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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.41/4  
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Original: English

Agenda Item 4

**PROGRESS REPORT ON REMPEC'S ACTIVITIES SINCE THE ELEVENTH MEETING  
OF THE FOCAL POINTS OF REMPEC**

**Note by the Secretariat**

**SUMMARY**

**Executive Summary:** This document sets out an outline of the activities carried out by the Centre since the last Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC.

**Actions to be taken:** Paragraph 49

**Related documents:** UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/20, UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.21/9, UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/28, UNEP(DEPI)/MED CC.12/6, UNEP(DEPI)/MED CC.12/Inf.4, UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.427/6, UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/10, REMPEC/WG.41/7, REMPEC/WG.41/8, REMPEC/WG.41/9, REMPEC/WG.41/10, REMPEC/WG.41/11/1, REMPEC/WG.41/12, REMPEC/WG.41/13, REMPEC/WG.41/14, REMPEC/WG.41/INF.3, REMPEC/WG.41/INF.4, REMPEC/WG.41/INF.5, REMPEC/WG.41/INF.6, REMPEC/WG.41/INF.7, REMPEC/WG.41/INF.8, REMPEC/WG.41/INF.9

**Introduction**

- 1 This report covers the period June 2015 – April 2017, that is to say:
  - .1 the activities conducted after the Eleventh Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), which was convened in Attard, Malta from 15 to 17 June 2015, based on the approved 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 2014-2015, and before 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), which was held in Athens, Greece, from 9 to 12 February 2016; and
  - .2 the activities carried out after COP 19, based on the approved UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2016-2017, till 30 April 2017.
- 2 This report is divided under the following headings:
  - I. Report on Institutional Developments;
  - II. Report on Administrative and Financial Issues; and
  - III. Report on the Implementation of Activities.

## **I. REPORT ON INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Ratification of the Protocols**

3 Since the last Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, Algeria and Italy have ratified the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea ("the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol") to the Barcelona Convention, on 14 November 2016 and 30 June 2016, respectively.

4 No further instrument of ratification of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil ("the Offshore Protocol") to the Barcelona Convention has been deposited since the last Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC.

5 There are sixteen (16) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention which have, up to now, ratified or acceded to the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol, whereas six (6) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention are only Parties to the Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency ("the 1976 Emergency Protocol"). Seven (7) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention have ratified the Offshore Protocol so far.

6 The status of signatures and ratifications of the 1976 Emergency Protocol, the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol as well as the Offshore Protocol as at 30 November 2016 (last notification received) is provided in **Annex I** to the present document.

### **Decisions adopted by COP 19 related to institutional developments**

- **UN Environment/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021**

7 At COP 19, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted the UN Environment/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/28, Decision IG.22/1), the ultimate objectives of which are the achievement of Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean and the contribution to sustainable development. The overarching theme is Governance. The core themes are: Land and Sea-Based Pollution; Biodiversity and Ecosystems; and Land and Sea Interaction and Processes. The cross-cutting themes are: Integrated Coastal Zone Management; Sustainable Consumption and Production; and Climate Change Adaptation.

8 The UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/28, Decision IG.22/20) adopted by the said Meeting was prepared not only within the context of the UN Environment/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 but also the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025 and the Ecosystems Approach (EcAp).

- **Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025**

9 At COP 19, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention also adopted the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025 (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/28, Decision IG.22/2), which provides a strategic policy framework for securing a sustainable future for the Mediterranean region consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals.

10 The MSSD 2016-2025 aims at harmonising the interactions between socio-economic and environmental goals, adapting international commitments to regional conditions, guiding national strategies for sustainable development, and stimulating regional cooperation between stakeholders in the implementation of sustainable development. It is also expected to boost synergies between the work of key national and regional stakeholders, by providing a commonly-agreed framework, thereby leading to increased efficiency in the implementation of sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

- **Ecosystems Approach**

11 The EcAp is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources, which promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. As such, it is the guiding principle to all policy implementation and development undertaken under the auspices of the Barcelona Convention.

12 At COP 19, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted an innovative and ambitious Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP) (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/28, Decision IG.22/7), which describes the strategy, themes, and products that they are aiming to deliver, through collaborative efforts, over the second cycle of the implementation of the EcAp process, i.e. over 2016-2021, in order to assess the status of the Mediterranean sea and coast, as a basis for further and/or strengthened measures.

13 IMAP is a key achievement for the Mediterranean region, which will enable for the first time a quantitative, integrated analysis of the state of the marine and coastal environment, covering pollution and marine litter, biodiversity, non-indigenous species, coast, and hydrography, based on common regional indicators, targets and GES descriptions.

14 Following the approval of this ambitious framework, the initial implementation phase started in 2016 through a number of steps that are expected to cover the next three (3) years, namely:

- .1 supporting the integration process at national level (review of country level existing national monitoring and assessment programmes in line with IMAP principles and common indicators);
- .2 updating GES definitions and further refining the assessment criteria; and
- .3 developing a Quality Status Report (QSR) at regional level in 2017.

- **Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021)**

15 Bearing in mind that 2015 marked the final year of the implementation period of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships adopted in 2005 ("the 2005 Regional Strategy"), it is recalled that REMPEC carried out a revision of the said strategic document during the biennium 2014-2015 in order to tailor it to current as well as future challenges and issues faced by the Mediterranean region. The said revision exercise was carried out, in parallel with the preparation of the UN Environment/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021, incorporating the necessary elements of the other UN Environment/MAP sectorial or cross-cutting policies, such as the MSSD 2016-2025 and the implementation of the EcAp process.

16 COP 19 adopted Decision IG.22/4 related to the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/28), hereinafter referred to as the Regional Strategy (2016-2021), which is presented in the Annex to document REMPEC/WG.41/INF.3. The Regional Strategy (2016-2021) was prepared by REMPEC through a wide consultative process with the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and partners.

17 The Regional Strategy (2016-2021) aims at preventing pollution from ships and maritime accidents and at enhancing the level of preparedness for response to major pollution incidents in the Mediterranean region. It lists the priority issues to be addressed when implementing the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol and includes, for each of these issues, precise commitments and a timetable for the implementation of its twenty-two (22) Specific Objectives to be achieved by 2021. As such, the Regional Strategy (2016-2021) is considered as the main strategic document upon which all REMPEC activities are based.

18 The UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2016-2017 had also been prepared taking into account the priorities and expected outputs referred to in the Regional Strategy (2016-2021).

- **Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan**

19 The Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan in the framework of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil, hereinafter referred to as the “Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan”, was prepared by the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat with substantive contribution from REMPEC, taking into account the findings of the studies and the recommendations made by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention as well as the results of a wide consultative process. The Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan was adopted by COP 19 (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/28, Decision IG.22/3).

20 The Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan, which is relevant to the mandate of the Centre insofar as, in cases of emergency, a Party to the Offshore Protocol, which is also a Party to the 1976 Emergency Protocol, shall apply the pertinent provisions of the said Protocol, aims at defining measures which, if applied at regional level and by each Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention within its jurisdiction, will ensure the safety of offshore activities and reduce their potential impact on the marine environment and its ecosystem. These measures include the set-up of a governance framework, the definition of commonly agreed regional offshore standards and guidelines as well as the development of a regional reporting and monitoring programme.

21 Considering the range of expertise required for the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan, the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat will coordinate the technical support. It is envisaged that there may be several areas of activity within the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan which will require synergy between various UN Environment/MAP Components, including REMPEC. As such, the UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2016-2017 had further been prepared taking into account the priorities and expected outputs referred to in the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan.

## **II. REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL ISSUES**

### **Administrative Issues**

22 The restructuring process of the Centre provided for the recruitment of two new Programme Officers at P.3 level in order to ensure that the management of the Centre remained at the level of three Professional staff members as it was the case before the restructuring of the Centre. In this regard, Mr Malek Smaoui joined REMPEC as Programme Officer (OPRC) at P.3 level on 19 October 2015. The duties and responsibilities of Mr Smaoui at REMPEC include a variety of technical, policy and regional regulatory duties related to marine environment protection issues and in particular to those related to preparedness for and response to marine pollution, assisting the Head of Office on policy issues regarding regional activities in that field and providing technical assistance and expert advice to the competent national authorities of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, amongst others.

23 Although the Centre completed its restructuring and the subsequent recruitment process in 2015, the staff complement remained limited with the increasing demands, in particular with the addition of offshore-related activities over and above the usual core activities of the Centre, which stretched current human resources. Hence, the Centre established contacts to mobilise human resources to assist in implementing its mandate.

24 The Centre benefitted during the period under review from the support of a Junior Programme Officer financed by the French Oil Industry through the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs mechanism entitled “*Volontariat International Scientifique*”. This support has been provided to the Centre since its inception and the Centre wishes to reiterate its gratitude to the Government of France and to Total S.A. for this continuous and extremely useful support.

25 The International Maritime Organization (IMO) published a position of Associated Programme Officer (APO) in 2015 but, whilst the selection process had been completed by the end of 2015, the selected APO to be seconded by a Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention could not join the Centre at the end due to lack of funds. In this context, IMO included a position at REMPEC, in its announcement of 13 September 2016, related to the positions for Junior Professional Officers (JPO) available for 2016. Unfortunately, the number of applications received by IMO was below expectations and, so far, the vacant JPO Position remains unfilled. This delay has considerably affected the expected timely delivery of certain activities, which were expected to be supported by the JPO.

26 To address the issue of the additional workload related to offshore-related activities, the Centre and the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat contacted and met the oil and gas industry to identify potential financial and human support to implement activities related to the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan. This effort was supplemented by the High-level Meeting follow-up letter dated 2 December 2016, co-signed by the Honourable Dr George W. Vella, Minister for Foreign Affairs (Malta), and Mr Gabino Gonzalez, Head of Office of REMPEC, addressed to relevant Ministers of all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to consider possible ways of providing support to the Centre by either appropriate voluntary funding or secondment of staff to work at REMPEC.

27 Internship opportunities were explored and took place during the period under review. In this regard, the Centre wishes to thank Ms Clio Bouillard, Ph.D. Student in International and European Environmental Law, Dr Iliana Koukoutsis, EU Qualified Lawyer as well as Ms Alicia Andreoni and Mr Marco Iacoponi within the ERASMUS+ Training Programme, for their contribution during their respective work experience at REMPEC. In the context of the preparation of the Fortieth Anniversary of the Centre, REMPEC benefited from the in-kind support of Mr Loric Garriguenc who designed the logo of the event, for which the Centre is grateful.

### **Financial Issues**

28 The organisation of COP 19 in February 2016 and the subsequent delayed approval of the UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2016-2017 considerably affected the schedule of REMPEC activities although efforts were made to endeavour meeting the targets for the current biennium.

