





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

Fourth Meeting of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG) Sub-Group on Environmental Impact

Floriana, Malta, 23-24 May 2023

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Agenda Item 5: Progress on the implementation of Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan

Update on the status of implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan, challenges identified in its implementation and those ahead and a proposal for a future way forward for the further implementation of the Plan

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Note by the Secretariat

The present document provides: 1) a short introductory overview of the key trends in oil and gas activities in the Mediterranean Sea providing the background context for the subsequent three sections; 2) update on the status of implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan; 3) challenges identified on the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan and those ahead; and 4) proposal for a future way forward for the further implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan.

Introduction

- The Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (MOAP) provides for the achievement of 10 specific objectives, structured around four main components, namely (i) Governance Framework; (ii) Regional Offshore Standards and Guidelines; (iii) Monitoring and (iv) Reporting. The timeline of its implementation is 2016 to 2024.
- The present document is composed of four parts: 1) a short introductory overview of the key trends in oil and gas activities in the Mediterranean Sea providing the background context for the subsequent three sections; 2) update on the status of implementation of the MOAP; 3) challenges identified on the implementation of the Plan and challenges to anticipate; and 4) proposals for a future way forward for the further implementation of the MOAP.

Overview of the offshore activities in the Mediterranean Sea

- 3 In 2021 a study commissioned by REMPEC (EP/MED WG.498/Inf.4) provided a comprehensive analysis of the trends and outlook of marine pollution from ships and activities, and of maritime traffic and offshore activities in the Mediterranean Sea, including offshore oil and gas activities.
- Since the 1990s, an overall decreasing trend has been observed in oil production in the Mediterranean Sea, including a marked variability after 2001, as compared to the substantially stable global trend since 2001. Today, the main offshore oil producers in the Mediterranean Sea are Egypt and Libya, whereas Italy, Tunisia, Greece and Spain are characterized by a decreasing trend in oil production.
- Compared to the offshore oil production, the Mediterranean Sea plays a more significant role in gas production at the global level, with the trend in offshore gas production showing a clear and marked increase since the 1980s. Egypt is the main offshore gas producer in the Mediterranean Sea (the majority of fields are located off the Northern coast of Egypt), historically, followed by Italy. In recent years, the Italian production of offshore natural gas decreased significantly, while the production of Israel has greatly increased, in particular, owing to the discovery of, and production in, the rich Leviathan gas field. In the coming years, other Eastern Mediterranean countries are expected to enter the offshore gas market as producers.
- The Covid-19 crisis caused a temporary decline in global oil demand as well as a reduction of the multinational oil companies (sometimes referred to as the "Majors") exploration budget. Changes are to be anticipated in the demands of Oil/Gas following international sanctions on one of the main producer post-February 2022. This is reflected in the 'Oil Market Reports' of the International Energy Agency (IEA).
- The report IEA "Oil 2021, Analysis and Forecast to 2026", makes the distinction between the National Oil Companies (NOCs) having a tendency to be committed to hydrocarbons and Majors shifting towards transition. Indirectly, it reflects that after a certain time in production, these companies tend to sell their installations to either smaller companies or to the relevant countries.
- The Barry Rogliano Salles (BRS) Group Annual Review for 2023¹ anticipates that in the conventional oil and gas sectors, the geopolitical turmoil and the on-going emphasis on energy security have further boosted exploration and development programmes. It mentions that multiple new projects were approved in 2022 by the Majors and independents. Furthermore, NOCs, including, Petrobras, Pemex, and Saudi Aramco, announced projects as they aimed to maximise national output against the backdrop of a global energy crisis. In terms of perspectives, the BRS Annual Review anticipates that in the short term the constraining factors will be supply and cost control as every aspect of the supply chain

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¹ Source: https://www.brsbrokers.com/annualreview2023.html

grapples with the sudden increase in demand. Across the medium term, and a revitalized environment, traditional oil and gas contractors will have to adapt to these new perspectives

- 9 The overall decreasing trend in oil production in the Mediterranean Sea, added to the current constraining factors, raise a need for specific attention to the ageing offshore infrastructures.
- 10 At the global level, discussions are on-going in regards to the evolution of other offshore activities, such as, windfarms, Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), and Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS).

Status of implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan

The update of the status of implementation of the MOAP is based on information available to the Secretariat and on the National Implementation Reports submitted by the Contracting Parties (CPs) through the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS) for the last three biennia (2016-2017; 2018-2019; 2020-2021) shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Overview of the national reporting on the Offshore Protocol

	Reporting on Offshore Protocol on BCR				
Contracting Party	2016-2017	2018-2019	2020-2021		
Albania#	Y	No envelope	No envelope		
Algeria	Empty envelope	No envelope	No envelope		
Bosnia Herzegovina	Y	Y	Y		
Croatia*#	Y	Y	Y		
Cyprus*#	Y	Y	Y		
Egypt #	Empty form	No envelope	No envelope		
France	Empty form	No envelope	No envelope		
Greece #	Y	Y	Y		
Israel #	Y	Y	Y		
Italy #	Y	Y	Y		
Lebanon #	Empty form	Empty form	Empty form		
Libya*#	Empty envelope	No envelope	No envelope		
Malta	Empty form	No envelope	No envelope		
Monaco	Empty form	No envelope	No envelope		
Montenegro	Y	Y	Y		
Morocco*	Y	Y	Y		
Slovenia	Empty form	No envelope	No envelope		
Spain #	Y	Y	Y		
Syria	Empty form	No envelope	No envelope		
Tunisia*#	Empty envelope	No envelope	No envelope		
Türkiye#	Incomplete	No envelope	No envelope		
European Community*	Y	Y	Y		

^{* /} Color code green: Contracting Parties that have ratified the Offshore Protocol,

Source: https://idc.info-rac.org/

It should be noted that the assessment of the implementation of the MOAP at national level is based on available information provided and might not reflect the exact situation in the whole region.

