**Preparation of the 2020-2021 Programme of Work:**

**Proposal regarding the PAP/RAC-led activities**

**I Justification**

In order to be able to propose a well-structured and balanced Programme of Work (PoW) for the biennium 2020-2021 to be submitted for adoption by the COP21 (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019), the MAP Coordinating Unit (CU) and its Components have started shaping it since early January 2019 so as to have it discussed first with the Components’ NFPs and then with the MAP NFPs.

The proposed Programme of Work (PoW) for the 2020-2021 biennium focuses on the key deliverables of the MAP Mid-term Strategy (MTS) for 2016-2021 bearing also in mind the need to create a solid basis for delivering activities that will extend beyond 2021. It is designed to ensure:

* Full alignment with the MAP MTS for 2016-2021;
* Support to the Contracting Parties (CPs) to effectively implement the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM Protocol) and the Common Regional Framework for ICZM (to be adoted by COP21);
* A coherent package of activities spanning policy development, on-the-ground projects, methodological support, capacity development and awareness raising;
* Better harmonisation and synergies with relevant global and regional developments and initiatives, such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and EU Directive establishing a framework for Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP);
* Synergies with relevant partners in reaching the ICZM objectives.

Moreover, the proposed programme of work was guided by the previous COPs decisions, which recommended among others:

* To associate PAP/RAC, in its role of coordinator of the implementation of the ICZM Protocol, to national and sub-regional initiatives, such as the preparation of national ICZM strategies and macro-regional strategies, such as the Adriatic-Ionian Strategy (EUSAIR), and to coordinate the ICZM Protocol implementation with other international protocols or legislation affecting some of the Mediterranean countries;
* To continue the work initiated on MSP in the specific Mediterranean conditions at regional and national levels, paying particular attention to land-sea interactions, and seeking the integration of terrestrial and marine planning within the ICZM.

The main activities proposed by PAP/RAC to be implemented in collaboration with the CPs and other MAP Components belong to four major themes of the 2020-2021 PoW: Governance, Land-Sea Interaction and Processes, ICZM and Climate Change Adaptation. They represent a mixture of activities that have become a “regular” part of all PoWs since the adoption of the ICZM Protocol, long-term activities that have started in this biennium and will continue in the 2020-2021, and several new activities identified as needed in contacts with CPs.

All the activities are conceived keeping in mind the need and objective to contribute to the implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP), in particular with regard to the “coastal” ecological objectives (EO 7 and 8). The same for the preparation of the updated version of the Quality Status Report (QSR) 2023 in line with its Roadmap.

**II Proposed Activities**

Below are introduced the main activities per relevant PoW themes.

**THEME 1: Governance**

Besides the cooperation within a large majority of activities led by the CU, as well as the other MAP Components, PAP/RAC will carry out four major activities under this theme:

* organisation of the regular meeting of its National Focal Points (NFPs);
* support to the CPs in the process of ratification of the ICZM Protocol;
* support the preparation of the Quality Status Report (QSR) 2023; and
* organisation of annual celebrations of the Mediterranean Coast Day, as the main awareness-raising event that has become a tradition in the Region.

**THEME 4: Land & Sea Interaction and Processes**

Implementation of CAMP projects will remain the core activity within this theme. One project (In Bosnia-Herzegovina, prepared in the 2018-2019 biennium) is expected to become fully operational. Moreover, pending on the results of the Feasibility Studies to be completed in 2019, a new cycle of projects is expected to be developed focusing on transboundary or transnational cooperation, as appropriate. Efforts will continue to make fully operational the network of CAMP projects to facilitate coordination, knowledge and information sharing, and mutual assistance.

Given the choice made by the CPs to raise MSP higher in the agenda of the MAP BC system, and to embed it within ICZM already in the Common Regional Framework for ICZM, there will be a need for specific trainings on MSP so as to reflect the land-sea interactions and ICZM-MSP links, all with the view of conciliating the objectives of both development and protection of the marine environment.

An important input to the implementation of MSP in the Mediterranean will be provided by:

* the final phase of the GEF project for two countries of the Adriatic sub-region (Albania and Montenegro), the implementation of which is on-going with the aim of consolidating common knowledge for reaching Good Environmental Status (GES), and building capacity for MSP;
* a toolkit for MSP to be developed capitalising on the results of two projects funded by EU in the current biennium – one for the Western Mediterranean (SIMWESTMED) and the other for the Eastern Mediterranean (SUPREME); and
* the training sessions to be provided to all Mediterranean countries.

**THEME 5: Integrated Coastal Zone Management**

A large majorities of activities within this theme are those included in the GEF MedProgramme based on an extensive consultation process with the CPs. These activities are meant to support the obligations of the CPs as regards the ICZM Protocol implementation and will be focused on:

* the preparation and adoption of national strategies for ICZM reflecting the provisions of the Protocol;
* the preparation of coastal plans for selected coastal zones in the GEF eligible countries; and
* the analysis and consultations needed to support and speed up the ratification of the ICZM Protocol.

Learning and communication tools that will be provided within this theme will support and facilitate the work on ICZM by the CPs. These are:

* the MedOpen e-learning that will continue providing training on the ICZM process and its specific tools intended for coastal managers, decision-makers, students, practitioners and all other interested stakeholders;
* the ICZM platform to boost coastal governance through a modern infrastructure that will facilitate the access to, and the use of legal, methodological, communication and all other tools needed for an effective coastal management;
* national or sub-national coordination mechanisms to support the preparation and/or implementation of ICZM strategies and/or projects, for which PAP/RAC will continue providing assistance to the CPs in accordance with Art.7 of the ICZM Protocol.

**THEME 6: Climate Change Adaptation**

As stipulated in several of the ICZM Protocol articles, the issue of climate change adaptation in coastal zones needs to be properly addressed in all coastal or ICZM plans and strategies. That is way GEF has decided to complement two ICZM plans to be prepared within the GEF MedProgramme with an additional project focused on climate change.

The Adriatic region will also benefit from an EU-funded project designed to boost knowledge in the field of climate change adaptation measures and good practices (with possible extension to the entire Mediterranean Region) and to support selected municipalities in preparing their adaptation strategies.

**III Conclusion**

The proposed PoW has been prepared in collaboration with the CU and other MAP Components, taking into account the financial and human resources available from the core MTF budget and largely complemented by external resources mobilised in collaboration with the CPs.

In order to assist the CPs in fulfilling their obligations regarding the implementation of the ICZM Protocol, PAP/RAC will continue seeking together with them new funding opportunities. For that efficient partnerships with eligible countries will be crucial, as has always been the case.