29 The Umoja system was implemented by UN Environment as at 1 June 2015 ahead from the majority of the Secretariats of the United Nations (UN) and its Programmes which were expected to implement it in November 2015. At the heart of the launch was the introduction of the new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software that was to provide a harmonised and streamlined approach to the Organization's management of finance, human resources, procurement and assets. Umoja requires that all expenditures are supported by valid income, as the system will reject payment requests where there is no supporting cash. Past practice of inter-fund borrowing among UN Environment funds will be terminated, eliminating the option of temporary borrowing from other UN Environment accounts to ease the cash flow in anticipation of receipt of contributions. The adaptation to Umoja impacted internal accounting and reporting procedure, but had limited impact on the disbursement of funds for the implementation of the programme of work of REMPEC for 2016-2017.

30 In August 2016, the Centre was the victim of a ransomware, which affected its server and back-ups, including the back-up of Exchequer, the financial software used by REMPEC. Consequently, all financial reports and input were lost and had to be rebuilt from other files. The IMO Secretariat and the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat were kept informed about the situation during the entire process. The IMO is currently considering the possibility of incorporating REMPEC into IMO's Systems Applications Products (SAP) to facilitate financial monitoring and reporting. This initiative would be implemented in 2017, if technically feasible and if confirmed by IMO.

31 In March 2016, in line with activities proposed under the approved UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2016-2017, REMPEC submitted, together with Western Mediterranean coastal States and other partners, a joint project proposal, namely the Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Cooperation in the Western Mediterranean Region Project (West MOPoCo Project), as part of the Call for proposals 2016 for prevention and preparedness projects in the field of civil protection and marine pollution within the framework of the Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism and its implementing rules. The documentation related to the West MOPoCo Project proposal, was prepared by REMPEC and the confirmed Associated Beneficiaries (i.e. Competent Authorities from Algeria, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia, as well as the Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution (Cedre) (France), the Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) (Italy), IPIECA – The global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues and the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited (ITOPF). The Project Budget was EUR 1,066,012, including 75% EC Contribution and proposed additional staff at REMPEC for its implementation (i.e. one (1) Professional Staff (P2) and one (1) General Staff (G5)). In September 2016, REMPEC was officially informed that the West MOPoCo Project proposal had not been successful in the selection procedure and that the proposal was ranked in third position on the reserve list.

32 Taking into account the feedback received from the European Commission and the relatively high mark of the West MOPoCo Project proposal, all partners agreed to submit again a similar proposal in 2017, for a possible implementation in the biennium 2018-2019. The outcome of the selection procedure is expected between July and September 2017, and therefore, should the proposal be selected, the Centre would be in a position to reflect the project and the related resources mobilised, in the UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2018-2019, to be examined and adopted 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.

33 REMPEC participated, as a partner, in a joint project proposal namely the Mediterranean Decision Support Service - Platform for Upgraded Service (MEDESS-PLUS) within the framework of the Interreg MED Programme. The outputs of the project were in line with activities proposed under the approved UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2016-2017. The MEDESS-PLUS project proposal coordinated by the Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change (CMCC) was submitted in November 2015 but was not selected under this call, as confirmed in September 2016. The project budget amounted to EUR 3,590,725 out of which EUR 390,000 were originally allocated to REMPEC, including one (1) Professional Staff (P2). Taking into account the relatively high mark of the project and the benefit of MEDESS to the Mediterranean coastal States based on the work done so far within MEDESS-4MS, the partners agreed to explore other alternatives to re-submit a proposal.

34 Both the West MOPoCo and MEDESS-PLUS Project proposals had been considered as potential external sources of funds in the approved UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2016-2017 to enable the implementation of a number of REMPEC's activities in line with the UN Environment/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 and the Regional Strategy (2016-2021). Therefore, the ability of the Centre to implement its ambitious programme in the current biennium has been affected, despite the successful mobilisation of resources detailed below.

35 The two-year project for Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline clean-up and Oiled Wildlife interventions – POSOW II was co-financed under the Civil Protection Financial Instrument, between 2015 and 2016, developed in cooperation with REMPEC, ISPRA (Italy), the Instituto Portuario de Estudios y Cooperacion de la Comunidad Valenciana (FEPORTS, Spain), the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, (AASTMT Egypt) and the General Directorate of Maritime and Inland Waters (DG-MARINWA, Turkey) and coordinated by Cedre (France). It aimed at expanding the achievements of POSOW I to Mediterranean coastal States that are part of the European Neighbourhood Policy as well as Enlargement countries, namely Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. The total budget of the project amounted to EUR 578,035, including the contribution of the European Commission (Contribution: EUR 410,174) and the contribution of the partners of the project (Contribution: EUR 167,861).

36 The High-level Meeting and the Launch of the Fortieth Anniversary Celebrations of REMPEC held in Malta on 4 October 2016 were organised in collaboration with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for Transport and Infrastructure, and the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change, of the Republic of Malta. The Maltese Government co-financed the organisation of this event (Contribution: EUR 25,000).

37 Within the framework of the agreement signed in December 2015 between IPIECA and REMPEC, IPIECA has co-financed the review of the Mediterranean “Principles and Guidelines on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance related to Oil and HNS Pollution Incidents” and has co-financed the organisation of the Regional Workshop on Cooperation Arrangements in the Field of Preparedness for and Response to Oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Spills (MEDEXPOL 2016), which was convened in St. Julian’s, Malta, from 14 to 15 December 2016 (Contribution: GBP 25,000 / EUR 34,627).

38 The French oil company TOTAL S.A., which finances the International Scientific Volunteer (VIS) Programme, through which a Junior Programme Officer is seconded at REMPEC, sponsored the recruitment of a temporary consultant to assist REMPEC in the implementation of POSOW II and the preparation of the Fortieth Anniversary of REMPEC (Contribution: EUR 4,965).

39 REMPEC contributed to the drafting of the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) / Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy Thematic Programme (ENRTP) “Marine Litter-Med” Project proposal that was approved and became operational in June 2016. The component of the project to be coordinated by REMPEC, as reflected in the proposed programme of work of the Centre for the biennium 2018-2019 and detailed in document REMPEC/WG.41/14, will focus on the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, application of No-Special-Fee system, as well as the provision of reception facilities and the delivery of ship-generated wastes in selected major ports and marinas in the Mediterranean (Budget: EUR 204,000).

40 As in previous years, in addition to the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF), IMO financially contributed to the implementation of the programme of work (PoW) of the Centre for the biennia 2014-2015 and 2016-2017, during the period under review, through the allocation of IMO’s Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) budget, as follows:

- .1 USD 21,600 (Activity 4.2.13. from PoW 2014-2015: Mediterranean network of law enforcement officials and related activity such as joint surveillance operation organized);
- .2 USD 19,168.52 (Activity 2.5.1.4. from PoW 2016-2017: Assist in the development and implementation of national training programme on response to oil and HNS spills, Cairo, Egypt);
- .3 USD 33,855.48 (Activity 2.3.2.1. from PoW 2016-2017: Support the preparation of NAPs according to a common template including national assessment);
- .4 USD 12,348.66 (Activity 3.2.1.11. from PoW 2016-2017: Assess the level of and support the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships’ Ballast Water Management and Action Plan);
- .5 USD 20,327.65 (Activity 2.6.1.4. from PoW 2016-2017: Organize a technical regional workshop (MEDEXPOL) and a high level meeting on cooperation arrangements in the field of preparedness and response to oil and HNS spills);
- .6 USD 8,440.39 (2.6.1.1. from PoW 2016-2017: Support the organisation of sub-regional joint activities and meetings – Third Adriatic Oil Spill Conference (ADRIASPILLCON 2016)); and
- .7 USD 2,214.00 (2.6.1.1. from PoW 2016-2017: Support the organisation of sub-regional joint activities and meetings – Facilitate participation of Algeria and Morocco in a tier 3 exercise in Tunisia).

41 Furthermore, the GloBallast Partnerships Programme financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), along with co-financing from countries and other international partners, implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and executed by the IMO through the Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) within the IMO's Marine Environment Division (MED), contributed to the implementation of the programme of work of the Centre for the biennia 2014-2015 and 2016-2017, more specifically Activity 3.2.1.11. Assess the level of and support the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management (BWM) and Action Plan, through the allocation of specific budget, as follows:

- .1 EUR 6,049.25 ("Train-the-trainer" Workshop on Port State Control (PSC) under the BWM Convention with emphasis on sampling and analysis of ballast water, which was held in Gebze, Turkey, from 2 to 4 June 2015);
- .2 USD 7,224.67 (Sixth GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Research and Development (R&D) Forum and Exhibition on BWM, which was convened in Montreal, Canada, from 16 to 18 March 2016);
- .3 USD 1,274.06 (First Croatia-GloBallast National Global Industry Alliance (GIA) Conference on BWM as well as Regional Training Workshop on practical aspects of Risk Assessment (RA) and Port Biological Baseline Surveys (PBBS) related to the implementation of the BWM Convention, which were held back-to-back in Zagreb, Croatia from 14 to 15 November 2016 and from 16 to 17 November 2016 respectively); and
- .4 EUR 1,892.61 (pilot training course on Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement (CME) of the BWM Convention at a training institution in Croatia with participation of national experts on sampling and analysis, which was convened in Rijeka, Croatia from 2 to 3 February 2017); and
- .5 USD 9,438 (Panama Maritime XIII World Conference and Exhibition as well as the final and Fifth Global Project Task Force (GPTF) Meeting, which were held back-to-back in Panama City, Panama, from 12 to 15 March 2017 and 16 to 17 March 2017 respectively).

42 Finally, the following in-kind contribution from REMPEC's Partners also contributed in the implementation of the programme of work of the Centre for the biennium 2016-2017:

- .1 EUR 2,656.62 – In-kind contribution from the Government of France, for the organisation of the Meeting of the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS) in Toulon, France, from 29 September to 1 October 2015;
- .2 EUR 8,917.01 – In-kind contribution from the Government of Malta for the organisation of the above-mentioned MENELAS meeting;
- .3 EUR 3,000 – In-kind contribution from the Accord relatif à la Protection de l'Environnement Marin et Côtier d'une Zone de la Mer Méditerranée (RAMOGE Agreement) for the organisation of the above-mentioned MENELAS Meeting;
- .4 EUR 16,887 – Estimated in-kind contribution from the technical expertise provided by ITOPF to support the drafting of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan of Lebanon, July 2016 and to assess the related drill and training convened in October 2016 as well as for the Oil Spill Exercise, Aljurf Offshore Oil Field, held in Libya, in May 2016; and
- .5 EUR 3,400 – Estimated in-kind contribution from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group (MOIG) for the organisation of shoreline cleaning exercise during the Train-the-trainers for Libyan team in Zarzis, Tunisia, in October 2016, within the framework of the POSOW II Project.

43 A diagram representing the distribution of funds as well as the estimated in-kind contribution received by the Centre during the period under review is presented in **Annex II** to the present document.

