



**ISPRA**

Istituto Superiore per la Protezione  
e la Ricerca Ambientale

**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

**REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE  
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION**

***UNEP/MAP - INFO/RAC***

**PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME  
FOR THE BIENNIUM 2010-2011**

to be presented at the

Joint Meeting of BP/INFO/PAP National Focal Points  
Zagreb, Croatia

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## INFO/RAC – Work Programme 2010-2011

### Foreword

At the last COP of the Barcelona Convention (Almeria, 15-18 January 2008), the Italian Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) announced its decision to assign the function of INFO/RAC to ICRAM (Italian Central Institute for Applied Marine Research), now merged into ISPRA (Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research), starting from January 2010. This will be re-confirmed at the coming COP in Marrakech (November 2009).

ISPRA is the governmental body performing technical and scientific activities under the vigilance of IMELS and has a wide experience in managing environmental information and communication systems, as well as in bilateral and regional cooperation activities in the Mediterranean at the scientific and operational level.

### Policy background

The following Conventions and Protocols, political processes and initiatives, strategies and programmes, are the main background elements applicable to the INFO/RAC programme of activities for biennium 2010-2011:

- Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and protocols (see box below for details);
- Conclusion and recommendations adopted by the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CPs, Almeria, 15-18 January 2008, e.g. Decision IG 17/3: Format for the Implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;
- MED POL Phase IV Programme (2006-2013);
- Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD), including National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSD);
- Marrakech process on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP);
- Other UN Conventions, where appropriate: Aarhus, Desertification, Climate Change, Biological Diversity;
- EU initiatives, programmes and directives: Horizon 2020, European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Inspire Directive, SEIS Communication; GMES Programme.

#### **Barcelona Convention and its Protocols: main references to Information, Communication, Science and Technology**

- Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean: Art. 13 Scientific and Technological Cooperation – Art. 15 Public Information and Participation; Art. 26 Reports
- Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from ships and, in cases of emergency, combating pollution of the Mediterranean Sea: Art. 7 Dissemination and Exchange of Information
- Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean: Art. 19 Public, Information, Public Awareness and Education
- 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: Art. 25 Mutual Information
- Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal: Art. 12 Information to and Participation of the Public
- Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities: Art. 8 Monitoring – Art. 9 Scientific and Technical Cooperation
- Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean: Art. 14 Participation – Art. 15 Awareness-raising, training, education and research

### Goals

Support the work of the Barcelona Convention by delivering the information platform, portal and technical and scientific support to its implementation to MAP and its Components and to user in

Member Countries; develop a seamless shared information and communication system necessary to reduce pollution in the Mediterranean Sea and protect and improve the marine environment in the area, thereby contributing to its sustainable development.

### **Main objectives**

While ensuring continuity with previous objectives and activities, the proposed INFO/RAC programme for the biennium 2010-2011 will also promote the sharing and dissemination of experiences and results stemming from environmental research and innovative tools/technologies, including those resulting from earth observation initiatives relevant to the Mediterranean environment. The scope is to strengthen the knowledge base for bridging the gap between solid science, environmental monitoring and policy making in the Mediterranean region.

In the biennium 2010-2011, INFO/RAC will support the BC and MAP components focusing its activities in the following strategic objectives:

1. Information and communication tools/technologies;
2. Reporting, communication and awareness-raising;
3. Dissemination of results from environmental research and from innovative observation and monitoring tools/technology.

According to the MSSD implementation plan, INFO/RAC will contribute mainly to the knowledge management, but also to the participation & partnership and ad-hoc capacity building. In the framework of the MSSD and other projects identified together with MEDU and MAP components, INFO/RAC will therefore assist MAP's components and CPs in improving cooperation and networking instruments, also through bilateral cooperation with CPs, aiming at disseminating and sharing know-how and good practices where appropriate.

In the coming biennium, INFO/RAC projects and activities will contribute to develop a consistent UNEP/MAP corporate approach in the implementation of the MAP IC strategy.

INFO/RAC will also promote the use of the best available information and communication means and tools for the reduction of the overall ecological footprint of MAP's components, contributing to the greening of the Barcelona Convention, thus contributing to enhance the UNEP/MAP overall visibility.

### **Key references**

- Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols, UNEP/MAP, 2005.
- [Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean](#), UNEP/MAP, 2008.
- Report of the 15th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols, UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/10, 18 January 2008.
- MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - A Framework for Environmental Sustainability and Shared Prosperity, UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.16/7, 27 June 2005.
- Report of the Joint Focal Points Meeting of BP/RAC, INFO/RAC and PAP/RAC, UNEP/MAP, 2007.
- [United Nations Environment Programme Global Environment Facility \(GEF\) Project Document](#).

