

**REPORT**  
**of the Meeting of PAP/RAC Focal Points**  
**23-24 May 2023**

**Split, June 2023**

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**Venue, participation and objectives**

1. The PAP/RAC Focal Points (FPs) meeting was held at the PAP/RAC premises (Split, Croatia) on 23-24 May 2023. Representatives of the following 13 Contracting Parties (CPs) attended the meeting: Albania, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Slovenia, Republic of Türkiye and Tunisia, with online participation of the Moroccan representative. In addition, the representative of the UNEP/MAP Coordination Unit attended the meeting, as well as the representative of Plan Bleu/RAC (online). A complete list of participants is attached as Annex I of this Report.
2. The main objective of the meeting was to present and discuss the status of the implementation of PAP/RAC activities in the current biennium and to get the first feedback on the proposal of the PAP/RAC work plan for 2024-2025.

**Agenda 1: Opening of the meeting**

3. Ms. Željka Škaričić, PAP/RAC Director, welcomed the participants and thanked them for attending the meeting and particularly greeted the ones who attended for the first time. She introduced the meeting objectives and gave the floor to the representative of UNEP/MAP. Furthermore, she congratulated Tunisia for the ratification of the ICZM Protocol in November 2022.
4. Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis, UNEP/MAP Governance Officer, greeted the participants on behalf of the UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit. He highlighted the importance of this meeting as an essential element on the path towards CoP 23 in December 2023, where new strategic mandates should be adopted for the entire Barcelona Convention system. In that regard, he particularly stressed the relevance of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in the upcoming period, as a key tool to protect the environment and ensure sustainable blue economy development.
5. Appreciating the information provided by the UNEP/MAP representative, the PAP/RAC Director provided technical information about the meeting, introduced the Rules of Procedure and suggested the Bureau members.
6. The following Bureau members were unanimously elected:
  - Chair: Ms Michelle Borg, Malta
  - Vice-chair: Mr. Emrah Soylemez, Republic of Türkiye
  - Vice-chair: Ms Milica Rudić, Montenegro
  - Rapporteur: Mr. Rok Soczka Mandac, Slovenia
7. The Chair introduced the meeting agenda which was unanimously adopted by the participants. The agenda is enclosed in Annex II of this report.

## **Agenda item 2: Progress Report for the period 2022-2023**

8. The PAP/RAC Director presented PAP/RAC's Progress Report for 2022-2023, highlighting that the implemented activities were in line with the UNEP/MAP MTS for 2022-2027, the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) for 2022-2023, and the Action Plan contained in the Common Regional Framework (CRF) for ICZM (2020-2027) adopted at COP 21 (Naples, Italy, December 2019). She summarised the main activities and achievements within four themes of the UNEP/MAP PoW (Governance; Land-sea interactions and processes; ICZM; Climate change adaptation), notably: the 2022 Mediterranean Coast Day held in Morocco; activities supporting the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP), the Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) ongoing in Israel and Otranto Strait (Transboundary CAMP Otranto carried out in Albania and Italy) and CAMP Bosnia and Herzegovina which was closed in September 2022; the Coastal plans in Montenegro and Morocco, National Strategy for Lebanon and vulnerability studies for two Algerian regions in the framework of GEF MedProgramme (Child project 2.1); ratification of the ICZM Protocol by Tunisia; activities supporting the implementation of MSP in the Mediterranean such as the MSP Workspace; the MedOpen virtual training course on ICZM and the lectures on ICZM for the Syrian Virtual University (SUV); the implementation of the EU-funded EcAP MED III project for Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia; and of the SIDA and Interreg IT-CRO projects for the Adriatic sub-region etc. In addition, she mentioned that PAP/RAC staff contributed to many conferences, workshops and webinars as speakers, gave lectures to students and provided consultancy services regarding integrated coastal management. A PowerPoint presentation containing a more detailed overview of PAP/RAC activities and progress achieved is available [here](#).
9. Several FPs took floor to congratulate PAP/RAC for the work done and results achieved in this biennium and for making so much progress in this exceptionally challenging period which started when the pandemic was still ongoing. The FP for Lebanon further stressed that PAP/RAC had a very ambitious activity plan in the Mediterranean countries and that this rhythm might be quite demanding.

