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**Priority Actions Programme  
Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)  
Progress Report for 2018-2019**

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**Split, March 2019**

## INTRODUCTION

The main objective of this report is to summarise the activities implemented by [PAP/RAC](#) in 2018-2019. Putting together this overview of the main achievements in implementing the Programme of Work (PoW) approved by COP20 (Tirana, December 2017) for the current biennium will give PAP/RAC FPs 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.

The overview is structured according to the Strategic Outcomes and Key Outputs of the 2018-2019 PoW.

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

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### Strategic Outcome 1.4

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

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**Key Output 1.4.1** *Periodic assessments based on DPSIR approach published addressing inter alia the marine environment status quality, interaction between environment and development, as well as scenarios and prospective development analysis in the long run*

Under the overall coordination of Plan Bleu, PAP/RAC has been contributing to the State of Environment and Development Report (SoED). PAP/RAC staff members and their consultants have prepared a large part of the chapter dedicated to coastal zones. It is to be noted that no budget for PAP/RAC was foreseen for this

activity in the 2018-19 and that all the work including the texts provided by consultants were done free-of-charge to honour a long-standing cooperation.

This will be inserted in SoED and discussed at several instances starting with the Plan Bleu FPs meeting on 27-29 May 2019.

**Key Output 1.4.5** *Educational programmes, including e-learning platforms and college-level degrees on governance and thematic topics of MAP relevance organised in cooperation with competent institutions*

In January 2018 PAP/RAC signed an Agreement with the Algerian High School for Marine Sciences and Coastal Management (ENSSMAL) for delivering the MedOpen Advanced Training Course for their students. This was the first time that the MedOpen Advanced became a part of a high education curriculum and contributed to the students' grading (more information on the training itself is given under 5.5.1).

Consultations are on-going with the Moroccan University of Al Hoceima and the Faculty of Sciences in Bizerte, Tunisia, towards the same arrangements for their students. We hope that the relevant agreements will be prepared and signed soon so as to be able to deliver the training after the summer holidays.

PAP/RAC will contribute to the Syrian Virtual University (SVU) that will launch a master's degree in Integrated Management of Natural Resources. The syllabus is mostly based on the UN Environment Ecosystem-Based Management and PAP/RAC will provide specialized lecturers on ICZM and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). A relevant agreement is under preparation and the courses on ICZM and MSP are expected in the second semester of 2019.

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## Strategic Outcome 1.6

### Raised awareness and outreach

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

On September 25 the city of Split hosted the central regional celebration of the [Mediterranean Coast Day 2018](#) attended by 100-odd participants. Since this year PAP/RAC celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary that was the main topic of the event, although the leitmotif was the need to join forces in order to achieve sustainable development and preserve our coasts and sea.

The celebration had two main parts, the high-level conference on 25 September and a series of public events, which started already on 16 September to culminate the afternoon of the 25<sup>th</sup>. The conference was opened by high representatives of the host-country, UNEP and UNEP/MAP and included two panels: the first was dedicated to the evolution of PAP/RAC and its role in the Mediterranean; the second was an occasion to speak about cooperation and synergies with various actors in implementing ICZM.

As every year, the Honorary Ambassador for the Coast 2018 was nominated: it was a famous Croatian actress, Ms Zrinka Cvitešić, also known for her interest and active involvement in environmental issues.

In the afternoon the participants had the opportunity to join the final part of rich activities that started already in the weekend preceding the Coast Day: forty partnerships were established with 8 NGOs, 5 museums, 4 Mediterranean institutions, 4 faculties, 4 high-schools, 3 ministries, 3 national institutes, 3 regional institutions, 2 artistic foundations, one library, one private company and the City of Split. Synergy was established with the EU Co-Evolve and the GEF Adriatic projects to implement a rich programme of activities

ranging from art exhibitions and video projections over workshops, demonstration activities and games to a clean-up campaign during which some two tonnes of waste were taken out from the sea.