### 1 - Information and communication tools/technologies

Policy Relevance	Activity	Expected outputs for the biennium 2010-2011	Responsibility	Achievements/ Indicators	Related initiatives/ Partnerships
Barcelona Convention and protocols COP 15 –Decision IG 17/3	1.1 Further development and integration of infoMAP components, including SIMEDD	MAP's online Directory service	INFO/RAC in cooperation with: MAP/MEDU, MEDPOL, RACS	MAP On-line reporting systems operational	Horizon 2020 Review Monitoring & Research sub group INSPIRE, SEIS, EEA/Eionet
		NFP network on Information and Communication tools/technology			
		InfoMAP GeoPortal			
		UNEP/MAP data sharing principles			
		Guidelines for Interoperability testing			
		Remote helpdesk to assist CPs in on-line reporting activities			
Implementation of LBS protocol and MSSD (industrial sustainability)	1.2 Facilitate the development of GIS for MEDPOL Information system	GIS layer for InfoMAP GeoPortal	INFO/RAC in cooperation with: MEDPOL	Web based GIS operational	INSPIRE, SEIS
Barcelona Convention and protocols ICZM protocol	1.3 Initiate steps for an ICZM protocol Info System	Established linkages among relevant Projects experiences in the CPs	INFO/RAC in cooperation with: PAP/RAC	CPs projects connected Initiatives/good practice DB on line	EEA, SMAP CH Horizon 2020 Review Monitoring & Research sub group
		Initiatives/good practices data base			
		Revamping Med ICAM Clearinghouse			
Barcelona Convention and protocols MSSD	1.4 Reduce MAP ecological footprint through I&CT	Guidelines for greening the BC and CO2 compensation measures	INFO/RAC in cooperation with: MAP/MEDU, MEDPOL, RACS	Less paper used Less travel needed	

## 2 - Reporting, communication and awareness-raising

Policy Relevance	Activity	Expected outputs for the biennium 2010-2011	Responsibility	Achievements/ Indicators	Related initiatives/ Partnerships
Implementation of LBS protocol and MSSD (industrial sustainability)	2.1 Launching and expanding PRTR systems in Tunisia, Algeria, Albania, Morocco, Egypt, Turkey, Libya, Lebanon	Reporting format developed to meet national needs	INFO/RAC in cooperation with: MEDPOL	Number of PRTR systems operational Improved National PRTR capacities	EU PRTR
		Information/Communication Tools and capacity building activities for National Teams			
Barcelona Convention and protocols MAP's mandate MSSD	2.2 Cooperation in MAP environmental and corporate reports	Information /Communication tools to improve visibility and dissemination of MAP Technical Reports at regional and national level, e.g.: General Information material, posters, brochures, leaflets, news items, fact sheets	INFO/RAC in cooperation with: MAP/MEDU, MEDPOL, RACs	Number of publications Web access statistics Improved coordination at Euro-Mediterranean level on environmental reporting Improved networking between UNEP-MAP, MEDPOL, RACS and Member States	EEA/Eionet SOER 2010 Horizon 2020 Review Monitoring & Research sub group
Barcelona Convention and protocols MAP's mandate	2.3 Contribute to improve internal communication	IC Focal Points network	INFO/RAC in cooperation with: MAP/MEDU, MEDPOL, RACs	IC Focal Points identified Improved participation and ownership	EU Green spider network
		Contribution to the implementation of the IC strategy through the organisation of agreed activities and events			
		Contribution to IC annual plans			
		Survey on IC needs			
		Annual workshop			

Policy Relevance	Activity	Expected outputs for the biennium 2010-2011	Responsibility	Achievements/ Indicators	Related initiatives/ Partnerships
Barcelona Convention and protocols MAP's mandate MSSD	2.4 Contribute to improve external communication and MAP's connection to non-BC world	Adaptation of UNEP corporate communication guidelines to MAP needs	INFO/RAC in cooperation with: MAP/MEDU, MEDPOL, RACs	Improved corporate visibility Improved liaison with relevant networks (natl., Eu, Regional), Institutions, NGOs, scientific community, industry, civil society Improved coordination among Euro-Mediterranean networks/initiatives on environment and related information	UN Conventions UN Regional Seas UNEP/GRID UNEP Infoterra EEA/Eionet Horizon 2020 Review Monitoring & Research sub group EuroMED ENP MEDSTAT/Env
		Publication and web site templates			
		Internet MAP Forum			
		MAP-You-Tube & on-line contest			
		RACs short promo videos			
		Contribution to MedWaves e-magazine			
		Contribution to e-Newsletter			
		Participation in non-BC events			
Barcelona Convention and protocols MAP's mandate MSSD	2.5 Organisation of / participation in MAP events	Mediterranean Environmental Award (MEA)	INFO/RAC in cooperation with: MAP/MEDU, MEDPOL, RACs	Number of events Participation at the events Press coverage	
		MEA Catalogue			
		Events targeted to school children within COPs and MAPs events			
		COP's side events			
		Celebration days, such as MEDDay, Biodiversity day, Coast day, Marine day			
Marrakech process on Sustainable Consumption and Production	2.6 Improve communication with civil society and private sector on SCP, including exchange of information on best practices regarding educational toolkits	Launch & dissemination of reports, videos, studies and guidelines on SCP	INFO/RAC in cooperation with: CP/RAC	People contacted, Schools reached	Horizon 2020 Review Monitoring & Research sub group
		Toolkits for schools on SCP			