## **Agenda item 3: Presentation of the main ongoing activities**

10. Mr. Marko Prem, PAP/RAC Deputy Director, presented PAP/RAC's contribution to the 2023 MED Quality Status Report chapters on E07 "hydrographic alterations" and E08 "coastal ecosystems and landscapes". He showcased the "joint" QSR chapter on E07 and E08 which is based on thematic assessment reports, namely on hydrographic alterations (CI 15) and on coastline artificialization (CI16) - both at the Mediterranean scale; and on land cover change (candidate CI 25) for the Adriatic sub-region. The content of this chapter was presented and reviewed at the CORMON Meeting on Coast and Hydrography in Marseille (France) in March 2023 and will be reviewed during the Meeting of the Integrated CORMONs (envisaged for the end of June 2023). It was noted that the assessments of the discussed Common Indicators (i.e., the content of the chapters) were based on national reports (by reporting to the IMAP Info system or in the framework of EcAp MED III and IMAP MPA projects), contributions from the scientific collaborators and compiled datasets from open-source databases.
11. In the discussion that followed, the FP for Cyprus informed the meeting about the efforts made and the ongoing collaboration between all relevant governmental departments on preparing the report for CI16 assessment and that they do their best to finalize it before the publication of the QSR. The explanation was also provided about the DPSIR framework, which interconnects all themes/Ecological Objectives and will be used in the QSR. Finally, the meeting participants agreed on the need to include Candidate Common Indicator 25 on the list of common indicators

as soon as possible, which was also one of the main conclusions of the CORMON Meeting on Coast and Hydrography in Marseilles.

- 12.** Ms. Daria Povh Škugor, PAP/RAC Senior Programme Officer, presented the GEF MedProgramme Child Project 2.1 and the SCCF projects as two of the eight Child Projects of GEF MedProgramme. She gave an overview of PAP/RAC's activities, namely: activities related to the support of the ratification/implementation of the ICZM Protocol; an update of the methodology for the CCI 25 with the addition of the elevation layer; the status of the national assessments on land cover change (in 9 countries of the Programme); analysis of the coastal legislation in 5 project countries; national strategy of Lebanon; coastal management plans in Montenegro and Morocco; integrated management plan of the Damour river basin in Lebanon; vulnerability assessments in Algeria; training events (MedOpen); and awareness-raising events (covering three Mediterranean Coast Day events).
- 13.** The FPs appreciated the work done regarding the update of the methodology for the land cover change assessments and added that it would be particularly challenging to determine the Good Environmental Status (GES) for this indicator. Therefore, they stressed the need to exchange the appropriate planning measures, coastal protection solutions and governance practices among the countries. They also appreciated discussing the GES criteria thoroughly and initiating first discussions on the crucial elements needed to estimate GES during the GEF MedProgramme workshops with planners. Furthermore, the Moroccan FP highlighted the crucial need to integrate the site-specific recommendations from all Child Projects in the framework of the MedProgramme, since "dispersion" through different Child Projects could be burdening to local/national stakeholders and decision-makers.
- 14.** The CAMP Bosnia-Herzegovina project, successfully implemented in the Municipality of Neum, was presented by the PAP/RAC Deputy Director. He highlighted the main project outputs - a coastal plan composed of several individual activities, increased capacity of all stakeholders involved (especially on the local level), raised awareness of coastal processes and integrated management, and the Final Integrated Project Report. The proposal of follow-up activities includes the inauguration of an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) for ICZM, drafting of a coastal and marine law, and implementing the Coastal Plan.
- 15.** The CAMP Israel project was presented by the Israeli FP, Ms. Yehudit Moseri, highlighting the key activity milestones and showcasing existing policies and plans at the national level. The overall project objective is to create mechanisms and develop the capacity to implement ICZM in the entire Israeli coastal area. Therefore, the main project activities include capacity-building to implement the ICZM approach in coastal authorities and communities, developing a toolbox for sustainable coastal tourism, sustainable coastal facilities, and preparedness towards climate change and promoting a joint mechanism for the coastal stakeholders to integrate the ICZM approach. As one of the main capacity-building activities in the framework of the project, an in-depth ICZM training course was organised for the representatives of the coastal authorities to learn about the ICZM concepts and tools - with a particular emphasis on the international and Israeli coastal policy, sustainable planning, climate change impacts, blue economy and coastal innovation, as well as the potentials and specific challenges of the coastal and marine areas in Israel.
- 16.** Ms. Tea Marasović, PAP/RAC Programme Officer, gave an overview of the CAMP Otranto project, explaining that it was introduced as the first transboundary project since the launch of the Coastal Areas Management Programme (CAMP) in 1989 – with the aim to test the CAMP methodology at a transboundary scale. The project is carried out in the Otranto Strait area and