### **III. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES**

44 The activities implemented by REMPEC in the field of prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships in line with the UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2014-2015 are presented in **Annex III** to the present document. Those related to the UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2016-2017 covered the following specific objectives of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021), as further detailed in **Annex IV** to the present document:

- .1 Specific Objective 1: Ratification of relevant international maritime conventions related to the protection of the marine environment;
- .2 Specific Objective 2: To control and manage ships' biofouling to minimise the transfer of invasive aquatic species;
- .3 Specific Objective 3: Ensuring effective maritime administrations;
- .4 Specific Objective 5: Provision of reception facilities in ports;
- .5 Specific Objective 6: Delivery of ship-generated wastes;
- .6 Specific Objective 7: Improved follow-up of pollution events as well as monitoring and surveillance of illicit discharges;
- .7 Specific Objective 8: To improve the level of enforcement and of the prosecution of discharge offenders;
- .8 Specific Objective 13: Reduction of marine noise caused by ships;
- .9 Specific Objective 14: To establish procedures for the designation of places of refuge in order to minimise the risks of widespread pollution;
- .10 Specific Objective 15: To examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea or parts thereof as a SO<sub>x</sub> emission control area, under MARPOL Annex VI and effectively implement the existing energy efficiency measures;
- .11 Specific Objective 16: To ensure that adequate emergency towing capacity is available throughout the Mediterranean to assist vessels, including tankers, in distress;
- .12 Specific Objective 17: To enhance the levels of prepositioned spill response equipment under the direct control of Mediterranean coastal States;
- .13 Specific Objective 18: To encourage the participation of the regional scientific and technical institutions in research and development activities and to facilitate transfer of technology;
- .14 Specific Objective 19: To 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;
- .15 Specific Objective 20: To increase as much as practical, the level of knowledge in the field of preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution by oil and other harmful substances;

- .16 Specific Objective 21: To revise the existing recommendations, principles and guidelines, and to develop new ones aimed at facilitating international cooperation and mutual assistance within the framework of 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol; and
- .17 Specific Objective 22: To strengthen the capacity of individual coastal States to respond efficiently to marine pollution incidents through development of sub-regional operational agreements and contingency plans.

45 Although not specifically mentioned in the UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennia 2014-2015 and 2016-2017, REMPEC also contributed to the implementation of the following Specific Objectives of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021):

- .1 Specific Objective 10: Reduced risk of collisions by establishing Ship's Routeing Systems;
- .2 Specific Objective 11: Improved control of maritime traffic; and
- .3 Specific Objective 12: Identification of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs)).

46 Bearing in mind that the above-mentioned Specific Objectives are linked directly or indirectly to marine spatial planning, the Centre also accepted the opportunity to deliver a presentation at the Workshop for the preparation of a national coastal and marine strategy in relation to Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive or MSFD) and the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean to the Barcelona Convention ("the ICZM Protocol"), which was convened in Šibenik, Croatia from 20 to 22 October 2015, as well as attended the Conference on Maritime Spatial Planning and the Marine Environment, which was held in Brussels, Belgium on 7 December 2015.

47 Finally, the Centre provided a written contribution to the Group of Transport Ministers of the Western Mediterranean (GTMO 5+5) – First meeting for the composition of a group as part of the Vessel Traffic Monitoring & Information Systems (VTMIS) initiative, which was convened in Tangier, Morocco on 10 May 2016. This contribution together with the Centre's expression of interest on the matter and its will to fully cooperate in the region with the Centre d'Études des Transports pour la Méditerranée Occidentale (CETMO), which performs the function of GTMO Technical Secretariat, were well received by the participants in the said meeting.

48 The activities implemented by the Centre within the context of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan according to the UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2016-2017 are reported in **Annex V** to the present document.

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

49 **The Meeting is invited to:**

- .1 **take note** of the information provided in the present document; and
- .2 **comment**, as appropriate.

Annex I

Status of signatures and ratifications of the 1976 Emergency Protocol, the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol and the Offshore Protocol  
as at 30 November 2016

Contracting Parties	1976 Emergency Protocol			2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol			Offshore Protocol		
	Signature	Ratification	Entered into force	Signature	Ratification	Entered into force	Signature	Ratification	Entered into force
<b>Albania</b>	-	30.05.90/AC	29.06.90	-	-	-	-	26.07.01	24.03.11
<b>Algeria</b>	-	16.03.81/AC	15.04.81	25.01.02	14.11.16	14.12.16	-	-	-
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	-	22.10.94/SUC	01.03.92	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Croatia</b>	-	12.06.92/SUC	08.10.91	25.01.02	01.10.03	17.03.04	14.10.94	-	-
<b>Cyprus</b>	16.02.76	19.11.79	19.12.79	25.01.02	19.12.07	18.01.08	14.10.94	16.05.06	24.03.11
<b>European Union</b>	13.09.76	12.08.81/AP	11.09.81	25.01.02	26.05.04	25.06.04	17.12.12/AC	29.03.13	29.03.13
<b>Egypt</b>	16.02.76	24.08.78/AC	23.09.78	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>France</b>	16.02.76	11.03.78/AP	10.04.78	25.01.02	02.07.03	17.03.04	-	-	-
<b>Greece</b>	16.02.76	03.01.79	02.02.79	25.01.02	27.11.06	27.12.06	14.10.94	-	-
<b>Israel</b>	16.02.76	03.03.78	02.04.78	22.01.03	10.09.14	10.10.14	14.10.94	-	-
<b>Italy</b>	16.02.76	03.02.79	05.03.79	25.01.02	30.06.16	30.07.16	14.10.94	-	-
<b>Lebanon</b>	-	08.11.77/AC	12.02.78	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Libya</b>	31.01.77	31.01.79	02.03.79	25.01.02	-	-	-	16.06.05	24.03.11
<b>Malta</b>	16.02.76	30.12.77	12.02.78	25.01.02	18.02.03	17.03.04	14.10.94	-	-
<b>Monaco</b>	16.02.76	20.09.77	12.02.78	25.01.02	03.04.02	17.03.04	14.10.94	-	-
<b>Montenegro</b>	-	-	-	-	19.11.07	19.12.07	-	-	-
<b>Morocco</b>	16.02.76	15.01.80	15.02.80	25.01.02	26.04.11	26.05.11	-	01.07.99	24.03.11
<b>Slovenia</b>	-	16.09.93/AC	15.03.94	25.01.02	16.02.04	17.03.04	10.10.95	-	-
<b>Spain</b>	16.02.76	17.12.76	12.02.78	25.01.02	10.07.07	09.08.07	14.10.94	-	-
<b>Syria</b>	-	26.12.78/AC	25.01.79	25.01.02	11.04.08	11.05.08	20.09.95	22.02.11	24.03.11
<b>Tunisia</b>	25.05.76	30.07.77	12.02.78	25.01.02	-	-	14.10.94	01.06.98	24.03.11
<b>Turkey</b>	16.02.76	06.04.81	06.05.81	-	03.06.03	17.03.04	-	-	-

Accession = AC

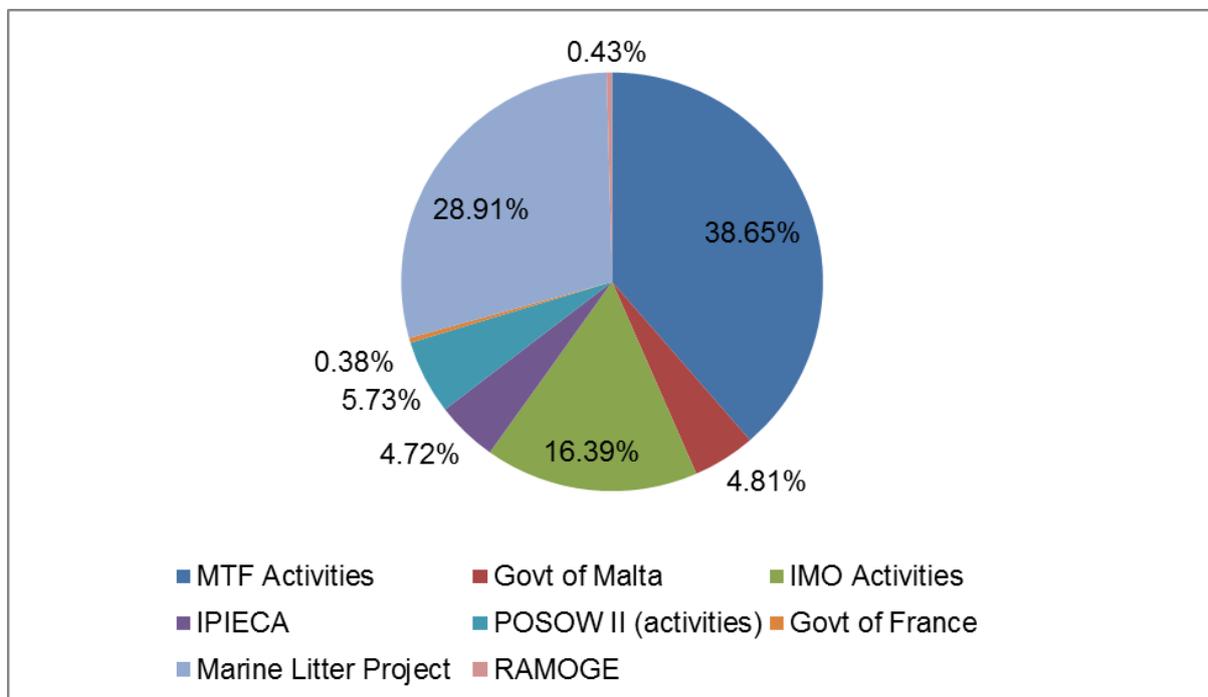
Approval = AP

Succession = SUC



## Annex II

### Distribution of funds allocated for the implementation of REMPEC activities during the period under review



The diagram does not include the following estimated in-kind contributions:

- 1 EUR 16,887 in technical expertise was provided by ITOPF to support the drafting of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan of Lebanon, July 2016 and to assess the related drill and training held in October 2016 as well as for the Oil Spill Exercise, Aljurf Offshore Oil Field, convened in Libya, in May 2016.
- 2 EUR 3,400 in logistics, man power and preparation was provided by MOIG for the organisation of shoreline cleaning exercise during the Train-the-trainers for Libyan team in Zarzis, Tunisia, in October 2016, within the framework of the POSOW II Project.



