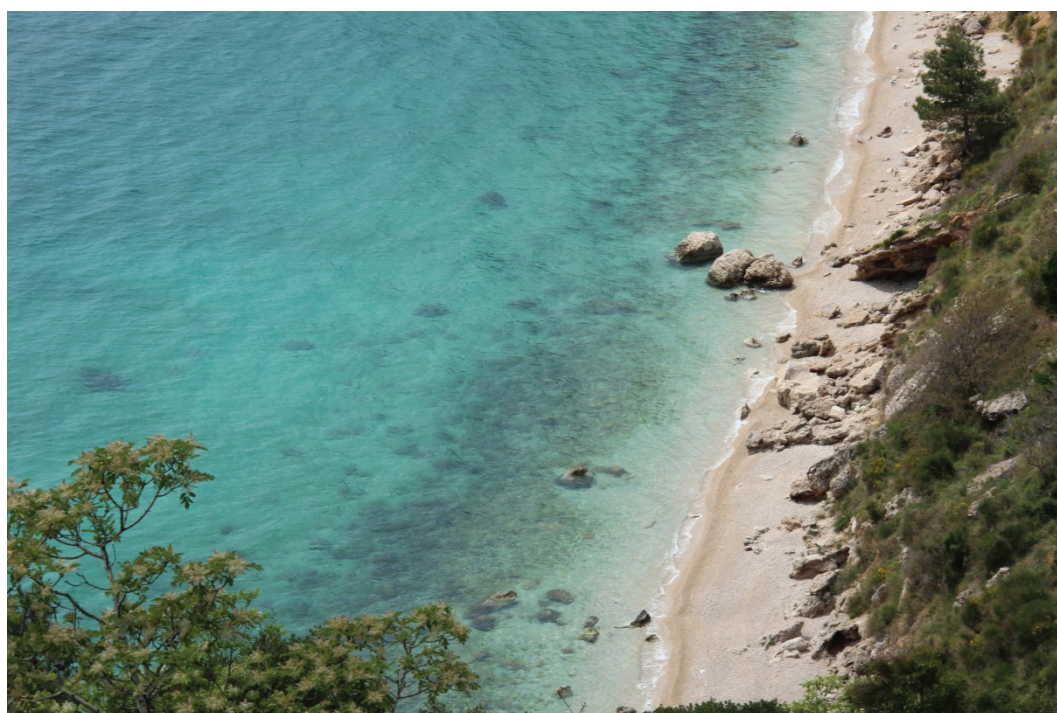

**Priority Actions Programme
Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)
Progress Report for 2016-2017**



Split, April 2017

INTRODUCTION

The main objective of this report is to summarise the activities implemented by [PAP/RAC](#) in 2016-2017. Putting together this short information about the main achievements in implementing the Programme of Work (PoW) approved by COP19 (Athens, February 2016) for the current biennium and the Action Plan for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol in 2012-2019 adopted by COP 17 (Paris, February 2012) will give PAP/RAC NFPs a good insight into the progress made jointly by PAP/RAC, the Contracting Parties (CPs) and other partners in implementing ICZM in the Mediterranean Region.

As always, we hope that this short overview will also be a source of inspiration for the CPs while considering the activities they would like to implement in the biennium to come. Apprehending CPs' needs and priorities has always been the best waymark for the PAP/RAC work.

OVERVIEW OF THE MAIN RESULTS

The overview that follows is structured according to the Strategic Outcomes and Key Outputs of the 2016-2017 PoW, which all relate to the three objectives of the ICZM Protocol Action Plan, namely:

Objective 1:

Support the effective implementation of the ICZM Protocol at regional, national and local levels including through a Common Regional Framework for ICZM.

Objective 2:

Strengthen the capacities of CPs to implement the Protocol and use in an effective manner ICZM policies, instruments, tools and processes.

Objective 3:

Promote the ICZM Protocol and its implementation within the Region, and promote it globally by developing synergies with relevant Conventions and Agreements.

In order not to overburden the report with too many details, direct links are provided to all major documents produced and events organised. We kindly invite you to have a look at them and to contact PAP/RAC for any additional information you may need.

Overarching Theme: GOVERNANCE

Strategic Outcome 1.4

Knowledge and understanding of the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast enhanced through mandated assessments for informed policy-making

Key Output 1.4.3 *Implementation of IMAP (the EcAp-based integrated monitoring and assessment programme) coordinated, including GES common indicators facts sheets, and supported by a data information centre to be integrated into the Info/MAP platform*

The role of PAP/RAC within this Strategic Outcome is to support the Coordinating Unit in organising the governance meetings related to the Coast and Hydrography Ecological Objectives (EO) of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP).

The meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Monitoring (CORMON) on Coast and Hydrography was organised in Madrid, Spain, on 3 March 2017 ([link to the Report](#)). Hosted by the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Environment, the meeting was attended by 20-odd representatives of the CPs, as well as external experts/consultants on given topics, PAP/RAC, SPA/RAC, MEDPOL, and UNEP/MAP representatives.