includes marine areas within and beyond national jurisdiction, which affect both Albania and Italy regardless of different legal, administrative, and cultural backgrounds. The main individual, transboundary and cross-cutting activities were also presented – the Feasibility Study for the Ares Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), the ICZM Management System and Audit Scheme (ICZM SAS), a Concept Note on MSP in Albania, and the Methodological Guidance which is based on the Common Regional Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (CRF for ICZM). The presentation ended with a display of the project website, animation video and announcement of the upcoming project events, which will help to raise awareness of the pressing environmental challenges in this biodiversity hot spot.

- 17.** The FP of Montenegro, Ms. Milica Rudić, presented the Coastal Plan for the Boka Kotorska Bay), which is being developed in the framework of the GEF MedProgramme, based on the recommendations made in the National Strategy for Integrated Coastal Zone Management of Montenegro (2015). The main reason for choosing this geographic area was elaborated, along with the main objectives of the Coastal Plan which is being prepared using a participatory approach. In this regard, she presented the results of the participatory workshops organised in the current biennium and the thematic priorities established and discussed by the local stakeholders during these workshops. Lastly, she gave an overview of the next steps in the CP preparation and concluded that the measures of adaptation to climate change should be integrated into the Plan via the SCCF project.
- 18.** Being absent due to difficulties to obtain her visa, the Moroccan FP, Ms. Naoual Zoubair, presented the Regional Coastal Plan for the Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima Region, developed under the GEF MedProgramme (Child 2.1 project and SCCF). This regional coastal plan is a strategic plan whose main objective is sustainable coastal development and climate resilience. Likewise, it must meet the 14 requirements of the national coastal law. The preparation of the plan was initiated in June 2021 and the first participatory workshop was held in Tangiers in March 2022. Various stages in the plan development were displayed, along with the priority themes identified during the participatory workshops. Current issues related to the mapping and delimitation of the plan's regulatory zone were also discussed. The presentation ended with the announcement of the next participatory workshop scheduled for June 21, 2023 and a request to extend the contracts of the consultants to allow the achievement of the expected results.
- 19.** Ms. Véronique Evers, PAP/RAC Programme Officer, presented the Vulnerability studies for the wilayas of El Tarf and Mostaganem (Algier). These activities, launched at the request of the Ministry of the Environment and Renewable Energies and supported by PAP/RAC, began in February 2023 and will close in December 2023. They are part of the MedProgramme activities to facilitate the ratification of the ICZM Protocol in Algeria and, in the national context, they constitute an element of implementing the strategic orientation 3.2. "Strengthening knowledge on the vulnerability of coastal zones and adaptation" of the national ICZM strategy 2020 – 2025 for Algeria. The objectives of vulnerability studies are to: (1) define a consensual and scientifically accepted approach for the classification of cumulative vulnerability (international level); (2) support the realization of development plans for the two wilayas and set up a dynamic coastal zone vulnerability analysis system that can be updated with national resources during the post-project phase (national level); (3) get a powerful tool for anticipating coastal risks and helping with development planning for end users, and raise awareness among stakeholders of the issues related to climate change (local level).
- 20.** To enable the upcoming MSP process, the Albanian representative indicated the need to support further collection and monitoring of marine data in Albania. These primarily relate to marine habitats, marine turtles, invasive species etc. Instead of small pilot areas, she

emphasised the importance of focusing on the entire marine area when collecting and monitoring data.