Annex III

Activities related to the Regional Strategy (2016-2021) carried out by the Centre in line with the UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2014-2015 (June 2015 – January 2016)

Activity Number	Activity Title	Output	Source of Funding
<b>Theme I: Governance</b>			
<b>Output 1.2: Implementation gap filled: Contracting Parties supported in meeting the objectives of BC, protocols and adopted strategies</b>			
1.2.5	Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships revised and updated	The Regional Strategy (2016-2021) was prepared by REMPEC through a wide consultative process with the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and partners. After a final revision, COP 19 adopted the Regional Strategy (2016-2021) (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/28, Decision IG.22/4).	<b>MTF</b>
<b>Theme III: Biodiversity</b>			
<b>Output 3.1: Ecosystem services provided by the marine and coastal environment identified and valued</b>			
3.2.8	A web based Regional Ballast Water Information Exchange System developed and public awareness activities on ships' ballast water and invasive aquatic species issues conducted	<p>In its capacity of Regional Coordinating Organisation (RCO), REMPEC coordinated the implementation of the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships Programme in the Mediterranean region, in collaboration with SPA/RAC.</p> <p>In particular, the Centre participated in the following meeting for which it also coordinated, together with the PCU, the participation of Lead Partnering Countries in the region, namely Croatia and Turkey, as appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the "Train-the-trainer" Workshop on Port State Control (PSC) under the BWM Convention with emphasis on sampling and analysis of ballast water (Gebze, Turkey; 2-4 June 2015).</li> </ul>	<b>GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships Programme</b>

**Theme IV: Pollution Prevention and Control**

**Output 4.1: Early warning of pollution (spills, dangerous/hazardous substances)**

4.1.7	National and sub-regional capacities strengthened to respond to a spill and reliable regional assistance system developed as a priority. (MEDESS 4MS)	<p>Considering the work accomplished within the MEDESS-4MS Project, REMPEC participated, as a partner, in a joint project proposal namely the Mediterranean Decision Support Service - Platform for Upgraded Service (MEDESS-PLUS) within the framework of the Interreg MED Programme. The MEDESS-PLUS project proposal coordinated by the Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change (CMCC) was submitted in November 2015.</p> <p>REMPEC participated in or contributed to the following exercises during the period under review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OVERSEAS exercise (Israel, June 2015);</li> <li>• MALTEX 2015 (Malta, September 2015); and</li> <li>• MOIG National &amp; Regional Emergency Response Exercises (Turkey, 18 November 2015).</li> </ul>	<p><b>N/A</b></p> <p><b>MTF</b></p>
4.1.8	National marine pollution contingency plans for Libya and Lebanon developed and a national response system for Hazardous Noxious Substances (HNS) for Egypt developed	<p>This activity follows the organisation of the National Workshop on HNS Contingency Planning (Alexandria, Egypt, 28-30 October 2008) and the Sub-Regional Workshop on Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Contingency Planning for Arab Speaking Countries (Alexandria, Egypt, 17-20 January 2011), which was complemented with a continuous support of REMPEC and IMO, through its ITCP, to establish the Egyptian National Response System to marine pollution from Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS). It is the one of the outputs of the Fact-Finding Mission, coordinated by REMPEC and implemented by Cedre ( Egypt, 8 to 12 February 2015), findings and the recommendations of which for the establishment of an National HNS Response System in Egypt were presented to the Egyptian competent authorities and the potential stakeholders of the future Egyptian HNS Contingency Plan (Cairo, Egypt, 7 June 2015). Approximately 30 persons attended the Meeting organised by the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA). The Meeting marked the very first step toward the establishment of the Egyptian HNS Contingency Plan, and considered that additional technical support and capacity building activities would be required.</p> <p>In March 2015, following a positive discussion with the Lebanese delegation attending a Meeting of experts for the revision of the regional strategy organised by the Centre, REMPEC obtain confirmation from ITCP to fund, in 2015, an activity to support the development of the NCP. Whilst preparing this activity, the Centre learnt about the Sustainable Oil and Gas Development in Lebanon (SODEL) Project (2015-2016), implemented by the Lebanese Ministry of Energy in cooperation with UNDP Lebanon, which included a component on the development of a draft NCP by August 2016, during which assistance of REMPEC was requested. REMPEC and IMO agreed in 2015 to support this process by providing technical assistance during and after the NCP drafting process and by organising an inter-ministerial meeting to agree on and</p>	<p><b>IMO's ITCP</b></p> <p><b>MTF</b></p>

		<p>ensure the needed support to adopt the draft NCP under the frame of the SODEL project. The Centre supported this initiative providing copies of NCPs from neighbouring countries to support the work of the consultant.</p> <p>REMPEC delivered during its participation at the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group Regional Workshop on National and Regional Oil Spill Response Capability and Cooperation held in Adana, Turkey, 17-18 November 2015, a presentation with a view to identifying potential joint activities, in the field of preparedness for response to marine pollution by Oil, within the framework of the Mediterranean Government-Industry Cooperation Action Plan – “MGICAP”</p>	
<b>Output 4.2: Lower levels of pollution in the Mediterranean marine and coastal environments</b>			
4.2.13	Mediterranean network of law enforcement officials and related activity such as joint surveillance operation organized	<p>The Meeting of the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS) was organised by REMPEC in Toulon, France, from 29 September to 1 October 2015, in parallel with the OSCAR-MED 2015 Operation, pursuant to the UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2014-2015 adopted by the Eighteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 18), which was convened in Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 6 December 2013 (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.21/9, Decision IG.21/9).</p> <p>The principal objectives of the Meeting were to present regional and international developments relevant to MENELAS, discuss various issues related to illicit ship pollution discharges, from collecting, recording and documenting evidence, to carrying out coordinated aerial surveillance operations as well as reporting. The Meeting was also an opportunity to present the MENELAS information system, share information on present cases of interest and discuss cooperation with other regional and international organisations.</p> <p>In parallel with the MENELAS Meeting, the French Préfecture maritime de la Méditerranée (PREMAR MED) organised, in close cooperation with the Spanish Maritime Safety Agency (SASEMAR) and the Italian Guardia Costiera, a coordinated aerial surveillance operation for illicit ship pollution discharges in the Mediterranean entitled “OSCAR-MED 2015” within the framework of the RAMOGE Agreement, which took place on 29 and 30 September 2015 in the RAMOGE area.</p> <p>The OSCAR-MED 2015 Operation provided an opportunity for the eighteen (18) participants in the MENELAS meeting from twelve (12) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Albania, Algeria, Croatia, European Union, France, Greece, Israel, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain and Tunisia), three (3) regional organisations (RAMOGE Agreement, Plan Bleu and REMPEC) as well as one (1) international organisation (INTERPOL) to be briefed on the coordinated aerial surveillance operation and to visit the CROSS MED operational centre (Centre régional opérationnel de surveillance et de sauvetage de Méditerranée) in La Garde, France where the Operation was being coordinated. It was also an opportunity</p>	<p><b>MTF</b></p> <p><b>IMO’s ITCP</b></p> <p><b>Voluntary contributions from the Government of France, the Government of Malta and the RAMOGE Agreement</b></p>

		<p>to exchange views with the eight (8) other representatives from France (PREMAR MED and Tribunal de Grande Instance de Marseille), Italy (Guardia Costiera), Monaco (Division de Police Maritime et Aéroportuaire) and Spain (SASEMAR), who participated in the OSCAR-MED 2015 Operation.</p> <p>Amongst others, the Meeting adopted a set of Conclusions and Recommendations, elected France to chair the Network for the period 2016-2017 and agreed to include the following items in the MENELAS Programme of Activities for the said period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• marine oil pollution detection/investigation report;</li> <li>• establishment of a MENELAS database on illicit ship pollution discharges in the Mediterranean;</li> <li>• review existing applicable sanctions at national level with regard to illicit ship pollution discharges; and</li> <li>• measures to charge reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, apply a No-Special-Fee system.</li> </ul> <p>The report of the Meeting is presented in document REMPEC/WG.41/INF.4 and some proposals with a view to enhancing cooperation in the field of illicit ship pollution discharges in the Mediterranean are put forward by the Secretariat (REMPEC) in document REMPEC/WG.41/11/1 referred to the present Meeting for its consideration.</p> <p>Furthermore, the MENELAS information system, which was developed in the context of the Regional – Governance and Knowledge generation (ReGoKo) Project implemented by Plan Bleu with technical support from the Centre and funded by the GEF, was launched on 14 December 2015 and was made available both in English and French through the following website: <a href="http://www.menelas.org/">http://www.menelas.org/</a>.</p> <p>Finally, REMPEC participated at the 20th Annual Meeting of the INTERPOL Pollution Crime Working Group (PCWG), which was held in Nimes, France, from 9 to 11 November 2015, in parallel with the international conference entitled “<i>Security and Environmental Crime: the impact on the environment, economy and economic actors</i>” hosted by the International Forum on Technology and Security for a safer world (FITS), as well as attended and delivered presentations on illicit ship pollution discharges at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Final Project Results Seminar of the ReGoKo Project organised by Plan Bleu (Antibes, France; 29-30 September 2015); and</li> <li>• the Seminar on Enforcement of Prohibition of Ship Source Pollution organised by EMSA within the framework of the TRACECA II Project Task 5.6, for which the Centre participated as a lecturer (Lisbon, Portugal; 24-25 November 2015).</li> </ul>	<p><b>ReGoKo Project</b></p> <p><b>MTF</b></p> <p><b>ReGoKo Project</b></p> <p><b>TRACECA II Project</b></p>
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		Finally, within the context of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)'s work on Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), REMPEC provided some feedback on the needs of the Mediterranean sea area for operational RPAS services to the Consultant performing the independent User Benefit Analysis Study for RPAS services in December 2015.	
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Within the framework of the EcAp MED II Project, REMPEC regularly attended on-line Task Force meetings as well as physically participated in the following meetings organised by the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat in collaboration with relevant UN Environment/MAP Components:

- Fifth Meeting of the EcAp Coordination Group (Rome, Italy; 15-17 September 2015);
- Inception Workshop “Implementation of the Ecosystems Approach in the Mediterranean: strengthening the Science Policy Interface” (Sophia Antipolis, France; 15-16 December 2015);



Annex IV

Activities related to the Regional Strategy (2016-2021) carried out by the Centre in line with the UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (February 2016 – April 2017)

Activity Number	Activity Title	Output	Source of Funding
<b>Governance</b>			
1.1.2.5.	Organize the Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC	Preparatory work was carried out for the present Meeting.	MTF
<b>Specific Objective 1: Ratification of relevant international maritime conventions related to the protection of the marine environment</b>			
3.2.1.11.	Assess the level of and support the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management and Action Plan	<p>Following the launch of a Call for Proposals for the provision of consultancy services for the assessment of the level of implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management on 2 March 2016, hereinafter referred to as the Assessment, a consultant was recruited by REMPEC on 5 April 2016 to support it in carrying out, in cooperation with the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat and the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC), the said assessment. The main objective of the Assessment was to report on the status of implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management, hereinafter referred to as the Mediterranean BWM Strategy, for each Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention, including a review and evaluation of the on-going relevance of the said Strategy and overall effectiveness of activities carried out under its Action Plan.</p> <p>A kick-off meeting was held with the Consultant at the REMPEC Offices in Valletta, Malta, from 7 to 8 April 2016 to discuss the content of the reference documents to be analysed, the scope of the assignment, as well as to agree on the method of work and communication channel.</p> <p>In accordance with the Terms of Reference, the following documents were prepared with a view to assessing the level of implementation, by each Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention, of the Strategic Priorities of the Mediterranean BWM Strategy and of the measures identified in the Action Plan to be taken at regional level, sub-regional or national level in accordance with the Strategic Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a generic Assessment Template based on the contents and structure of the Mediterranean BWM Strategy;</li> <li>• a specific Assessment Template for each Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention as well as REMPEC and SPA/RAC, which was based on the generic Assessment Template and pre-filled with information made available by the Centre as well as that arising from existing reporting procedures, including the REMPEC Country</li> </ul>	IMO's ITCP