One of the main topics of the meeting was to discuss the knowledge gaps and issues in implementing three indicators related to Coast and Hydrography clusters:

- (i) "Location and extent of the habitats impacted directly by hydrographic alterations";
- (ii) "Length of coastline subject to physical disturbance due to the influence of manmade structures"; and
- (iii) "Land-use change".

Another important topic was the development of the Mediterranean Quality Status Report (QSR), which is due by the end of 2017.

Many participants agreed to contribute to the QSR by sending written national experiences on given topics.

Finally, the representatives of the CPs were invited to present the current state of their National Integrated Monitoring Assessment Programmes (IMAPs) regarding Coast and Hydrography. The meeting was successful and provided PAP/RAC with essential inputs for the completion of the Indicators Guidance Fact Sheets, as well as for the QSR.

As a follow up to the above meeting, PAP/RAC contributed to the EcAp Coordination Group joint meeting on IMAP held in Nice on 27-28 April 2017. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the temporal and geographical scales of monitoring, reporting and assessment for the IMAP indicators, as well as to discuss the draft QSR 2017 report based on the Assessment Fact Sheets. PAP/RAC led the group on coast and hydrography indicators. The inputs from the meeting were used to improve the draft report for the QSR.

Strategic Outcome 1.6

Raised awareness and outreach

Key Output 1.6.1 *The UNEP/MAP communication strategy updated and implemented*

On 27 September 2016, for the 10th consecutive year, the Mediterranean Coast Day was celebrated in Barcelona, Spain, under the theme "[A blue economy for a healthy Mediterranean](#)". It was co-organised by PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu and SCP/RAC, and co-sponsored by the MAVA Foundation. The celebration was attended by representatives of CPs, Mediterranean national and international organisations, NGOs, as well as local society members.

The first part of the day was dedicated to presentations and debate around the concept of Blue Economy in the Mediterranean, as well as discussion on good examples and best practices from leading businesses, NGOs and public agencies from all over the Mediterranean. It also included a dialogue with Spanish skipper Didac Costa, this year's ambassador for the coast, who took part in the 2016 Vendée Globe sailing race.

The second part of the day was aimed at a wider local audience and citizens. It attracted more than

a hundred persons and featured three different corners: Action Corner, with a selection of local and international organizations active in the field of Blue Economy, such as NGOs, research centres and businesses; Networking Corner, with different areas to gather participants around the key economy sectors (mobility, energy, tourism, fisheries, recycling); and Creative Corner, with a collaborative workshop where participants were able to draw, build and take back a personalised art piece.

Core Theme: LAND AND SEA INTERACTIONS AND PROCESSES

Strategic Outcome 4.1

Strengthening regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and of programmes of measures in the existing Regional Strategies and Action Plans

Key Output 4.1.1 *CPs assisted in identifying, implementing and evaluating specific measures and tools to reduce pressures on coastal and marine areas (e.g. coastal setback, land policy measures, zoning)*

Most of the activities related to this key output are a part of the daily work of PAP/RAC staff who put their own expertise in the service of the CPs and provide information, comments, advice and documentation regarding the ICZM and lately MSP issues.

However, several activities are to be pointed out, which also needed physical presence of PAP/RAC staff members at specific meetings, such as:

- A PAP/RAC representative participated at the **Coast Expo** in Ferrara, Italy, which took place on 21-23 September 2016, in parallel with the **RemTech Expo**, and in the framework of the 2nd Ports National Conference. PAP/RAC was invited to the presentation of the activities of the National Board on Coastal Erosion, promoted by the Italian Ministry of the Environment and Protection of Land and Sea, together with 15 coastal Regions. The National Board is leading the preparation of the Guidelines for fighting the coastal erosion and the impacts of the climate change, a document to which PAP/RAC has been contributing with comments and suggestions.
- A PAP/RAC representative attended the meeting that took place in Ljubljana, at the Slovenian Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, on 20 October 2016. The main objective was to discuss the implementation of the MSP Directive and the ICZM Protocol with the focus on land-sea interactions. After a PAP/RAC's presentation on ICZM and its relationship to MSP a constructive and very rich debate developed, which will allow national experts to better frame the work on the preparation of the national Marine Spatial Plan. Links to a number of PAP/RAC reports were provided as a source of information, as well.
- A PAP/RAC representative participated in the side event organised by the Tunisian Coastal Agency (APAL) and UNDP on 11 November 2016 in the Tunisian pavilion at COP22 in Marrakech, Morocco, with the view to strengthening national and local capacities of the country to adapt to climate change in coastal areas, and to improve the process of programming, monitoring and coordinating the interventions at the level of the Tunisian coastal zone. The ratification of the ICZM Protocol of the Barcelona Convention was deemed as one of the key steps for addressing the climate change challenge, and the national ICZM strategy as one of the major instruments to prevent and reduce its impacts.
- On 28 February and 1 March 2017, PAP/RAC, in collaboration with the WWF North Africa - Living Planet Tunisia, organised a visit to Croatia for high-level partners coming from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. The participants were Tunisian parliamentarians and representatives of the civil society from Tunisia, the Ministry of the Environment of Morocco, and the national Commissariat of the Coasts of Algeria. The first day consisted of a field visit in the County of Šibenik-Knin and a meeting with local institutional actors, first and foremost representatives of the Environmental and Spatial Planning Departments of the County, to discuss the Coastal Plan of the Šibenik-Knin County, an innovative document which unifies initiatives for the protection and

development of coastal areas in the context of climate change, adopted by the County Council in 2016. The second day of the visit, at the PAP/RAC premises, was rich in exchanges on the ICZM policies, programmes and plans developed and implemented in all three countries. Regulatory perspectives in north Africa regarding the ICZM Protocol were also discussed, with particular emphasis on the support needed for its ratification in Algeria and Tunisia.