21. The Italian FP joined the discussion and proposed to broaden the scope of the existing SEA in the next PoW and to put a greater emphasis on planning measures.

#### **Agenda item 4: Marine Spatial Planning within the BC system**

22. Ms Marina Marković, PAP/RAC Programme Officer, gave an overview of the updated Conceptual Framework (CF) for MSP in the Mediterranean. The rationale for updating the existing document was to focus more on the environmental pillar of MSP, promoting MSP in the Mediterranean based on the ecosystem approach, land-sea interactions (LSI) and climate change (CC), in line with the ICZM Protocol. The proposed document builds on the adaptive planning process based on seven interconnected stages and offers tailor-made planning tools, made available as part of the [MSP workspace](#). The updated CF is developed as a technical document, guiding the CPs in addressing specific elements within the MSP process according to specific geographical conditions, objectives, and needs. The proposed document, upon adoption by the MAP NFPs, will be submitted to the COP along with the proposed decision envisaging the establishment of a Task Force at the UNEP/MAP level, further upgrade of the MSP Workspace, implementation of MSP demonstration projects and alike.
23. In line with the presented document, PAP/RAC highlighted its involvement in an ecosystem-based MSP project ([MSP4BIO](#)) that is particularly relevant to the policy development of MSP in the Mediterranean.
24. The FPs welcomed the document, noting that it is very much needed for the region since it will assist the countries in implementing MSP. The need for the promotion of adequate planning tools and data collection based on the MSFD and WFD of the EU was acknowledged, as well as the relevant MSP experience in the Baltic and North Sea. Moreover, several specific comments and suggestions were formulated, as summarised below.
25. In the context of MSP in general, the Tunisian representative highlighted that the main focus should be on data management and innovation - particularly the blue economy, while the French FP pointed out the need to reinforce the conservational aspect of MSP and address other ministries which are concerned by MSP. Furthermore, cross-border cooperation in MSP was also highlighted as relevant.
26. The Croatian FP addressed the issue of data gaps regarding the marine area beyond territorial borders. The representative of Albania also added that one should think beyond territorial waters and stressed the importance of data collection. In this regard, the Italian FP highlighted that the territorial scope of the MSP document should refer to the entire Mediterranean Sea since several countries will declare the EEZ in the near future.
27. The representative of Albania asked for additional time to discuss the document. The PAP/RAC Director suggested 10 June 2023 as a deadline for further comments to meet the deadline for submitting all relevant documents for the UNEP/MAP NFPs meeting.
28. The Chair concluded that 10 June 2023 is the agreed deadline for comments in writing and, as the FP of Malta, further added that the next step of this technical document should be to determine the scope behind it and to think about the practitioners who will be using it.

## **Agenda item 5: Proposed structure and indicators for the Coastal Observatory**

29. Mr. Antoine Lafitte from the Plan Bleu/RAC introduced the concept of the Coastal Observatory and the List of proposed 12 indicators for reporting on the state and evolution of coastal zones - as stated in Art. 16 of the ICZM Protocol. Highlighting that PAP/RAC and Plan Bleu closely work on this topic in the framework of the GEF MedProgramme Child Project 2.1, he briefly introduced the proposed indicators, which are grouped into three blocs (natural capital, technical capital, and institutional capital) and the CPs have data to populate them. He explained that the objective is to organize their future monitoring through a Mediterranean Observatory and added that certain countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, and Morocco) are volunteering to test the indicators, particularly the parameters such as the scale, feasibility and institutions involved. The concept for the Coastal Observatory, as a sharing and exchange platform, is currently in the preparatory phase.
30. The following discussion underlined that close cooperation with relevant institutions, particularly in the Southern Mediterranean, should be undertaken in a continuous time frame. Currently, such collaboration is project-based, with no follow-up. Likewise, since clarifications were requested regarding the validation of indicators, it was explained that the indicators proposed have been discussed at the technical level in July 2022 - with prior analysis of the current state of the proposed indicators in all Mediterranean countries. On the List of indicators, none would require additional work or the establishment of new obligations to the countries in terms of data collection.

