Action Plan for the Implementation of the ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean

2012 - 2019

DRAFT
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I. Introduction

The most important regional initiative to manage coastal areas, after the Stockholm Conference in 1972, was the creation of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) in 1975, and adoption of the Barcelona Convention in 1976, amended in 1995. MAP was the first Regional Seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and is its flagship today. In spite of the difficulties and differences prevailing in the Mediterranean, for more than 35 years all the countries in the region have continuously cooperated and are determined to meet the challenges of protecting the marine and coastal environment. The state of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas has deteriorated in the last decades as Mediterranean coastal zones have become subject to significant pressures from a range of socio-economic activities. Although MAP’s initial focus was aimed at marine pollution control, over the years, its mandate gradually widened to include integrated coastal zone planning and management.

The Barcelona Convention as the legal framework and its seven specific Protocols complete the legal system for the Mediterranean region. The signing of ICZM Protocol, the 7th Protocol in January 2008 in Madrid marked the fulfilment of six years of dedicated work by all the Parties. By adopting the ICZM Protocol, unique in international legislation, MAP demonstrated its will to keep ahead in terms of legal innovation and marine and coastal governance within the regional seas context. The signing also marked therefore the beginning of an intensive process of implementation to ensure that its ambitious objectives for the sustainable development of the Mediterranean coastal zone are achieved.

The Protocol entered into force in 24 March 2011. The ratification by the European Commission in September 2010 means that the Protocol becomes part of EU law and will have binding effects on Member States now the Protocol has entered into force.

This Action Plan sets out the range of actions required in the period 1st January 2012 – 31st December 2019, including the remaining 3 years of the existing MAP programme and the next 5 year programme. The purpose of the Action Plan is to support the remaining Parties in their ratification processes, and the support for all Parties in their transposition and the implementation of the ICZM Protocol. It is important to stress that implementation will require concerted actions by all Parties with, as appropriate, the assistance of the Coordinating Unit.

II. Mandate to prepare this document

The mandate for this Action Plan is given by Resolution II of the Madrid Conference of Plenipotentiaries, January 2008:

"The Conference,

Having adopted the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in the Mediterranean (hereinafter referred to as "the Protocol"),

Having regard to Article 17 of the Barcelona Convention in which the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is designated as responsible for carrying out the secretariat functions of the Convention and of any Protocol thereto,
Bearing in mind the urgent need to halt and reverse the continuing degradation of the Mediterranean coastal zone through a process of integrated management,

Desirous of facilitating the earliest practicable implementation of the Protocol,

1. Invites the Contracting Parties and the Executive Director of UNEP to ensure that the Sixteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean considers the measures and actions necessary for the successful implementation of the Protocol.

2. Calls on the Executive Director of UNEP to initiate consultations with the Contracting Parties on the work plan and timetable for meetings of experts to elaborate the technical aspects of the implementation of the Protocol.

3. Invites the Executive Director of UNEP to establish cooperation with relevant regional and international organizations in activities related to the implementation of the Protocol.

4. Also calls on the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, pending the entry into force of the Protocol, to commence preparations for its implementation at the local, regional and national levels.”

Article 4, paragraph 4 of the Barcelona Convention also requires the Contracting Parties:

“In implementing the Convention and the related Protocols, the Contracting Parties shall:
(a) adopt programmes and measures which contain, where appropriate, time limits for their completion.”

Further, the 16th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Marrakesh, November 2009 additionally recognised that States, having ratified the Protocol, “will be required to transpose its provisions into their national legislation. Demonstration programmes will need to be run with MAP backing in those states which have ratified the Protocol in order to test the effective conditions for its roll-out in the field.” Demonstration projects are effective as concrete manifestations at the country level of the Protocol and serve as a model to others.

