



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

Webinar to enhance regional cooperation in responding to marine
Oil and HNS pollution in the Mediterranean (MEDEXPOL 2020)

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Agenda Item 5

STUDY ON SYNERGY BETWEEN THE THREE SUB-REGIONAL AGREEMENTS AND CONTINGENCY PLANS: OUTCOME AND WAY FORWARD

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SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document presents recommendations to strengthen sub-regional cooperation and interaction between Western Mediterranean countries in the field of response to major marine pollution events, based on the Study on Synergy between the three sub-regional agreements and contingency plans of the Western Mediterranean, developed in the framework of the West MOPoCo project.

Action to be taken: Paragraph 12

Related documents: REMPEC/WG.47/INF.5

Introduction

1 In the context of the Work package (WP) 5: “Emergency Procedures” of the Western Mediterranean Region Marine Oil and HNS Pollution Cooperation (West MOPoCo) project, the Secrétariat général de la mer (SGMer), as Coordinator of the project, prepared a study on the establishment of a synergy between the existing Sub-regional agreements and related contingency plans (SRCPs) in the field of preparedness and response to marine pollution in the western Mediterranean region (“**the Study**”). The Study is reproduced in document REMPEC/WG.47/INF.5.

2 The Study addresses the legal requirements, institutional arrangements and operational procedures that could strengthen cooperation and interaction among the Western Mediterranean countries participating in the three SRCPs, in particular through synergy activities.

3 The Study provides an overview of international and regional legal frameworks covering preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution, including globally applicable international treaties, the Mediterranean legal framework provided by the Barcelona Convention and its Prevention and Emergency Protocol, as well as the relevant EU legislation addressing civil protection and marine pollution control related issues.

4 The Study identifies possible synergies in the implementation of the three sub-regional contingency plans, to provide new opportunities of cooperation between the Parties of these plans and to propose ways of putting synergistic activities into practice.

Context and Background

5 The International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation 1990 (OPRC 90) and the Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances, 2000 (OPRC-HNS Protocol) promote cooperation amongst Parties through the establishment of bilateral and multilateral agreements, to strengthen national-level response capacity when needed. Sub-regional agreements and contingency plans provide the required

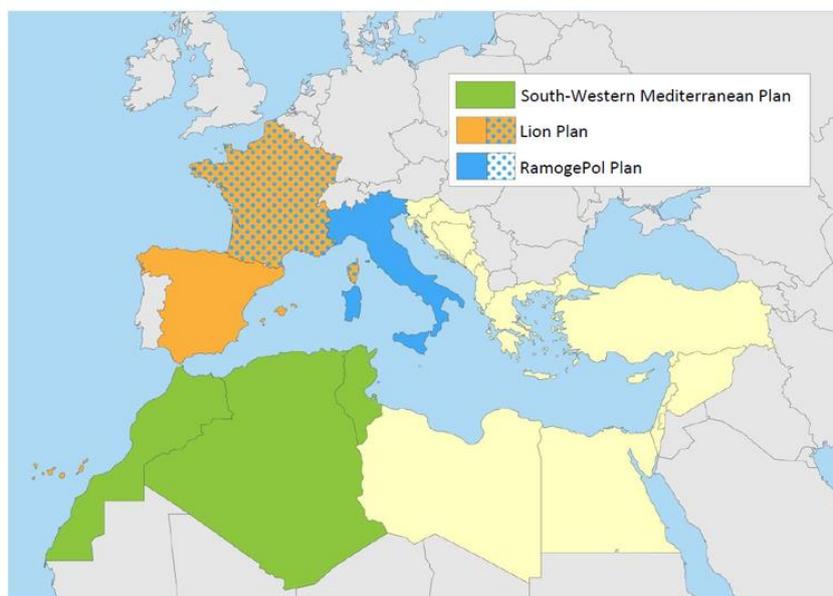
legal basis and establish the operational procedures for cooperation and mutual assistance between the respective Parties for a prompt and effective response to marine oil pollution incidents, e.g. by pooling resources and expertise of several countries.

6 The three Sub-regional agreements and contingency plans currently implemented in the Western Mediterranean are:

.1 RAMOGE agreement between France, Italy and Monaco (1976) and its relevant response plan RAMOGEPOL (1993);

.2 Lion Plan between France and Spain (2002); and

.3 the Agreement on a Sub-regional emergency plan between Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia (AMT) for the preparation for and response to accidental marine pollution in the South-Western Mediterranean (2005) and its relevant Sub-regional emergency plan.



*Multilateral Agreements on Sub-regional Contingency Plans
in the West Mediterranean (Cedre, 2019)*

7 These three arrangements (Agreements and Plans) are currently implemented in relative isolation from each other, while there is scope for achieving greater efficiency if these were implemented in synergy.

8 For the purpose of the Study, **synergies** are understood as activities that aim at enhancing collaboration and ensure that the impact of the collaborative efforts and joint activities carried out by several SRCPs is higher than the effect of activities implemented in the context individual action by one SRCP. In the context of SRCPs, the benefits from establishing synergies include *inter alia* avoiding duplication of effort, maximizing impacts of actions taken, using available resources more efficiently, etc.

Outcomes of the Study

9 The Study provides eighteen (18) recommendations for potential synergetic actions between Parties to the plans, which are detailed in document REMPEC/WG.47/INF.5 and summarized in Annex to the present document.