## **Agenda item 6: Programme of Work for the biennium 2024-2025**

31. The PAP/RAC Director briefly introduced the procedure foreseen for the finalisation of the PAP/RAC PoW and its adoption as a part of the consolidated UNEP/MAP PoW. She proceeded by presenting the proposed 2024-2025 PoW structured according to the new UNEP/MAP MTS 2022-2027 and considering the Action Plan adopted within the Common Regional Framework for ICZM by COP 21 (Naples, Italy, December 2019). The proposed PoW contributes to five MTS programmes, namely: P3 - Towards a climate resilient Mediterranean; P4 - Towards sustainable use of coastal and marine resources including circular and blue economy; P5 - Governance; P6 - Towards monitoring, assessment, knowledge and vision of the Mediterranean Sea and coast for informed decision-making; and P7 - For informed and consistent advocacy, awareness, education, and communication. The PowerPoint presentation is available [here](#).
32. Several participants expressed their appreciation of the ambitious and focused PoW. They underlined the well-balanced programme that would contribute to the implementation of the ICZM Protocol.
33. The UNEP MAP representative invited the countries which have not yet ratified the ICZM Protocol to proceed towards the process of ratification since it is essential for the joint work of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. He appreciated the proposal of creating an MSP Task Force because this mechanism has been operating well.
34. The Italian FP pointed out that Italy intends to send a formal proposal for the activities related to EIA and SEA. He pointed out the importance of MSP, climate change and ICZM Protocol for the future, expressing satisfaction regarding the shift from monitoring to planning and

management. He pointed out that PAP/RAC should lead those activities, which require additional funding for PAP/RAC.

35. The Maltese FP asked about the possibility to develop a CAMP project proposal for Malta and was instructed to submit a formal request at the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 23) in Portorož (Slovenia) on 4-8 December 2023.
36. The French FP highlighted that France has ten years of experience in climate change and coastal zones, particularly regarding the sandy coasts where they implemented numerous successful projects and interventions. For this reason, he kindly offered to mobilize this expertise in the framework of PAP/RAC activities, completely free of charge.

#### **Agenda item 7: Presentation of the main elements of the Guidelines regarding Nature-based Solutions for adaptation to climate change in different coastal typologies**

37. Mr. Igor Belamarić, Assistant to Projects at PAP/RAC, gave an overview of the NbS Guidelines, which should be published next year. Relying on Art. 10 of the ICZM Protocol - „Specific coastal ecosystems“, the contents of this publication should offer a better understanding of the general coastal typology in correlation with different NbS, along with selected examples from each Mediterranean country. Furthermore, it will emphasise relevant principles and examples to support Art. 8 and protect „open coastal areas“. The publication will encompass solutions for natural and semi-natural areas, as well as areas under intense anthropogenic influence.
38. After a fruitful discussion, the participants proposed to recommend in the publication the consideration of several topics, such as: feasibility of NbS, sediment-flows with models, actions to protect dunes, importance of forests as NbS, definition of criteria for different options, pros and cons for various options, urban green infrastructure, blue corridors, principles of ecological restoration in the EU, and land degradation.
39. The representative of the UNEP/MAP asked if the Guidelines draft will be presented at the next COP in Slovenia, and the PAP/RAC Director responded that a side event could be envisaged.

#### **Agenda item 8: Conclusions and recommendations of the meeting**

40. The conclusions and recommendations, as drafted by the secretariat of the meeting and adopted by the participants, are given in Annex III to this report.

