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**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP)  
REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE  
MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)**

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Twelfth Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional  
Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre  
for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)

REMPEC/WG.41/14  
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Agenda Item 14

**PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK OF REMPEC FOR THE BIENNIUM 2018-2019**

**Note by the Secretariat**

**SUMMARY**

**Executive Summary:** This document presents in its Annex the proposed programme of work of REMPEC for the biennium 2018-2019 and explains the rationale used to prepare it.

**Actions to be taken:** Paragraph 13

**Related documents:** UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/28; REMPEC/WG.41/4; REMPEC/WG.41/5,  
REMPEC/WG.41/6, REMPEC/WG.41/11/1, REMPEC/WG.41/12,  
REMPEC/WG.41/INF.3

**Background**

1 The Programme of Work and Budget of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), also referred to as UN Environment/MAP, for the biennium 2016-2017, which was adopted by the Nineteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean ("the Barcelona Convention") and its Protocols (COP 19), held in Athens, Greece, from 9 to 12 February 2016 (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/28, Decision IG.22/20), mandates the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat "*in consultation with the Bureau, to prepare for consideration and approval by COP 20 a result-based Programme of Work and Budget for 2018-2019, explaining the key principles and assumptions on which it is based and taking into account the progress achieved during the implementation of the 2016-2017 Programme of Work, and in full alignment with the Mid-Term Strategy (MTS)*".

2 Under the leadership of the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat, the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) composed of the Directors of the UN Environment/MAP Components, including the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), initiated in December 2016 the preparation of the UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2018-2019.

3 In line with the above-mentioned Decision, the process of preparation of the UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2018-2019 is built around the following main principles:

- .1 Strong ownership by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention through regular consultation and better reflection of country needs and priorities;
- .2 Internal transparency, consultation, communication, efficiency and flexibility;

- .3 Learning from the lessons of the Programme of Work and Budget of the current biennium (design and implementation);
- .4 Delivering as one, as UN Environment/MAP system and in an integrated manner;
- .5 Setting activity priorities and related funding based on common and consistent sound criteria;
- .6 Partnership and outreach to boost implementation and efficiency; and
- .7 Ensuring wise and balanced use of core and external resources to fund both activities and operational costs.

4 Based on the outcome of the Thirty-first ECP Meeting convened in Tunis, Tunisia from 11 to 12 January 2017, the Centre shared on 6 February 2017, through REMPEC Circular Letter No. 03/2017, an initial list of activities and related expected deliverables proposed to be implemented during the biennium 2018-2019, with all REMPEC Governmental, OPRC and Prevention Focal Points, with copy to the UN Environment/MAP Focal Points. The objective of this consultation was to trigger a first technical discussion on the relevance of the proposed activities and their deliverables to REMPEC's core mandate as well as to gather views on their technical feasibility. Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention were also encouraged to coordinate this process among REMPEC Governmental, OPRC and Prevention Focal Points as well as other UN Environment/MAP Component's Focal Points.

5 The proposed programme of work of REMPEC for the biennium 2018-2019, which is detailed in the **Annex** to the present document, was prepared taking into account the inputs received from the first technical round of consultation. It was developed considering the priorities defined in the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/28, Decision IG.22/4), hereinafter referred to as the Regional Strategy (2016-2021), which is presented in the Annex to document REMPEC/WG.41/INF.3.

6 Whilst the proposed programme of work of the Centre for the biennium 2018-2019 encompasses all twenty-two (22) Specific Objectives of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021) with a view to ensuring a flexible approach and to enabling possible implementation of relevant activities that may result from future opportunities, the Centre will only be in a position to implement those activities for which sufficient funds will be ultimately secured and made available following the approval of:

- .1 the programme of activities of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)'s Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) for the biennium 2018-2019, which will be reviewed and approved by the Seventy-seventh Session of the IMO's Technical Cooperation Committee (TCC) to be held in London, United Kingdom from 17 to 19 July 2017; and
- .2 the UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2018-2019, including the proposed programme of work of the Centre for the said biennium as detailed in the Annex to the present document, which will be reviewed and approved by the next Meeting of the UN Environment/MAP Focal Points scheduled in Athens, Greece from 12 to 15 September 2017 prior to its submission for adoption by the Twentieth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 20) to be convened in Tirana, Albania from 17 to 20 December 2017.