This year the celebration was particular not only because of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of PAP/RAC but also because that was a good opportunity for the Regional Seas to organize their annual meeting back-to-back with this event. The meeting was held at the PAP/RAC premises, on 23-24 September 2018. The benefit was double: that was an occasion for the representatives of UNEP and its Regional Seas to assist to the Mediterranean Coast Day and maybe find inspiration for similar events in other Regional Seas; on the other hand, PAP/RAC had the possibility to present the ICZM Protocol and the process of its preparation, adoption and implementation. Following the presentation made by the PAP/RAC Director, representatives of the other Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans congratulated PAP/RAC for its work and expressed wishes for establishing collaboration on ICZM and MSP issues. It was noted that the ICZM Protocol and PAP/RAC's work had already been a source of inspiration for the Nairobi Convention initiative aiming at developing an ICZM Protocol for its own regional sea, and that the cooperation within the Pegaso project helped producing and adopting the ICZM Guidelines for the Black Sea region.

Besides the regional celebration PAP/RAC contributed to other CD events in the region, such as the Coast Week event in Izola, Slovenia under the EUSAIR umbrella, or by helping organise local CD events such as the one in Oristano, Sardinia, Italy.

## Core Theme: LAND AND SEA INTERACTIONS AND PROCESSES

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### 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

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**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.

Besides that, PAP/RAC supports the CPs through several external issue-specific projects and activities, namely:

- The [MAVA-funded project](#) in which management plans are being prepared for the coastal wetlands in Buna Delta, Albania, and Gar El Melh, Tunisia. Several sectoral studies are being prepared in both cases focusing on socio-economic analysis, tourism development, carrying capacity, landscape protection, and stakeholder involvement in particular. Options for the most appropriate management structures are being proposed in cooperation with the local stakeholders.
- These two plans, as well as another pilot project for the system of coastal lagoons in the area of Oristano in Sardinia, Italy, will directly benefit from another component of the overarching MAVA project, which is focused on governance: the local governance experience from these three sites will feed the Handbook on governance and stakeholder participation in coastal wetlands, and vice versa. First draft of the Handbook will be

available in April 2019 and its final version in the second half of 2019.

- A substantial part of the PAP/RAC work in 2018 was dedicated to the preparation of the GEF MedProgramme Child Project 2.1 in which the activities are included that will support CPs in implementing specific measures and tools, such as definition of coastal setback, land-use and land-change analyses (more details on the project in the Resource Mobilisation chapter).

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### Strategic Outcome 4.2

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

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**Key Output 4.2.1** *Tools and guidelines for environmental assessments developed and applied (e.g. EIA, cumulative assessments, SEA)*

The work on this deliverable has started with some delay due to the work overload of PAP/RAC staff in 2018. However, the delays have been compensated for, and the first deliverable i.e. an overview of the existing practice with EIA and SEA in a transboundary context was finalised in early 2019, while Draft Guidelines for Environmental Assessment in a Transboundary Context will be presented and discussed during the FPs meeting.

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

#### **SIMWESTMED and SUPREME projects**

As a partner in two MSP projects funded by EU, [SIMWESTMED](#) and [SUPREME](#), PAP/RAC has worked together with the eligible CPs on understanding the opportunities, needs and obstacles for transboundary MSP. The two pilot sites (Tyrrhenian in Italy and Var in France) in which PAP/RAC was involved and which were to examine this issue have shown that

transboundary cooperation in the field of MSP is not easy and that there is still lot to do with regard to the governance context: legal aspects, coordination, stakeholder involvement, information sharing, etc.

The SIMWESTMED and SUPREME projects were an opportunity to promote the BC principles, which was systematically done in all project activities resulting, among others, in two important outputs: "[Recommendations and guidelines to support common understanding and integration of BC principles in MSP activities](#)" and "[Recommendations to support common understanding on a regional scale on MSP, including synergic implementation of regionally relevant policy instruments](#)".

#### **GEF Adriatic**

Another important project contributing to the implementation and better understanding of MSP is the GEF-funded project "Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in the Adriatic Sea through Marine Spatial Planning" (the so-called [GEF Adriatic](#)) in which the activities have started with the [Inception](#) and [First Steering Committee Meetings](#) held in Tirana, Albania, on 28-29 May 2018. The activities of this project have been delayed due to the late signing of the project and the subsequent delay in the allocation of resources. Therefore, a prolongation is envisaged until the end of 2020 and will be proposed in the Second Steering Committee meeting (taking place on 15 May in Podgorica).

The training component on MSP included several activities:

- [Sub-regional workshop](#) for the Eastern Mediterranean EU member states within the SUPREME project was held in Split, Croatia, on 26-27 November 2018;
- Initial meeting with representatives of the Adriatic countries was organised back-to-back with the previous one, on 27 November 2018;
- Training material was prepared for the Regional Training Workshop on MSP to be held in Zagreb, Croatia, on 9-10 April 2019.