#### **Agenda item 9: Closure of the meeting**

41. The Chair thanked PAP/RAC for organising the meeting and the participants for their contribution to the meeting deliberations.
42. The PAP/RAC Director thanked the participants for attending the meeting and contributing to its success. She stressed that PAP/RAC would continue asking them for their opinion and contribution as the effectiveness and productivity of PAP/RAC firstly depend on them. Likewise, she thanked the interpreters and the technicians for their efficient support.
43. The Chair declared the meeting closed on 24 May 2023 at 13:00 hours.



## ANNEX I

### List of participants

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## ANNEX II

### Agenda

#### Tuesday, 23 May 2023

- 09:30 – 10:00<sup>1</sup> Registration of participants.
- 10:00 – 10:15 Opening of the meeting: welcome addresses, objectives and programme, organisation of work (by Željka Škaričić, PAP/RAC and Ilias Mavroeidis, UNEP/MAP).
- 10:15 – 11:00 Progress Report for the period 2022-2023 (15' presentation by Željka Škaričić, PAP/RAC).
- Discussion.
- 11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break.
- 11:30 – 12:15 Presentation of the main projects:
- IMAP Cluster on Coast and Hydrography (15' by Marko Prem, PAP/RAC);
  - GEF MedProgramme Child Project 2.1 and SCCF (15' by Daria Povh Škugor, PAP/RAC).
- Discussion.
- 12:15 – 13:30
- CAMP Bosnia-Herzegovina (10' by FP or PAP/RAC, tbc);
  - Transboundary CAMP Otranto (10' by FP or PAP/RAC, tbc);
  - CAMP Israel (10' by FP or PAP/RAC, tbc);
  - Coastal Plan for the Boka Kotorska Bay, Montenegro (10' by FP or PAP/RAC, tbc);
  - Coastal Plan for the Tanger-Tetouan-Al Hoceima Region, Morocco (10' by FP or PAP/RAC, tbc).
  - Vulnerability studies for the coastal wilayas of El Tarf and Mostaganem, Algeria (10' by FP or PAP/RAC, tbc).
- Discussion.
- 13:30 – 15:00 Lunch break.
- 15:00 – 16:00 Marine Spatial Planning within the BC system (15' introduction by Marina Marković, PAP/RAC).
- Discussion.
- 16:00 – 16:30 Proposed structure and indicators for the Coastal Observatory (15' by Antoine Laffitte, PB/RAC).
- Discussion.

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<sup>1</sup> All hours in Central European Time (CET).

**Wednesday, 24 May 023**

09:30 – 10:30

Programme of Work for the biennium 2024-2025  
(15' introduction by Željka Škaričić, PAP/RAC).

Discussion.

10:30 – 11:00

Presentation of the main elements of the Guidelines regarding nature-based solutions for adaptation to climate change in different coastal typologies (15' presentation by Igor Belamarić, PAP/RAC).

Discussion.

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee break.

11:30 – 13:00

Conclusions and recommendations of the meeting: introduction by PAP/RAC, discussion and adoption.

13:00

Closure of the meeting.