- Owing to a great interest of Greek institutions and universities actively involved in the process of ratification of the ICZM Protocol, PAP/RAC organised, together with its NFP, a half-day meeting to introduce the work on the Regional Framework for ICZM, the links between ICZM and MSP, the UNEP/MAP work on IMAP and EcAp indicators and their utilisation for planning purposes, in particular MSP. The meeting was held in Athens, on 7 April 2017, with the participation of 28 representatives of the Ministries of Environment and Energy; Tourism; Economy and Development; and Rural Development and Food, as well as representatives of scientific and research organisations coming from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, National Technical University of Athens, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research and Pan-Hellenic Society of Technologists-Ichthyologists. All of them deemed this kind of exchange very useful, hoping that it was the first of the many collaborative meetings to come.

Strategic Outcome 4.2

Development of new action plans, programmes of measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines

Key Output 4.2.2 *Marine spatial planning defined in the context of the Barcelona Convention and applied, as appropriate*

The PoW 2016-2017 envisages the preparation of a Conceptual Framework for MSP as an emerging issue in the Mediterranean Region. Given the

intrinsic relations between the terrestrial and marine parts of the coastal zone, as defined by Art.3 of the ICZM Protocol, since the beginning of the work on the MSP issues it has seemed wise to present this Conceptual Framework as a part of the Regional Framework for ICZM that has also been developed in the current biennium. In doing so it was decided that the document would deal with the MSP issues within the CPs' territorial waters and that it would include a technical annex with details on the MSP process, tools and its links with ICZM (see also Key Output 5.1.2).

Strategic Outcome 4.3

Strengthening national implementation

Key Output 4.3.1 *New generation of CAMPs prepared to promote land-sea interactions, also addressing transboundary issues, as appropriate*

CAMP Italy

In 20016 the [CAMP Italy](#) was in full swing focusing on the completion of the project's horizontal and thematic activities. Besides regular working meetings of the project team and its steering committee (the so called "Tavolo CAMP"), two major events were organised in this biennium in order to present and discuss the project achievements:

- The Emilia Romagna region was the host of the CAMP Mid-Term Conference that took place at the Cappella Farnese in Bologna on 21 March 2016. Taking into account the issues being at the heart of the project, the event was named "Actions and Tools for Coastal Management". The objectives of the conference were to review the progress done, and plan the activities for the project's final stage. The first session was devoted to the pilot actions implemented by the three regions involved in the project, namely Emilia Romagna, Tuscany and Sardinia. The session that followed was focused on the horizontal activities including the Web-GIS platform, the participatory processes and the e-learning MedOpen ICZM basic training course translated into Italian.

The aim of the training is to disseminate knowledge and promote awareness of ICZM issues for effective stakeholder involvement. Although this training in Italian is particularly intended for the local stakeholders involved in the CAMP, it is also available to everyone in Italy who might be interested in ICZM (free access to [training website](#)).

- Under the main theme of "Caring for our Coasts – Mediterranean and Italian Experiences", the CAMP Italy held its final conference on 17 January 2017 in Rome. The conference was an occasion to present the main results and methodologies of this two and a half-year project, and their integration within the Mediterranean and international contexts. The three project regions developed strategies and procedures for the rational use of coastal and marine resources and the environmental protection, with the objective of identifying and operatively testing methodologies, instruments and best practices for sustainable development of the coast and valorisation of the Italian historical heritage and landscape. These tools and methodologies were developed not only for the purpose of implementation of the CAMP Italy, but are also replicable within the network of CAMPs and useful for the institutions in charge of coastal management. They can be downloaded from the project web site ([link](#)), where it is also possible to find the CAMP Italy project video shared with the conference participants.

Taking into account the collaborative spirit created by the project, as well as the support that it got from the Italian authorities, there is a good chance for its immediate follow-up and the use of results within other projects and initiatives, both in Italy and at the Mediterranean regional and sub-regional levels.

