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

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Agenda Item 8: Reviewed Comprehensive Plan of Actions and PoW 2024-2025

Reviewed Comprehensive Plan of Actions, including resource mobilization strategy

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Note by the Secretariat

The present document attempts to evaluate the planning and priorities proposed for the timeline 2023-2025 taking into consideration the available resources and proposed modalities for a more effective and sustainable implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan. The information contained in this document needs to be considered within the context of those identified in agenda item 5 (REMPEC/WG.55/5) regarding the progress on the implementation of the Plan.

Introduction

1 The 21st Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 21) (Naples, Italy, 8-10 December 2019) requested for the preparation of a comprehensive plan of actions, including milestones, budgets and manpower required to implement the Offshore Protocol in the Mediterranean coastal States, including a Resource Mobilization Strategy.

2 Despite on-going efforts by the Secretariat to mobilize external resources in response to the interest shown by the Contracting Parties (CPs) and partners, the progress to date on the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (MOAP) has been hampered by limited dedicated resources. This is one of the challenges identified in the assessment of the Progress on the Implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (REMPEC/WG.55/5). This was already identified for the Third Meeting of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG) Sub-Group on Environmental Impact held remotely in June 2021.

3 In order to ensure a more sustainable implementation of the MOAP, a comprehensive plan of actions was developed in the previous biennium, providing detailed information of the required human resources and expertise to assist Mediterranean coastal States in carrying out the obligations arising from the Offshore Protocol. The Comprehensive Plan of Action was complemented by a Resource Mobilization Strategy (RMS) that identifies ways to mobilize technical and financial contributions for the implementation of the Specific Objectives.

4 This document provides an update of the Comprehensive Plan of Action, assuming that the implementation period of the MOAP will be extended by one year to 2025, and taking into consideration the challenges identified in the Meeting document REMPEC/WG.55/5 regarding the Progress on the implementation of Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan.

Objectives

5 The information presented in this document is set out in two parts: Part I provides an update of the Comprehensive Plan of Actions for the achievement of the 10 Specific Objectives (action/output) in relation to the CPs and to the Secretariat and its Components in the implementation of the MOAP. Part II, the updated RMS, provides information on possible ways to mobilize resources in the form of technical and financial contributions, including support from partners and other international organizations, while also considering the progresses made during the last biennium.

6 The structure of Part I is a mirror of the MOAP, taking in consideration the progress, challenges and lessons learned from the implementation of the action plan this far, as presented in agenda item 5 (REMPEC/WG.55/5). It provides an update of the milestones and timeline (2023-2025), associated budget and manpower for the achievement of 10 specific objectives (action/output) in relation to the CPs and the Secretariat and its Components.

7 The overarching objective is to provide support and more targeted guidance for the implementation of the Offshore Protocol, while also facilitating the definition of priorities as the implementation period of the MOAP will be ending.

Modalities for a more effective and sustainable implementation

8 The Reviewed Comprehensive Plan of Actions and updated RMS still provide alternative perspectives to the funding, operation and execution of the MOAP. As initiated with the first Comprehensive Plan of Action, this reviewed plan emphasizes a proactive contribution of the CPs international organizations and partners. Such an approach that promotes the leadership, stronger engagement, commitment and co-ownership by CPs has proven to be successful in other similar regional cooperation processes, such as in the operation of the OSPAR Offshore Industry Committee (OIC) and

the execution of its programme of work. Nonetheless, the recent activities and the coming deadlines also encourage an appropriate coordination.

9 The Reviewed Comprehensive Plan of Actions and updated RMS propose several ways for advancing on the implementation of the MOAP while also encouraging engagement. For example, conducting the implementation of the technical cooperation and capacity building programme through online training courses is proven to be cost-effective, though timely physical meetings facilitate the development of working groups and networking for the implementation of the MOAP. Setting such a balance would need clear engagement from the CPs and the Secretariat and its Components. The illustration to this, as it was already identified in the previous biennium, is that a longer-term funding allocation for a fixed-term position at the Secretariat is secured. This position will be dedicated to the implementation of the Offshore Protocol and supporting the relevant UNEP/MAP Components. Similarly, the whole set of reporting systems and route of exchanges are used. A more detailed description of the proposed way forward can be found in Part II: updated RMS.

Actions requested by the Meeting

10 The Meeting is invited to:

- .1 **take note** of the information provided, and
- .2 evaluate the planning and priorities proposed for the time period 2023-2025, taking into consideration the available resources and proposed modalities for a more effective and sustainable implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan.

PART I

Reviewed Comprehensive Plan of Actions (2023-2025)

1 Details of the Reviewed Comprehensive Plan of Actions, including milestones, timeline, associated indicative budget and manpower for the period 2023-2025 is presented in the Annex I.