The ICZM Protocol represents therefore a tremendous challenge. In this respect, the Secretariat shared with the Bureau (Zagreb, 8-9 Nov 2010) its vision with regard to the implementation of the ICZM Protocol, main pillars of action, key outputs and process. The Bureau adopted a conclusion to go ahead with the preparation of the Action Plan and suggested that its preparation should take into account the content of key deliverables of the current programme of work.

The Bureau agreed with the proposed outline of and the roadmap for the ICZM Protocol implementation Action Plan as presented in document UNEP/BUR/71/4, highlighting in particular the special importance of Governance issues and encouraged the Secretariat, PAP/RAC and its focal points to accelerate the finalization of the implementation Action Plan for consideration by the next Contracting Parties, as appropriate.

This Action Plan is presented to meet this requirement and for its consideration by the next meeting of the Contracting Parties.
III. Timeframe

Subject to the approval of this Action Plan at the 17th Contracting Parties meeting, the timeframe for this Action Plan is the 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2019.

A more detailed programme will be drawn up to link to the:

I. Existing biennium programme
II. Remaining 3 years of existing 5 year MAP programme to end 2014
III. Future MAP 5 year programme to 2019
IV. ICZM in the Mediterranean Background and Context

In order to fully implement the ICZM Protocol it will be necessary to establish coordination and synergy between all ICZM and related initiatives in the Mediterranean, particularly those of GEF, the World Bank and other international bodies.

**Mediterranean Action Plan**

The Mediterranean Action Plan is a multidisciplinary programmatic framework of Mediterranean countries to protect and enhance marine and coastal environments and promote sustainable development. MAP has 7 sectoral Protocols, including the ICZM Protocol, supported at technical level by programmes and centres of excellence, the Regional Activity Centres. The sectoral activity takes place alongside key cross-cutting issues including the Ecosystems Approach as defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity 1993, Climate Change Adaptation, the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development, along with integrated reporting and compliance.

ICZM initiatives spread in the Mediterranean since the 1992 Rio Summit and the adoption of the Agenda 21 whose chapter 17 is dedicated to oceans and coastal zones. The subsequent revision of the Barcelona Convention and the re-focusing of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP-Phase II) in 1995 put the emphasis on coastal issues and the ICZM as a path to follow towards sustainable coastal development. This approach was re-confirmed by the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) of 2005.

The Regional Activity Centre for the Priority Actions Programme (PAP/RAC) with support of other MAP centres provides technical assistance, guidelines, and methodologies for the practical delivery of ICZM in the Mediterranean. The revised MAP Components’ mandates, including the PAP/RAC mandate were adopted by the 16th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Marrakech, Morocco, November 2009, and reflect their contribution for the implementation of the Protocol, the cross-cutting issues in particular. The specific objective of PAP/RAC is to:

“...contribute to sustainable development of coastal zones and sustainable use of their natural resources. In this respect, PAP/RAC’s mission is to provide assistance to Mediterranean countries in the implementation of Article 4(i) of the Barcelona Convention, meeting their obligations under the ICZM Protocol and implement the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), 2005, and by carrying out, in particular, the tasks assigned to it in Article 32 of the ICZM Protocol, 2008”

A most important MAP activity in the field of ICZM is the Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) at the local level. The main benefits of CAMP include strengthening of institutional capacities, implementation of national information systems and integration of environmental issues in coastal planning.

The ICZM Action Plan would be implemented in connection with other MAP Global or sectoral strategies such as the MSSD, the SAP MED, i.e. legally binding measures under the LBS Protocol, SAP BIO and ecosystem approach roadmap.

An important added value of the ICZM protocol is the strengthening of the legal basis to implement in an integrated manner the sectoral protocols of MAP. The ICZM Protocol is also
a strong legal basis for the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development. There is also a need therefore for a leadership role of the Coordinating Unit.

The GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean LME Project, implemented under the umbrella of UNEP and the World Bank responds directly to the priorities set by the countries of the Mediterranean Sea basin to protect their marine and coastal environment. It consists of two complementary components: a Regional Component and the Investment Fund. The objective of the Regional Component is to: promote and induce harmonized policy, legal and institutional reforms; fill the knowledge gap aimed at reversing marine and coastal degradation trends and living resources depletion; and prepare the ground for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol. One of the key focuses of the Regional Component is to provide assistance to eligible countries in advancing their ICZM and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plans with emphasis on the protection of biodiversity and the prevention of pollution from land-based sources. The MedPartnership therefore gives an excellent opportunity for collaboration of UNEP and UNEP MAP with many other organisations such as GEF, WB, EU, UNIDO, UNESCO, FEEM, to induce the implementation of integrated approaches and boost environmental investment in the field of pollution reduction, ICZM and biodiversity conservation.

**European Union**

Within the EU, since the 1970s, coastal zones are dealt with through regional seas conventions. They are also addressed in other legal documents, such as the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2001), the Water Framework Directive (2000), the Quality Of Bathing Water Directive (1976; amended 2005), the Directive On Quality Required Of Shellfish Waters (1979), the European Spatial Development Perspective (1999), and the EC Treaty (1999) Art. 130a.

The EU adopted two policy documents specifically relating to ICZM:

- Integrated Coastal Zone Management: a Strategy for Europe (2000) and
- Recommendation Concerning the Implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe (2002), which encourages all member states to carry out national stock-take and to prepare national ICZM strategies.

The new legal documents on marine policy - Commission’s communication on the European Marine Strategy, Green Paper on the EU’s Maritime Policy and Marine Strategy Framework Directive make an important contribution towards the implementation of ICZM policy within the EU. These documents are to be considered in the broader framework of the EU Maritime Policy launched in June 2006.

ICZM has a key role to play to deliver both in the coastal zone, providing the bridging the interface between land and sea. More precisely, it is expected that ICZM “would contribute to ensure coherence between policies, plans and programmes, and the effective nesting and implementation of plans and programmes at different scales of intervention. Working at different scales and across administrative and sectoral boundaries remains a formidable challenge, but is central to achieving integration. The overall result should be greater clarity, certainty and predictability of policy and decision-making. This will facilitate the sustainable development of maritime economies and enhance the livelihoods of coastal communities” (An evaluation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in Europe; Communication from the Commission, COM (2007) 308)
Horizon 2020

In 2005, the European Commission launched the Horizon 2020 initiative as a component of the EuroMediterranean partnership Barcelona process. It aims to tackle the top sources of Mediterranean pollution by the year 2020. The Strategic Action Plan (SAP MED) of the MED POL Programme identifies priority target categories of polluting substances and activities to be eliminated or controlled by the Mediterranean countries through specific pollution reduction measures and interventions. CP/RAC (Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre) deals with the prevention and the reduction of pollution at source through sustainable production and consumption and dissemination of BAT and BEP.

The European Investment bank Mediterranean facility (FEMIP) contributes to the financial implementation of the initiative.

The MED Programme: Maritime security

The MED programme is an EU transnational cooperation programme (territorial cooperation objective) involving Mediterranean regions of the following countries: Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and UK (Gibraltar). Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro are also involved as EU candidate countries. The MED programme launched targeted calls for strategic projects in 2010. MED objective Maritime risks prevention and maritime safety is particularly important for the ICZM as it strengthens countries to cooperate in order to mitigate potential risks for coastal and marine environments.

The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) is the responsible centre for this issue within MAP along with those originating from the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol.

Union for the Mediterranean

The “Union for the Mediterranean” (UfM), has been launched to strengthen the political dimension of the partnership between the European counties and other Mediterranean countries. It has selected six priority projects, two of which are particularly relevant in the context of the Mediterranean ICZM initiatives: (a) the de-pollution of the Mediterranean Sea; and (b) the establishment of maritime and land highways.