		<p>Profiles available on REMPEC's website and the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS); and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a Synthetic Report on the Assessment, based on the response from Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.</li> </ul> <p>To that end, in August 2016, the Centre requested all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, through REMPEC Circular Letter No. 13/2016, to review, amend and complete, in track changes mode, the content of their specific Assessment Templates. Till the end of December 2016, only five (5) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention had reviewed their specific Assessment Template. Therefore, it was decided to extend the deadline for input to early 2017, which brought the number of responding Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to sixteen (16).</p> <p>The Synthetic Report on the Assessment, which provides a succinct account of the general status of implementation in statistical terms, specific recommendations under each Strategic Priority of the Mediterranean BWM Strategy as well as each measure identified in the Action Plan, and general conclusions, is presented in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.41/7 referred to the present Meeting for its consideration, prior to onward transmission, as appropriate, to the Meeting of the UN Environment/MAP Focal Points as well as COP 20, tentatively scheduled from 12 to 15 September 2017 and from 17 to 20 December 2017 respectively, for their consideration.</p> <p>Moreover, in its capacity of Regional Coordinating Organisation (RCO), REMPEC coordinated the implementation of the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships Programme in the Mediterranean region, in collaboration with SPA/RAC. In particular, the Centre participated in the following meetings for which it also coordinated, together with the PCU, the participation of Lead Partnering Countries in the region, namely Croatia and Turkey, as appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Sixth GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast R&amp;D Forum and Exhibition on Ballast Water Management (Montreal, Canada, 16-18 March 2016);</li> <li>• the First Croatia-GloBallast National GIA Conference on BWM (Zagreb, Croatia; 14-15 November 2016), for which it participated, as a speaker;</li> <li>• the Regional Training Workshop on practical aspects of RA and PBBS related to the implementation of the BWM Convention (Zagreb, Croatia; 16-17 November 2016); and</li> <li>• the final and Fifth Global Project Task Force (GPTF) Meeting (Panama City, Panama; 16-17 March 2017) convened back-to-back with the Panama Maritime XIII World Conference and Exhibition (Panama City, Panama; 12-15 March 2017).</li> </ul> <p>Finally, still in its capacity of RCO, REMPEC provided support, together with the PCU, to Croatia, as Lead Partnering Country, for the delivery of a pilot training course on CME of the BWM Convention at a training institution in Croatia with participation of national experts on sampling and analysis (Rijeka, Croatia; 2-3 February 2017).</p>	<p>GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships Programme</p>
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3.2.2.5.	Develop the regional risk assessment tool for compliance, monitoring and enforcement (CME) as well as exemptions under the Ballast Water Management Convention	Some discussions were held with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) through IMO to develop a regional risk assessment tool for CME as well as exemptions under the BWM Convention. However, EBRD indicated that it had so far not managed to secure funding to support this activity.	N/A
1.5.1.6.	Develop the Regional Ballast Water Information Exchange System	Refer to the output of activity 2.4.3.2. under Specific Objective 7.	N/A
<b>Specific Objective 2: To control and manage ships' biofouling to minimise the transfer of invasive aquatic species</b>			
3.2.2.4.	Disseminate the Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species	<p>The 2011 Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species (Biofouling Guidelines), which are presented in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.41/INF.7, are referred to the present Meeting for the perusal of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.</p> <p>The Guidance for minimizing the transfer of invasive aquatic species as biofouling (hull fouling) for recreational craft, which is presented in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.41/INF.8, is also referred to the present Meeting for the perusal of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.</p>	MTF



**Specific Objective 5: Provision of reception facilities in ports**

**Specific Objective 6: Delivery of ship-generated wastes**

<p>2.2.1.7.</p>	<p>Prepare the specific guidelines to determine the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, where appropriate, the application of a No-Special-Fee system, in line with the Regional Plan on Marine Litter</p>	<p>REMPEC contributed to the drafting of the GPGC/ENRTP UN Environment Project document, including budget, for the “Marine Litter-MED” Project that aims at supporting the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention from Southern Mediterranean / EU Neighbourhood to implement the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean within the framework of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol, through the implementation of a number of measures envisaged in the updated NAPs endorsed by COP 19. The component to be coordinated by REMPEC will focus on measures related to the better management of sea-based litter in ports, more specifically, the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, application of No-Special-Fee system, as well as the provision of reception facilities and the delivery of ship-generated wastes in selected major ports and marinas in the Mediterranean (Budget: EUR 204,000). Following the approval of the “Marine Litter-MED” Project by the EU, a letter of agreement for the implementation of part of the Project was signed by IMO and UN Environment/MAP on 16 December 2016.</p> <p>The following deliverables are expected at the end of the three-year project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a study based on a literature review on existing best practices in the Mediterranean as well as other European Regional Seas for the application of charges at reasonable costs and No-Special-Fee system for the use of port reception facilities, considering information available on the IMO Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS) and available documentation;</li> <li>• a field visit by Port Authorities representatives in one reference port;</li> <li>• up to ten pilots 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;</li> <li>• up to ten pilots related 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;</li> <li>• national meetings 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 MARPOL Annex V and from their legislation applicable in the field;</li> <li>• a regional/sub-regional workshop to share best practices on No-Special-Fee systems and pilots implemented;</li> <li>• a draft guidance document to determine the application of charges at reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable, the application of No-Special-Fee system; and</li> <li>• draft operational Guidelines on the provision of reception facilities in ports and the delivery of ship-generated wastes.</li> </ul>	<p>“Marine Litter-MED” Project</p>
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		<p>Moreover, REMPEC attended the Roundtable for enhancing regional coordination on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean, which was held in Athens, Greece on 6 September 2016, with a view to discussing the main elements for a marine litter regional collaboration platform, establishing a regional coordination group, exchanging views on its possible terms of references and membership, modalities of work as well as discussing on a proposed joint work plan as appropriate.</p> <p>Finally, REMPEC attended the Meeting of the EcAp Correspondence Group on Marine Litter Monitoring, which was convened in Madrid, Spain from 28 February 2017 to 2 March 2017, which was an opportunity to discuss with countries about the pilots 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 that port and the pilots related to the provision of reception facilities in ports and the delivery of ship-generated wastes.</p>	<p>MTF</p> <p>MTF</p>
<b>Specific Objective 7: Improved follow-up of pollution events as well as monitoring and surveillance of illicit discharges</b>			
2.4.3.2.	Produce maps of illicit discharges and accidental marine pollution from ships and offshore installation	<p>The following IT services are scheduled for 2017 (subject to budget revision) with a view to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>maintaining and updating the Regional Information System (RIS) as well as other relevant information systems and related data, including the REMPEC's website, the POSOW Project's website, the Maritime Integrated Decision Support Information System on Transport of Chemical Substances (MIDSIS-TROCS) and the MENELAS information system;</li> <li>keeping updated the related inventory of pre-positioned spill response equipment through the Mediterranean Integrated Geographical Information System on Marine Pollution Risk Assessment and Response (MEDGIS-MAR), which is expected to be upgraded to facilitate the mapping of illicit discharges in addition to accidental marine pollution from ships and offshore installations; and</li> <li>developing the Offshore Protocol Website and the Regional Ballast Water Information Exchange System.</li> </ul>	MTF
2.5.2.2.	Facilitate the participation of Contracting Parties to surveillance operations	<p>In consultation and collaboration with the Secretariat of the Agreement for cooperation in dealing with pollution of the North Sea by oil and other harmful substances, 1983 (Bonn Agreement), REMPEC sponsored two representatives from Algeria and Tunisia to participate, as observers, in the Special Co-ordinated Extended Pollution Control Operation (SpecialCEPCO 2016) organised in the Netherlands from 5 to 9 September 2016 within the context of the Bonn Agreement.</p>	MTF

Specific Objective 8: To improve the level of enforcement and of the prosecution of discharge offenders			
2.3.1.7.	Organize the Meeting of MENELAS	<p>At the time of writing this report, fourteen (14) Mediterranean coastal States and the European Union nominated their Designated Representatives (DR) to participate in the Network.</p> <p>REMPEC carried out preparatory work with a view to implementing the MENELAS Programme of Activities for the period 2016-2017. In this respect, between May and September 2016, REMPEC was assisted by a lawyer, who worked on a voluntary part-time basis. This entailed to analyse relevant information at Mediterranean level and synthetise findings into short reports on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IMO mandatory reporting system under MARPOL;</li> <li>• specific marine oil pollution detection/investigation reports;</li> <li>• applicable sanctions applied by Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention with regard to illicit ship pollution discharges; and</li> <li>• developments on the review of Recommendation 19/14 of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (Helsinki Commission or HELCOM) on a harmonized system of fines in case a ship violates anti-pollution regulations.</li> </ul> <p>REMPEC also attended and delivered presentations on illicit ship pollution discharges at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Eleventh Meeting of the EuroMed Maritime Working Group organised by EMSA, which reaffirmed <i>inter alia</i>, the need of coordination and cooperation within the framework of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021) and MENELAS (Brussels, Belgium; 20 April 2016); and</li> <li>• the Seminar entitled "<i>Climate, biodiversity, blue growth: what solutions for the Mediterranean?</i>" and the international expert seminar entitled "<i>What solutions for the Mediterranean?</i>" both organised by the French Ministry of the Environment, Energy and the Sea, in Paris, France, on 27 June 2016 and 23 February 2017, respectively.</li> </ul>	MTF

**Specific Objective 13: Reduction of marine noise caused by ships**

3.2.2.6.	Disseminate the IMO Guidelines for the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping to address adverse impacts on marine life	The Guidelines for the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping to address adverse impacts on marine life, which are presented in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.41/INF.9, is referred to the present Meeting for the perusal of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.	MTF
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**Specific Objective 14: To establish procedures for the designation of places of refuge in order to minimise the risks of widespread pollution**

**Specific Objective 16: To ensure that adequate emergency towing capacity is available throughout the Mediterranean to assist vessels, including tankers, in distress**

5.3.1.2.	Assist one country, which so request, to define procedures and draw up plan to deal with ships in distress	REMPEC participated, as a speaker, in the SAFEMED III Seminar on places of refuge, which was held at EMSA's headquarters in Lisbon, Portugal on 18 May 2016, and lectured on international cooperation: addressing the issue of places of refuge for ships in need of assistance in the Mediterranean. This seminar, which was attended by representatives from seven (7) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco and Turkey) as well as from Jordan and the Palestinian Authority, was also construed as training under the EU-funded project entitled " <i>Preparatory measures for the participation of Enlargement countries in EMSA's work</i> ". No request to define procedures and draw up plan to deal with ships in distress was made by any Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention during the period under review. This activity was incorporated in the West MOPoCo Project proposal under the 2016 Call for Proposals of the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO).	SAFEMED III Project
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2.7.1.4.	Assist the Mediterranean coastal States, which so request, to prepare a submission to IMO proposing the designation as a SOx ECA of the area or areas of the Mediterranean Sea	Refer to the output of activity 2.7.1.3. under the same Specific Objective.	MTF
<b>Specific Objective 17: To enhance the levels of prepositioned spill response equipment under the direct control of Mediterranean coastal States</b>			
1.5.1.4.	Maintain and update the regional information system and keep updated the related inventory of pre-positioned spill response equipment	Refer to the output of activity 2.4.3.2. under Specific Objective 7.	MTF