10 The recommendations resulting from the Study are presented to the MEDEXPOL 2020 to exchange views and best practices in the regional context and to explore their possible implementation in other parts of the Mediterranean region, for the benefit of Parties to existing and future SRCPs, notably in the Adriatic and in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

11 The implementation of these recommendations should be relatively easy and prompt, should not require amending the existing sub-regional Agreements or SRCPs, and focus on the operational aspects of the SRCPs. The main constraints identified that could potentially hinder their implementation are language problems, staff related constrains, and limited financial means. Their success on the other hand requires the political will of the Parties, the proper management of the implementation, and the necessary financial support.

Actions requested by the Meeting

12 The **Meeting is invited to:**

- .1 **take note** of the information provided in the present document and in WG.47/INF.5; and
- .2 **examine and provide comments**, on the recommendations suggested in the present document, for further consideration at the 14th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, in 2021.

Annex

Table of recommendations for the establishment of a synergy between the existing Sub-regional agreements and related contingency plans (SRCPs) in the field of preparedness and response to marine pollution in the western Mediterranean region

Area of action	Authorities involved	Recommendation	Action type	Time-frame
Western Mediterranean pool of resources	National authorities responsible for the implementation of the plans, Secretariats and REMPEC	Conduct a joint risk analysis , including vulnerability and response needs assessments for the sub-Region	Common policy development	Short-term
Western Mediterranean pool of resources	National authorities/Secretariats	Develop a specific Guidance document on mutual assistance in case of a major marine pollution	Common policy development	Medium-term
Western Mediterranean pool of resources	National authorities/Secretariats	Prepare inventories of equipment, products and other means that each Party can offer as assistance in case of activation of the Plan, including directories of expert personnel and/or centres of expertise	Joint activity	Short-term
Improving joint operations	National authorities/Secretariats	Discuss and adopt common policies regarding pollution response methods and techniques (e.g. elimination of the source of pollution, containment and recovery at sea, use of non-mechanical response methods including the use of dispersants, protection of sensitive areas, shore clean-up and waste management)	Common policy development	Medium-term
Improving joint operations	Secretariats/national authorities	Extend invitations to exercises organized within any of the SRCPs to participants from all three Agreements/SRCPs (as active participants or observers)	Joint activity	Short-term
Improving joint operations	Secretariats/national authorities	Inform and invite participants from all three Agreements/SRCPs to training activities	Joint activity	Short-term
Improving joint operations	Secretariats/national authorities	Organise joint spill response trainings and exercises, including tabletop exercises to facilitate coordination.	Joint Activity	Medium-term

Simplification of procedures for joint operations – customs	National authorities, in particular Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia	Identify the exact customs procedures to be followed for prompt and simplified importation of pollution response equipment.	National	Short-term
Simplification of procedures for joint operations – overflight procedures	National authorities	Submit flight plans for civilian aircraft involved in pollution response operations to the appropriate ATS Units responsible for the airspace to be flown in (en route to or over the area of response operations)	National	Short-term
Simplification of procedures for joint operations – overflight procedures	Competent national Operational Authorities	Make necessary arrangements for rapid granting of permits and clearances for civilian aircraft (fixed wing or helicopters) of the other Parties to the SRCP (or the parties to the other SRCPs, if their assistance is solicited) requested to take part in response operations within their respective airspaces	National	Medium-term
Simplification of procedures for joint operations – navigation procedures	Competent national Operational Authorities	Prepare the necessary arrangements for rapid granting of permits and clearances for the navigation of civilian vessels (ships, including boats and specialized anti-pollution vessels) of the other Parties to the Agreement/SRCP (or the parties to the other Agreements/SRCPs, if their assistance is solicited) who had been requested to take part in response operations within their internal and territorial waters. These should be complemented by similar arrangements for the use of port facilities by civilian vessels participating in joint response operations	National	Medium-term
Simplification of procedures for joint operations – navigation procedures	Secretariat/national authorities	Agree to use a common POLREP format(s) / harmonise POLREPS	Joint activity	Long-term
Simplification of procedures for joint operations - Communications	National authorities	Automatically transmit notification/alert messages in case of pollution incidents, reports and information on the activation of the relevant SRCP to the designated national contact points in all seven Western Mediterranean countries and to REMPEC.	Joint activity	Short-term
Simplification of procedures for joint operations - Communications	National authorities	Consider the use of CECIS Marine Pollution as a platform for submitting requests for assistance and making offers of assistance in case of marine pollution incidents which necessitate mutual assistance.	National	Long-term

Simplification of procedures for joint operations - Communications	Secretariat/national authorities	Discuss and agree on the language that will be used in communication between their representatives (or the Secretariats,) in ordinary contacts related to the maintenance and implementation of their respective Plans, and in operational contacts in case of marine pollution emergency and joint response operations.	Procedure development	Long-term
Exchange of information	REMPEC	Invite the Permanent Secretariat of RAMOGE Commission and the national institutions/national authorities mentioned in AMT SRCP Article 2.4 and in LION PLAN Article 1.6.2, respectively, to regularly report to the biennial Meetings of REMPEC Focal Points on activities/actions that were conducted/took place within the framework of their respective sub-regional Agreements and Plans during the period between two such Meetings.	Meeting	Medium term
Exchange of information	Secretariat/national authorities	Communicate regularly to ensure a constant level of mutual information on governmental and operational contact details and on-going activities, through regular meetings and the utilization of a common communication system	Meeting	Long-term
Exchange of information	Secretariat/national authorities	Improve mutual knowledge of the three plans contents and operational procedures e.g. by developing a comparative table	Joint activity	Short-term
Administrative Arrangements	National authorities of Parties to the Lion Plan and AMT SRCP	Extend the mandates of the competent national authorities to act as the Secretariats of their respective SRCPs for a defined fixed period of one or two years	Procedure development	Medium-term