CAMP France

During the year and a half since its official launching the [CAMP Var](#) (France) has become an important reference point for many coastal issues in France, and in particular with regard to the

governance mechanism that the project has been promoting, the "Land & Sea Forum", with the aim to make of it a permanent coastal governance structure for the Var County, and hopefully to extend it or at least serve as a model for the entire PACA Region. Two meetings of the Forum were held so far:

- The first was organised on 31 March 2016 in Grimaud, France. It was conceived as a place of dialogue and sharing knowledge and information among the actors of the Var County's coastal and marine areas. The aim of the event was to promote the emergence of a shared common destiny around the future of the coastal zones. The Forum was attended by 150-odd participants representing a large panel of actors, from different national, regional and local authorities, international organisations, research institutions, professional associations, the private sector, tourism and fisheries sectors, NGOs, etc. Four round tables were organised on the themes: How to rationalise uses of a limited space to better preserve the richness and identity of a territory? How to adapt the coastal economy to global risks? How to strengthen the "coast and sea" community in the Var? and How to bridge the gap between knowledge and decision making?
- The second edition of the Forum was organised in Saint-Raphaël on 15-16 November 2016 with the focus on coastal governance and sustainable and responsible boating. This was also an opportunity to present the results of the survey "The Var, the sea and the coastline" conducted in the entire Var territory and to broadcast two video interviews on governance approaches in other French coastal areas. The Forum also included a workshop intended to set several priorities for the management of the sea and the coast in the Var, to be relayed to local decision-makers. Six working groups were established to encourage actors from different backgrounds to reflect, discuss and decide together on actions to be implemented in the Var. When actions were defined, groups were asked to draw a short action plan and to design a promotional poster of their project.

Moreover, the activities of the CAMP Var are discussed and validated by the project Steering Committee (CoPil) which meets on a regular basis. The main activities include: the study on the evaluation of the sea and coastal management policies in the Var County; the “risks” platform; the work of the Port Cros National Park on light pollution; the presentation of the small sustainable island initiative and the ISOS project; and the global analysis of the terrestrial ship storage areas in the Var County.

More information can be found at the CAMP Var web site and in the CAMP Var bulletin which provides all the news related to the project with a focus on its favourite themes, stories of actors, as well as the actual “land-sea” information ([link](#)).

CAMP Bosnia and Herzegovina

At the request expressed by the Minister of Environment of Bosnia and Herzegovina during the COP19, the PAP/RAC contracted the preparation of a feasibility Study for a CAMP project in this country. In January 2017 a working meeting was organised at the PAP/RAC premises in Split with the national expert designated to prepare the study, the first draft of which has just reached the PAP/RAC for comments.

Strategic Outcome 4.4

Monitoring and assessment

Key Output 4.4.1 *National coast and hydrography monitoring programmes developed and updated to include the relevant IMAP common indicators, interactions and processes*

PAP/RAC provides assistance to the CPs in preparing their national IMAPs for coast and hydrography indicators. By participating in the EcAp MED II project, six out of seven eligible countries of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean prepared draft IMAPs which were presented and discussed at the 2nd training workshop in Rome on 24-25 April 2017 (see Key Output 4.5.1). Final documents are supposed to be submitted by the end of this year. Other CPs

are also invited to the EcAp MED II meetings to share experiences, learn and take advantage of the work in progress. However, the status of their national IMAPs has not been reported to PAP/RAC.

Strategic Outcome 4.5

Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building

Key Output 4.5.1 *Capacity building for the application of tools for assessing interactions and integrating them in planning/management of coastal and marine environment implemented*

On 26 and 27 October 2016, the first training workshop on indicators related to coast and hydrography was organized in Rabat, Morocco, in the framework of the EcAp Med II project ([link to the Report](#)). In addition to two PAP/RAC representatives and three experts, the workshop was attended four national consultants nominated by their governments, two representatives of the Moroccan Ministry of Environment and a UNEP/MAP expert.

In the IMAP adopted by the COP19, 27 indicators were identified as relevant to estimate the good environmental status of the Mediterranean coastal zones and sea. This workshop was dedicated to three of them, as follows:

- “Length of coastline subject to physical disturbance due to the influence of manmade structures”;
- “Location and extent of the habitats impacted directly by hydrographic alterations”;
- “Land-use change”.

PAP/RAC experts presented the indicators individually to define precisely the monitoring arrangements, and provided concrete examples of their use in some countries already implementing them. Country experts informed afterwards on the national experiences in that field. The workshop was concluded with a presentation of the UNEP/MAP expert on

evaluation of the capacity needs to carry out the project. One of the main requests formulated by the national experts was the establishment of a sub-regional expert group for a better coordination of the monitoring. This very dynamic workshop enabled the establishment of a sound basis that will allow experts to start the preparation of national monitoring programmes for these indicators, which is a step forward towards a harmonized and efficient monitoring of the Mediterranean coastal zones.

The second training workshop took place in Rome on 24-25 April 2017. The main objective was to train national consultants on how to prepare their national IMAP on Coast (EO8) and Hydrography (EO7) indicators, taking into account the improvements of the Guidance Fact Sheets made at the CORMON meeting in Madrid (3 March 2017). More specifically, the objectives were to review the work done on drafting the national IMAPs; to train on the monitoring guidance for the three indicators; to discuss links to EO1 on habitats and the SEIS principles; and to exchange experiences and provide specific suggestions to national consultants drafting IMAPs. Seven EcAp Med II project eligible countries attended the workshop as well as representatives of Turkey.