^{#:} Contracting Parties exerting oil and gas activities in the Mediterranean Sea (see Annex I)

Y: reporting completed – Incomplete: very few data in the reporting form - Empty Form: reporting form opened but no data – Empty Envelope: Envelope for reporting created but no reporting form inside - No Envelope: no reporting envelope created.

Table 2 provides a summary of the status of implementation per Specific Objective of the MOAP which is based on a Table presented at the Third OFOG Meeting in 2021 (EP/MED WG.498/5) and additional information available at the Secretariat. Annex II provides more detailed references of the data used to develop Table 2.

Table 2. Summary of the status of implementation per Specific Objective of the MOAP, based on EP/MED WG.498/5

Specific Objective	Overall Implementation Status	
1. To ratify the Offshore Protocol	Not on track and/or lack of information To date, 8 Contracting Parties (CPs) have ratified the Offshore protocol. No new ratifications have taken place since 2018.	NoT
2. To designate Contracting Parties' Representatives to participate in the regional governing bodies	Contracting Parties' Representatives to participate in the regional governing A call for updating the List of Offshore Protocol Focal Points is regularly launched.	
3. To establish a technical cooperation and capacity building programme	Ongoing – Not on track Discussions taking place with industrial partners, regional organizations etc. on designing and delivering the technical cooperation and capacity building programme. The proposed updates and revisions of the technical cooperation and capacity building programme, as well as the Reviewed Comprehensive Plan of Actions, and POW 2024-2025 including updated resource mobilization strategy are discussed under agenda items 7 and 8 respectively. Particular achievements: Online training workshop on "The application of Common Standards and Guidance on the Disposal of Oil and Oily Mixtures and the Use and Disposal of Drilling Fluids and Cuttings" held on 30 November 2021, funded by the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) (Report available on the website of REMPEC).	OG
4. To mobilise resources for the implementation of the Action Plan	Not on track – Ongoing Some MTF funds for the implementation of the PoW Activities relevant to the Offshore Protocol implementation were allocated whilst negotiations were ongoing for additional support for activities to be implemented in 2022-2023, including, human resources to ensure continuity in the implementation of the MOAP. This is elaborated further in paragraphs 16 to 21 below. As part of achieving this specific objective, the Comprehensive Plan of Actions, including resource mobilization strategy has been defined. Potential resources and operation modalities are identified, nevertheless, as mentioned in this document (paragraphs 16 to 21) the resource mobilization strategy need to be mobilized and secured. Agenda item 8 introduces a Reviewed Comprehensive Plan of Actions.	NoT

5. To promote	Ongoing – Not on track MEDGIS MAR platform ungraded and maintained			
access to information and public participation in decision-making	MEDGIS-MAR platform upgraded and maintained Relevant information compiled and published in the recent study commissioned by REMPEC (EP/MED WG.498/Inf.4)			
	Regional inventory of installations to be updated based on reported information.			
	Regional system for reporting on discharges and emissions to be developed			
C To onkonos the	Not on track and/or lack of information			
regional transfer of technology	6. To enhance the regional transfer of Implementation has not yet started and there is lack of sufficient information.			
	Ongoing – Not on track			
7. To develop and adopt regional offshore standards	The development of other standards and guidelines has been envisaged in the PoW 2024-2025.			
8. To develop and adopt regional offshore guidelines	An Intersessional Correspondence Group (ICG) had been launched in November 2022 for the development of regional offshore standards and guidelines on the removal (decommissioning) of installations and the related financial aspects.			
	 Particular achievements: Regional offshore standards and guidelines on the disposal of oil and oily mixtures and use and disposal of drilling fluids and cuttings, and the establishment of special restrictions or conditions for Specially Protected Areas (SPAs) adopted by COP 21 (Decision IG.24/9). Guidelines for the Conduct of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) adopted by COP 22 (IG.25/15). 			
	Ongoing			
9. To establish regional offshore monitoring procedures and programme	Some progress has been achieved under this Specific Objective, through the further consolidation of the set of 19 Quality Indicators presented at 1st OFOG meeting in 2017 (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/6) to 8 common indicators directly relevant to the potential impact and effects of oil and gas operations (REMPEC/WG.45/INF/16). Further work is on-going in the biennium 2022-2023. Under the UNEP/MAP-GEF Med Programme, a draft report for the 'Offshore Protocol – IMAP Monitoring Programme and Strategy' is expected.	OT		
	Ongoing	OG		

10. To report on the		
implementation of	The implementation of this Specific Objective is ensured through the	
the Action Plan	submission of National Implementation Reports for the Offshore Protocol under the BCRS	

(NoT/red, implementation Not on Track – OG/yellow, implementation OnGoing – OT/green, implementation On Track)

Table 3 intends to present the activities which are still expected, from a Secretariat's perspective, in order to implement the MOAP. This compilation is based on the Comprehensive Plan of Actions for the biennium 2022-2023, presented in EP/MED WG.498/6, during the Third OFOG meeting in 2021. Annex II provides more detailed references of the data used to develop Table 3.

