functional elements.

The **UNEP/MAP secretariat** has a central coordinating role (as reflected by the name of this functional unit) and moreover, **in association with the RACs and MEDPOL institutional** units, initiates and controls the inputs and flows of both technical and policy reports and documents. The national nominated experts and focal points have more a consultative role than a productive initiative, unlike other Regional Sea Conventions (e.g. OSPAR for the North-East Atlantic and HELCOM for the Baltic sea) where the main part of the technical inputs is produced by nominated expert groups and projects associating closely these experts. One of the consequences is a more passive role of the Contracting Parties. To balance this, **it would be important that each project or internal consultancy funded by UNEP/MAP could associate and, even better, be initiated by, both the technical and policy groups.**

For the same reasons, a **stronger coordination and communication between RACs and MEDPOL activities** would improve coherence and the concrete implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, considering and inter-linking environmental states, pressures and activities.

About the IMAP process, and notably for Biodiversity issues, **the respective roles of the functional units** - EcAp coordination group and National Focal Points, the (currently inactive) CORGESTs, the CORMONs (also dealing with indicators, so GES), CORESA and related thematic Online Working Groups - **should be clarified and their works and production better planned as a set, and better linked with other contributing activities, programmes, action plans, projects and internal consultancies**². The past, planned and ongoing **internal consultancies should be more transparent and traceable**, notably on the authorships and experts involved for the technical production. From a scientific and technical point of view, **the traceability and a continuous involvement (in time and frequency) in all the related technical works and processes is required to have a better understanding and quality-control on the technical products**, reports and documents. **Several thematic experts are thus needed** for each specific biodiversity component and pressure type, who could benefit from a **general coordination by the national Focal Points** of related functional units.

² Since this report was under final editorial review, these recommendations were raised and adopted at the EcAp coordination group meeting by teleconference the 9th of September 2021, as described in the annex I of the UNEP/MAP (2021) working document UNEP/MED WG.514/12.

From a policy point of view, it seems **quite complex to track the initiative and full process of preparation of technical inputs and policy-orientated documents**, notably leading to the production of draft decisions. For example, the rough main steps and elements of the process to produce draft Decisions, as illustrated in Figure 5, was only found in a sub-part of the Plan Bleu/RAC website. Besides, the biannual meeting of the COP (unlike generally annual meetings for the equivalent functional unit in OSPAR and HELCOM) slows down and limit the Decision-making process. **To improve this, it would be necessary, from the authors' point of view, to improve internal coordination and meetings preparation between National Focal Points and nominated experts, notably with a shared roadmap, timeline and milestones for the priority objectives.** To improve the links with the **Marine Strategy Framework Directive, it would be important to have a close and frequent coordination between MSFD and UNEP/MAP Focal Points (of similar functional units or roles)**, which would be even the best if it could be, as much as possible, the same person ensuring both roles.

The frequency and preparation (working document submission) **of some meetings**, notably at the technical implementation level, are **not always clearly defined and planned** with sufficient time to coordinate internal national consultations of experts. **The recent re-activation of the Online Working Groups is a significant improvement for the CORMON meetings**, notably for the [CORMON on Biodiversity & fisheries](#). Once again here, the involvement of MSFD experts in the corresponding thematic online working group, and coordination with CORMON and EcAp Focal Points (also closely involved in MSFD processes), should ensure both promotion and coherence with the works conducted under these two regulations. Moreover, if the experts are also involved in the OSPAR Regional Sea convention works, it would improve at the (French and Spanish) national and European scales the compatibility and coherence of the monitoring and assessment methods. The links and coordination with the RACs National Focal Points should be improved, notably for the documents related to the indicators, monitoring and future assessments for the QSR 2023.

For further information and analysis on UNEP functional aspects, including others than the Mediterranean Action Plan, the authors recommend Roy-Lemieux G. (2018), available at <https://tel.archives-ouvertes.fr/tel-01923323/document>

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- the observatory. <https://www.obs.planbleu.org/en/>