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## **Strategic Outcome 4.3**

### **Strengthening national implementation**

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

#### **CAMP Bosnia and Herzegovina**

The Feasibility Study for a CAMP project in Bosnia and Herzegovina (CAMP BH) was finalised and discussed with national and local stakeholders on several occasions in Neum, Bosnia and Herzegovina (in February, April and July 2018). The CAMP Agreement was prepared and submitted for signing to the National Ministry in September 2018. Unfortunately, and despite many interventions by the PAP/RAC FP and the local authorities of Neum, there was no progress and the Agreement has not yet been signed.

We hope that this situation will change soon; otherwise it will be difficult to keep the project in the PoW for the next biennium.

#### **Transboundary CAMPs**

After several consultations with the Albanian and Italian Ministries, in February 2019 it was possible to initiate the preparation of the Feasibility Study for a transboundary CAMP project for the Otranto Area. The first quick screening of the area is ongoing and the FS is supposed to be finalised this year.

Another possibility for a transboundary CAMP was examined with Cyprus, Greece and Israel during 2018. Due to various reasons (mainly internal shifts within some of the partner Ministries) it was not possible to proceed to the FS on time. Therefore, the alternative option of preparing the FS for a national CAMP project for Israel has been considered.

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## Strategic Outcome 4.4

### Monitoring and assessment

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**Key Output 4.4.1** *Mapping of interaction mechanism on coastal and marine environment at regional and local levels developed, including assessment of the risks of sea level rise and coastal erosion, and their impacts on coastal environment and communities*

[SIMWESTMED](#) and [SUPREME](#) projects were instrumental for progressing approaches for Land-Sea Interactions (LSI). A step-by-step guide for LSI implementation in MSP (see also 5.2.2) was tested within the pilot cases of both projects, which have produced the following outputs with the coordination role of PAP/RAC:

- Definition of approaches for implementation of pilot actions in Var (France) addressing LSI (SIMWESTMED);
- Feedback on the utilization of a methodology for assessing land-sea interactions (LSI) in the pilot area of the Dubrovnik-Neretva County (Croatia).

**Key Output 4.4.2** *National coast and hydrography monitoring programmes developed and updated to include the relevant IMAP common indicators, interactions and processes*

#### **EcAp Med II project**

Within the [EcAp Med II](#) project PAP/RAC continued providing assistance to the eligible CPs in preparing their national IMAPs for coast and hydrography indicators so that the final documents could be submitted in the beginning of 2018 and a report on national IMAP gap assessment drafted. Other CPs are also invited to the EcAp MED II meetings to share experiences, learn and take advantage of the work in progress.

In collaboration with GRID-Arendal the report on ["Evolution of built-up areas in the Mediterranean"](#) was finalised and published.

The preparatory activities (agenda, working documents, invitations, logistics) are on-going for the CORMON meeting on Coast and

Hydrography to be held in Rome, Italy, on 21-22 May 2019. The meeting will discuss and provide guidance on data standards and data dictionaries for IMAP Common Indicators related to coast and hydrography, agree on minor details related to Guidance Fact Sheets for the EO7 and EO8 common indicators and discuss the cross-cutting issues. Countries will have an opportunity to report on the status of their national IMAPs.

Finally, all needed inputs were provided for the EcAp Med II project reporting.

#### **GEF Adriatic project**

Within this project the preparation of initial monitoring programmes for Albania and Montenegro has started. Public procurement procedure for the field survey is on-going and should be finalised in the weeks to come.

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## Strategic Outcome 4.5

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

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**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*

Several trainings based on IMAP indicators' factsheets were organised in Podgorica, Montenegro, for Albania and Montenegro as a part of the GEF Adriatic project:

- IMAP training for EO5, EO9 on 2-3 October 2018;
- IMAP training for EO 10 on 22 November 2018;
- IMAP training for EO1, EO2, and EO7 on 26-27 November 2018;
- Additional hands-on trainings were organised in Podgorica on 28 November 2018 (for Montenegrin experts for contaminants and eutrophication) and in Tirana on 17 and 18 December (for Albanian experts for

eutrophication, contaminants and marine litter).