7 As indicated in document REMPEC/WG.41/11/1, the funding of the activities to be implemented by the Centre during the biennium 2018-2019 within the framework of the "Marine Litter-MED" Project is already secured. This project related to marine litter management in the Mediterranean is funded by the European Commission through the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) / Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy Thematic Programme (ENRTP) and is coordinated by the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat, in cooperation with the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC), the Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC) as well as REMPEC, as identified in the Annex to the present document.

8 During the biennium 2018-2019, the Centre will continue its efforts in resource mobilisation, in close cooperation with the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat as set out in document REMPEC/WG.41/5, with the IMO Secretariat as detailed in document REMPEC/WG.41/6, and with other partners through the submission of project proposals to external funding mechanisms or through voluntary contributions, as illustrated and explained in document REMPEC/WG.41/4 as well as proposed in document REMPEC/WG.41/12.

9 The Thirty-second ECP Meeting held in Split, Croatia, between 29 and 30 March 2017, under the guidance of the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat, completed the first draft of the UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2018-2019, including the proposed programme of work of the Centre for the biennium 2018-2019 as detailed in the Annex to the present document, and requested each UN Environment/MAP Component, including REMPEC, to communicate any amendment to their proposed programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019 following its review by their respective Meeting of Focal Points.

10 Based on comments received from the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat will advance the preparation of the UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2018-2019, the main directions of which will be submitted for consideration by the Eighty-fourth Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in June 2017. In accordance with the Terms of Reference of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSDD) (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/28, Decision IG.22/17), the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat will also inform the MCSDD at its Nineteenth Meeting in early summer 2017. In this regard, the UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2018-2019 is being formulated keeping in mind its links with the objectives and strategic directions of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025.

11 Following the outcome of the Eighty-fourth Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and, in line with the financial rules, the proposed UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2018-2019 will be submitted to the Executive Director of UN Environment for clearance by the end of July 2017, before its formal submission to the Meeting of the UN Environment/MAP Focal Points, which will be convened in Athens, Greece from 12 to 15 September 2017.

12 Although the Centre duly noted the national requests for assistance on various activities proposed in the first technical consultation described in paragraph 4, with a view to ensuring a progressive programming process in the context of the UN Environment/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021, the Thirty-second ECP Meeting agreed that the Programme of Work for the biennium 2018-2019 of each UN Environment/MAP Component to be submitted to their respective Meeting of Focal Points, should focus on deliverables, in accordance with the existing regional strategies or action plans, without making any specific reference to any Mediterranean coastal States, since the availability of funds for such national activities will only be secured once the process described in the present document is completed.

#### **Actions requested by the Meeting**

13 **The Meeting is invited to:**

- .1 **take note** of the information provided in the present document; and
- .2 **consider, discuss and agree** upon the proposed programme of work of REMPEC for the biennium 2018-2019, which is presented in the **Annex** to the present document, and to propose it for approval by the next Meeting of the UN Environment/MAP Focal Points prior to its submission for adoption by COP 20.



Proposed programme of work of REMPEC for the biennium 2018-2019

MTS. Number	MTS Key outputs	Main Activities	Means of implementation	Lead: CU or Component	Other: CU and/or Components	Partners	Expected Deliverables	Remarks and Rationale
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>								
Strategic Outcome 1.1 Contracting Parties supported in the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, Regional Strategies and Action Plans								
1.1.1.	Ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols by all Contracting Parties supported.	Follow-up and promote the ratification with a particular focus on those Protocols not yet entered into force or ratified by less than 50% of CP	In-House expertise	CU	REMPEC		Technical support provided to CPs, which so request, to enhance ratification	With the ratification of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol by Italy and Algeria in 2016, 72 % of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention are also Parties to the said Protocol
1.1.2.	Effective legal, policy, and logistic support provided to MAP decision-making process including advisory bodies meetings.	Organize the RACs Focal Points Meetings (MED POL, PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu, REMPEC, SCP/RAC, SPA/RAC)	Meeting, travel, interpretation, translation	REMPEC	CU		Thirteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC organised in 2019	Decision IG 17/5: Governance paper (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/10 Annex V)