Table 3. Summary of activities which are still expected for the implementation of the MOAP, from a Secretariat's perspective, based on the Comprehensive Plan of Actions for the biennium 2022-2023 (EP/MED WG.498/6)

Specific Objective	Outputs / Actions / Key milestones	status
1. To ratify the Offshore Protocol	 Secure fixed-term position dedicated to the Offshore Protocol at the Secretariat; Encourage participation of representatives from other relevant parties; 	
2. To designate Contracting Parties' Representatives to participate in the regional governing bodies	 Encourage participation of representatives from other relevant organizations; Establish cooperation with other organizations and associations, including EMSA and EOSCA; Update National Offshore Focal Point and OFOG Sub-Group Focal Points list on a yearly basis; Integration of the technical cooperation and capacity building programme in the cycle of UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy. 	Ongoing, Not on track
3. To establish a technical cooperation and capacity building programme	TC for the development of Standards and Guidelines: a) Use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material; b) Safety measures including health and safety requirements and fire fighting; c) Minimum standards of qualifications for professionals and crews; d) Granting of authorizations; e) Inspection/sanctions(Installation/Discharge/Competent manning)	Ongoing, Not on track a) possibly in biennium 2024-2025. b), c), and d) not planned. e) has seen some discussions
	Trainings: a) Training A (Introduction to the Offshore Protocol, Disposal of Oil and Oily Mixtures and the Use and Disposal of Drilling Fluids and Cuttings, Special Restrictions or Conditions for Specially Protected Areas (SPA) and Guidelines for the Conduct of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)); b) Training B (Removal of installations); c) Training C (To be selected based on prioritization by Contracting Parties) Note: According to the Plans of Actions, the following topics should be addressed at one stage: - Monitoring; - Use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material; - Safety measures including health and safety requirements and fire fighting; - Minimum standards of qualification for professionals and crews; - Granting of authorizations; - Inspection/sanctions (Installation/Discharge/Competent manning).	Ongoing, Not on track a) possibly in biennium 2022-2023. Discussions on-going.

4. To mobilise resources for the implementation of the Action Plan	 Implement RMS. Evaluate the implementation of RMS and potential updates; Secure fixed-term position dedicated to the Offshore Protocol at the Secretariat; Mobilize support from national technical experts, industry partners and international organizations. 	Not on track, Ongoing
5. To promote access to information and public participation in decision-making	 Compile links to national websites that provide public access to information Template for public information at the regional level in biennium 2022-2023 Develop online regional system for public information sharing; Harmonize reporting on the inventory of installations in BCRS with MEDGIS-MAR platform Further update of the inventory subject to reporting by CPs under Specific Objective 5 b) 	Ongoing
6. To enhance the regional transfer of technology	 Compile an inventory of R&D activities and research needs e.g. through a dedicated questionnaire Disseminate and enhance the exchange of information related to R&D results e.g. publication on website Disseminate and enhance the exchange of information related to R&D results 	Not on track and/or lack of information
7. To develop and adopt regional offshore standards	According to the MOAP, the following topics should be addressed at one stage (parallel with the specific objective 3): - Monitoring; - Use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material; - Safety measures including health and safety requirements and fire fighting;	Not on track, Ongoing
8. To develop and adopt regional offshore guidelines	 Minimum standards of qualification for professionals and crews; Granting of authorizations; Inspection/sanctions (Installation/Discharge/Competent manning). 	
9. To establish regional offshore monitoring procedures and programme	 Develop and adopt a set of indicators to complement IMAP addressing offshore activities Establish the Mediterranean Regional Offshore Monitoring Programme as part of IMAP Streamline offshore data-sharing and monitoring platform with Info-MAP data management system Develop regional system for reporting of discharges and emissions Update and publication subject to regular reporting by CPs as part of Specific Objective 5c) 	Ongoing
10. To report on the implementation of the Action Plan	 Provide guidelines to CPs to compile and report information presented to the Secretariat; Organize a biennial OFOG meeting; Present biennial progress updates at the OFOG, MAP and COP meetings. 	Ongoing

Present and future Challenges in the implementation of the Offshore Protocol and its MOAP