Policy Relevance	Activity	Expected outputs for the biennium 2010-2011	Responsibility	Achievements/ Indicators	Related initiatives/ Partnerships
Barcelona Convention and protocols MSSD	2.7 GEF SPM-LME: Component 4.2 – Information and Communication Strategy	Production of an Intranet/Internet site and on-line magazine;	INFO/RAC in cooperation with: MAP/MEDU, MEDPOL, RACs GEF Team	Designed and implemented information and communications strategy; Information collected, analyzed, shared and disseminated through the Internet/intranet; Printed material on project activities disseminated to the general public; Participation to a number of public events; Completion of an IC advertising campaign and preparation of information material	Project executing Agencies of the GEF SPM-LME
		Design, production of ad hoc IC material;			
		Participation to selected national and international environmental events;			
		Planning of an ad-hoc audiovisual campaign			
Barcelona Convention and protocols MSSD	2.8 GEF SPM-LME: Component 4.3 – Replication Strategy	Creation of Project Replication Team;	INFO/RAC in cooperation with: MAP/MEDU, MEDPOL, RACs GEF Team	Project replication strategy designed and implemented; Replication potential assessments for demonstration and pilot projects completed with scoring to indicate their potential for replication; Potential replication projects (PRPs) identified	Project executing Agencies of the GEF SPM-LME
		Developing an ICT Platform;			
		Information Analysis and Dissemination;			
		Organization of two Replication Meetings			
		Design and Implementation of Dissemination Mechanisms and Partnership Building;			
		Organization of a Regional Conference;			
		Design and Implementation of a Replication Scoring System;			
		Initial Facilitation of on-site project development			

### 3 - Dissemination of results from environmental research / innovative observation and monitoring tools/technology

Policy Relevance	Activity	Expected outputs for the biennium 2010-2011	Responsibility	Achievements/ Indicators	Related initiatives/ Partnerships
Barcelona Convention and protocols MSSD	3.1 Identification of opportunities for R&D cooperation initiatives on Marine and coastal environment	Links to existing research funding opportunities for Mediterranean S&T cooperation	INFO/RAC in cooperation with: MAP/MEDU, MEDPOL, RACs	Increase and improve: joint research activities, Information exchange, Scientist exchange programme	OARE EEA/Eionet SEIS Horizon 2020 Review Monitoring & Research sub group EuroMED ENP ETC/Water CORDIS MoCo MIRA
Barcelona Convention and protocols	3.2 Collection and dissemination of R&D project results related to Marine and coastal environment	Data base / catalogue development on good practices, tools, guidelines and experiences  Promotion of seminars and workshops on S&T	INFO/RAC in cooperation with: MAP/MEDU, MEDPOL, RACs	Data base in place Number of events launched	OARE EEA/Eionet SEIS Horizon 2020 Review Monitoring & Research sub group EuroMED ENP ETC/Water CORDIS MoCo MIRA
Art. 17, 18 & 26 of BC Draft decision UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG 320/9	3.3 Initiate platform module for the REMPEC information system	State of Play report on current IT situation and road map to facilitate the availability of data regarding maritime activities and preparedness and response	INFO/RAC in cooperation with: REMPEC	SoP report finalised	UNEP/GRID Horizon 2020 Review Monitoring & Research sub group EuroMED ENP GMES project (MyOcean) Cosmo-SkyMed Existing Automatic Identification Systems (e.g. Italian Coast guard) EMSA's related activities

Policy Relevance	Activity	Expected outputs for the biennium 2010-2011	Responsibility	Achievements/ Indicators	Related initiatives/ Partnerships
Barcelona Convention and protocols	3.4 Dissemination of opportunities stemming from innovative earth observation technologies	State of Play report on the existing earth observation initiatives (satellite, in situ, aerial) and benefits for the implementation of BC	INFO/RAC in cooperation with: MAP/MEDU, MEDPOL, RACs	SoP report finalised	EEA/Eionet SEIS Horizon 2020 Review Monitoring & Research sub group EuroMED ENP ETC/Water CORDIS MoCo MIRA GMES project (MyOcean) Cosmo-SkyMed
Barcelona Convention and protocols	3.5 Support for an "Early warning system" on the major environmental challenges in the Mediterranean region	Assist the setting up of an internet common platform for gathering the information from the RACs and the Mediterranean partners on the major threats at stake  Updated information on the major threats and stakes	INFO/RAC in cooperation with: MAP/MEDU, MEDPOL, RACs	Web site easily accessible to the decision makers	EEA/Eionet SEIS Horizon 2020 Review Monitoring & Research sub group EuroMED ENP ETC/Water CORDIS MoCo MIRA GMES project (MyOcean) Cosmo-SkyMed

#### 4 - Contingency activities

Policy Relevance	Activity	Expected outputs for the biennium 2010-2011	Responsibility	Achievements/ Indicators	Related initiatives/ Partnerships
	4.1 Contingency plan for ad-hoc activities	To be defined	INFO/RAC in cooperation with: MAP/MEDU, MEDPOL, RACs		