In addition, the Adriatic GEF project supports the organisation of the CORMON meeting for EO5, EO9 and EO10, to take place in Podgorica from 2-5 April, where also Albanian and Montenegrin experts will participate.

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### Strategic Outcome 4.6

Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels

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**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*

Even if the exchange and transfer of experiences and lessons learned has always existed, PAP/RAC has been working on 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 new [PAP/RAC web site](#) in which interactive tools for an easier communication will be introduced (see also Key Output 5.6.1) will be a great step forward in that sense; it will include among others a “clearing house” of projects, experts and relevant stakeholders to be a part of the network. The inclusion in the “clearing house” and network will be decided based on a set of criteria that are being developed for labelling of ICZM projects according to the ICZM Protocol requirements.

The design of a graphically attractive and user-friendly networking tool is on-going and the prototype will be presented during the FPs meeting.

An occasion for the ex-CAMP coordinators and stakeholders to meet and discuss the follow-up activities of their projects was during the Mediterranean Coast Day celebration. This was an opportunity to promote the CAMP projects and their network, and to give testimony to their usefulness.

## Cross-cutting Theme: INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

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### 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

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**Key Output 5.1.1** *The Mediterranean Regional Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management is defined and put into effect*

The preparation of the Common Regional Framework (CRF) for ICZM has been a major output in the current biennium. Several versions of the main CRF document were prepared and discussed together with the members of the

open-ended Working Group (WG) created for that purpose, as well as an additional document requested to be prepared i.e. the Methodological Guidance for Reaching GES through ICZM. Both the CRF and the Methodological Guidance document will be presented and discussed at the FPs meeting.

The work on the CRF has progressed through a series of meetings of different types i.e.:

- [First meeting](#) of the WG for drafting the CRF for ICZM (Split, Croatia, 13-14 March 2018);
- [Second meeting](#) of the WG for drafting the CRF for ICZM (Athens, Greece, 30-31 May 2018);

- [Consultation workshop](#) with PAP/RAC FPs (Split, Croatia, 26-27 September 2018);
- Working meeting of PAP/RAC, MEDPOL and SPA/RAC on interaction matrices and operational guidance (Athens, Greece, 24-25 January 2019);
- Third meeting of the WG for drafting the CRF for ICZM (Rome, Italy, 27-28 February 2019).

**Key Output 5.1.2** *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*

UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy for 2016-2021 was designed with the idea to ensure more synergy and complementarity among different policy and strategic instruments of the BC system.

To this end, a methodology was developed for the analysis of the coherence and complementarity of the BC-driven documents prepared at the national level, which was tested on two cases. This test application has shown that in these two cases there was a high level of complementarity with the provisions of the ICZM Protocol as the main integrative tool within the BC system. Recommendations were made for the documents that still have to be prepared according to COP decisions, as well as for some minor adjustments in the existing ones.

Another important document being prepared in this context is the analysis of the coherence between the SAP BIO and ICZM Protocol provisions, with the view to contribute to the SAP BIO revision with a set of recommendations. The first draft of the methodology for analysis was presented and discussed during the SAP/BIO meeting organised by SPA/RAC in Marseille, France, on 13-14 February 2019. The methodology has been updated in line with the meeting recommendations, and the draft analysis will be presented first at the PAP/RAC FPs meeting and then at the SPA/RAC FPs meeting (Portoroz, Slovenia, 18-21 June 2019).

**Key Output 5.1.3** *Action Plan for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol further implemented: Status of implementation reported*

#### **Co-Evolve project**

The EU-funded InterregMed project [Co-Evolve](#) on co-evolution of tourism and other economic activities in coastal zones has been largely contributing to the implementation of the Action Plan (AP) as its activities are linked with several AP objectives.

A series of working meetings were organised for the project partners to discuss the outputs of the project. PAP/RAC contributed with a report on threats and enabling factors for sustainable tourism in coastal zones, and is now in the process of preparing a transferability plan for the project results at the level of pilot areas, countries and the entire Mediterranean Region.

Moreover, the project has contributed to a better understanding of MSP and its links with ICZM through two training courses organised for the project partners: in Bologna, Italy, on 6-7 March 2018, and Barcelona, Spain, on 29-30 October 2018.