- On the basis of the information available, shown in Table 2 and 3, as well as with the information set out in Annex II, it can be concluded, that despite efforts made by the CPs, the Secretariat and its Components, and also while most of the expected outputs have started to be implemented, limited progress has been achieved since the last status update.
- The challenges identified by the Third OFOG Sub-Group Meeting on Environmental Impact on the implementation of the MOAP still apply and are listed hereunder.
 - .1 while implementation of most of the outputs has started, limited progress has been achieved in particular on objectives related to the ratification of the Offshore Protocol, the provision of technical support and capacity building and the regional transfer of technology;
 - .2 despite efforts made by the CPs the Secretariat and the Components, limited financial and human resources are amongst the main challenges that hinder progress in the implementation; and
 - .3 the current financial contributions do not provide sufficient resources to fully meet the requirements and targets set in the MOAP. Additional external resources (financial and in-kind) are required to ensure that the Offshore Protocol is effectively implemented and yields tangible results, and that activities are supported through a robust governance and cooperation framework.
- There is no doubt that a shift is required in the operational modality, one that relies on the leadership, engagement and proactive contribution of the CPs with the dedicated support of the Secretariat, international organizations and other partners. Taking into consideration that some of the MOAP outputs have not started, its effective and successful implementation will not be possible without substantial changes in the implementation modalities (EP/MED WG.498/5).
- 18 Efforts have been made by the CPs and the Secretariat to address these challenges. Funding from the MTF for strengthening the human resources capacity of the Secretariat was allocated for the first time through a consultant position in 2021, but this was not sustained. MTF has also been allocated to specific key activities, notably the organization of the biennial OFOG Sub-Group Meeting on Environmental Impact. Other than this minimal support, there is nothing else to rely on.
- 19 Among the other substantial challenges that can be envisaged are :
 - .1 Development of all the Standards/Guidelines identified in the MOAP (Specific Objectives 7 and 8) within the defined implementation period. Over a seven year-period, three sets of Standards/Guidelines have been defined, and two are expected by the end of this year. According to the MOAP, five more are expected; and
 - .2 Development of a training Programme (Specific Objective 3). Over a seven-year period, one online training has been done. One training might be implemented by the end of 2023. One other has been defined but will not be implemented this year. Two to three training activities should follow to backstop the practical implementation of the abovementioned Standards/Guidelines;
- Against the background of the above-mentioned challenges, namely, a substantial proportion of the current MOAP has yet to be completed and a lack of resources to support its implementation, are

new challenges that might arise in the exploitation and exploration of the Mediterranean seabed as well as timelines of different action plans which overlap or expire, namely:

- .1 a MOAP whose current time horizon expires in 2024;
- .2 the Reviewed Comprehensive Plan of Actions whose time horizon period is 2022-2025;
- .3 the 2024-2025 Programme of Work for the Barcelona Convention system to be adopted at COP 23 in December 2023; and
- .4 the 2022-2027 cycle of the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) to guide the path of MAP in protecting the marine Environment and the coastal region of the Mediterranean region and contribute to sustainable development of the region for this period.

Actions to be taken as a proposed way forward

- As a way forward, the Meeting might wish to request COP 23 for an extension of one year of the current MOAP for it to expire in 2025. This will bring it in line with the timeline of PoW for the biennium 2024-2025 to be submitted for adoption at COP 23, as well as in line with the Comprehensive Plan of Action which also expires in 2025.
- During this period, more progress can be achieved in the implementation of the current MOAP. In addition, during this period, a gap analysis can be undertaken to take stock of the implementation of the MOAP and a revision of the MOAP can be undertaken to ensure that the MOAP is fit for purpose to meet any new challenges in the exploitation and exploration of the Mediterranean seabed. The Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) could be entrusted with this exercise with a view that the revised/new MOAP is submitted for adoption to COP24.
- Dedicated support would still need to be defined in accordance with the expected level of implementation of the MOAP.

Actions requested by the Meeting

- 24 The Meeting is invited to:
 - .1 **take note** of the information provided,
 - .2 further update the information, if need be, and
 - .3 take action, as appropriate.

Annex 1

Contracting Parties exerting oil and gas activities in the Mediterranean Sea

Table A.1 Number of oil and gas offshore fields for each Mediterranean country

Country	Marine area*	Gas fields	Oil Fields	Oil and Gas Fields	Total
Albania	Adriatic Sea	1	0	0	1
Croatia	Adriatic Sea	9	0	0	9
Cyprus	Eastern Mediterranean	4	0	0	4
Egypt	Gulf of Suez	0	66	12	78
Egypt	Eastern Mediterranean	90	3	3	96
France	Atlantic coast	0	4	0	4
Greece	Aegean Sea	2	6	0	8
Greece	Ionian Sea	0	0	1	1
Israel	Eastern Mediterranean	14	0	1	15
Italy	Adriatic Sea	92	7	4	103
Italy	Ionian Sea	4	0	0	4
Italy	Central Mediterranean	3	6	1	10
Lebanon	Eastern Mediterranean	1	0	0	1
Libya	Central Mediterranean	15	7	3	25
Morocco	Atlantic coast	1	3	0	4
Spain	Atlantic coast	2	0	0	2
Spain	Western Mediterranean	1	12	0	13
Tunisia	Central Mediterranean	7	19	5	31
Türkiye	Black Sea	10	0	0	10
Türkiye	Marmara Sea	1	0	0	1
Türkiye	Eastern Mediterranean	0	2	0	2
Total in the Mediterranean Sea		243	62	18	323
Total		257	135	30	422

^{*}Mediterranean locations highlighted in orange

Note that some of the countries own fields which are located outside the Mediterranean; related numbers are provided for completeness of the information. The total number of Mediterranean fields consider those located within the basin (marine areas highlighted in orange/shaded).