Convention on Biological Diversity

The Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA-BD Mediterranean Protocol) was adopted, in the frame of the Barcelona Convention in 1995 and entered into force in 1999. The SPA/Bd Mediterranean Protocol is the Mediterranean’s main tool for implementing the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as regards the sustainable management of coastal and marine biodiversity. The updated Strategic Plan for the implementation of the CBD specifically refers to ICZM as a key means of implementation (Strategic goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem service).
**Constraints on ICZM**

ICZM remains the key tool for delivering the wide range of sectoral and institutional policies in the coastal zone, and the ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean represents a major achievement in global terms in delivering a common agenda for a regional sea.

However, among the key issues constraining the full and effective implementation of the Protocol in the Mediterranean area:

i. **ICZM is still localised and relatively short-term and project based. Major ‘up scaling’ is still required to meet fully the natural and anthropogenic challenges facing the Mediterranean.**

ii. **ICZM needs a strategic context to avoid piecemeal and potentially wasteful activity and to make a substantive impact.**

iii. **The practice of ICZM is still largely seen as an environmental activity, and is yet to fully engage those institutions and actors responsible for the social and economic pillars of sustainability.**

V. **The planning and management of the marine and terrestrial areas of the coast remain rigidly divided between policies, administrations and institutions.**

VI. **Future risks and uncertainties, notably climate change and natural disaster, need to be more fully integrated into the ICZM process.**

VII. **ICZM’s key role as the key tool for the implementation of the ecosystem approach in the coastal area is not fully recognised.**

Uniquely, the provisions of the ICZM Protocol provide a vehicle to address these issues in a concerted approach across the whole Mediterranean region. This Action Plan seeks to translate these provisions into a programme for ICZM that matches the high ambitions of the Protocol.
VIII. Main Issues Related to the Implementation of the ICZM Protocol

A comprehensive stock-take by PAP/RAC of all Contracting Parties to assess the status of the implementation of the ICZM Protocol is currently underway and its results will be available late-2011. Early results confirm that states employ a wide variety of legislative tools, instruments and programmes to implement the Protocol. Progress and capacity amongst the states varies with a similar degree of complexity.

However, it is clear that there are only a few isolated examples of specific legislation or established institutional frameworks in place for either the implementation of ICZM or the Protocol itself.

Specific issues relating to the comprehensive adoption and implementation of the ICZM Protocol need to be addressed at all levels - regional, national and local - namely:

– The requirement for consistency of institutional structures and legal frameworks for ICZM governance.

– The need of clear strategic priorities to guide ICZM.

– The critical importance of human and technical capacity and institutional coordination for ICZM.

– The importance of awareness of the Protocol and ICZM both within the region and internationally.

– The need for a strong centre of ICZM excellence to support the implementation and monitoring of ICZM in the Mediterranean,

– The need for access to high quality information, knowledge and research.

IX. Mid-term Evaluation

This Action Plan will be subject to mid-term review and an evaluation to coincide with the end of the existing 5-year MAP programme in 2014.

The evaluation and monitoring will be on the basis of the accomplishment of the outputs listed in this Action Plan.

X. Implementation Responsibilities

The full and effective implementation of the ICZM Protocol will require a concerted effort by all MAP components under the overall leadership of the Coordinating Unit and the technical direction of the PAP/RAC. It will also require the active involvement of all Contracting Parties to promote synergies and coherence, and to avoid overlap with other initiatives of the partners in the region.

Article 32 of the Protocol refers to institutional coordination. Accordingly:
- Contracting Parties are responsible for the implementation of the Protocol, and reporting.

- The Organisation is responsible for the coordination and the monitoring of the implementation of the Protocol as per article 17 of the Barcelona Convention.

- The Centre, Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) provides technical and expert support.

**XI. Purpose and Objectives**

The core purposes and objectives of this Action Plan are to implement the Protocol based on country-based planning and coordination.

1. **Support the effective implementation of the ICZM Protocol at regional, national and local levels.**

2. **Strengthen the capacities of Contracting Parties to use in an effective manner ICZM policies, instruments, tools and processes.**

3. **Promote the ICZM Protocol within the region and worldwide.**
XII. Actions

The following section sets out the detailed tasks included in the Action Plan and are structured according to the three objectives above.