#### **PHAROS<sub>4</sub>MPAs project**

[PHAROS<sub>4</sub>MPAs](#) project funded by InterregMed capitalising on the existing EU projects and other initiatives to conceive and deliver an integrated framework for the practical collaboration between MPAs and the maritime sectors identified as project's targets: offshore oil and gas extraction, maritime transport and ports, cruise ships, offshore renewable energy, aquaculture, recreational fisheries, leisure boating, scuba diving, artisanal fisheries. The main output of the project will be recommendations made for all the sectors. A short regional background report will also be produced targeting UNEP/MAP, EU institutions and international organizations. The project has been implemented since the beginning of 2018 and will be finalised in June 2019.



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## Strategic Outcome 5.2

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

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**Key Output 5.2.2** *Methodological framework for land and sea interactions, considering in particular MSP and ICZM, developed and applied*

A [conceptual methodology for addressing LSI](#) and its relationship with ICZM was developed in synergy between the SIMWESTMED and SUPREME projects. The methodology foresees the compilation of a catalogue of interactions, populated with semi-quantitative and quantitative information. The use of GIS as a mapping tool can support the analysis, particularly its advanced phases. The guidelines propose a step-wise, tiered approach, and identify 14 steps. Stakeholder involvement is a key component of the proposed methodological guidelines. LSI analysis should be an integral part of any MSP process, mainly linked to the analysis phase of MSP and scenario developments.

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## Strategic Outcome 5.3

Strengthening national implementation

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**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*

A series of consultations were done with the countries eligible for the GEF MedProgramme to define their priorities for action. Two of them have expressed the need for: a national ICZM strategy to be developed (Lebanon) and the existing strategy to be updated (Egypt). These two requests were included in the project proposal, which will hopefully start by the end of this year.

Moreover, PAP/RAC follows the preparation of the National ICZM Strategy for Tunisia led by APAL and supported by UNDP. The first

diagnostic report shared with us by APAL addresses all relevant issues and represents a good basis for the continuation of work.

Cyprus is another country in which the process of National ICZM Strategy is in an advanced stage. Information about it has been reaching us through our FP.

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## Strategic Outcome 5.4

Monitoring and assessment

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**Key Output 5.4.1** *Fact sheets for ICZM indicators developed to evaluate the effectiveness of coastal and marine resources management measures*

An Alternative Guidance Factsheet for the Common Indicator (CI) 15 on Hydrography was finalised and a Guidance Fact Sheet for the candidate CI on Land-use Change drafted.

Both documents will be presented and discussed at the CORMON meeting on coast and hydrography to be held in Rome, Italy, on 21-22 May 2019.

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## Strategic Outcome 5.5

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

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**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 growing to the extent that PAP/RAC has to constantly update the material and develop additional modules. In the current biennium the following has been done:

- The MedOpen Basic has been updated and is continuously running in English, French and Italian languages.
- A [special session](#) of the MedOpen Advanced was delivered in the first half of 2018 for the students of the Algerian High School of Marine Sciences and Coastal Management (ENSSMAL) as a part of their academic curriculum. They made this three-month training exceptional, dynamic and rich in interesting discussions on the ICZM issues. The novelty regarding the practical part (the Simulation Game) of this training was the inclusion of a real pilot site at the Algerian coast - the marine part of the National Park of Gouraya (NPG) - a future MPA. With great support of the NPG, as well as of the *Commissariat national du littoral (CNL)* and the Port authority of Béjaia, three workshops were organized for students with participation of the local actors at the pilot site. The students had a unique opportunity to actively participate in the effective exchange process with real stakeholders discussing a real project (the future MPA of Gouraya). This extremely positive experience for both, ENSSMAL and PAP/RAC, as well as for the NPG, has created strong links between education and the initiatives in the field, providing a good example of what we should do to contribute to the promotion of ICZM at a larger, regional scale.
- Preparatory activities for the next run of the MedOpen Advanced are on-going in order to be able to deliver it in the second half of this year. Relevant information will be disseminated in due time.

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## Strategic Outcome 5.6

Enhanced cooperation at regional, sub-regional and national levels

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

### ICZM Platform

In late 2018 a new version of the PAP/RAC web site was launched, which includes the [ICZM Platform](#) as a hub for all ICZM-related information. The process of populating the Platform is on-going as it takes time to re-organise the great bulk of information, publications and other outputs accumulated over 40 year of PAP/RAC existence in order to make it easier to access and use. Once fully operational the Platform will offer several interactive tools to facilitate exchanges including the Network of CAMP and other ICZM projects tool.

