
**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

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Agenda Item 7: Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building programme

**Proposed planning cycle of the technical cooperation and capacity building programme within the context of the
Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan**

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Note by the Secretariat

The present document proposes a new planning cycle of the related activities under Specific Objective 3 of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (MOAP) which were initially introduced during the Third Meeting of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG) Sub-Group on Environmental Impact, held remotely in June 2021.

Introduction

1 The Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan within the framework of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil, hereinafter referred to as the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (MOAP), was adopted by the 19th Ordinary Contracting Parties Meeting (COP 19, Athens, Greece, February 2016), with the overall objective of “*defining measures which, if applied at regional level and by each Contracting Party within their jurisdiction will ensure the safety of offshore activities and reduce their potential impact on the marine environment and its ecosystem*”.

2 The Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (MOAP), sets out 10 Specific Objectives, based on four main components, namely: 1) Governance Framework; 2) Regional Offshore Standards and Guidelines; and 3) Monitoring; and 4) Reporting.

3 Specific Objective 3 of the MOAP calls for the establishment of a technical cooperation and capacity building programme, whilst Appendix 2 of the MOAP specifies the elements of this programme and includes both technical support for the development of standards and guidelines as well as training. The overall objective is to strengthen national capacities and enhance regional harmonization.

4 It was envisaged that Specific Objectives under the current MOAP would be reached during the period from 2016 to 2024.

A proposed revised comprehensive cycle of activities under Specific Objective 3 for the period 2023-2025

5 Given that the current MOAP will expire in 2024, and not all the goals set out by the MOAP have been reached, it is being proposed that the current cycle of activities under Specific Objective 3 be revised.

6 The proposals are set out in Annex 1. The proposals are based on related activities introduced during the Third Meeting of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG) Sub-Group on Environmental Impact, held remotely in June 2021.

7 Annex 1 provides a zoom-in of the proposed planning cycle of these activities, prioritizing those topics on which standards and guidelines are already (or will be) developed (Training A and B) as well as training on a selection of other topics (Training C) which will need to be refined based on the priorities set by the Contracting Parties (CPs) and other considerations related to the overall planning, such as the availability of resources.

8 The proposals are based on the premise that an extension of one year of the current MOAP will be agreed in order to bridge the gap between the expiration of the current term of the MOAP, ending 2024, and the forthcoming Programme of Work (PoW) for the biennium 2024-2025.

Actions requested by the Meeting

9 **The Meeting is invited to:**

- .1 Take note of the information provided; and
- .2 Evaluate the priorities and proposed planning cycle for a technical cooperation and capacity building programme for the time period 2023-2025.

Annex

Proposed Technical cooperation and capacity building programme

2023 - 2025

| Specific Objective 3: To establish a technical cooperation and capacity building programme | Key milestones | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | | | |
|---|---|---|-------------|-------------|---|---|---|
| Technical Cooperation for the Development of Standards and Guidelines: | | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring | Further development of the Offshore Monitoring Programme under the framework of IMAP planned in biennium 2023-2025 and beyond. It is expected that Common Indicators will be approved during the Fourth OFOG Meeting in May 2023. | # | # | # | # | # | # |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material | Tentatively in biennium 2024-2025, potentially in cooperation with relevant international associations (e.g. EOSCA). It is proposed to launch an Intersessional Correspondence Group (ICG) on the topic early 2024. | | # | # | # | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disposal of oil and oily mixtures and on the use and disposal drilling fluids and cutting | Adopted by COP 21 (Decision IG.24/9 Annex I) | <i>Completed</i> | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offshore platform Preparedness and Response & Contingency Plan Assessment | Addressed through REMPEC work in the framework of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol | <i>Under the framework of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol</i> | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of installations and the related financial aspects | Presently on-going. A first draft has been submitted to the CPs for the Fourth OFOG Meeting, May 2023. | # | # | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety measures including health and safety requirements and fire fighting | 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 ensure a reflexion/transition on the next course of action for the further implementation of the Offshore Protocol. | | | # | # | # | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum standards of qualifications for professionals and crews | <i>See above</i> | | | # | # | # | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Granting of authorizations | It is proposed to launch an ICG on the topic early 2024. | | | # | # | # | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspection/sanctions (Installation/Discharge/Competent manning) | Resume discussion on the possibility of establishing a pool of experts in charge of inspecting installations, which could be composed of experts from other experienced regions, as is the case in other areas of expertise. It is proposed to launch an ICG on the topic early 2024. | | | # | # | # | |

| Training: | |
|--|--|
| <p>Training A:</p> <p>Indicative length: 2.5 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) • Guidelines for the Conduct of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) | <p>Following the development of relevant guidelines (Decision IG.24/9 Annex I and EP/MED WG.498/3), training on these topics will be prioritized in biennium 2022-2023.</p> <p>It is expected to conduct Training A during the second semester of 2023. Ideally it would be a physical meeting incorporating half of day dedicated to the implementation of the MOAP (REMPEC/WG.55/8).</p> |
| <p>Training B: Removal of installations</p> <p>Indicative length: 1 day</p> | <p>Training on removal of installations should follow the development of standards and guidelines in biennium 2022-2023. This training could be held online, early 2024.</p> |
| <p>Training C: Other topics for 2024-2025 biennium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring • Use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material • Offshore platform Preparedness and Response & Contingency Plan Assessment • 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) • Other relevant topics | <p>To be selected based on prioritization by Contracting Parties taking into account the completed works on corresponding standards and guidelines or on another relevant topic proposed by Contracting Parties.</p> <p>It is suggested to evaluate the possibilities that this training is held physically and if it can be combined with a strategic workshop on post-2025 activities.</p> |

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