Each action relates to:

**Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties**

- Actions for implementation by all Contracting Parties to implement the ICZM Protocol

**Outputs relating to the Secretariat**

- Supporting actions offered by the Secretariat, on behalf of the Organisation, and the Centre as defined by Article 32 of the ICZM Protocol

**Objective 1: Support the effective implementation of the ICZM Protocol at regional, national and local levels**

1.1 Ratification and Transposition

The responsibility for ratification and transposition rests with the individual Contracting Parties. Contracting Parties are encouraged to ratify the Protocol as soon as possible.

Transposition will take longer and demonstrate a range of forms subject to national conditions and preference (e.g. executive law, national or regional master plan for coastal zone, etc.), or to amend existing legislation to comply with it (e.g. ICZM framework law). EU Member and Accession countries will need to integrate relevant EU policies.

Based on the relevant provisions of the Barcelona Convention, support will be provided upon request to assist countries to adopt legally binding mechanisms and to build technical and human capacities.

**Outputs: Contracting Parties**

- Ratification by all Contracting Parties of the Protocol.
- Transposition by all Contracting Parties into legislation or guidance, and adoption of legally binding mechanisms.

**Outputs: Secretariat**

- Support for countries to adopt legally binding measures and transpose the Protocol into national legislation through for example comparative and gap analyses, or the dissemination of good practice.
1.2 Governance

Cross-sectoral institutional governance structures at regional, national and local levels will be essential to provide effective delivery mechanisms for ICZM. Such structures will vary according to local circumstances, but should extend the remit and ‘ownership’ of the ICZM process beyond its traditional identification as an environmental activity to encompass other key drivers such as economic activities, agriculture and fisheries, energy, transport and infrastructure.

The development of an “ICZM Governance Platform” is currently underway, led by the PAP Centre as part of the EU-funded Framework 7 Project PEGASO. The partnership also includes Plan Bleu as well as a wide range of international and national institutions.

The ICZM Governance Platform will provide an on-line and interactive resource to support the implementation of ICZM. The Platform will enable the sharing of data and information, case studies, tools and applications; to support coastal planning and management; to guide future policy implementation under the Barcelona Convention, and contribute to the transformation in governance structures. As such, it could provide the foundation for an “ICZM Observatory” as a component of the coastal monitoring and observation mechanisms and networks proposed in the Protocol (Article 16).

Once developed, the ICZM Governance Platform will require on-going management.

Article 16 of the Protocol calls for Parties to participate, at the appropriate administrative and scientific level, in a Mediterranean coastal zone network in order to promote exchange of scientific experience, data and good practices.

Outputs: Contracting Parties

- Cross-sectoral and institutional governance mechanisms established for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol at national and local levels.

- Participation in a Mediterranean coastal zone network pursuant to promote the exchange of scientific experience, data and good practices pursuant to Article 16 of the Protocol.

Outputs: Secretariat

- Assistance to the Contracting Parties in the development of governance structures such as inter-ministerial commissions, the carrying out of gap analyses of legal and institutional arrangements, and the improvement of human and technical capacities.

- The ICZM Governance Platform to support the implementation of ICZM through the provision of information and expert tools, including its continued maintenance and refinement throughout the whole programme period.

- Prepare proposal for the establishment of a Mediterranean coastal network to promote the exchange of scientific experience, data and good practices pursuant to Article 16 of the Protocol.
1.3 Common Regional Framework

Article 17 of the Protocol, “Mediterranean Strategy for Integrated Coastal Zone Management” calls for the Parties to define, with the assistance of the Centre, a common regional framework for integrated coastal zone management in the Mediterranean to be implemented by means of appropriate regional action plans and other operational instruments, as well as through their national strategies.

The principles of the common regional framework, referred to here as the Mediterranean Strategy for ICZM should:

– Identify the main responsibilities for implementing the Protocol with the Contracting Parties.