Strategic Outcome 4.6

Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels

Key Output 4.6.1 *Networks of CAMPs and other ICZM Protocol implementation activities established, and cooperation undertaken with other partners to promote the exchange of data, experience and good practices established*

Direct links and collaboration that first started with the CAMP Italy and CAMP Var (France) have been expanding in the current biennium both in terms of people included and exchanges made either in person or through virtual tools. Even if the exchange and transfer of experiences and lessons learned has always existed, PAP/RAC started the preparations for a more formal network that will allow the CAMPs to grow together, that will become a hub attracting other similar projects to co-operate, and the place where one can find solid information and help. The reshuffling of the PAP/RAC web site and introduction of interactive tools for an easier communication (under the Key Output 5.6.1) will be a great step forward in that sense.

Cross-cutting Theme: INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

Strategic Outcome 5.1

Strengthening regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and of programmes of measures in the existing Regional Strategies and Action Plans

Key Output 5.1.1 *SAP BIO, SAP MED, Offshore Action Plan and Strategy to combat pollution from ships implemented in an integrated manner, including through the Mediterranean Regional Framework as set out in ICZM Protocol to enhance the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources*

By a decision of COP19, in addition of its initially proposed work plan for 2016-2017, PAP/RAC was entrusted with coordination of the preparation of the Regional Mediterranean Framework for ICZM to be submitted for adoption by COP20. Given the complexity of the task, which includes thorough desk work to examine relevant documentation, drafting of the text of the Regional Framework, and extensive consultation process with stakeholders at the Mediterranean and national levels, and all this in a rather short period of time, a core group was created for its implementation composed of PAP/RAC staff members supported by a team of consultants with experience in implementing the Barcelona Convention, and in particular its ICZM Protocol.

The first step was the preparation of a [Background Document](#) as a starting point for discussion with regional stakeholders at the occasion of a consultation meeting organised back-to-back with the Mediterranean Coast Day celebration in Barcelona, Spain, on 28-29 September 2016. The meeting was attended by 56 participants, including MAP and PAP NFPs and a number of invited experts. The comments and suggestions received during the discussions were used for the elaboration of the Regional Framework itself in which the Conceptual

Framework for MSP was merged, also included in this biennium PoW (see also Key Output 4.4.2).

A meeting to discuss the first draft of the Regional Framework was organised in Athens, Greece, on 5-6 April 2017. The Italian Ministry of Environment and Protection of Land and Sea supported the organisation of the meeting. The meeting was attended by PAP/RAC NFPs of 13 CPs or their representatives. Based on constructive inputs and suggestions, the document was updated and submitted to the official PAP/RAC NFPs meeting in May.

Strategic Outcome 5.3

Strengthening national implementation

Key Output 5.3.1 *National ICZM Strategies prepared including streamlining pollution, biodiversity, adaptation to climate change and SCP, land and sea interactions, as well as sustainable cities prepared and applied*

Given the fact that no budget was foreseen for the activities related to this Key Output, the main effort was and still is focused on the mobilisation of resources for the preparation of the national ICZM strategies. Consultations were made with PAP/RAC NFPs and national institutions of several CPs, which are either interested in preparing their national strategies or have already started preparing national coastal strategies on their own. PAP/RAC input, advice and support have been provided at request.

Strategic Outcome 5.5

Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building

Key Output 5.5.1 *MedOpen Training Programme on ICZM regularly updated and implemented, in coordination with the relevant NFPs*

Over years the MedOpen virtual training course has become one of the main instruments for enhancing the constituency of the state-of-the-art expertise needed for the implementation of ICZM. The interest of target users (decision makers, policy advisors, project managers, staff and experts of international organisations and institutions, academic researchers, students, and all others interested in ICZM) is constantly growing to the extent that PAP/RAC tries to develop additional modules and have more than one run per year. In the current biennium the following has been done:

- In order to respond to the great interest of the target users who had applied for the MedOpen Climate variability and change (CVC) Advanced training session in 2015, held within the MedPartnership project, an additional specific session on CVC was organised in English in May-June 2016. This 5-week session was attended by 15 students from: Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Spain and Tunisia.
- Since July 2017 the MedOpen ICZM Basic training has been available in French language, too. The contents of the Basic module are permanently available to users and the training is completely automated.
- The MedOpen ICZM Advanced course in French started on 19 September 2016 for a duration of 12 weeks. It was attended by 26 students, including six from Algeria, four from France, nine from Morocco and seven from Tunisia.
- The first MedOpen ICZM Basic training in Italian has started in the frame of the CAMP Italy ([link](#)). The training has been organized as

a part of the project's horizontal activities with the aim of disseminating knowledge and promoting awareness of ICZM issues for effective stakeholder involvement (see also Key Output 4.3.1).