<b>Specific Objective 18: To encourage the participation of the regional scientific and technical institutions in research and development activities and to facilitate transfer of technology</b>			
1.4.4.2.	Implement the Project MEDESS-PLUS with the participation of national and regional research institutions and industry with a view to promoting and making use of tools developed through R&D activities undertaken in the Mediterranean region	REMPEC participated, as a partner, in a joint project proposal, namely the Mediterranean Decision Support Service - Platform for Upgraded Service (MEDESS-PLUS) within the framework of the Interreg MED Programme (Risk mapping pilot studies component). The MEDESS-PLUS project proposal coordinated by the Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change (CMCC) submitted in November 2015 had not been selected under this call, as confirmed in September 2016. Taking into account the relatively high mark of the project and the benefit of MEDESS to the Mediterranean coastal States based on the work done so far within MEDESS-4MS, the partners, among them REMPEC, agreed to explore other alternatives to re-submit a proposal.	N/A
<b>Specific Objective 19: To 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</b>			
1.5.1.5.	Maintain and update relevant information systems and related data including REMPEC's website, RIS, MIDSIS-TROCS and MENELAS information system	Refer to the output of activity 2.4.3.2. under Specific Objective 7.	MTF

1.5.2.4.	Streamline and rationalize the reporting obligations of the Contracting Parties, taking into consideration current reporting mechanisms, such as REMPEC's Country Profile, MEDGIS-MAR, MENELAS, BCRS and EcAp	As detailed in document REMPEC/WG.41/9 submitted to the present Meeting, under Agenda Item 9, the revised reporting format submitted in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED CC.12/6 to the Twelfth Meeting of the Compliance Committee of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, which was convened in Athens, Greece, from 24 to 25 January 2017, was built on existing datasets at Regional Activity Centres (RACs) level, including REMPEC's Country Profiles, and the MEDGIS-MAR databases, with a view to avoiding duplication. The compilation of comments on the Draft Revised Reporting Format for the Implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols from UN Environment/MAP Components is available in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED CC.12/Inf.4. For that purpose, the relevant sections of the report were either re-structured by providing Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention with the flexibility to upload information from RACs via clickable links (i.e. website/URL link/other reference) or further aligned with RACs datasets, thus avoiding duplication from several data sources. With the implementation of these measures, the objective of this activity to avoid duplications in the reporting process has been accomplished.	N/A
2.4.1.4.	Support the development of a quality assurance programme for oil and HNS pollution from ships and offshore data reporting and collection in line with the EcAp Monitoring Programme	<p>REMPEC provided technical support to the development of a quality assurance programme for oil and hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) pollution from ships and offshore data reporting and collection in line with IMAP (Decision IG.22/7), within the framework of the "<i>Mediterranean Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, in coherence with the European Union (EU) Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)</i>" – EcAp-MED II Project. In particular, REMPEC prepared the necessary terms of references for the provision of consultancy services for the development of a quality assurance programme for data reporting and collection in accordance with Article 5 of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol as well as for the establishment of regional offshore monitoring procedures and programmes in accordance with Article 19 of the Offshore Protocol.</p> <p>Two consultants were recruited and kick-off Meetings were held in Athens, Greece, from 20 to 21 and from 22 to 23 September 2016 respectively. A meeting document (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.427/6) and the related PowerPoint presentation were prepared by REMPEC with a view to providing detailed information on the time table and the expected outcomes of this initiative at the Meeting of the EcAp Correspondence Group on Pollution Monitoring, which was convened in Marseille, France, from 19 to 21 October 2016. The following outputs were delivered by the Secretariat (REMPEC):</p> <p><b>Shipping-related deliverables:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• detailed work plan and inception report;</li> <li>• list of monitoring obligations under applicable international regulations;</li> <li>• list of pollutants and parameters monitored in the context of the monitoring obligations referred to above;</li> </ul>	EcAp MED II Project

- list of existing reporting procedures at international and regional level related to pollutants and parameters referred to above;
- matrix linking the above-mentioned to the relevant IMAP qualitative indicators and, where required, related fact sheets based on the agreed template;
- gap analysis, conclusion and recommendations;
- review and input on the IMAP Guidance fact sheets; and
- 2017 QSR assessment fact sheet.

**Offshore-related deliverables:**

- detailed work plan and inception report;
- list of pollutants to be monitored as well as potential emerging pollutants resulting from new techniques applied by Operators for exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf and the seabed and its subsoil, including the rationale for their selection;
- contribution to the consultation process with relevant private sector stakeholders and with Competent Authorities;
- questionnaire for private sector stakeholders and Competent Authorities;
- list of parameters to be monitored by Operators for exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf and the seabed and its subsoil, including an analysis of methodological guidance for their monitoring and data availability; and
- check list with minimum requirements to enable Competent Authorities to establish a National Monitoring Inspection Programme aimed at inspecting the regular monitoring by Operators of the installations and the impact of the activities on the environment.

Whilst the shipping-related deliverables are presented in document REMPEC/WG.41/9 referred to the present Meeting for its consideration, the offshore-related deliverables were presented to and discussed at the First Meeting of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG) Sub-Group on Environmental Impact of Offshore Monitoring Programmes held in Loutraki, Greece, from 3 to 4 April 2017, which was coordinated by the MED POL Programme, with the technical support of REMPEC. The meeting was attended by participants from the following Contracting Parties: Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey. The UN Environment/MAP was represented by the MED POL Programme and REMPEC. The meeting was also attended by Oil Spill Response Limited and Noble Energy Inc. The Meeting adopted a set of conclusions and recommendations as laid down in Annex III to the report of the Meeting (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/10).

		<p>Furthermore, within the framework of the EcAp MED II Project, REMPEC regularly attended on-line Task Force meetings as well as physically participated in the following meetings organised by the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat in collaboration with relevant UN Environment/MAP Components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting of the EcAp Correspondence Group on Pollution Monitoring (Marseille, France; 19 to 21 October 2016); and</li> <li>• Meeting of the EcAp Correspondence Group on Marine Litter Monitoring (Madrid, Spain; 28 February- 2 March 2017).</li> </ul>	
2.6.1.3.	Assess possible synergies to interconnect RIS with CECIS and organise a training course on CECIS	<p>As detailed in document REMPEC/WG.41/12, progress has been made on this topic in the context of the annual Inter-Secretariat Meeting between Regional Agreements Secretariats, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). The CECIS Resources Database has first been jointly reviewed by DG ECHO and EMSA with the input provided in 2015 and 2016 by the Regional Agreements on their regional inventories (e.g. MEDGIS-MAR and RIS for the Mediterranean region). The revision of the CECIS Marine Pollution Resources Database structure had been completed. Since then, REMPEC has been granted access to the CECIS Marine Pollution. Further work is required to enable any possible interaction between the CECIS Marine Pollution Resources Database and the regional databases. In this regard, it should be noted that the opening of CECIS Marine Pollution to third countries sharing a sea basin with the EU is a slower process still in progress. Although technical aspects could be overcome with the required means, the terms and conditions of the interconnection between CECIS Marine Pollution and MEDGIS-MAR as well as RIS, including <i>inter alia</i> the related data access rights will eventually be defined by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.</p>	
<b>Specific Objective 20: To increase as much as practical, the level of knowledge in the field of preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution by oil and other harmful substances</b>			
2.5.1.4.	Assist in the development and implementation of national training programme on response to oil and HNS spills	<p>The delivery of a training course at managerial and response levels for HNS response was one of the recommendations of the Fact-Finding Mission, coordinated by REMPEC and implemented by Cedre, from 8 to 12 February 2015, and presented in Cairo to the competent authorities and other stakeholders during a meeting convened on 7 June 2015. Consequently, resources were mobilised from IMO's ITCP to support the establishment of the "Egyptian National Response System to marine pollution from Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS)", through the Activity "National Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Response Training Course", which will be coordinated by REMPEC. The aim is to provide the required knowledge at the level recommended after the above mentioned fact finding mission (i.e. HNS Survey Team Member; HNS Survey Team Leader; and HNS Response Member). In May 2016, REMPEC initiated the preparation of the National HNS Training Course in collaboration with EEAA, Cedre and ITOPF. Initially programmed for 3-8 September 2016, in Cairo, this activity is postponed to the second half of 2017.</p>	IMO's ITCP