Data source: Clarksons Research Offshore Intelligent Network, data retrieved on 08.06.2020. Figures retrieved from EP/MED WG.498/Inf.4.

Annex 2

Status of implementation of Outputs

Table A.2 Status of implementation of Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol	Means required	Status of Implementation to Date
1. To ratify the Offshore Protocol	a) Ratification by all CPs of the Offshore Protocol, transposition of the Offshore Protocol into national law, and cooperation through the Secretariat to ensure compliance with its provisions	Art. 32	CPs time	Ongoing – Not on track 8 CPs ratified ² No new ratifications since 2018
	of the Offshore Protocol	Art. 30	CPs time	Ongoing – Not on track Through the biennial assessment of National Reports on the implementation of the Offshore Protocol (in BCRS) and present overview
2. To designate CPs' Representatives to participate to the regional governing bodies	Offshore Focal Point	Art. 28 Decision IG.21/8	CPstime	Ongoing Call to update the list of National Offshore Focal Points launched in early 2021 and present adjustments
	b) Designation, upon request by the Secretariat, through their National Offshore Focal Point, of the appropriate national entities and/or officials as contact points for each OFOG Sub- Group	Decision	Nomination	Ongoing 10 CPs participated in the 1 st OFOG meeting in April 2017; 13 CPs participated in the 2 nd OFOG meeting in June 2019; 11 CPs participated in the 3 rd OFOG meeting in June 2021
	basis, of the established Sub-	Art. 28 Decision IG.21/8	Volunteering	Started Was proposed as a key operational modality in the Comprehensive Plan of Action (EP/MED WG.498/6). 3 Intersessional Correspondence Groups (ICGs) of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG) Sub-Group

² Albania, Croatia, Cyprus, EU, Libya, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia

				on Environmental I
				on Environmental Impact launched in November 2022. One group was led by Italy.
	a) Technical cooperation and	Art. 24		Started
and capacity	capacity building programme endorsed as set in Appendix 2 of the Offshore Action Plan			A proposed updated Technical Cooperation and Capacity building programme is introduced in Meeting document REMPEC/WG.55/7
	Technical Cooperation for the	Developme	ent of Standards and	Guidelines:
	Monitoring		Consultancy funds	Ongoing
				The set of 19 Indicators presented at 1 st OFOG meeting in 2017 (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/6) was reduced to 8 common indictors (CIs) directly relevant to the potential impact and effects of oil and gas operations (REMPEC/WG.45/INF/16) Validation of the 5, or 8, CIs will be discussed at the 4 th OFOG Meeting in May 2023 (REMPEC/WG.55/2)
	Use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material		Consultancy funds	Preparatory work underway through the postponed amendments to the Annexes I - III of Offshore Protocol (EP/MED WG.498/4) Tentatively in biennium 2024- 2025
	Disposal of oil and oily mixtures and on the use and disposal drilling fluids and cutting		Consultancy funds	Completed Adoption of Decision IG.24/9 (Annex I) by COP 21
	Offshore platform Preparedness and Response & Contingency Plan Assessment		Participation of Contracting Parties to the IMO PPR meetings	Ongoing Addressed through REMPEC work in the framework of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol
	Removal of installations and the related financial aspects		Consultancy funds	On-going Planned in PoW 2022-2023 (EP/MED WG.498/Inf.5) ICG launched in November 2022.
	Safety measures including health and safety requirements and fire fighting		Consultancy funds	Not started Tentatively in biennium 2024- 2025

	Minimum standards of qualification for professionals and		Consultancy funds	Not started Tentatively in biennium 2024-
	crews			2025
	Granting of authorisations		Consultancy funds	Not started
				Tentatively in biennium 2024-2025
	• Inspection/sanctions (Installation/Discharg		Consultancy funds	Not started
	e/Competent manning)			Tentatively in biennium 2024-2025
	Training:		•	
	Monitoring		Training funds	Started
	Use and discharge of		Training funds	
	harmful or noxious			One Online training workshop
	substances and			held on Tuesday 30 November
	material			2021 ;"The application of
	Disposal of oil and		Training funds	Common Standards and
	oily mixtures and on			Guidance on the Disposal of
	the use and disposal			Oil and Oily Mixtures and the
	drilling fluids and			Use and Disposal of Drilling Fluids and Cuttings", funded
	cutting		Tii	by the Mediterranean Trust
	Offshore platform		Training funds	Fund (MTF) (Report available
	Preparedness and			on the website of REMPEC).
	Response &			9 CPs trained.
	Contingency Plan			
	Assessment		T	Update of the training and
	Removal of installations		Training funds	capacity building programme presented in the Meeting
	Safety measures including health and		Training funds	document REMPEC/WG.55/7 and in the Reviewed
	safety requirements and fire fighting			Comprehensive Plan of Actions (REMPEC/WG.55/8)
	Minimum standards of qualification for professionals and crews		Training funds	redons (REMI Be, WG.33/0)
	Granting of authorisations		Training funds	
	• Inspection/sanctions (Installation/Discharg e/Competent manning)		Training funds	
4. To mobilise		Art. 31	CPs time and	Ongoing
resources for the	resources mobilised to support	A11. 31	participation to the	Ongoing
implementation of	the implementation of the		Meetings of the	Discussions ongoing with
the Action Plan	Action Plan, in particular its			external entities for securing
and receive a rail	provisions related to the OFOG		Protocol	future resources (financial and
	Group, technical cooperation,		1010001	in-kind) in line with Resource
	capacity building and			Mobilization Plan
	monitoring activities			avioonization i ian
5. To promote access	a) Template for public	Art. 23, 25	CPs time and	Some CPs publish public
to information and		& 26	participation to the	information on relevant
public participation	national and regional rules on	a 20	Meetings of the	ministry websites
in decision-making	access to information		Parties to the Offshore	
			Protocol	Planned (at the regional level)