- On 3 April 2017, the MedOpen Advanced training session on climate variability and change (CVC) has been launched in French. This four-week training is attended by 20 students, including 15 from Morocco and 5 from Tunisia. The students had already applied for the 2016 MedOpen ICZM Advanced training in French, but their applications, although fully in accordance with the selection criteria, could not be accepted due to a large number of candidates.
- After 13 years of successful implementation of the course, the time has come to bring the MedOpen ICZM Advanced to a "higher", university level, i.e. to include it as an optional (or even official) curriculum at some of the Mediterranean universities. Consultations have started with several universities in Morocco which would be able to implement this training in French in the academic year 2018/2019 in the frame of the Master 2 level dealing with environmental sciences, i.e. coastal and marine environment, ICZM, environmental politics, sustainable development, climate variability and change and alike.
- Prior to launching of each of the above-mentioned MedOpen training sessions, a regular update of the contents has been done to include fresh material.

Strategic Outcome 5.6

Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels

Key Output 5.6.1 *ICZM coordination enhanced through: (i) Mediterranean ICZM Platform; (ii) national ICZM coordination bodies*

Already in the previous biennium PAP/RAC has started discussing with INFO/RAC the design and implementation of the ICZM Platform as a major

tool to support the implementation of ICZM in the Mediterranean, with the following specific objectives:

- Facilitate communication, dialogue and networking between PAP/RAC and its partners, and among the partners, including scientific institutions and international organisations, project end-users and local stakeholders involved in collaborative application sites. This will allow achieving a process of collaborating and learning from each other, sharing knowledge and expertise, and testing innovative tools created under different programmes, initiatives and projects;
- Provide a forum for developing knowledge and capacities by: (i) learning directly from Mediterranean stakeholders about their needs and priorities with regard to sustainable development, (ii) ensuring a common understanding of coastal and marine tools and methods (ICZM, MSP, IMF, etc.), (iii) facilitating data and information sharing and building a shared knowledge base (e.g. [MedOpen](#) virtual training course);
- Create what is expected to become a Mediterranean network of coastal and marine policy-makers, practitioners and scientists;
- Promote the Mediterranean Coast Day as a key event to effectively raise awareness of the importance of the coast (see: [Coast Day website](#) & [Facebook page](#));
- Encourage harmonised development in the Mediterranean Basin, which is the only way towards sustainable development of the Region, with a particular focus on the EcAp and IMAP system to foster monitoring of the Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystem.

Besides the work on this general governance platform, PAP/RAC has been providing support to the CPs with the creation and functioning of national and sub-national coordination mechanisms which are of utmost importance for the implementation of ICZM. As we could see in the previous chapters, these mechanisms are a

crucial element of every CAMP project and are also created for other purposes, such as:

- the Inter-sectoral Committee for ICZM of the Šibenik-Knin County of Croatia, established with the adoption of the ICZM Plan by the County Council on 27 April 2016, and chaired by the County Prefect. The importance of this body lies in the involvement of numerous regional institutions, in particular those responsible for environmental affairs, spatial and regional development. This is the best guarantee for a successful implementation of this innovative plan that should lead to improved resilience of the coast and its sustainable development;
- the Montenegrin National Council for sustainable development, climate change and ICZM, chaired by the President of Montenegro, that has 27 members from various institutions, ministries, organisations, NGOs and experts. It has the role of providing recommendations and suggestions to the Government in implementing policies related to sustainable development, climate change and ICZM. Its main task is to contribute to better co-ordination of sectoral policies in all these fields;
- the Interministerial Commission established for the preparation and implementation of the Croatian "Marine and coastal strategy" responding to the requirements of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the ICZM Protocol.

TWO CONCRETE FOLLOW-UPS OF THE PAP/RAC-LED ACTIVITIES

1. In 2015, the activity on Reghaia's coastal plan (Algeria) coordinated by PAP/RAC within the Medpartnership project ended with the validation by the steering committee of the final document including 21 recommendations. One of them, the promulgation of a decree classifying the zone as a nature reserve, was considered as a priority transversal action. Today, PAP/RAC and SPA/RAC have the pleasure to inform you that the document did not remain a dead letter because the area, which includes both the terrestrial and the marine parts, has been classified as a protected area by a special decree of the Wali of Algiers. This decision testifies of the post-project involvement of local actors in the implementation of the measures recommended by the plan, and shows once again that Algeria has decided to protect its outstanding coastal natural heritage.
2. On 20 March 2017, after years of efforts by local municipalities, the road between the coastal towns of Izola and Koper in Slovenia was closed for traffic and converted to more sustainable uses such as recreation, bathing and enjoyment of the sea. According to the Slovenian Infrastructure Minister, the "*green oasis*" between Izola and Koper will pave the way for sustainable use of the coastal and marine areas and for the development of sustainable tourism. The closing of the coastal road means that Slovenian citizens got back 10% of their coast with the opportunity to create a symbiosis of man and nature in the area. Several plans and designs on how to arrange this new coastal area have been proposed, including those from the [CAMP Slovenia](#) project completed about ten years ago. So, the closing of this road is a good example of the follow up of the CAMP, as well as of the ICZM Protocol implementation in Slovenia which has a very limited coastline. In addition, several years ago, [Škocjanski zatok](#), a degraded coastal wetland near the Port of Koper, was renaturated and today is known as a Nature reserve and Natura 2000 site.