<p>2.5.1.5.</p>	<p>Implement the project for Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline clean-up and Oiled Wildlife interventions – POSOW</p>	<p>In 2012-2013, the two year project for Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline clean-up and Oiled Wildlife interventions – POSOW (hereinafter referred to as POSOW I) helped establish regional cooperation synergies in the field of marine pollution through the enhancement of knowledge and capacities of professional and volunteer operators working in civil protection services, in municipalities and in NGOs, in some European Union coastal Countries of the Mediterranean Sea, namely Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Slovenia and Spain. Four training material packages (volunteer management, oiled shoreline assessment, oiled shoreline clean-up and oiled wildlife response) including manuals, PowerPoint presentations, instructor manuals, posters were developed in English. Posters and PowerPoint presentations were translated in the six languages used in the targeted countries. Two Train-the-trainers courses were held in Cedre in 2013 and 9 National Pilot Training Courses were convened in each targeted country (2 in Spain). All the 276 people trained were recorded in a database.</p> <p>The POSOW II project aimed at expanding the achievements of POSOW I to some targeted Mediterranean European Neighbourhood Policy Countries and EU candidate Countries and potential candidates not participating in the Mechanism (referred to as Mediterranean European Neighbourhood Policy Countries and Enlargement Countries) to improve the oil spill response preparedness of the national civil protection in these countries, their mutual cooperation, as well as facilitate the support of the European Civil Protection Mechanism in case of request for assistance from one or more of these countries, namely: Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey.</p> <p>This 2-year project was initiated on 1 January 2015 and completed on 31 December 2016. POSOW II was coordinated Cedre in close cooperation with REMPEC, ISPRA, FEPORTS, AASTMT and DG-MARINWA.</p> <p>POSOW II was set to cover the themes of waste management and role of fishermen involved in response on water. Manuals, posters, PowerPoint presentations and Instructor manuals have been produced in English by Cedre and FEPORTS in co-operation with all partners. All the materials developed during POSOW I and II have been translated into Turkish by DG-MARINWA and into Arabic by AASTMT. The movie and the brochure have been up-dated by ISPRA. Two (2) four-days Train-the-trainers courses on the 6 POSOW themes, were organised at Cedre between 19 and 22 April 2016 as well as between 26 and 29 April 2016 in cooperation with REMPEC, ISPRA and FEPORTS for the future trainers from the seven (7) targeted countries and from Portugal. The trainers trained were then tasked to run a National Pilot Training Course in their respective countries, drawing on the materials available in their language. Six (6) National Pilot Training Courses were organised in Egypt between 27 and 29 November 2016, in Morocco between 20 and 21 December 2016, in Tunisia between 11 and 13 October 2016 and in Turkey between 11 and 13 October 2016. For Libya, with the in-kind contribution of MOIG, a Train-the-trainers course was organised in Tunisia between 22 and 24 November 2016 taking into account that participants from Libya could not attend the Train-the-trainers Course organised by Cedre, in France, in April 2016. All the trainees, including forty-three (43) representatives for the Train-the-trainers courses and one hundred and thirty-three (133) participants for the National Pilot Training Courses have been recorded in the POSOW database by REMPEC. One hundred seventy-three (173) volunteers from sixteen (16) countries are now registered in the POSOW database.</p>	<p>EU Civil Protection Financial Instrument; - Cedre-REMPEC, - ISPRA, - FEPORTS, - AASTMT, - DG-MARINWA</p>
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<p><b>Specific Objective 21: To revise the existing recommendations, principles and guidelines, and to develop new ones aimed at facilitating international cooperation and mutual assistance within the framework of 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol</b></p>			
<p>2.2.1.9.</p>	<p>Update Principles and Guidelines on cooperation and mutual assistance</p>	<p>As detailed in document REMPEC/WG.41/8, following the publication of a call for proposals for the provision of consultancy services for the review of the Mediterranean "Principles and Guidelines on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance related to Oil and HNS Pollution Incidents. in February 2016, REMPEC selected and recruited a consultant in March 2016. Mid-June 2016, the first Draft submitted by the consultant was reviewed whilst comments and recommendations have been formulated, discussed and approved to provide the Mediterranean coastal States with additional support and guidance to enable them to ensure structured coordination among all stakeholders potentially involved in major marine pollution incidents, more specifically with regard to the management of requests and offers of assistance. REMPEC, with the assistance of the consultant, developed a draft "Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents" including the revised "Principles and Guidelines". The draft Guide was submitted to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and relevant stakeholders, and was discussed at the Workshop on cooperation arrangements in the field of preparedness and response to oil and HNS spills (MEDEXPOL 2016) held in Malta from 14 to 15 December 2016. Twenty-nine (29) participants representing fourteen (14) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Albania, Algeria, Croatia, European Union, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain and Tunisia) as well as Regional and International Organisations (IMO, ITOPI, Federazione Nazionale dell'Industria Chimica (FEDERCHIMICA), MOIG, the Mediterranean Operational Network for the Global Ocean Observing System (MONGOOS) and Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL)) participated in this Meeting. The Meeting approved a set of Conclusions and Recommendations as laid down in Annex IV to the report of this Meeting, which is presented in document REMPEC/WG.41/INF.6. The "Draft Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents" reviewed on the basis of these recommendations and Conclusion, including a proposed revised version of the existing Mediterranean Principles and Guidelines on cooperation and mutual assistance, is submitted to the Twelfth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, in Annex I to document REMPEC/WG.41/8, for review and adoption.</p>	<p>MTF IMO's ITCP IPIECA</p>

2.2.1.8.	Update Guidelines on risk of gaseous release after marine incident	<p>As detailed in document REMPEC/WG.41/13 submitted to the present Meeting, one of the objectives of the West MOPoCo Project proposal submitted to the 2016 Call for prevention and preparedness projects in the field of civil protection and marine pollution, was to support the update of the Guidelines on Risk of gaseous releases resulting from marine incidents.</p> <p>Considering the outcome of the selection process and with a view to carry out the update of these Guidelines within the programme of work of the MTWG for the biennium 2016/2017, the Centre initiated discussions to start this task in 2017, following the required administrative procedures.</p>	
2.6.1.4.	Organize a technical regional workshop (MEDEXPOL) and a high level meeting on cooperation arrangements in the field of preparedness and response to oil and HNS spills	<p>In view of the preparation of the High-level Meeting, an Inter-Agency Meeting on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance related to Oil &amp; HNS Pollution Incidents in the Mediterranean Region was convened on 25 February 2016, at IMO Headquarters, London, United Kingdom. The Meeting attended by representatives from the IMO, UN Environment/MAP, the Joint UN Environment/OCHA Unit (JEU) and REMPEC, successfully achieved its objective to exchange views and develop a common strategy towards synergies between UN initiatives and EU structures in the area of preparedness and response to oil and hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) spills.</p> <p>With the theme “Cooperation in the Mediterranean to Prevent and Combat Marine Pollution from Ships”, REMPEC launched on the 4th October 2016, the celebrations of its 40th Anniversary. Over one hundred and thirty (130) participants representing Mediterranean coastal States, organisations and institutions, attended the High-level Meeting that aimed primarily at bringing together all relevant stakeholders under one forum and with one clear objective, to collaborate and strive towards the protection of the Mediterranean Sea. The Meeting was organised on the 4th October 2016 in Valletta, Malta, in collaboration with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for Transport and Infrastructure, and the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change, of the Republic of Malta. The Maltese Government financially contributed to the organisation of the event (EUR 25,000). The Meeting was opened by His Excellency Mr Kitack Lim, IMO Secretary-General, Mr Jan Dusík, Director of the Europe Office of UN Environment, and the Honourable Dr George W. Vella, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Mr Joe Mizzi, Minister for Transport and Infrastructure and the Honourable Dr José A. Herrera, Minister for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change, who reaffirmed the support of the Government of Malta to REMPEC’s regional mission in the years to come. During the Ministerial Session chaired by the Honourable Dr George W. Vella, Ministers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus and Greece together with twelve (12) other representatives of the twenty (20) Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention attending the event, expressed their satisfaction on REMPEC’s achievements and called on its continuous assistance within its mandate and beyond, in particular for the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan. Mr Gaetano Leone, UN Environment/MAP Coordinator, moderated the first panel with former Directors/Head of Office of the Centre, whilst Mr Gabino Gonzalez, Head of Office of REMPEC, moderated the second panel gathering long standing Partners.</p>	<p>MTF</p> <p>Voluntary Contribution from the Government of Malta</p>

		<p>The following Ministers attended the event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Honourable Dr George W. Vella, Minister for Foreign Affairs (Malta), Chairperson of the meeting;</li> <li>• The Honourable Mr Joe Mizzi, Minister for Transport and Infrastructure (Malta);</li> <li>• The Honourable Dr José A. Herrera, Minister for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change (Malta);</li> <li>• The Honourable Mr Ismir Jusko, Minister of Communications and Transport (Bosnia and Herzegovina);</li> <li>• The Honourable Mr Mirko Šarović, Minister of Foreign Trade &amp; Economic Relations (Bosnia and Herzegovina);</li> <li>• The Honourable Mr Marius Demetriades, Minister of Transport, Communications and Works (Cyprus); and</li> <li>• The Honourable Mr Thodoris Dritsas, Minister of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy (Greece).</li> </ul> <p>A commemorative book was published and distributed to the Dignitaries and participants, whilst a video produced for the event was projected during the event. The video production and the filming of the event will be made available on REMPEC website during Q1 2017. Further to the High-level Meeting follow-up letter co-signed by the Honourable Dr George W. Vella, Minister for Foreign Affairs (Malta), and REMPEC, addressed to relevant Ministers of all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, including Commissioner Vella, it has been agreed to set a meeting with the European Commission (DG ENV, DG ECHO, DG MOVE) and other EU relevant agencies to discuss further cooperation with REMPEC.</p>	
<p><b>Specific Objective 22: To strengthen the capacity of individual coastal States to respond efficiently to marine pollution incidents through development of sub-regional operational agreements and contingency plans</b></p>			
<p>2.3.1.8.</p>	<p>Provide expertise for the development and implementation of national preparedness and response systems and/or for the identification of the minimum required level of pre-positioned State-controlled</p>	<p>Technical support was provided by REMPEC at the stakeholder Consultation Meeting relating to the development of the National Contingency Plan of Lebanon entitled “<i>Gap Analysis, Challenges and Way Forward</i>” within the SODEL Project on 10-12 February 2016. As per the long standing cooperation practice, ITOPF, agreed to provide technical in-kind expertise to assist Lebanon through REMPEC. The Centre followed up the activity with the competent authority, and provided comments and guidance on the Draft of the National Contingency Plan of Lebanon produced by the consultant at the end of June 2016. Subsequently comments from REMPEC and ITOPF on the Draft National Oil Spill Contingency Plan for Lebanon were submitted to the Lebanese authorities on 3 August 2016 for their consideration. The Head of Office of REMPEC intervened at the opening ceremony of the Launch of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan for Lebanon, which was held on 10 October 2016, Beirut, Lebanon, and attended <i>inter alia</i>, by HE Mohamad El Machnouk, Minister of Environment and HE Arthur Nazarian, Minister of Energy and Water. During the event, discussion were convened with UNDP and the Lebanese Petroleum Administration (LPA) representatives to sustain the efforts taking into account the approval of two offshore oil and gas decrees, allowing the country’s offshore licensing round, stalled since 2013. Comments from REMPEC and ITOPF related to the drill and training to test the final draft version of NOSCP were also submitted to the Lebanese authorities.</p>	<p>MTF</p> <p>UNDP</p> <p>ITOPF in-kind contribution</p>

	spill response equipment	<p>REMPEC also participated in or contributed to the following exercises during the period under review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oil tank leakage from unknown vessel (Israel, April 2016);</li> <li>• RAMOGEPOL 2016 exercise (Monaco, April 2016);</li> <li>• Simulex 2016 (Morocco, April 2016);</li> <li>• Tier 2 Oil Spill Exercise (ALJURF Offshore Oil Field, Libya, May 2016);</li> <li>• Tier 2 Oil Spill Response Exercise (STIR Jetty in Zarzouna, Bizerta, Tunisia May 2016);</li> <li>• Collision oil tanker with container vessel generating a spill of oil (Israel, June 2016); and</li> <li>• Drill on the final NOSCP Lebanon (Lebanon, October 2016).</li> </ul>	
2.6.1.1.	Support the organization of sub-regional joint activities and meetings	<p>IMO's ITCP supported, through REMPEC, the participation of representatives from Albania, Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina and Montenegro to attend the third Adriatic Oil Spill Conference (ADRIASPILLCON 2016) held in Opatija, Croatia, from 10 to 12 May 2016, under the auspices of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia. REMPEC's OPRC Focal Points of all six Adriatic countries attended an <i>ad hoc</i> working Meeting chaired by the Croatian Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure, which was organised on 10 May 2016, in the margins of the conference, to discuss potential way forward to increase cooperation among the countries in the region in the field of accidental marine pollution preparedness and response.</p> <p>Within the framework of the "Joint Declaration of Intent on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection" signed by the Ministers responsible for environment of Cyprus, Greece and Israel in Jerusalem April 2016, which identified inter alia the protection of marine and coastal environment and "in particular preparedness and response to major marine pollution incidents in the Mediterranean, resulting from ships, offshore hydrocarbon (oil and gas) exploration and exploitation activities and hydrocarbon pipelines" as the first priority area in which the three countries intend to advance their cooperation, the competent national authorities of the three countries agreed to develop and implement a joint sub-regional marine pollution contingency plan and requested the assistance of REMPEC. In accordance with its mandate, and in consultation with the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat, REMPEC agreed to assist Cyprus, Greece and Israel in the development of a joint Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (CGI SCP), as well as of an Agreement concerning its implementation. Subsequently, a call for proposals for the provision of consultancy services to support the preparation of Sub-Regional Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Israel was published on 22 August 2016 and a consultant was recruited. The Competent National Authorities for the Preparation of the CGI SCP was, convened in Barcelona, Spain on 9 December 2016, to review and discuss the National Contingency Plans (NCPs) of each Party, the concept for the development of the SCP and the preliminary proposal of its contents. REMPEC with the support of a consultant, then prepared the first Draft of the CGI SCP and the First Draft of the Agreement to implement the CGI SCP, which were and discussed during the Second Meeting of the Competent National Authorities for the Preparation of the CGI SCP, held in Valletta, Malta, 13 December 2016. The Working Group on the Drafting of an Sub-regional Marine Pollution Contingency Plan met on the invitation of the Government of Cyprus on the 23 February 2017 at the Ministry of</p>	<p>IMO's ITCP</p> <p>MTF</p>