### Coordination mechanisms

Besides the work on the 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, such as:

- the Inter-sectoral Committee for ICZM of the Šibenik-Knin County of Croatia, which continues meeting and following the implementation of the recommendations of the County Coastal Plan prepared in the previous biennium with the support of the GEF MedPartnership;
- the Land-Sea Forum established within the CAMP Var, which continues meeting, among others, for the purpose of the SIMWESTMED project;
- several coordination bodies have been established in this biennium within the projects in which PAP/RAC is a partner, such as the projects implemented with the MAVA support for Buna Delta (Albania), Oristano (Italy) and Gar E Melh (Tunisia), as well as the pilot project for the Kastela Bay (Croatia) within the InterregMed project Co-Evolve.

We have also track of the meetings of the Montenegrin National Council for sustainable development, climate change and ICZM, chaired by the President of Montenegro; and 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.

## 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:

- On invitation of DG MARE and IOC-UNESCO PAP/RAC attended the Joint IOC-UNESCO and DG MARE International Forum for Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning held in Brussels, on 24-25 May 2018. The Forum was organised with the view of assembling a world-wide audience dealing with MSP issues and was an excellent occasion to share experiences and strengthen cooperation in the field. PAP/RAC was offered to facilitate the discussion of the round-table on intersectoral coordination for MSP. The main conclusions recorded were that, in general, the intersectoral coordination is in place but not always very effective – there is still lot to be done. The necessary ingredients of success are: political will, identification of right (knowledgeable and responsible) stakeholders at all relevant scales, agreement on shared vision and objectives, adequate capacity of the stakeholders to deal with the issue, efficient dialogue/bridge between science and decision-making, and involvement of the business sector.
- Several meetings involving PAP/RAC contribution were held in parallel on 3-5 October 2018 in Bizerte, Tunisia: the PAP/RAC Director was invited to present the ICZM Protocol in a Conference on the

Degradation of Coastal Ecosystems facing Climate Change organised within the Franco-Tunisian Cooperation. That was also an occasion to have a separate meeting with the new Director General of APAL and agree on the common approach in implementing several initiatives of concern for PAP/RAC, i.e. the preparation of the National ICZM Strategy that should also support the ratification of the ICZM Protocol, as well as the implementation of the pilot project in Gar El Melh area and the synergy to be ensured with the MAVA project for the lagoon of Gar El Melh, in which PAP/RAC is a partner.

- On 21 January 2019, PAP/RAC participated as a stakeholder in the Innovation Brokering Event of the ARIEL project, held in Split, Croatia. Being part of the INTERREG Adriatic-Ionian Programme – ADRIION, the project aims at promoting, through a knowledge network, technological and non-technological solutions for innovations in the field of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture in the Adriatic-Ionian macro-region. PAP/RAC participated in the group discussing the theme dealing with Reducing competition with other users. The event aimed at facilitating the transfer of research and development into concrete and viable actions for coastal fishermen and aquaculture participants.
- On 5 February 2019, PAP/RAC hosted a meeting with the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR) Facility Point and Thematic Steering Group (TSG) 3 Pillar Coordinator with the objective to assist the preparation of the project concept on ICZM and MSP for the Adriatic-Ionian (AI) sub-region. “To promote a sustainable growth of the AI region by

implementing ICZM and MSP also to contribute to the Common Regional Framework (CRF) of the Barcelona Convention” is one of the project proposals currently under development for the implementation of this Mediterranean sub-regional strategy. The Centre’s contribution is with its region-wide expertise on the subjects, as well as to guarantee the best possible synergies and complementarities between the EUSAIR and the Barcelona Convention. Concrete outputs and related activities were discussed and four testing areas proposed.