RAMPEC. <https://www.rempec.org/en>

INFO/RAC. <http://www.info-rac.org/fr>

SPA/RAC. <https://www.rac-spa.org/>

SPC/RAC. <http://www.cprac.org/>

PAP/RAC. <https://paprac.org/>

Annex 1: List of main projects during the last 10 years, by alphabetic order

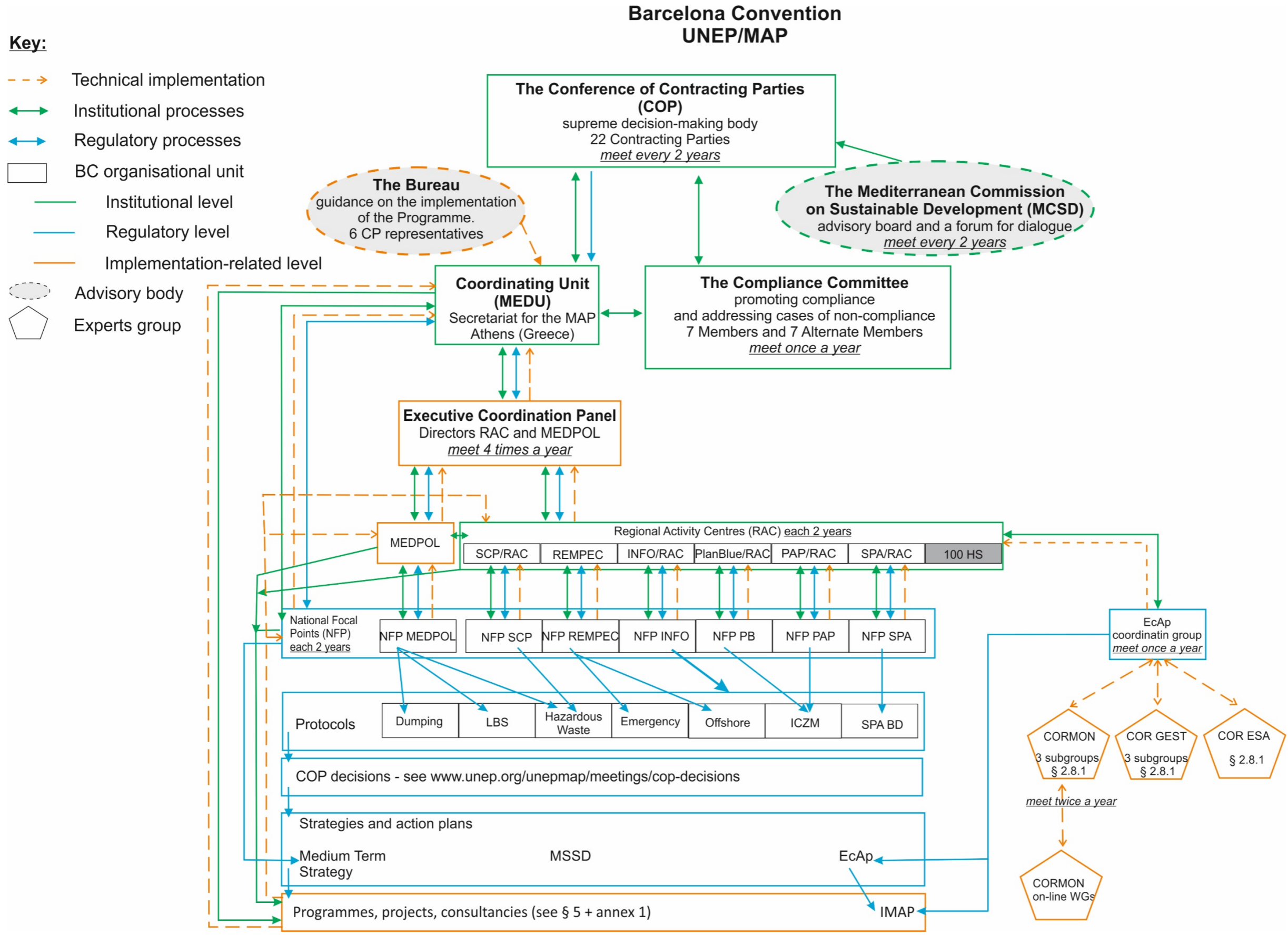
Projects ACRONIM	duration	Main aim	website
ABIOMMED	July 2021 – June 2023	Support coherent and coordinated assessment of biodiversity and measures across Mediterranean for the next 6-year cycle of the MSFD implementation	
Act4Litter	February 2017 - July 2018	Interreg Med project which identifies more than 100 measures to prevent and minimize environmental and health impacts and quantities of plastic waste and microplastics that could become plastic marine litter. A Decision-Making tool developed within the project will allow to select the most effective and feasible measure for the Mediterranean specific context.	https://act4litter.interreg-med.eu/
Bycatch Project	September 2017 – June 2020	Focusing on non-targeted but not vulnerable fished species is a key conservation issue in the Mediterranean for several vertebrates, including sea turtles, birds, marine mammals and elasmobranchs for which SPA/RAC is implementing regional Action Plans (AP)	http://www.rac-spa.org/bycatch_pr
Deep Sea Lebanon Project	2016-2018	Activity 1: exploring marine biodiversity, particularly in submarine canyons and deep-sea areas (depth range 200 to 1000-1500 meters), Activity 2: development of management guidelines that will benefit national authorities as well as the local communities, and Activity 3: Initiate the declaration of the MPA through concertation with national and local authorities.	https://www.rac-spa.org/fr/node/1760
EcAp-MED I	June 2012 - May 2015	Complement the integrated assessment of the Mediterranean Ecosystem with a socio-economic assessment and establish an assessment cycle by developing a UNEP/MAP policy on assessments of the marine and coastal environment to be periodically implemented;	http://www.rac-spa.org/ecapmed_i
EcAp-MED II	June 2015 - June 2019	Mediterranean Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, in coherence with the European Union (EU) Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)	http://www.rac-spa.org/ecapmed_ii
EcAp MED III	2020-2023	Aim is to further assist the Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties to implement the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP), adopted in 2016, as part of the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap and contribute to the delivery of the 2023 Quality Status Report of the Mediterranean (MED QSR). It builds on the successful implementation of the previous projects EcAp MED I (2012-2015) and EcAp MED II (2015-2019).	