	, I	Art. 6 & Art. 17		4 CPs reported on the inventory of offshore installations through the BCRS Harmonization of reporting with MEDGIS-MAR platform Information compiled and published in the recent study commissioned by REMPEC (EP/MED WG.498/Inf.4).
	c) Report to the Secretariat every two years discharges, spills and emissions from offshore oil and gas installations data in accordance with the monitoring programme to be defined by the relevant OFOG Sub-Group	Art. 17	CPs time	0 CPs reported spills through MEDGIS-MAR Regional system for reporting on discharges and emissions to be developed
6. To enhance the regional transfer of technology	1		CPs time	Not started Not started
	R&D activities and programmes by their respective national institutions and industry in international fora		CPs time	Not started.
7. To develop and adopt regional offshore standards	a) Environmental impact assessment regional standards developed based on existing EIA regional standards taking into consideration requirements referred in Annex IV and other best practices b) Common standards on the use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material, in line with relevant international standards and conventions defining inter alia limits and prohibitions at regional level formulated and adopted	8 & 23 Annex IV Art.5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 14 & 23 Annexes I, II & III	CPs time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol CPs time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Not started.
	and III and definition of which	8, 9 & 23 Annexes I, II & III	CPs time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Amendments to the Annexes to the Protocol were adopted by COP 22 (IG.25/7). An ICG has been launched in November 2022 for a technical review of the Annexes.

	d) Common standards on the disposal of oil and oily mixtures and on the use and disposal of drilling fluids and cutting formulated and adopted, and revision of the limits set in Article 10 and the prescriptions referred in Annex V of the Protocol e) The method to be used to analyse the oil content is commonly agreed and adopted	8, 10, 14 & 23 Annex V Appendix Art. 5, 6, 7,	CPs time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol CPstime, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore	Adoption of Decision IG.24/9 (Annex I) by COP 21 Not started
	f) Procedures for contingency planning, notification of accidental spills and transboundary pollution established in accordance with the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea	8, 16, 17, 18, 26 & 23	Protocol CPs time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Addressed through REMPEC work in the framework of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol
	g) Special restrictions or conditions for SPAs defined and adopted		CPs time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Completed Adoption of Decision IG.24/9 (Annex I) by COP 21
	h) Common criteria, rules and procedures for the removal of installations and the related financial aspects adopted		CPs time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Planned in PoW 2022-2023 (EP/MED WG.498/Inf.5) An ICG has been launched in November 2022, led by Italy.
	i) Common criteria, rules and procedures for safety measures including health and safety requirements adopted	8, 15 & 23	CPs time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Not started
	j) Common minimum standards of qualification for professionals and crews adopted		CPs time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Not started
8. To develop and adopt regional offshore guidelines	a) Regional Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment	Art. 5, 6, 7, 8 & 23 Annex IV	CPs time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to	Completed Guidelines for the Conduct of Environmental Impact

			the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Assessment (EIA) adopted by COP 22 (IG.25/15)
use and dis	al Guidelines on the scharge of harmful or bstances and	Art. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 14 & 23 Annexes I, II & III		Not started
disposal of mixtures a disposal dr	oil and oily nd the use and rilling fluids and analytical	Art. 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 14 & 23 Annex V		Completed Adoption of Decision IG.24/9 (Annex I) by COP 21
removal of	al Guidelines on Finstallations and the ancial aspects	Art. 5, 6, 7, 8, 20 & 23		Planned in PoW 2022-2023 (EP/MED WG.498/Inf.5) An ICG has been launched in November 2022, led by Italy.
installation	nealth and safety	Art. 5, 6, 7, 8, 15 & 23 Annex VI	CPstime, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Not started
minimum s		8, 15 & 23 Annex VI	CPs time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Not started
authorisation	on requirements	7, 8, 14 & 23	CPs time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Not started
regional ar rules, proc regarding l compensat damage res	nd international, edures and practices liability and ion for loss and sulting from the lealt with in the	8, 17, 23 & 27	support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the	No progress since submission of Study on International Best Practices (REMPEC/WG.35/INF.3) at the 3 rd Offshore Protocol Working Group Meeting in 2014
i) Contribu OPRC Foc revision of Manual on Contingend IMO Sub-O Pollution F	tion through their	8, 16 & 23	support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to	Completed Publication of the Manual on Oil Pollution: Section II – Contingency Planning (2018 Edition)