		<p>Agriculture, Rural development and Environment, Nicosia, Cyprus, to further review the draft CGI SCP and agreed on a programme, including the next Meeting of the competent national authorities, to be convened in Cyprus, in July 2017, with a view to ensuring the signature of the Agreement related to the CGI SCP prior to the end of 2017.</p> <p>Further to a request from the Minister for Environment and Sustainable development of Tunisia, the Centre mobilise funds from IMO's ITCP to support the Tier 3 exercise to be organised by the Government of Tunisia in September 2017 to test the "Supporting Operational Document (Manuel de Procedure) for the implementation of the National Contingency Plan", recently finalised by the Tunisian National Agency for the Protection of the Environment (ANPE). REMPEC will facilitate the participation of representatives from Algeria and Morocco, as neighbouring countries and Parties to the Agreement concerning the Sub-Regional Contingency Plan for the South-Western Mediterranean signed in 2005 between Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, with a view to strengthening cooperation and revitalising the sub regional agreement.</p> <p>REMPEC participated in the Joint Research Centre (JRC) 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop under the Virtual Centre of Offshore Safety Expertise on "External Emergency Response Planning, held in Ravenna, Italy, from 5 to 7 April 2017. This event, supported by the European Commission's Directorate General for Energy (DG ENER) and organised by the European Commission's JRC and the Italian Ministry of Economic Development in collaboration with the Italian Coast Guard, was the first workshop to be convened under the Virtual Centre of Offshore Safety Expertise covering topics of primary interest to guarantee high levels of safety and environmental protection in the EU waters. REMPEC delivered a presentation focused on its mandate and role in preparedness for and response to marine pollution incident and referred to recent developments in the field of emergency response planning at the Mediterranean, sub-regional and national level.</p>	IMO's ITCP
2.6.1.5.	<p>Maintain the level of preparedness of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU), for assisting the CPs in case of emergency</p>	<p>The renewal of REMPEC's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) within the framework of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU) with ISPRA is in its final stage, whilst the final draft MoU with FEDERCHIMICA was approved and is pending signature following the update of the list of experts in annex to the MoU. The MoUs between REMPEC and Sea Alarm, between REMPEC and Cedre as well as between REMPEC and MONGOOS were renewed.</p> <p>In the context of the MoU between MONGOOS and REMPEC, the Centre delivered a presentation at the Copernicus Marine User Workshop, La Spezia, Italy, 3-4 December 2015, to present the use of Copernicus marine services in the context of REMPEC activities.</p> <p>In addition, from 9 March to 15 March 2017, REMPEC activated the MAU through MONGOOS - Emergency Response Office (ERO) for the preparation of simulations of the worst case scenario of pollution incident in Ras Lanuf and Es Sidra Terminals according to data provided by REMPEC's OPRC focal point in Libya and those available on MEDGIS-MAR, in the context of a potential risk of marine pollution from the said terminals. .</p>	

		<p>In accordance with Decision IG 17/18 (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/20 Annex V) adopted by the Fifteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 15), held in Almeria, Spain, between 15 and 18 January 2008, to maintain the funding of the MAU, established by a decision adopted by the Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 8), which was convened in Antalya, Turkey, from 12 to 15 October 1993, at a level equivalent to the average expenses of a one month mission, the Centre has been transferring any surplus funds allocated to the budget line providing for the level of preparedness of the MAU to the MAU special revolving funds, which balance is as of March 2017 USD 31,408. The threshold above mentioned, which has been estimated to USD 36,150 will be reached by the end of 2021, should the revolving funds not be used by then.</p>	
2.6.1.6.	<p>Prepare 2 project documents and implement the Marine Oil &amp; HNS Pollution in the Western Mediterranean Region (West MOPoCo and West MOPoEx)</p>	<p>As detailed in paragraph 31 and 32, in March 2016, REMPEC submitted, together with Western Mediterranean Coastal States and other partners, a joint project proposal, namely the Western Mediterranean Region Marine Oil &amp; HNS Pollution Cooperation (West MOPoCo) Project as part of the 2016 Call for prevention and preparedness projects in the field of civil protection and marine pollution.</p> <p>The Centre was informed in October 2016 about the official confirmation that the West MOPoCo Proposal was not selected in first round and that it was ranked in the third position in the reserve list and its potential selection was subject to the availability of additional funds. In the absence of confirmation of such additional funds, the Centre followed-up with Focal Points and its Partners, on a bilateral basis, the request for confirmation of interest for a possible submission of an amended proposal to the 2017 Call for Proposals for prevention and preparedness projects in the field of civil protection and marine pollution, which was expected to be published towards the end of 2016. Following the confirmation of interest of all Focal Points and Partners for a new submission of the West MOPoCo Project Proposal to the 2017 Call for Proposals, which was published on 28 February 2017, the Centre in collaboration with all partners initiated the preparation of the said proposal to be submitted prior to the deadline of 11 May 2017. Considering the link between West MOPoCo and West MOPoEx, it was agreed that submission on West MOPoEx should preferably be made once West MOPoCo is implemented, to enable the testing of arrangements under West MOPoCo.</p>	N/A



## **Annex V**

### **Activities related to the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan carried out by the Centre in line with the UN Environment/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (February 2016 – March 2017)**

#### **Drafting of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (Activity 1.2.6 from PoW 2014-2015)**

1 Decision IG.20/12 of Seventeenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 17) (Paris, France, February 2012) mandated the preparation of an Action Plan with a view to facilitating the effective implementation of the Offshore Protocol.

2 The draft Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan was prepared by the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat with substantive contribution of REMPEC taking into account the findings of the studies and the recommendations made by the Contracting Parties and the results of a wide consultative process. This included three meetings of the Offshore Protocol Working Group, respectively in mm/yy, the review by the Meeting of the EcAp Coordination Group in 2014 and by the Joint Session of the Eleventh Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC and the Meeting of MED POL Focal Points (Malta, 17 June 2015). The Final Draft Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan addresses the governance framework for its implementation, the development of regional offshore standards and guidelines, the establishment of a regional offshore monitoring programme and reporting aspects.

3 The proposed draft decision was reviewed by the Meeting of the UN Environment/MAP Focal Points (Athens, Greece, 13-16 October 2015) and endorsed for submission to COP 19 for its adoption.

4 The Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/28, Decision IG.22/3) was adopted by COP19, Athens, Greece on 12 February 2016.

#### **Develop the Offshore Protocol website (UN Environment/MAP MTS Activity Number 1.5.1.7 from PoW 2016-2017)**

5 Discussion with the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat have been engaged to identify possible way forward for the implementation of this activity. At this stage, the resources required for the implementation of this activity have not been secured and no progress has been made on this matter.

#### **Develop the common offshore standards on the disposal of oil and oily mixtures, the use and disposal of drilling fluids and cutting and analytical measurements (UN Environment/MAP MTS Activity Number 2.2.1.3 from PoW 2016-2017)**

#### **Prepare EIA guidelines from Offshore activities (UN Environment/MAP MTS Activity Number 2.2.1.10. from PoW 2016-2017))**

#### **Develop the offshore common standards and guidelines for Special restrictions or conditions for specially protected areas (UN Environment/MAP MTS Activity Number 3.2.2.7 from PoW 2016-2017)**

6 REMPEC and the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat met the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (IOGP) in London, United Kingdom on 27 October 2016 to support this activity and discuss the industry's possible contribution to assist in the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan, through technical and financial support as well as staff secondment. A call for proposals was published on 1 December 2016 for the development of the common offshore standards on the disposal of oil and oily mixtures, the use and disposal of drilling fluids and cutting and analytical measurements as well as the EIA Guidelines from Offshore activities. Due to absence of proposals, extended new call will be issued, following additional contact with IOGP. The global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues – IPIECA and other stakeholders are assisting in identifying potential consultants.

#### **Assess funding opportunities for the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (UN Environment/MAP MTS Activity Number 2.1.1.5. from PoW 2016-2017)**

7 Whilst recalling that the Regional Strategy (2016-2021) was fully integrated in the UN Environment/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 reproduced in the Annex to Decision IG.22/1 adopted by COP 19, it should be noted that according to this Decision, the Secretariat has been requested to maximise efforts for the implementation of the MTS in an integrated manner and for the mobilisation of adequate resources through the updated Resource Mobilisation Strategy for 2016-2017 (Annex II of the Decision), in cooperation with Contracting Parties and partner organisations.

8 In this context, the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat initiated the update of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy in consultation with the UN Environment/MAP Components and will present the proposed revised Strategy to the Meeting of the UN Environment/MAP Focal Points to be held in Athens, from 12 to 15 September 2017.

9 In the process of assessment of funding opportunities for the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan, the above-mentioned contact with IOGP, was considered.

**Support the development of a quality assurance programme for oil and HNS pollution from ships and offshore data reporting and collection in line with the EcAp Monitoring Programme (UN Environment/MAP MTS Activity Number 2.4.1.4. from PoW 2016-2017)**

10 The progress made on this activity relevant to Specific Objective 9 of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan – *To establish regional offshore monitoring procedures and programmes*, is presented in **Annex IV** to the present document.

**Develop the templates for the report on the national implementation of the Offshore Action Plan, data collection and public information (UN Environment/MAP MTS Activity Number 2.4.2.3. from PoW 2016-2017)**

An intern joined REMPEC mid-June 2016 for a period of three months and assisted the Centre in the preparation of an initial draft document on this issue.

**Organize training course on Offshore platform Preparedness and Response & Contingency Plan Assessment (UN Environment/MAP MTS Activity Number 2.5.1.6. from PoW 2016-2017)**

At this stage, the resources required for the implementation of this activity have not been secured and no progress has been made on this matter.