2 Table 1, based on the Reviewed Comprehensive Plan of Action set out at Annex 1, provides a simplified overview on the activities which are pending for a complete implementation of the MOAP. It proposes a prioritization to be addressed during the 4th OFOG meeting. It is expected that once this course of action reaches an agreement, the timings and deadlines will be further specified to meet the end of the implementation period of the MOAP ; while anticipating the next period.

3 The Reviewed Comprehensive Plan of Actions is structured around the following key aspects:

- .1 Taking the best use of online facilities, for training, but also for situation report of on-going correspondence groups;
- .2 If possible, implementation of a minimum of one physical meeting per year, including the OFOG meetings. The agenda of each meetings (the meeting can be a training, a specific workshop, a specific information or coordination session, etc) should incorporate at minima a half-day session dedicated to a status update on the implementation of the MOAP and time for the on-going correspondence groups;
- .3 Development of outputs and documents e.g. guidelines etc. under the leadership of CPs through the establishment of correspondence groups;
- .4 Securing continuity through a fixed-term staff position on the Offshore Protocol at the Secretariat to organize the defined activities and support the coordination of the correspondence groups;
- .5 Capitalizing on strengthened partnerships with partners and international organizations for the delivery of online training courses and other technical support;
- .6 Implementing stronger level of engagement by CPs, e.g. through a dedicated longer-term OFOG chair.

4 Following the adoption of the Decommissioning Guidelines by the COP, the next set of guidelines that could be addressed is the use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material, which are linked to the ongoing discussion on the amendments to the relevant Annexes of the Offshore Protocol, and the offshore monitoring programme. Furthermore, as an other next step, would be the provision of training and capacity building activities for the biennium 2024-2025, as introduced in the document REMPEC/WG.55/7.

Table 1. Overview on the activities pending for a complete implementation of the MOAP.

Specific Objective	Outstanding activities to implement	Indicative timeline				Coordination and considerations for implementation	Indicative Budget		
		2023	2024	2025	Indicative cost		Identification of a funding (y/n)		
S-O_3 : Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building programme S-O_9 : To establish regional offshore monitoring procedures and programme	<i>Development of standards/guidelines</i> : Offshore Monitoring Programme To be in relation with S-O_9: a) regional monitoring programme for offshore activities building, inter alia, on the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme b) Results of the national offshore monitoring programme and the related agreed data are reported to the Secretariat every two years		#	#	#	#	- Assign (voluntary) task leads on the development of standards and guidelines ; - Set up correspondence groups or ad-hoc task groups on specific issues ; - Coordination support and continuity thru the Secretariat;	CPs time, with support from Secretariat	/
	S-O_3 : Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building programme	<i>Development of standards/guidelines</i> : Removal of installations and the related financial aspects		#					/
S-O_7 : To develop and adopt regional offshore standards	<i>Development of standards/guidelines</i> : Use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material			#	#			/	
	<i>Development of standards/guidelines</i> : - Safety measures including health and safety requirements and fire-fighting; - Minimum standards of qualifications for professionals and crews.				#	#		/	
S-O_8 : To develop and adopt regional offshore guidelines	<i>Development of standards/guidelines</i> Granting of authorizations				#	#		/	
	<i>Development of standards/guidelines</i> Inspection/sanctions (Installation/Discharge/Competent manning)				#	#		/	
S-O_3 : Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building programme	<i>Training</i> : Training A (Offshore Protocol, Disposal of Oil and Oily Mixtures and the Use and Disposal of Drilling Fluids and Cuttings, SPA, EIA)		X				Coordination by the Secretariat, to be held physically. Should incorporate an half-day session dedicated to a status update on the implementation of the MOAP and time for the on-going correspondence groups	Travel/DSA 30 000 euros	/
	<i>Training</i> : Training B (Removal of installations)			#			Coordination by the Secretariat, to be held online.	Secretariat staff time and CPs time	/
	<i>Training</i> : Training C (to be combined with a strategic workshop on the future development of the MOAP)				X		Coordination by the Secretariat, to be held physically. Should incorporate a one-day work session on the future development of the MOAP.	Travel/DSA 30 000 euros	/
S-O_7 : To develop and adopt regional offshore standards	The method to be used to analyze the oil content is commonly agreed and adopted		#	#	#	#	- Assign (voluntary) task leads on the development of standards and guidelines ; - Set up correspondence groups or ad-hoc task	CPs time, with support from Secretariat	/

							groups on specific issues ; - Coordination support and continuity thru the Secretariat;		
S-O_10 : To report on the implementation of the Action Plan	Organization of a biennial OFOG meeting, to be combined with a work-session on the finalization of the various standards/guidelines prior the start of the OFOG Meeting.					X	Coordination by the Secretariat, to be held physically. Should incorporate a one-day working session on the future development of the MOAP	Travel/DSA 30 000 euros	

/ Green, anticipated implementation period – X / Blue, anticipated structuring physical meeting.