Strategic Outcome 1.3: Strengthened participation, engagement, synergies and complementarities among global and regional institutions								
1.3.2.	Participation in relevant existing or new international initiatives and dialogue (e.g. ABNJ, MPAs, Offshore, Sustainable Development) to highlight the Mediterranean regional specificities and increase synergies	Promote Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and MSSD	In-House expertise	REMPEC	CU	IMO	Progress report on REMPEC activities submitted at each Session of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) and at relevant sessions of the IMO Technical Cooperation Committee	Target the relevant maritime administrations as well as create synergies with international developments and showcase a "UN deliver as one" (UN Environment/IMO)
Strategic Outcome 1.4: Knowledge and understanding of the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast enhanced through mandated assessments for informed policy-making								
1.4.4.	Interface between science and policy-making strengthened through enhanced cooperation with global and regional scientific institutions, knowledge sharing platforms, dialogues, exchange of good practices and publications	Promote the participation of regional scientific and technical institutions in research and development activities and facilitate transfer of technology	In-House expertise	REMPEC		IMO HELCOM Bonn Agreement CMCC	a) Information disseminated on R&D activities and programmes, including data sharing and projects, in cooperation with other Regional Agreements; and	Specific Objective 18 of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021) and Art.7.1.f of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol
			Travel	REMPEC		IMO HELCOM Bonn Agreement EMSA	b) Specialised events on risk assessment organised	

Strategic Outcome 1.5: MAP knowledge and MAP information system enhanced and accessible for policy-making, increased awareness and understanding								
1.5.1.	Info/MAP platform and platform for the implementation of IMAP fully operative and further developed, connected to MAP components' information systems and other relevant regional knowledge platforms, to facilitate access to knowledge for managers and decision-makers, as well as stakeholders and the general public	Maintain REMPEC's information system and improve the quality, speed and effectiveness of decision-making process in case of marine pollution incidents through the development and introduction of technical and decision support tools	Service Contract	REMPEC	INFO/RAC		Existing REMPEC's information system and decision support tools upgraded, updated and interconnected, where appropriate, to enable CPs and relevant partners to share data in accordance with the requirements of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol as well as IMAP	Specific Objectives 8, 17, 19 and 21 of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021), REMPEC Function C (UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.13/8, Annex IV, Appendix) as well as Art.7, 8, 9 and 10 of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol

LAND AND SEA-BASED POLLUTION								
Strategic Outcome 2.1: Strengthening regional implementation of the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and 4 pollution-related Protocols, and of programmes of measures in existing relevant Regional Strategies and Action Plans								
2.1.1.	Targeted measures of the regional plans/strategies facilitated and implemented	Strengthen the capacity of individual coastal States to respond efficiently to marine pollution incidents through the development of sub-regional operational agreements and contingency plans, as well as enhance the levels of pre-positioned spill response equipment under the direct control of Mediterranean coastal States	Consultancy	REMPEC	CU	IMO	a) Technical support provided to CPs, which so request, to assess, prepare, adopt, update as well as implement and test national contingency plans and sub-regional agreements/contingency plans dealing with preparedness for and response to oil and HNS spills from ships, sea ports, oil handling facilities and offshore installations;	Specific Objectives 17 and 22 of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021)
			In-House expertise	REMPEC		Cedre FEDERCHIM ICA ISPRA MONGOOS SAF	b) Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU) maintained and, where appropriate, expanded,	
					CU	IMO	c) MAU special revolving fund replenished	