	include new information related to contingency planning for offshore units, seaports and oil handling facilities			
9. To establish regional offshore monitoring procedures and programme	a) A regional monitoring programme for offshore activities building, inter alia, on the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme		support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	The set of 19 Indicators presented at 1st OFOG meeting in 2017 (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/6) was reduced to 8 common indictors directly relevant to the potential impact and effects of oil and gas operations (REMPEC/WG.45/INF/16) Validation of the 5, or 8, CIs will be discussed at the 4th OFOG Meeting in May 2023 (REMPEC/WG.55/2)
	b) Results of the national offshore monitoring programme and the related agreed data are reported to the Secretariat every two years	Art. 5 & 19		Planned Subject to finalization of offshore monitoring programme
10. To report on the implementation of the Action Plan	a) Report on the implementation of this Action Plan, in particular on the effectiveness of the measures defined in this Action Plan and difficulties encountered every two years	30	CPs time	Ongoing 2020-2021: 10 CPs 2018-2019: 10 CPs 2016-17: 11 CPs No report submitted for biennium 2020-2021 by 12 CPs, out of which 4 Parties to the Protocol No report submitted for biennium 2018-2019 by 4 of the 8 Parties to the Protocol See Table 1 in the present document
	b) Biennial review of the status of implementation of the Action Plan on the basis of the regional report prepared by the Secretariat	Art. 25 & 30		Ongoing Through the present document

Table A3 Status of implementation of Outputs relating to the Secretariat and its Components

Specific Objective	Outputs	Link to the Protocol	Means required	Status of Implementation to Date
1. To ratify the Offshore Protocol	a) Provision of advice and technical assistance to CPs to the Barcelona Convention, which so request	Art. 32	Technical Support and Secretariat staff time	Ongoing
	b) Assistance in reviewing the effectiveness of the Offshore Protocol	Art. 30	Secretariat staff time, Consultancy funds	Ongoing
2. To designate CPs representatives to participate in the regional governing bodies	and their representatives as	Art. 28 Decision IG.21/8	and travels	Ongoing IOGP and industry representatives attend regularly OFOG sub-group meetings IOGP accredited as new MAP partner in COP 21 (Decision IG.24/2)
	b) Enhancement of public awareness through the contribution of IGOs and NGOs with a relevant mandate to the topics discussed in the various OFOG Sub-Groups, through their participation as observers, ensuring an open and transparent process through public consultations	Art. 28 Decision IG.21/8		Ongoing. Participation of IGO and NGOs at OFOG sub-group meetings Contribution of IGOs and NGOs to the drafting of standards and guidelines Section in the guidance on EIA addressing public consultation
	1	IG.21/8	and travels	Ongoing Participation of REMPEC in OSPAR OIC meeting (March 2021) ³ Participation of REMPEC in Joint session of the London Convention/Protocol Scientific Groups (LC/SG 44 & LP/SG 15) Science Day (April 2021) ⁴ Addressed in the Reviewed Comprehensive plan of actions, including the updated resource

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 $^{^3}$ Link to summary record: $\underline{\text{https://www.ospar.org/meetings/archive/offshore-industries-committee-1}}$

⁴ Joint session of the London Convention/Protocol Scientific Groups (LC/SG 44 & LP/SG 15) Science Day 2021: "Experience with comparative risk assessment for decommissioning of platforms and the disposal of vessels". Link to presentations: https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/Pages/ScienceDaydefault.aspx

			mobilization strategy (REMPEC/WG.55/8)
			Tentative consultant position in 2021 at REMPEC to facilitate coordination, but this was not sustained; leading to little follow-up on these actions. Coordination needs further reiterated in the present Meeting document and REMPEC/WG.55/8
1 *	Art. 28 Decision IG.21/8	Website developer	Planned for late 2021
e) Updated list of the National	Decision IG.21/8	Secretariat staff time	Call to update list launched in early 2021
with MAP Focal Points, of the	Art. 28 Decision IG.21/8	Secretariat staff time	Ongoing CU for overall governance and coordination; REMPEC on implementation of Offshore Action Plan; Info/RAC for reporting under IMAP; MEDPOL for pollution-related ecological objectives and discharges; PAP/RAC on CRF incl. MSP, SEA etc.; SPA/RAC on biodiversity.
C	Art. 28 Decision IG.21/8	Secretariat staff time	Ongoing Included in the Reviewed Comprehensive plan of actions, including the updated resource mobilization strategy (REMPEC/WG.55/8) Tentative consultant position in 2021 at REMPEC to facilitate coordination, but this was not sustained; leading to little follow-up on these actions. Coordination needs further reiterated in the present Meeting document and REMPEC/WG.55/8