Possible next course of actions

5 Based on the assumption that the implementation period of the MOAP will be extended by one year to 2025, and based also on the assumption that the technical work of a new MOAP would be done by the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG - agenda item 5 refers), consideration could be given to an ad-hoc meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Offshore Protocol, partners, international organizations, and other entities with a view to contribute to the development of a strategic vision that will form the basis for the work of the MTWG. The outcome of this process would need to be considered at the Fifth OFOG Meeting in 2025.

6 The following points made at the Third OFOG Meeting (EP/MED WG.486/6) are also still valid:

- .1 In line with the main conclusions and recommendations of the Second OFOG meeting held in 2019, in the course of the implementation of the activities included in the MOAP, every effort will be made to take into account new developments under the MAP Barcelona Convention, especially the Ecosystem Approach (ECAP) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), as well as other pertinent issues, such as the transition to a low carbon economy through marine renewable energy/blue energy sources (e.g. wind, wave, tidal etc.). This is fully in line with the vision, ambition and commitments of the UNEP/MAP on decarbonization and achieving sustainability;
- .2 The application of the Common Regional Framework (CRF) for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and its extension to MSP present an appropriate tool for the integrated management of different sectors in the sea area, including shipping, fisheries, military activities, tourism etc. The development of MSPs based on the principles and steps outlined in the Conceptual Framework for MSP in the Mediterranean (Decision IG. 23/7), including the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), as an integral part of the preparation of MSP plans, can guide the development and regulation of offshore activities. This would thus contribute to the implementation of the MOAP in synergy with other MAP Barcelona Convention policies;
- .3 The further development of existing specific objectives, e.g. related to monitoring by fully integrating the offshore monitoring programme and reporting in the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP), should also be taken into account. IMAP monitoring data will be used to compliment the more targeted and site-specific monitoring of offshore installations and activities, to provide information on whether the impact of offshore activities affects the wider marine and coastal environment;
- .4 The outcomes of the Interreg MED project, Maestrals¹, demonstrated that marine renewable energy technologies including wind, waves (offshore and inshore), salinity gradient, thermal gradient, currents, tides can be implemented in the Mediterranean. These results were based on feasibility and sustainability assessments in 20 pilot projects. There is also growing interest from Mediterranean coastal States to cooperate and promote transition to more sustainable blue economy sectors.

7 Furthermore, the work of the OFOG Safety sub-group has yet to be initiated. The Table 1 of the present document, as well as the Table in document REMPEC/WG.55/7 call for its establishment.

¹ <https://maestrals.interreg-med.eu/>

PART II

Resource Mobilization Plan

Introduction

1 As recalled during the Third OFOG Meeting, the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 2013 decided that the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG) should be financed through extra budgetary resources. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to identify international bodies that might provide specific sources of financing to assist Mediterranean coastal States in carrying out the obligations arising from the Offshore Protocol. Furthermore, Specific Objective 4 of the MOAP indirectly emphasize that the successful implementation of the Offshore Protocol relies on the the mobilization of resources. Nevertheless, to date it has proven to be a challenge.

2 Document REMPEC/WG.55/5 under agenda item 5 on the Progress on the implementation of the MOAP identifies the challenges to its implementation. Among the challenges identified, the absence of a permanent staff position at the Secretariat, dedicated to the implementation of the Offshore Protocol, has further limited the possibilities to mobilize resources.

Resource needs

3 Similarly, as the end of the implementation period of the MOAP approaches, the comments made at the Third OFOG Meeting are just as valid, namely:

- .1 Funding from the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) for strengthening the human resources capacity of the Secretariat was allocated for the first time through a consultant position, but this was not sustained. Through a sustainable staff position focusing on offshore issues, including other offshore industry activities, such as shipping and renewable energy, the Secretariat would be responsible for the fulfilment of Specific Objectives allocated to Secretariat staff time (Table A.2 in Annex I). This would guarantee continuity within the system lead by Secretariat and its Components.
- .2 Funding from the MTF is also allocated to specific key activities, notably the organization of the biennial OFOG Meeting. Although the organization of online meetings contributes to cutting costs, it is deemed important to maintain regular physical meetings which are more conducive to stimulating exchanges among CPs and other partners, therefore building working synergies and will.
- .3 The contributions of the CPs, primarily in terms of CPs time, are essential for advancing on the specific objectives listed in Table A.1 in the Annex I, such as the co-ordinating / contributing to work activities (where particular expertise exists in the CP), participation in meetings, progress reporting etc.
- .4 Altogether these 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.

Proposed resource mobilization strategy

4 This section proposes ways to close the resource gap in order to better achieve the implementation of the MOAP. These proposals are based on the premise that the current Plan would be extended for one more year, until 2025.