GEF Adriatic project	September 2017 – June 2021	The project proposes to integrate the Ecosystem Approach into management tools such as Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and to provide technical assistance to Albania and Montenegro to strengthen their management capacity.	http://www.rac-spa.org/node/1941
GEF Mediterranean Sea Programme “Enhancing Environmental Security”	Concept Approved 03 Oct 2016	Main aims is to reducing the major transboundary environmental stresses affecting the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas, including harmful chemicals and wastes. SCP/RAC will be involved in the development of measures for the prevention of POPs and new POPs and the prevention and elimination of Mercury	
IDEM	funded in 2018	Implementation of the MSFD to the deep Mediterranean Sea	https://indicat-europa.eu/
IMAP-MPA project	August 2019 - February 2023	The IMAP-MPA project builds on the results and achievements of the EcAp-Med II project "	http://www.rac-spa.org/node/1919
Kuriat Project	July 2017- December 2019	Action 1 : Organize capacity building trainings on management and conservation for the concerned actors. also, to organize meetings with the local consulting committee of the project to present and discuss the annual progress report and the planning of future actions; Action 2 : Establish a communication action plan for the AMCP of Kuriat Islands; Action 3 : Implement and strengthen the monitoring Programmes of the key species and the threats affecting the site; Action 4 : Conduct a feasibility study for the installation of mooring system and a system of ecological anchoring to protect the Posidonia oceanica meadows; Action 5 : Conduct a study to identify sources of sustainable funding schemes for protected areas in Tunisia, in particular the Kuriat Islands.	http://www.rac-spa.org/kuriat_pr
Marine Litter MED Project	2020-2023	The project aims at supporting the MENA countries in the development of measures to prevent the generation of ML. In the framework of the project, SCP/RAC is in charge of the development of measures to prevent the single-use plastics and the promotion of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) strategies. In a first phase of the project, the center has identified 25 innovative and inspiring solutions to combat plastic marine litter and 20 solutions to prevent the use of toxic chemicals (PBT, EDC, vPvB, CMR) in products.	https://www.unep.org/unepmap/what-we-do/projects/MarineLitterMED-II
Marine Turtles Project	June 2017 to May 2020	The aim is to implement harmonized management plans and monitoring protocols following a participatory approach and in line with the EcAp Guidelines.	https://medmarineturtles.org/