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

The Mediterranean Region, UNEP/MAP and PAP/RAC are undoubtedly at the forefront of ICZM, not only because of the unique legally binding instrument adopted to deal with ICZM issues but also because of the knowledge and expertise accumulated over the years of the ICZM implementation. That is why PAP/RAC and its collaborators are often consulted and invited to intervene. It would take pages to list all the occasions of the kind; hereafter are some of them for illustration:

- The 1st Forum of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region ([EUSAIR](#)), jointly organised by the European Commission and the Government of Croatia in Dubrovnik (Croatia) on 12 and 13 May 2016. The event provided ample possibilities for networking on the four pillars of the Strategy (1. Blue growth; 2. Connecting the region – transport and energy networks; 3. Environmental quality; and 4. Sustainable tourism) and was a great opportunity to reach out to a wide range of some 600 stakeholders from the Region, including national, regional and local administrations, the business sector, the academia and the civil society in general.
- A two-day workshop on “Blue Growth and Integrated Coastal Zone Management as Sustainable Development Generators” organised on 16 and 17 May 2016 by the Faculty of Maritime Studies of the University of Split, Croatia, within an EU co-funded project aimed at promoting the capacities of university professors in the field of maritime management and sustainable coastal development ([link](#)). PAP/RAC was given the opportunity to present the Barcelona Convention system, its legal basis and the work that has been done in the field of ICZM and, more recently, MSP.
- The 6th event of the Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) conference series took place on 23-24 June 2016, at the University of Azores in Ponta Delgada, Portugal. Organised by the European Commission, Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, this [6th Conference on Maritime Spatial Planning Worldwide](#) elaborated on the benefits and challenges resulting from the MSP implementation by addressing relevant issues in four interactive sessions: Maritime Spatial Planning - experiences from the EU and the rest of the world; Maritime Spatial Planning as a tool to develop a sustainable maritime economy; Maritime Spatial Planning in international waters; and Maritime Spatial Planning and climate change. PAP/RAC was invited to make a presentation on MSP challenges in the Mediterranean Sea basin and the way in which the Barcelona Convention system addresses this new and still emerging issue, and to present the results of the MSP pilot project implemented in 2015 with Greek authorities and institutions.
- The annual gathering [CELEBRATE ISLANDS](#) is a unique opportunity to highlight the special bond that men have with the natural environment. It is an important milestone towards the creation of a global, collaborative community of small islands focusing on sustainable development. In the long term, the Small Sustainable Islands Initiative, supported by the French [Conservatoire du littoral](#), wishes to strengthen a vast best practices exchange network. It also aims at promoting the efforts made by its members at the local scale, owing to an audit and award scheme, the “*Small Sustainable Islands*” ecolabel. This year PAP/RAC has helped the initiative to reach the Island of Zlarin, in the Šibenik-Knin County, Croatia, for which a Coastal Plan was adopted earlier in 2016.
- Under the umbrella of the EU regional macro-strategies for the Adriatic-Ionian region (EUSAIR) a workshop was organised on 23 September 2016 in the framework of the Coast Day/Week events in Izola, Slovenia. The event was attended by the Adriatic-Ionian country representatives, as well as the European

Commission representatives. The objective of PAP/RAC participation was to provide an insight into ICZM and MSP policies developed in the Mediterranean under the Barcelona Convention, and in particular to mainstream the blue economy approach showing its benefits. The event was a good opportunity to mainstream the blue economy concept into other regional/sub-regional processes and therefore influence other multilateral and international initiatives, which is one of the objectives of the MAVA Blue Economy for the Mediterranean project.

- In the framework of the Climate Change COP 22, held in Marrakesh, Morocco, PAP/RAC joined UNEP/MAP and Plan Bleu in the side event on the "[Mediterranean Climate Change Adaptation Framework](#)" aimed at presenting the instruments developed by the MAP-Barcelona Convention, the analyses and results obtained through the work in the Mediterranean region in terms of climate change adaptation and mitigation. For PAP/RAC that was an occasion to promote the specific case of the Coastal Plan for the Šibenik-Knin County, which is a concrete demonstration of the relevance of the ICZM Protocol for addressing climate change in the Mediterranean region.
- On 23 February 2017, the French Minister of the Environment, the Sea and Energy, in charge of international Relations on Climate, welcomed in Paris a large panel of participants from all around the Mediterranean - ambassadors, representatives of national authorities, scientific experts, civil society, and students. The event was organised by the Ministry alongside with the UNEP/MAP and the Union for the Mediterranean, with support of the Governments of Morocco and Monaco. The PAP/RAC representative who participated at the panel together with representatives of the UNEP/MAP Secretariat, Plan Bleu, RAC/SPA and REMPEC presented the PAP/RAC experience in the implementation of the ICZM Protocol principles at the local level. Particular emphasis was put on the Coastal

Plan of the Šibenik-Knin County and the inclusion of the island of Zlarin (one of the islands of the Šibenik archipelago) within the Small Islands Initiative.