Contracting Parties' contributions

5 The implementation of the Offshore Protocol can only be feasible if it can rely on the increased leadership and engagement of the CPs as an integral and operational component of the implementation process. Increased leadership and a higher level of engagement can be effectuated through a number of ways:

- .1 Setting up Intersessional Correspondence Groups (ICGs)/ad-hoc task groups to address and advance on topics of particular interest (Table 1 provides an overview on the outstanding activities which still need to be implemented);
- .2 A dedicated country lead per identified ICGs/ad-hoc task groups, appointed for the implementation of the identified task mentioned in Table 1, to ensure better continuity and ownership during the inter-sessional period, with the support from the Secretariat on the coordination of the ICGs/ad-hoc task groups;

6 Voluntary contributions from the CPs provide highly tangible ways for closing the resource gap but does not solve the problem of permanent funding for the implementation of the MOAP

Cooperation with industry partners

7 Strengthened cooperation with industry partners would greatly benefit the implementation through the provision of technical capacities, e.g. on the development of the standards/guidelines, and support, e.g. trainings. A contribution to the delivery of training courses by the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (IOGP), with involvement of relevant topic specialists, is envisaged for the next biennium 2024-2025, as part of the ongoing cooperation with the Secretariat.

Partnerships with international organizations

8 It is to recall, that the establishment of partnerships with international organizations would enable the identification of synergies on issues of common interest, e.g. removal of installations, that is currently a pertinent topic of interest for many organizations. These partnerships enable the exchange of information on, e.g. best available practices, technical guidelines and standards, through participation in events in other regions, networking, etc. Since the last OFOG Meeting, the Secretariat has established cooperation with IOGP (MAP Partner), the London Protocol Secretariat, UNEP Oil for Development Partnership, European Union Offshore Oil and Gas Authorities Group (EUOAG) and OSPAR Offshore Industry Committee (OIC) on aspects related to technical support and capacity building/trainings. Formalizing the terms of cooperation with these partners would help mobilizing additional required resources mainly in the form of in-kind contributions. New synergies on ongoing activities by other organizations should also be identified and cooperation/partnerships set up e.g. with the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), the European Oilfield Specialty Chemicals Association (EOSCA) on topics related to chemicals, in accordance to Specific Objective 2c.

Strengthen capacities through secondments

9 Other ways to strengthen capacities and enhance knowledge transfer would be through a secondments programme. Such programme would allow for the secondments of national officers and industry partners.

Identification of additional potential donors and partners

10 Similarly, it is to recall that other contributions could come from industry partners motivated by the co-benefits and strategic outcomes resulting from co-funding aspects of the Offshore Action Plan, including activities and human resources. Successful experiences include the Global Initiative between the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA), which represents the interests of government and the oil and gas industry respectively, to enhance oil spill preparedness and response capacity for marine spills at priority locations around the world. The Mediterranean context has its specificities that would need a dedicated initiative and the end of the implementation period of the MOAP, plus the future definition of the next course of action for the Offshore Protocol, provide a great opportunity to further develop the various options.

Annex I

Overview of milestones, timeline, associated indicative budgets and manpower

Table A.1 Overview of milestones and timeline per Action/Output relating to the Contracting Parties (CPs) (2023-2025)

Specific Objective	Actions/Outputs	Key milestones	Timeline						Means required	Indicative budget (Euro)/ manpower (man-days) (2023-2025)
			2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028		
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	Increase the number of CPs which ratify the Offshore Protocol (8 in 2021)	#	#	#	#	#	#	CPs time	Depends on CP
	b) Review of the effectiveness of the Offshore Protocol	Review of effectiveness at the end of the implementation period of the current Offshore Action Plan				X			CPs time	Possibilities to coordinate an ad-hoc Meeting for a new MOAP
2. To designate CPs' Representatives to participate in the regional governing bodies	a) Nomination of the National Offshore Focal Point designated by all MAP Focal Points to coordinate at national level activities carried out in the framework of the Action Plan and actively participate in the OFOG Group	Contribute to the update of the National Offshore Focal Point list on a yearly basis	#	#	#	#	#	#	CPs time	1-7 days, depending on CP
	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	Contribute to the update of the OFOG Sub-Group contact points on a yearly basis	#	#	#	#	#	#	CPs time	

Specific Objective	Actions/Outputs	Key milestones	2023		2024		2025		Means required	Indicative budget (Euro)/ manpower (man-days) (2023-2025)
			#	#	#	#	#	#		
	c) Leadership, on a voluntary basis, of the established Sub-Groups to coordinate with the support of the Secretariat the work assigned to the Sub-Groups	-Dedicated OFOG chair, appointment for a minimum of two years -Assign (voluntary) task leads on the development of standards and guidelines (Specific Objectives 7 & 8) -Set up correspondence groups or ad-hoc task groups on specific issues -See also Part II – updated RMS	#	#	#	#	#	#	Volunteering	Depends on CP and task
3. To establish a technical cooperation and capacity building programme	a) Technical cooperation and capacity building programme endorsed as set in Appendix 2 of the Offshore Action Plan	See Table 1 in REMPEC/WG.55/8	#	#	#	#	#	#	Participation in trainings see Table 1 in REMPEC/WG.55/8	See indicative length of trainings in Table 1 REMPEC/WG.55/8
4. To mobilize resources for the implementation of the Action Plan	a) Financial and human resources mobilized to support the implementation of the Action Plan, in particular its provisions related to the OFOG Group, technical cooperation, capacity building and monitoring activities	Implement updated RMS	#	#	#	#	#	#	CPs time, with support from Secretariat under Specific Objective 4 a) (Table A.2)	Depends on CP
5. To promote access to information and public participation in decision-making	a) Template for public information, in line with national and regional rules on access to information	Template for public information at the regional level available	#	#	#	#	#	#	CPs time, with support from Secretariat under Specific Objective 5 a) (Table A.2)	1-3 days for filling template, depending on CP