## **ANNEX III**

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

1. The meeting takes note of the progress achieved in implementing the PAP/RAC Programme of Work (PoW) in the current biennium, acknowledging the quality and variety of activities implemented, which are all in line with the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) for 2022-2027 adopted by COP 22 (Antalya, Türkiye, December 2021) as well as with the Action Plan for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol in 2020-2027 adopted by COP 21 (Naples, Italy, December 2019).
2. The meeting congratulates Tunisia for the recent ratification of the ICZM Protocol and takes note of the promising ratification process in several other Contracting Parties (CPs).
3. The meeting finds very useful and interesting the presentations of both, region-wide initiatives (e.g., IMAP and MED QSR 2023, GEF MedProgramme and SCCF project) and national-level activities (e.g. CAMPs, coastal plans, national ICZM strategies, etc.), the modality of work and results of which can serve as an inspiration for future similar activities around the Mediterranean Region.
4. The meeting appreciates the efficient use and combination of several funding sources complementing the MTF funding for the implementation of ICZM, such as GEF MedProgramme, EU funding instruments and voluntary contributions by some CPs.
5. The meeting welcomes the work carried out within the GEF MedProgramme, highlighting the need for integration between different Child Projects (2.1, 2.2, SCCF) in countries and areas where these are implemented, this being essential for the efficient implementation of measures recommended by these projects.
6. The meeting appreciates the work done regarding the contribution of the coast and hydrography cluster to the 2023 MED QSR, including the measures proposed to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES).
7. The meeting recommends in particular: including the Candidate Common Indicator (CCI) 25 on land cover change into the list of IMAP Common Indicators (CIs); to further simplify the guidance factsheet for the CI 15 on hydrography; and preparing a technical document (e.g., manual) to harmonise monitoring of the CI 16 on the coastline, and the definition of GES for the CCI 25 considering the difficulties in establishing the quantitative threshold.
8. The meeting recommends that GES for CI 16, which is country-specific, be defined by the CPs.
9. The meeting welcomes the document on MSP in the Mediterranean and supports its submission to MAP NFPs and COP 23 for adoption as part of a broader MSP-related decision. To allow PAP/RAC to timely finalize the document, 20 June 2023 is set as the final deadline for submission of written comments. In doing this, the Meeting agreed that this is a framework document and a technical tool intended to support the MSP implementation in line with the Barcelona Convention principles and objectives, and not a prescriptive document for the preparation of national MSPs.

- 10.** The meeting formulates several specific recommendations regarding the presented document, such as: (a) it is worth highlighting the importance of data management, as well as the fact that MSP is a tool for innovation and a sustainable blue economy; (b) the scope of MSP should be extended to the entire Mediterranean Sea as far as Economic Exclusive Zones (EEZs) are declared and not only to the territorial waters; (c) the conservational aspect of MSP should be reinforced; (d) PAP/RAC and UNEP/MAP are invited to provide training sessions on MSP and to divulge the document through the MAP Focal Points to other ministries which are concerned by and should be involved in the MSP-related work, such as ministries of planning, construction, maritime affairs, etc.
- 11.** The meeting welcomes the work done on the selection of coastal observation indicators and the design of the observatory structure and recommends to continue working towards the finalization of the list of indicators and its formal adoption by the CPs, as well as on the architecture and functionality of the observatory itself, this being important for the reporting on the state and evolution of coastal zones according to Art. 16 of the ICZM Protocol.
- 12.** The meeting supports the presented Programme of Work (PoW) as being positively ambitious, highlighting the importance of PAP/RAC's role in future actions, especially having in mind the need to move from monitoring towards planning and implementation of measures. Therefore, the meeting endorses the inclusion of the activities proposed by PAP/RAC in the consolidated UNEP/MAP PoW for the biennium 2024-2025 and recommends them for endorsement by the meeting of MAP NFPs.
- 13.** The meeting recommends enhancing PAP/RAC in terms of human and financial resources, particularly to strengthen activities related to MSP, implementation of the ICZM Protocol and climate resilience.
- 14.** The meeting takes note of the proposal from Italy for the inclusion of additional activity in the PoW regarding EIA/SEA in a transboundary context, to be submitted to the MAP FPs, as well as of the intention of some CPs to submit a formal request for another CAMP project, and of the generous offer of France to accompany PAP/RAC with voluntary support in dealing with climate change issues.
- 15.** The meeting welcomes the work on the guiding document for nature-based solutions and invites PAP/RAC to include in the document suggestions with regards to the following aspects: to look at a wider context while deciding on the best possible solution; to consider ecological footprint, modelling and cost-benefit analysis; to look for synergies with other option types; to consider green infrastructure and blue corridors; and to set the criteria for the selection between different suitable alternatives.
- 16.** The meeting encourages PAP/RAC to present the guiding document for nature-based solutions at the next CoP as an information document or during a dedicated side event.