MedKeyHabitats	December 2013 - May 2016	Aim is to mapping of key habitats and the elaboration of the distribution Atlas of these elements in the Mediterranean.	http://www.rac-spa.org/medkeyhabitats
MedKeyHabitats II Project	July 2017 to December 2019	Action 1: Conduct cartographic inventories of marine key habitats of conservation interest, assess their vulnerability to fishing activities, and propose zoning and management measures; Action 2: Set up and strengthen the monitoring techniques for marine key habitats; Action 3: Improve the capacity of involved countries to establish, maintain and update geodatabases on marine key habitats and their sensitivity to fishing activities; Action 4: Disseminate the project's outputs and results to national and local stakeholders and communicate on the value of key habitats and their importance for sustainable fisheries.	http://www.rac-spa.org/medkeyhabitats2
MedMPA	2016-2019	creation and management of MPAs	http://medmpa.rac-spa.org/
MedMPA network project	2016-2018	It builds on the achievements of the Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (MedPartnership project), including the Regional Project for the Development of a Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MPAs) Network through the boosting of MPAs Creation and Management (MedMPAnet project).	http://www.rac-spa.org/medmpanet
MedMPAnet Project	finished in 2016	Integrated approaches for the implementation of the Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) and National Action Programmes (NAPs): Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), IWRM and management of coastal aquifer”, component 2: “Pollution from land based activities, including Persistent Organic Pollutants: Implementation of SAP-MED”, component 3: “Conservation of biological diversity: Implementation of SAP BIO and related National Action Plans”, component 4: “Project coordination, replication and communication strategies, management and M&E”.	http://medmpanet.rac-spa.org/
MedRegion	funded in 2018	Support Mediterranean member states towards implementation of the marine strategy framework directive new GES decision and programmes of measures and contribute to regional/subregional cooperation	https://medregion.eu/
MSP Pilot Project	starts may 2019	The objectives of this project are to increase cooperation between EU and non-EU Member States, formulate regional recommendations in line with the WestMED Initiative and support the adoption of a roadmap and strengthen institutional capacities of participating countries.	https://www.msp-platform.eu/projects/msp-global-pilot-project-west-mediterranean
ODYSSEA Project	June 2017 - November 2021	The project aims to develop, operate and demonstrate an interoperable and cost-effective platform that fully integrates networks	http://odysseaplatform.eu/

		of observing and forecasting systems across the Mediterranean basin.	
QuietMed II	funded in 2020	Joint programme for GES assessment on D11-noise in the Mediterranean Marine Region	https://quietmed2.eu/
QUIETMED2 Project	02.2019-02.2021	D11-noise in the Mediterranean Marine Region	https://quietmed2.eu/
SAMBIO and Post-2020 SAPBIO	2004-2018 2020-2021	Implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol at national and regional levels,	https://www.rac-spa.org/sapbio
SPAMI Project	2018-2019	The activities are envisaged to develop twinning programmes among Italian SPAMIs/MPAs and SPAMIs/MPAs of the Mediterranean sub-regions of which Italy is part, in order to promote networking and standardize management. The project aims to support best practices and experience sharing between the twin SPAMIs/MPAs, build capacities, and involve civil society organizations (CSOs).	http://www.rac-spa.org/spami_project
SPAMIs in Open Seas	2008-2014	The aim of a Joint Management Action of the European Community with the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) started in 2007 is to promote through the SPAMI system the establishment of a representative network of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean open seas, including the deep seas	http://medabnj.rac-spa.org/index.php?lang=en
Species Project, connected with MedKeyHabitats II Project	2018-2020	The impact of fisheries on non-target, highly mobile species, including marine mammals, sea birds, sea turtles and elasmobranch fish species	https://www.rac-spa.org/species_project
SWIM-H2020	2016-2019	Aims to contribute to reduce marine pollution and a sustainable use of scarce water resources in the MENA region. SCP/RAC's involvement in the project focuses on the development of an expert facility, peer-to-peer experience sharing and dialogue and in capitalizing the lessons learnt, good practices and success stories in the fields of green and circular economy, pollution prevention and sustainable finance.	https://www.swim-h2020.eu/
SWITCH-Med Programme	phase 1 06.2012-05.2015 phase2 2019-2023	Leapfrogging to socially inclusive Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) practices preserving the environment • Integrating the natural capital and the environment in the core business of Mediterranean companies • Creating a critical mass of citizens for SCP	https://switchmed.eu/about-us/

Annex 2: Functional map of the Barcelona Convention structure and organisation



Executive summary

The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean was the first ever of the six current Regional Sea Conventions managed by UNEP. It was established to support Mediterranean countries, through their wide range of resources, cultural and political variety, notably to facilitate coordination and build capacities. The Barcelona Convention system is a unique framework of cooperation, dealing with environmental status of habitats, ecosystems and living resources of the Mediterranean Sea and sustainable development of the whole region.

The governance and functioning are structured around a complex set of institutional, regulatory and technical units and committees, which are described in the previous chapters. Many administrative officers, policy-makers and scientists are involved all along the processes leading to multiple products and documents, disseminated through a lot of websites, more or less linked, and more or less visible. Even if this Convention is well documented and active, the details of its structure, and moreover its functioning, are scattered, quite complicated to tackle and require to explore and analyse many information, not always publicly available.

The aim of this report is to provide this analysis and summary of the main elements of the structure and functioning of this Convention, including inputs and reviews from several French actors currently active in different committees of this Convention. The final figure summarizes and illustrates all these elements, according to this analysis. In conclusion, some recommendations are provided, as a result of this analysis, notably on biodiversity aspects and French issues.