Specific Objective	Actions/Outputs	Key milestones	2023		2024		2025		Means required	Indicative budget (Euro)/ manpower (man-days) (2023-2025)
	b) Report to the Secretariat every two years relevant information on the offshore installations within their jurisdiction including, when appropriate, information on their disposal for inclusion in the inventory to be maintained by the Secretariat	Reporting in BCRS Increase the number of CPs that submit their National Report on the implementation of the Offshore Protocol in BCRS (10 CPs for 2020-2021, of which 4 reported on offshore installations)			#	#			CPs time	See Specific Objective 10 a)
	c) Report to the Secretariat every two years on 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	Reporting in BCRS and MEDGIS-MAR platform Increase the number of CPs that submit their National Report on the implementation of the Offshore Protocol in BCRS, and that report on discharges, spills and emissions the MEDGIS-MAR platform			#	#			CPs time	See Specific Objective 10 a)
6. To enhance the regional transfer of technology	a) Active participation of the respective scientific and technical institutions, as well as the industry, in R&D activities and programmes related to prevention, response and monitoring of pollution from offshore activities	Enhance knowledge development and exchange through R&D activities and programmes	#	#	#	#	#	#	CPs time	As appropriate, depending on CP
	b) Presentation of the results of R&D activities and programmes by their	Enhance knowledge development and exchange	#	#	#	#	#	#	CPs time	As appropriate, depending on CP

Specific Objective	Actions/Outputs	Key milestones	2023		2024		2025		Means required	Indicative budget (Euro)/ manpower (man-days) (2023-2025)
	respective national institutions and industry in international fora	through participation in national and international fora								
	c) Information on ongoing R&D activities and research needs provided to the Secretariat	Keep the Secretariat abreast of ongoing R&D activities and research needs	#	#	#	#	#	#	CPs time	1 day per year
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	On-going Guidelines for the Conduct of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) adopted by COP 22 (IG.25/15)							-	-
	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	Tentatively in biennium 2024-2025 (see Table 1)			#	#			Tasked to CP/s on a voluntary basis, with support from the Secretariat under Specific Objectives 3, 7 and 8 (Table A.2)	Lead/contribution: 20 - 50 days (see End note ⁱ) To be assessed and refined by the task group
	c) Identification of the required modifications of Annex I, II and III and definition of which chemicals should be covered and not covered by such standards and under which conditions	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.	#	#	#	#			Tasked to CP/s on a voluntary basis, with support from the Secretariat under Specific Objectives 3, 7 and 8 (Table A.2)	Lead/contribution: 20 - 50 days (see End note ⁱ)

Specific Objective	Actions/Outputs	Key milestones				Means required	Indicative budget (Euro)/ manpower (man-days) (2023-2025)		
			2023	2024	2025				
	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	Adopted by COP 21 (Decision IG.24/9)	Completed			-	-		
	e) The method to be used to analyze the oil content is commonly agreed and adopted	Tentatively in biennium 2024-2025, as part of Specific Objective 7 b)		#	#	#	#	Tasked to CP/s on a voluntary basis, with support from the Secretariat under Specific Objectives 3, 7 and 8 (Table A.2)	Lead/contribution: 20 - 50 days (see End note ¹) To be assessed and refined by task group
	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	Address through REMPEC work in the framework of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, as needed	#			CPs time, with support from the Secretariat under the framework of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol	As appropriate		
	g) Special restrictions or conditions for SPAs defined and adopted	Adopted by COP 21 (Decision IG.24/9)	Completed			-	-		