		Improve follow-up of pollution events, monitoring and surveillance of illicit discharges, as well as improve the level of enforcement and the prosecution of discharge offenders	Meeting, travel, interpretation, translation, In-House expertise	REMPEC	CU	IMO Cedre, INTERPOL, CBSS (ENPRO) OSPAR (NSN) Bonn Agreement	a) Meeting of MENELAS organised and recommendations implemented through technical support provided to CPs, which so request	Specific Objectives 7 and 8 of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021)
			Travel	REMPEC	CU	IMO Cedre, INTERPOL CBSS (ENPRO) OSPAR (NSN) Bonn Agreement	b) Participation of CPs to surveillance operations facilitated	
		Strengthen the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on port State control (PSC) in the Mediterranean region (Mediterranean MoU)	In-House expertise	REMPEC		EMSA MedMoU	Collaboration with the Mediterranean MoU ensured and joint training activities implemented in cooperation with relevant organisations	Specific Objective 4 of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021)

Strategic Outcome 2.2: Development or update of new/existing action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines								
2.2.1.	Guidelines, decision-support tools, common standards and criteria provided for in the Protocols and the Regional Plans developed and/or updated for key priority substances or sectors	Revise the existing recommendations, principles and guidelines, and develop new ones aimed at facilitating international cooperation and mutual assistance within the framework of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol	Consultancy	REMPEC	CU MED POL SCP/RAC	IMO	a) Draft guidance document developed to determine the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, application of No-Special-Fee system; and	Specific Objectives 5, 6, 9 and 21 of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021) as well as REMPEC Function C (UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.13/8, Annex IV, Appendix) and Art.14 of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol. Implementation of the Marine Litter MED Project
			Consultancy	REMPEC	CU MED POL SCP/RAC	IMO	b) Draft operational Guidelines developed on the provision of reception facilities in ports and the delivery of ship-generated wastes.	

Strategic Outcome 2.3: Strengthening and implementation of marine pollution prevention and control legislation and policies at national level, including through enforcement and integration into sectorial processes								
2.3.2	NAPs developed to implement the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships	Promote the ratification and implementation of relevant international maritime conventions related to the protection of the marine environment as well as enhance the effectiveness of maritime administrations	Consultancy	REMPEC	CU	IMO	Technical support provided to CPs, which so request, to prepare or update their NAPs	Specific Objectives 1 and 3 of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021)
Strategic Outcome 2.5: Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels including technical assistance and capacity building								
2.5.1	Training programmes and workshops in areas such as pollution monitoring, pollutant inventories, policy implementation, common technical guidelines, authorization and inspections bodies, compliance with national legislation	Increase as much as practical, the level of knowledge in the field of prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution by oil and other harmful substances	Training, Workshop	REMPEC		IMO	a) National and regional training courses/workshops organised on response to spill incidents involving oil and/or HNS	Specific Objectives 3, 5, 6, 9 and 20 of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021) as well as Art.14 of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol. Implementation of the Marine Litter MED Project
			Training	REMPEC		IMO	b) Training organised for flag State inspection officers in relation to relevant international instruments, in particular MARPOL;	

			Workshop	REMPEC		IMO	c) National workshops on the ratification and effective implementation of the BWM Convention as well as the AFS Convention and the Biofouling Guidelines	
			Workshop	REMPEC		IMO	d) National workshop on ratification and effective implementation of MARPOL Annex VI;	
			Meeting	REMPEC	CU MED POL SCP/RAC	IMO	e) National meetings organised to raise awareness on the need to better manage sea-based litter in ports and to provide ships using their ports with updated information relevant to the obligation arising from Annex V of MARPOL and from their legislation applicable in the field	

			Workshop	REMPEC	CU MED POL SCP/RAC	IMO	f) Regional/sub-regional workshop organised to share best practices on No-Special-Fee systems	
2.5.2.	Pilot projects implemented on marine litter, POPs, mercury, and illicit discharges reduced, including through SCP solutions for alternatives to POPs and toxic chemicals and the reduction of upstream sources of marine litter for businesses, entrepreneurs, financial institutions and civil society	Enhance the provision of reception facilities in ports, delivery of wastes and reduction of the pollution generated by pleasure craft activities	Consultancy	REMPEC	CU MED POL SCP/RAC	IMO	a) Up to ten pilots implemented in relation to the provision of reception facilities in ports and the delivery of ship-generated wastes in one marina per target country, as selected in collaboration with national authorities;	Specific Objectives 5, 6 and 9 of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021) as well as Art.14 of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol. Implementation of the Marine Litter MED Project
			Consultancy	REMPEC	CU MED POL SCP/RAC	IMO	b) Up to ten pilots implemented to determine the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, application of No-Special-Fee system in one major port per target country, as selected in collaboration with national authorities	

