

Preparation of the 2024-2025 Programme of Work of UNEP/MAP: Proposal regarding the PAP/RAC-led activities

I Introduction

With a view of proposing a well-structured and balanced Programme of Work (PoW) for the biennium 2024-2025 to be submitted for adoption by COP23 (Slovenia, December 2023), the MAP Coordinating Unit (CU) and its Components have started shaping it since early January 2023 so as to have it discussed first with the Components' FPs and then with the MAP NFPs.

The part of the UNEP/MAP PoW 2024-2025 proposed by PAP/RAC focuses on key outcomes of the MAP Mid-term Strategy (MTS) for 2022-2027 bearing also in mind the need to create a solid basis for delivering activities that will extend beyond 2025. It is designed to ensure:

- Full alignment with the new UNEP/MAP MTS for 2022-2027;
- Support to the Contracting Parties (CPs) to effectively implement the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM Protocol);
- A coherent package of activities spanning policy development, on-the-ground projects, methodological support, capacity building 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 proposal of PAP/RAC-led activities and deliverables of the UNEP/MAP PoW 2024-2025 was guided by the previous CoPs decisions, which recommended among others 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.

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 activities and deliverables of the UNEP/MAP PoW 2024-2025 proposed by PAP/RAC have 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, largely complemented by external resources mobilised in collaboration with the CPs i.e. GEF and EU funds. The proposal includes also the activities and deliverables for which the resources are still to be mobilised (i.e. non-secured external resources).

II Proposed Activities

The main activities and deliverables of the UNEP/MAP PoW 2024-2025 proposed by PAP/RAC, to be implemented in collaboration with the CPs and other MAP Components, belong to five Programmes of the 2022-2027 MTS, as presented below. They represent a mixture of activities that constitute 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 2024-2025, and several new activities identified in contacts with CPs.

MTS Programme 3: Towards a climate resilient Mediterranean

As stipulated in several articles of the ICZM Protocol, 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 Global

Environment Facility (GEF) has decided to complement two ICZM plans to be prepared within MedProgramme (in Montenegro and Morocco) with an additional project focused on climate change. Both plans have reached an advanced stage of implementation in the biennium 2022-2023 and will be finalised in early 2024.

One of the themes that popped up in both plans were the nature-based solutions and the need to get better insight into options applicable for different coastal typologies. To this end, PAP/RAC has started working on a guidance document that will be finalised and disseminated in the next biennium.

MTS Programme 4. Towards the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources including by the promotion of circular and blue economy

Coastal Area Management Projects (CAMPs) will remain the core activity within this Programme. The CAMP Israel project initiated in late 2022 will be finalised, and a new CAMP will be negotiated through the preparation of the feasibility study and CAMP agreement. Interested CPs are invited to communicate through official channels (PAP and MAP NFPs) their interest and willingness for the implementation of such a project.

A large majority of activities within this Programme are those included in the GEF MedProgramme. These activities are meant to support the obligations of the eligible CPs as regards the ICZM Protocol implementation and will focus on the finalisation of the activities continuing from the biennium 2022-2023 i.e. National ICZM Strategy for Lebanon, finalisation of coastal plans for selected coastal areas in Montenegro and Morocco, and vulnerability analyses for two Algerian wilayas.

Moreover, an important methodological work is proposed, focusing on the update of matrices from the Common Regional Framework for ICZM and strengthening of the MSP implementation, in accordance with the COP 21 Decision IG.24/5.

MTS Foundational Programme 5: Governance

Three major types of activities are planned under this Programme, which are considered as “regular” activities appearing in all PoWs:

- organisation of the regular meeting of PAP/RAC’s National Focal Points (NFPs);
- support to the CPs in the process of ratification of the ICZM Protocol, strengthening national legal frameworks and establishing intersectoral committees for coastal zone management;
- delivering advanced runs of MedOpen virtual training course and updating training material.

MTS Enabling Programme 6: Together for a shared vision of the Mediterranean sea and coast

Being responsible for the “coast and hydrography” cluster of IMAP, PAP/RAC will continue assisting the CPs in making analyses related to the Common Indicator (CI) 16 on coastline, in particular in defining country specific GES.

Moreover, with the support of MedProgramme, methodology will be fine-tuned and tested regarding the Candidate Common Indicator (CCI) 25 on land-use change.

MTS Enabling Programme 7: For a strong and united advocacy, awareness, education and communication of the Mediterranean sea and coast

Regional celebrations of the Mediterranean Coast Day became already a tradition. Same as in the previous 17 years, central annual events will be organized in countries having expressed interest to host them.

Support will also be provided to locally organized events, which significantly contribute to the visibility of MAP.