Specific Objective	Actions/Outputs	Key milestones				Means required	Indicative budget (Euro)/ manpower (man-days) (2023-2025)	
			2023	2024	2025			
	h) Common criteria, rules and procedures for the removal of installations and the related financial aspects adopted	Planned in PoW 2022-2023 (EP/MED WG.498/Inf.5) An ICG has been launched in November 2022, led by Italy. A first draft has been submitted to the CPs for the Fourth OFOG Meeting, May 2023	#	#			Tasked to CP/s on a voluntary basis, with support from the Secretariat under Specific Objectives 3, 7 and 8 (Table A.2)	Lead/contribution: 20 - 50 days (see End note ¹) To be assessed and refined by task group
	i) Common criteria, rules and procedures for safety measures including health and safety requirements adopted	It is proposed to launch an ICG on the topic early 2024. It is suggested that the ICG also incorporate work on Minimum standards and qualifications for professionals and crew.		#	#	#	-	-
	j) Common minimum standards of qualification for professionals and crews adopted	It should be under the OFOG Safety sub-group ; looking to ensure a reflexion/transition on the next course of action for the further implementation of the Offshore Protocol.		#	#	#	-	-
8. To develop and adopt regional offshore guidelines	a) Regional Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment	Finalized in 2020-2021 biennium for COP 22 consideration	Completed			Guidelines for the Conduct of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) adopted by COP 22 (IG.25/15)	-	-

Specific Objective	Actions/Outputs	Key milestones				Means required	Indicative budget (Euro)/ manpower (man-days) (2023-2025)	
			2023	2024	2025			
	b) Regional Guidelines on the use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material	Tentatively in biennium 2024-2025 See Table 1		#	#	#	Tasked to CP/s on a voluntary basis, with support from the Secretariat under Specific Objectives 3, 7 and 8 (Table A.2)	See Specific Objective 7 b)
	c) Regional Guidelines on the disposal of oil and oily mixtures and the use and disposal of drilling fluids and cutting and analytical measurement	Adopted by COP 21 (Decision IG.24/9)	Completed			-	-	
	d) Regional Guidelines on removal of installations and the related financial aspects	Planned in PoW 2022-2023 (EP/MED WG.498/Inf.5) An ICG has been launched in November 2022, led by Italy. A first draft has been submitted to the CPs for the Fourth OFOG Meeting, May 2023	#	#			Tasked to CP/s on a voluntary basis, with support from the Secretariat under Specific Objectives 3, 7 and 8 (Table A.2)	See Specific Objective 7 h)
	e) Regional Guidelines on installation safety measures including health and safety requirements	It is proposed to launch an ICG on the topic early 2024. It is suggested that the ICG also incorporate work on Minimum standards and qualifications for professionals and crew. It should be under the OFOG Safety sub-group ; looking to		#	#	#	Tasked to CP/s on a voluntary basis, with support from the Secretariat under Specific Objectives 3, 7 and 8 (Table A.2)	See Specific Objective 7 i), j)
	f) Regional Guidelines on minimum standards of qualifications for professionals and crews			#	#	#		

Specific Objective	Actions/Outputs	Key milestones				Means required	Indicative budget (Euro)/ manpower (man-days) (2023-2025)
			2023	2024	2025		
		ensure a reflexion/transition on the next course of action for the further implementation of the Offshore Protocol.					
	g) Regional Guidelines on authorization requirements based on the above-mentioned Standards	Tentatively in biennium 2024-2025 See Table 1		#	#	Tasked to CP/s on a voluntary basis, with support from the Secretariat under Specific Objectives 3, 7 and 8 (Table A.2)	Lead/contribution: 20 - 50 days (see End note ¹) To be assessed and refined by task group
	h) A report assessing national, regional and international, rules, procedures and practices regarding liability and compensation for loss and damage resulting from the activities dealt with in the Offshore Protocol.	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) Contribution through their OPRC Focal Points to the revision of the Section II of the Manual on Oil Pollution – Contingency Planning by the IMO Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR) which will include new information related to contingency planning for offshore units, sea ports and oil handling facilities	Manual on Oil Pollution: Section II published in 2018	Completed			-	-

Specific Objective	Actions/Outputs	Key milestones	2023	2024	2025	Means required	Indicative budget (Euro)/ manpower (man-days) (2023-2025)
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	Set of indicators to complement IMAP addressing offshore activities developed and adopted	#	#	#	CPs time, with technical support included under Specific Objectives 3 and 9 (Table A.2)	10-30 days every two years, depending on CP
	b) Results of the national offshore monitoring programme and the related agreed data are reported to the Secretariat every two years	Reporting of the national offshore monitoring programme as part of IMAP implementation		#	#	CPs time	
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	Biennial progress updates presented at the OFOG, MAP and COP Meetings	#		#	CPs time, including participation in biennial OFOG Meetings	For travel budget, see Specific Objective 10 b) in Table A.2 2-7 days for reporting every two years, depending on CP 2 days per OFOG Meeting, not including preparation time
	b) Biennial review of the status of implementation of the Action Plan on the basis of the regional report prepared by the Secretariat	Biennial progress updates presented at the OFOG, MAP and COP Meetings	#		#	CPs time	1-3 days for reviewing every two years, depending on CP

/ Green, anticipated implementation period – X / Blue, anticipated structuring physical meeting.

i. Indicative man-days estimated based on the consultancy funds of Euro 20,000 per standard/guideline assumed in Appendix I of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (Decision IG.22/3), accounting for a daily rate of 500 USD (420 Euro). This amounts to 48 days.