- At the occasion of the [Adriatic Trilateral Initiative](#), inaugurated in Split, Croatia, on 10 February 2017 PAP/RAC received a visit of a delegation headed by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Albania, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro. The Croatia-Albania-Montenegro initiative was launched to contribute to the stability and security of this part of the Adriatic and Europe, and to intensify the dialogue on issues of common interest for these three countries. Some of the key areas include political dialogue, regional and international security, environmental protection, economy and tourism, transports, as well as energy and infrastructure. This first meeting of the Adriatic Trilateral Initiative was an excellent opportunity for the delegation to visit PAP/RAC and hear about its long and fruitful cooperation with the three countries in environmental protection and sustainable development.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

As shown in the previous chapters, good progress has been made by the PAP/RAC and the CPs together. However, minor difficulties and delays have been registered due to the fact that this has been a very short biennium: the COP19 was held only in February 2016, which had as a consequence a late signature of the PAP/RAC Project Document with UNEP-Nairobi (only in May 2016). Before that no costs were eligible, which left us with an extremely short time for the implementation of a rather ambitious work plan. Adding to it the preparation of a major policy document (Regional Framework for ICZM) and the obligation to take over the organisation of a part of the IMAP governance meetings (COR MON on coast and hydrography) only added to the heavy workload on the already overwhelmed PAP/RAC staff.

Due to the late start of the EcAp Med II project (signature of the agreement with and transfer of funds to PAP/RAC), a slight delay has been registered with the preparation of the national IMAPs, which will not be finalised this year but early next year.

Finally, the GEF Adriatic project that was included in the 2016-2017 PoW could not start because of the delays in preparing and signing the agreement for it. We hope that the agreement will be signed and funds made available soon so as to start with the inception activities in the two project countries. A large part of the activities has already been rephrased in the PoW proposed for 2018-2019.

RESOURCE MOBILISATION

Besides the resources made available to PAP/RAC within the bilateral agreement between UNEP/MAP and Italy, several other funding opportunities came to complement the regular MTF budget, which has for years now not been sufficient for an effective implementation of the ICZM Protocol and its Action Plan. These are:

1. As a direct follow-up of the CAMP project, the Government of Montenegro allocated resources for a small project aiming at designing and testing a methodology for the application of the ecosystem approach (EcAp) in the preparation of the Marine Spatial Plan. The methodology is being designed for and tested in the Bay of Kotor, as a direct implementation of the National ICZM Strategy. The project is about to be finalised. The results, including the methodology applied, were presented at several meetings and were very much appreciated as it links IMAP/EcAp indicators with MSP through the ICZM process.
2. The [INTERREG MED](#) project [CO-EVOLVE](#) aimed at analyzing and promoting the co-evolution of human activities and natural systems in touristic areas of the Mediterranean coastal zone based on the principles of ICZM and MSP. CO-EVOLVE couples the analysis at MED scale of threats and enabling factors for sustainable tourism with local studies in representative pilot areas, to demonstrate through pilot actions the feasibility and effectiveness of an ICZM/MSP-based planning process. The project officially started in January 2017 for a duration of 3 years. It includes 10 partners from Croatia, France, Greece, Italy and Spain.
3. Two EU-funded projects on MSP – SIMWESTMED and SUPREME – to support the implementation of MSP in the EU Member States of the Western and Eastern Mediterranean and to carry out concrete, cross-border cooperation initiatives. The projects involve competent authorities in

charge of MSP in the participating countries and UNEP/MAP. In addition, the project activities will be performed in collaboration with relevant sub-national (NUTS 2) authorities. Both projects have similar structure with complementing outputs that are practitioner-focused and look to identify and share best practice on: technical (e.g. data management), scientific (e.g. ecosystem-based management) and social (e.g. stakeholder engagement processes) aspects of the MSP implementation and cooperation in a transboundary context.

4. MAVA foundation invited PAP/RAC, together with several other Mediterranean partners, to propose activities for the improvement of the status and management of three wetlands identified in the Mediterranean, i.e. Oristano (Italy), Buna Protected Landscape and Ulcinj saltpan (Albania and Montenegro), and Ghar El Melh (Tunisia). Besides the overarching issue, namely 'Governance' for which PAP/RAC is the lead partner, the Centre will contribute to the organisation of the national Coast Day events and assist partners in Tunisia to prepare the integrated resources management plan for the Gahr el Mehl area. The projects should be completed by 2021.

The implementation of the projects 2-4 has started in 2017 and their activities have been included in the PoW for 2018-2019

CONCLUSION

The implementation of the ICZM Protocol and its Action Plan has been and remains quite a challenge for all: CPs, PAP/RAC and the entire UNEP/MAP. As shown in the previous chapters, good progress has been made. What could not be done will remain a challenge for the future.

To fill the gaps PAP/RAC will continue to closely collaborate with the CPs and to assist them in mobilising external resources for the implementation of ICZM. This could be within the recently approved UNEP/GEF MedProgramme and the Climate Change Project, or some of the EU funding instruments for the Member-States or the cross-border co-operation. To be fully prepared for these opportunities and to be able to react quickly, we invite the CPs to share with us their priorities and preferences for action.