- In the context of the GEF-funded Inter-project Collaboration Opportunity (ICO) between the Benguela Current Convention (BCC) and the MAP-Barcelona Convention, together with the UNEP/MAP Coordinator two PAP/RAC staff members paid a visit to the BCC Secretariat in Swakopmund, Namibia, on 18-21 February 2019 in order to discuss the application of the Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in the two regions. Working sessions were held with the Ag Executive Secretary and staff of the BCC Secretariat, representatives of the three BCC Member States (Angola, Namibia and South Africa), and representatives of the GIZ-funded Benguela Current Marine Spatial Management and Governance Project (MARISMA) that supports MSP in Namibia and in the sub-region. The cooperation will continue in September this year when the BCC team will pay visit to PAP/RAC.
- Starting from the second half of 2018 PAP/RAC participated to 4 workshops organized in the framework of the EU Interreg Co-Evolve project in the Kaštela Bay in Croatia, and supported the organization of an international conference on ICZM, held in Kaštela in January 2019 to present the Coastal Plan for the Šibenik-Knin County with special focus on Climate Variability and Change, as well as the opportunities for financing coastal adaptation.

## 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 either to the late feedback by CPs or the overload of PAP/RAC staff, which will not jeopardize the implementation of the PoW or achievement of the results defined in it.

A major delay was registered with the GEF Adriatic project, which was delayed by almost a year because of its late approval and the consecutive delay in transferring funds. Long and complex procurement procedures for some of the major activities add to delays, which means that the project will need to be prolonged.

## RESOURCE MOBILISATION

Besides the additional resources made available to PAP/RAC within the bilateral agreement between UNEP/MAP and Italy and the projects already included in the PoW and described in the previous chapters (e.g. GEF Adriatic, Co-Evolve and MAVA projects), several other funding opportunities came to complement the regular MTF budget. These are:

1. In full compliance with the ICZM and MSP principles and policies, and supporting concretely the implementation of the EUSAIR Action Plan, [PORTODIMARE](#) project aims at creating a common platform (Geoportal) for data, information and decision support tools focused on coastal and marine areas of the Adriatic-Ionian Region (AIR). The Geoportal integrates and further develops the existing databases, portals and tools developed within previous EU projects by local and national administrations and by other initiatives. It will use, feed and support transnational cooperation networks in all the phases of its creation, from the design, to the

development, to its testing phase, enabling public authorities and stakeholders to apply a coordinated, integrated and trans-boundary approach. The PORTODIMARE Geoportal aims at becoming a daily working tool for decision-makers, public and private managers, practitioners, marine scientists and stakeholders in general, thus promoting and boosting sustainable blue growth in the AIR.

2. The [ADRIADAPT](#) project approved within the ADRION call aims at ensuring timely and spatially integrated planning for climate resilience that will support future development and reduce negative impacts from changing climate conditions to people and their livelihoods in the programme area (Croatian coastal counties and Italian coastal provinces). The project actions aim at promoting local and regional resilience by developing the knowledge base required to identify suitable climate adaptation and planning options, thereby enabling local authorities to respond to policy needs related to climate action in urban and coastal zones of the project area.
3. Deadline for the official expression of interest for activities within the GEF MedProgramme was the end of January, and the selection of areas to be included in its Child Project 2.1 on ICZM was done in February. Besides regional activities which will be implemented in all project countries primarily aiming at supporting the ICZM Protocol ratification or implementation (including educational and awareness-raising activities), individual activities will be performed in Egypt and Lebanon (National ICZM Strategies), while ICZM Plans will be prepared in Montenegro, Morocco and Lebanon. The Project Document was finalized for submission during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018 and officially submitted to GEF.

4. In parallel with the preparatory process for MedProgramme, the Project Document was finalized for a complementary project focusing on adaptation measures to be mainstreamed into local ICZM Plans in Morocco and Montenegro. Besides adaptation measures, reports will be prepared on the main legal, policy and institutional barriers and opportunities for implementing adaptation solutions. Finally, together with the Plan Bleu PAP/RAC will participate in sub-regional consultations for International Finance Institutions (banks, insurance companies and private sector) investing in the low-lying coastal zones.

The implementation of the projects 1 and 2 has started in the current biennium and their activities have been included in the PoW for 2020-2021. Although they still have to be approved the projects 3 and 4 are also included in the PoW for the next biennium.

## CONCLUSION

The implementation of the ICZM Protocol and its Action Plan has been quite a challenge for all: CPs, PAP/RAC and the entire UNEP/MAP. As shown in the previous chapters, a good progress has been made.

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. To be fully prepared for opportunities that will arise and to be able to react quickly, we invite the CPs to share with us their priorities and preferences for action.

We believe that the Common Regional Framework for ICZM and the Action Plan it contains will be a good source of inspiration for the years to come.