Table A.2 Overview of milestones and timeline per Action/Output relating to the Secretariat and its Components (2023-2025)

Specific Objective	Actions/Outputs	Key milestones	2023		2024		2025		Means required	Indicative budget (Euro)/ manpower (man-days) (2023-2025)
			#	#	#	#	#	#		
1. To ratify the Offshore Protocol	a) Provision of advice and technical assistance to CPs to the Barcelona Convention, which so request	Secure fixed-term position dedicated to the Offshore Protocol at the Secretariat	#	#	#	#	#	#	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
	b) Assistance in reviewing the effectiveness of the Offshore Protocol	Secure fixed-term position dedicated to the Offshore Protocol at the Secretariat	#	#	#	#	#	#	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
2. To designate CPs' Representatives to participate in the regional governing bodies	a) Participation of the industry and their representatives as observers to the OFOG Sub-Groups	Sustain participation and engagement of IOGP as accredited MAP partner Encourage participation of representatives from other relevant parties	#	#	#	#	#	#	Secretariat staff time and travels	End note ⁱ Secretariat Travels on Official Business
	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	Sustain current level of participation and engagement of NGOs, e.g. WWF Greece Encourage participation of representatives from other relevant organizations	#	#	#	#	#	#	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
	c) Establishment of institutional cooperation with various relevant regional and global institutions, initiatives and agreements and, at an operational level,	Sustain cooperation with IOGP, London Protocol Secretariat, UNEP Oil for Development	#	#	#	#	#	#	Secretariat staff time and any travel required	End note ⁱ Secretariat Travel on Official Business

Specific Objective	Actions/Outputs	Key milestones	2023	2024	2025	Means required	Indicative budget (Euro)/ manpower (man-days) (2023-2025)
	identification and use of possible synergies with ongoing activities of bodies such as the EMSA	Partnership, EUOAG and OSPAR OIC Establish cooperation with other organizations and associations, including EMSA and EOSCA					
	d) Publication and update of the composition of the OFOG Group and Sub-Groups on a dedicated website	Publish and update OFOG Group and Sub-Group contact points on a yearly basis	#	#	#	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
	e) Updated list of the National Offshore Focal Points and OFOG Sub-Group Focal Points	Update National Offshore Focal Point and OFOG Sub-Group Focal Points list on a yearly basis	#	#	#	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
	f) Definition, in consultation with MAP Focal Points, of the roles and responsibilities of UNEP/MAP Components to facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan	Define roles and responsibilities every two years in the preparation of PoW	#	#		Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
	g) Identification of the required means including human resources to ensure the implementation of the Action Plan and the support of the relevant UNEP/MAP Components.	see Specific Objective 4		#	#	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
3. To establish a technical cooperation	a) Integration of the technical cooperation and capacity building programme in the six-year programme of activities of	Integrate within the current draft MTS 2022-2027	#	#	#	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ

Specific Objective	Actions/Outputs	Key milestones	2023	2024	2025	Means required	Indicative budget (Euro)/ manpower (man-days) (2023-2025)			
and capacity building programme	UNEP/MAP and its relevant Components and in their biennium programme of work									
	b) Preparation of the corresponding budget for consideration by the Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Integrate in PoW 2024-2025 Mobilize support from national technical experts, partners and international organizations	#	#			#	#	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
	c) Identification of donors to secure funds required for the implementation of the technical cooperation and capacity building programme	Implement updated RMS Secure financial and in-kind contribution through collaboration with partners and international organizations	#	#	#	#	#	#	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
4. To mobilize resources for the implementation of the Action Plan	a) Identification of additional donors to secure funds for the implementation of the Action Plan	Implement updated RMS Evaluate the implementation of RMS and potential update in 2024, to be presented at COP 24			#	#			Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
5. To promote access to information and public participation in decision-making	a) Support the preparation of 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	Compile links to national websites that provide public access to information Template for public information at the regional level in biennium 2022-2023	#	#	#	#			Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ

Specific Objective	Actions/Outputs	Key milestones	2023	2024	2025	Means required	Indicative budget (Euro)/ manpower (man-days) (2023-2025)
	b) Development of an online regional system and for it to be maintained for the purpose of public information sharing	Develop online regional system for public information sharing	#	#	#	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
	c) Publication every two years on a dedicated website of the inventory of installations as well as the discharges, spills and emissions from offshore oil and gas installations data submitted by the CPs	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) (Table A.1)	#		#	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
	d) Produce a consolidated report every two years on the discharges, spills and emissions from offshore oil and gas installations data submitted by the CPs.	Develop a regional system for reporting on discharges and emissions		#		Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
6. To enhance 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	Compile an inventory of R&D activities and research needs e.g. through a dedicated questionnaire	#	#	#	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
	b) Dissemination and exchange of results of national R&D activities and programmes within and outside the Mediterranean region	Disseminate and enhance the exchange of information related to R&D results e.g. publication on website	#	#	#	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ

Specific Objective	Actions/Outputs	Key milestones	2023	2024	2025	Means required	Indicative budget (Euro)/ manpower (man-days) (2023-2025)
	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	Disseminate and enhance the exchange of information related to R&D results	#	#	#	Participation in relevant fora	-
7. To develop and adopt regional offshore standards	a) Support the specific OFOG Sub-Groups for the development of the above common standards	Secure fixed-term position dedicated to the Offshore Protocol at the Secretariat Mobilize support from national technical experts, industry partners and international organizations	#	#	#	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
8. To develop and adopt regional offshore guidelines on	a) Support the specific OFOG Sub-Groups for the development of the above common guidelines	Secure fixed-term position dedicated to the Offshore Protocol at the Secretariat Mobilize support from national technical experts, partners and international organizations	#	#	#	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ
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	Develop and adopt a set of indicators to complement IMAP addressing offshore activities	#	#	#	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ

Specific Objective	Actions/Outputs	Key milestones	2023	2024	2025	Means required	Indicative budget (Euro)/ manpower (man-days) (2023-2025)		
		Establish the Mediterranean Regional Offshore Monitoring Programme as part of IMAP							
	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)	Streamline offshore data-sharing and monitoring platform with Info-MAP data management system Establish the Mediterranean Regional Offshore Monitoring Programme as part of IMAP	#	#	#	#	#	Secretariat staff time, with support from Info-RAC	40,000 allocated to Info-RAC in 2022-2023
	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	Develop regional system for reporting of discharges and emissions Update and publication subject to regular reporting by CPs as part of Specific Objective 5c) (Table A.1)	#	#		#	#	Secretariat staff time, publication and dissemination	End note ⁱ
10. To report on the implementation of the Action Plan	a) Guidelines on the structure and content of the national report on the implementation of this Action Plan considering existing reporting procedures (e.g. Reporting under the Compliance Committee) to avoid duplication of reporting procedures, as well as a set of indicators	Provide guidelines to CPs to compile and report information presented in Table A.1 to the Secretariat	#	#		#	#	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ

Specific Objective	Actions/Outputs	Key milestones	2023		2024		2025		Means required	Indicative budget (Euro)/ manpower (man-days) (2023-2025)
			#	#			#	#		
	b) Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	Organize a biennial OFOG Meeting	#	#			#	#	Travel/DSA	60,000 ⁱⁱ
	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 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Present biennial progress updates at the OFOG, MAP and COP Meetings	#	#			#	#	Secretariat staff time	End note ⁱ

/ Green, anticipated implementation period – X / Blue, anticipated structuring physical meeting.

i. Taking into account the number of tasks to be implemented by the Secretariat, the creation of a fixed position at the Secretariat should be envisaged.

ii. Two meetings in the period 2023-2025, with a budget of 30,000 Euro per meeting

Annex II

Planned offshore-related activities extracted from draft PoW 2024-2025

Table A.3 Planned offshore-related activities extracted from draft PoW 2024-2025

Main activity (means of implementation)	Expected deliverable	Lead Component	Other Component(s)	Partners	SDG Targets	MTF/External Resources/Both
Outcome 4.4. Measures defined within the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan applied at regional level and by each Contracting Party within their jurisdiction to ensure the safety of offshore activities and reduce their potential impact on the marine environment and its ecosystem	a) Meeting of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG) organised and held; Offshore Protocol implementation and Annexes to the Offshore Protocol kept under review; best practices and latest relevant developments shared.	REMPEC / CU	MED POL, SPA/RAC, INFO/RAC	IOGP, IPIECA, MOIG	5.5, 9.4; 14.2	MTF
4.4.1. Implement key targeted measures of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan <i>(in-house expertise, consultancy, national consultation, webinars, side events, expert meetings, Med Forum, online trainings, regional meeting</i>	b) Training organised on Offshore platform Preparedness and Response and Contingency Plan Assessment, as set out in Appendix 2 of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (2016-2024) and defined by the 2023 OFOG Meeting.					Both

<i>(OFOG)</i>	c) Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (2016-2024) reviewed and updated, as defined by the 2023 OFOG Meeting.					MTF
<p>6.3.17. Streamline shipping and offshore data-sharing and monitoring platform with Info-MAP Data management system</p> <p><i>(in-house expertise, consultancy, IMAP TF, awareness raising)</i></p>	a) MEDGIS-MAR linked to Info-MAP Data management system.	REMPEC	CU, MED POL, INFO/RAC	IMO	14.a; 9.5	MTF
<p>7.2.3.Enhance public awareness and outreach on key MAP topics for general and specific targets (MAP Partners, Civil Society, Private sector, Youth etc.)</p> <p><i>(in-house expertise, external expertise, Communication TF, digital campaigns, web platforms, outreach events, publications, IT services)</i></p>	d) Awareness, information materials on marine pollution from ships and offshore installations produced and disseminated.	REMPEC	MAP Communication TF			MTF