Strategic Outcome 2.7: Identifying and tackling new and emerging issues, as appropriate								
2.7.1.	Reviews/policy briefs developed and submitted to Contracting Parties on emerging pollutants, ocean acidification, climate change and linkages with relevant global processes	Examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea or parts thereof as SOx emission control area under MARPOL Annex VI and effectively implement the existing energy efficiency measures	In-House expertise	REMPEC	CU	IMO	Roadmap put in place for the preparation of a submission to the IMO to designate as a SOx ECA in certain areas of the Mediterranean Sea requiring specific environmental protection as well as possible further steps explored	Specific Objective 15 of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021) as well as follow-up on the basis of the outcome of the 2017 technical and feasibility study on the designation of SECAs and recommendations of the SECA Technical Committee of experts
		Reduce marine noise caused by ships	In-House expertise	REMPEC	SPA/RAC	WWF	Technical support provided to CPs, which so request, to raise awareness on the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping to address adverse impact on marine life	Specific Objective 13 of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021)

BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS							
Strategic Outcome 3.2: Development of new action plans, programmes and measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines for the conservation of Coastal and Marine biodiversity and ecosystems							
3.2.1	Regional Action Plans for the conservation of Mediterranean endangered and threatened species and key habitats, on species introductions as well as the Mediterranean Strategy and Action Plan on Ships' Ballast Water Management are updated to achieve GES	Support the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management and provide assistance to control and manage ships' biofouling to minimise the transfer of invasive aquatic species.	Consultancy	REMPEC	CU SPA/RAC	IMO	<p>Technical support provided to CPs, which so request, to: a) ratify and implement the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004, in conjunction with the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management; b) apply the 2011 Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimise the transfer of invasive aquatic species</p> <p>Specific Objectives 1 and 2 of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021), follow-up of the 2017 assessment of the level of implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management as well as outcome of the 5th and final Global Project Task Force meeting (GPTF-5) of the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships, in collaboration with SPA/RAC</p>

LAND AND SEA INTERACTION AND PROCESSES								
Strategic Outcome 4.2: Development of new action plans, programmes of measures, common standards and criteria, guidelines								
4.2.2	Marine Spatial Planning defined in the context of the Barcelona Convention and applied, as appropriate.	Reduce risk of collisions by establishing Ship's Routeing Systems and improve the control of maritime traffic	Consultancy	REMPEC	CU PAP/RAC	IMO	Technical support provided to CPs, which so request, to: a) propose to IMO, where necessary, additional appropriate routeing systems in the Mediterranean, for adoption; and	Specific Objectives 10 and 11 of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021), in collaboration with PAP/RAC
			Consultancy	REMPEC	CU PAP/RAC	IMO	b) identify areas of the Mediterranean where control of maritime traffic could be improved by the establishment of a regime based on the use of Automatic Identification System (AIS) in conjunction with Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) and mandatory ship reporting systems	

		Establish procedures for the designation of places of refuge in order to minimise the risks of widespread pollution as well as enhance the availability of adequate emergency towing capacity throughout the Mediterranean to assist vessels, including tankers, in distress	Consultancy	REMPEC	CU PAP/RAC	IMO	Technical support provided to CPs, which so request, to: a) facilitate the decision making when designating a place of refuge for ships in need of assistance; and b) enable them to share emergency towing equipment and arrangements to assist ships in distress in the Mediterranean	Specific Objectives 14 and 16 of the Regional Strategy, in collaboration with PAP/RAC
		Identify Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs)	Consultancy	REMPEC	CU SPA/RAC	IMO	Technical support provided to CPs, which so request, to conduct the necessary studies, in cooperation with IMO, and to prepare the relevant submissions to IMO for the designation of PSSAs, if any, in strict compliance with the applicable IMO Guidelines	Specific Objective 12 of the Regional Strategy, in collaboration with SPA/RAC