and capacity	a) Integration of the technical cooperation and capacity building programme in the sixyear programme of activities of UNEP/MAP and its relevant Components and in their biennium programme of work		Secretariat staff time	Ongoing Integration within the current draft MTS 2022-2027
	b) Preparation of the corresponding budget for consideration by the Ordinary Meeting of the CPsto the Barcelona Convention	Art. 24	Secretariat staff time	Planning foreseen in the PoW 2022-2023 (EP/MED WG.498/Inf.5)
			Secretariat staff time	Ongoing. Discussion initiated with relevant partners in 2021 Reviewed Comprehensive plan of actions, including the updated resource mobilization strategy (REMPEC/WG.55/8) Tentative consultant position in 2021 at REMPEC to facilitate coordination, but this was not sustained; leading to little follow-up on these actions. Coordination needs further reiterated in the present Meeting document and REMPEC/WG.55/8
4. To mobilise resources for the implementation of the Action Plan	a) Identification of additional donors to secure funds for the implementation of the Action Plan	Art. 31	Secretariat staff time	Ongoing Allocation of MTF funds for the implementation of the PoW Activities relevant to Offshore Protocol implementation Reviewed Comprehensive plan of actions, including the updated resource mobilization strategy (REMPEC/WG.55/8) Tentative consultant position in 2021 at REMPEC to facilitate coordination, but this was not sustained; leading to little follow-up on these actions. Coordination needs further reiterated in the present Meeting

				document and REMPEC/WG.55/8
5. To promote access to information, public participation in decision-making	the template for public information in line with existing Decisions of the CPs addressing public access to information and with UNEP's Access to Information Policy	& 26	-	Planned Links to national websites that provide public access to information to be compiled in late 2021 Template for public information at the regional level planned
	b) Development of an online regional system and to be maintained for the purpose of public information sharing	Art. 23, 25 & 26	Online regional system	
	, ,	Art. 6 & Art. 17	Secretariat staff time	MEDGIS-MAR upgraded and maintained Harmonization of reporting on the inventory of installations in BCRS with MEDGIS-MAR
	d) Consolidated report every two years on the discharges, spills and emissions from offshore oil and gas installations data submitted by the CPs.	Art. 17	Secretariat staff time	MEDGIS-MAR upgraded and maintained Regional system for reporting on discharges and emissions to be developed
6. To enhance the participation of the regional transfer of technology	a) Support in the identification of fields of research in which there is a need for enhancement of the state-of-the-art of offshore pollution prevention, response and monitoring technologies and techniques		Secretariat staff time	Not started
	b) Dissemination and exchange of results of national R&D activities and programmes	Art. 22	Secretariat staff time	Not started

	within and outside the Mediterranean region c) Participation of national and regional research institutions and industry in the relevant international fora facilitated with a view to making better known the results of R&D activities undertaken in the Mediterranean region	Art. 22	Travels	Not started
7. To develop and adopt regional offshore standards	a) Support the specific OFOG Sub-Groups for the development of the above common standards	Art. 23	Secretariat staff time	Ongoing E.g. Meeting document REMPEC/WG.55/5, and standards adopted by COP 21 (Decision IG.24/9)
8. To develop and adopt regional offshore guidelines	a) Support the specific OFOG Sub-Groups for the development of the above common guidelines	Art. 23	Secretariat staff time	Ongoing E.g. Meeting document REMPEC/WG.55/5,, and guidelines adopted by COP 21 (Decision IG.24/9)
9. To establish regional offshore monitoring procedures and programme	a) The development/adoption of Mediterranean Monitoring Procedures and Programmes for the above, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, building on the relevant work undertaken in the Monitoring Correspondence Groups in the EcAp process in line with Decision 21/3	Art. 19	Secretariat staff time	The set of 19 Indicators presented at 1st OFOG meeting in 2017 (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/6) was reduced to 8 common indictors directly relevant to the potential impact and effects of oil and gas operations (REMPEC/WG.45/INF/16) Validation of the 5, or 8, CIs will be discussed at the 4th OFOG Meeting in May 2023 (REMPEC/WG.55/2)
	b) Development of the Mediterranean Offshore Reporting and Monitoring System (e.g. Regional Data Bank on Offshore activities through the Barcelona Convention Reporting System or other systems defined by the CPs)	Art.19	Mediterranean Offshore Reporting and Monitoring System	Ongoing. Subject to completion of 9 a)

	c) Production, dissemination and publication every two years of a report on Discharges, Spills and Emissions from Offshore Oil and Gas Installations, based on data submitted by countries which should be used as a base for the State of Environment Report regarding the impacts of the offshore oil and gas industry	Art.17 & 19	publication and dissemination	Publication of Study on Trends and Outlook on Marine Pollution, Maritime Traffic and Offshore Activities in the Mediterranean (EP/MED WG.498/Inf.4) Subject to development of regional system for reporting of discharges and emissions, and regular update by CPs
10. To report on the implementation of the Action Plan	,	Art. 25 & 30		Present Table A.2 is completed by the Secretariat based on information reported in BCRS and information available at the Secretariat
	b) Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Art. 30		Ongoing. Three OFOG meetings organised (Loutraki, Greece, April 2017; Athens, Greece, June 2019; June 2021, meeting organized remotely) Present Fourth OFOG meeting Floriana, Malta (May 2023)
	c) Consolidated report on the implementation of the Action Plan every two years for its submission to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol and the Meetings of the CPs to the Barcelona Convention	Art.30		Ongoing Through the present document