– Demonstrate on a regional scale how ICZM can deliver the ecosystems approach to ensure sustainable development of coastal zones, taking into consideration all social, economic and natural processes.

– Promote good governance that allows consideration and conciliation of the interests of various stakeholders; orients decision-making based on the principles and policy tools provided for in the Barcelona Convention and the ICZM Protocol; and establishes and strengthens partnerships with civil society and other partner organizations.

– Integrates the application in the coastal zones of individual thematic concepts and approaches such as the eco-system approach, spatial planning of land and marine areas, economic development, biodiversity, climate change, etc.

– Integrates regional policy drivers such as: sustainable development, MDGs, biodiversity, marine policy, etc.

Outputs: Contracting Parties

• Approval, Implementation and Review of the approved Mediterranean Strategy for ICZM

Outputs: Secretariat

• Outline for the Mediterranean Strategy for ICZM (Common Regional Framework) including gaps and needs.

• Vision and Objectives of the Strategy following a review at the mid-term by the Contracting Parties of the potential scope,

• The Mediterranean Strategy for ICZM.

1.4 Reporting on Protocol Implementation

Reporting on the implementation of the Protocol itself will require a review of the reporting process for the Barcelona Convention to take account of the specificities of the Protocol. “The Parties shall define appropriate indicators in order to evaluate the effectiveness of
integrated coastal zone management strategies, plans and programmes, as well as the progress of implementation of the Protocol” (Article 18).

A comprehensive stocktaking of the status of implementation of the Protocol by states and the EU is currently in progress and will report in late 2011. Using this as a baseline, a biennial update is proposed to monitor and report progress.

**Outputs: Contracting Parties**

- Regular reports on the progress of implementation according to a reporting format provided by the Secretariat.

**Outputs: Secretariat**

- A reporting format for use by the Contracting Parties and coordinate the reports.
- Report on the stocktaking currently underway of the state of implementation of the Protocol to identify gaps and progress at regional and Contracting Party level.

### 1.5 Monitoring

Article 16 of the Protocol, “Monitoring and Observation Mechanisms and Networks” requires Parties to use and strengthen existing appropriate mechanisms for monitoring and observation, or create new ones if necessary on both resources and activities as well as legislation, institutions and planning; to participate in a Mediterranean coastal zone network in order to promote exchange of scientific experience, data and good practices, and to collect appropriate data in national inventories. Public access to the information so derived from these activities should be ensured.

Measuring the effectiveness of Protocol implementation will require the development of indicators to monitor change, important areas and hot spots. A range of actions is proposed to meet the requirement to monitor the state of the Mediterranean coastal zone. These include:


To facilitate this, a key area of activity in the next few years will be the development of legal and policy instruments at national level as the Protocol comes into force. An assessment of the scope and effectiveness of these instruments and the development of appropriate indicators is required.

**Outputs: Contracting Parties**

- Regular reports on the state and evolution of their coastal zones.
Outputs: Secretariat

- ICZM Indicators for the Mediterranean.
- Chapter on Coastal Zones in the State of the Environment Report as well as the Environment & Development Report.

**Objective 2: Strengthen the capacities of Contracting Parties to use in an effective manner ICZM policies, instruments, tools and processes**

Article 18 of the ICZM Protocol requires each Party to further strengthen or formulate “a national strategy for integrated coastal zone management along with coastal implementation plans and programmes consistent with the common regional framework...”.

Work is already underway to prepare guidelines for the preparation of the national ICZM strategies and the coastal plans and programmes required by the Protocol. A few initiatives to prepare national strategies are underway or are complete. Guidelines are in preparation for coastal plans, and the successful model of the Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) can be further mobilised to deliver the ICZM Protocol at the local level.

### 2.1 National Strategies and Coastal Implementation Plans

The national strategies envisaged will provide the key link between the Mediterranean-wide issues, as described by the Protocol, the proposed Mediterranean ICZM Strategy, national priorities and policies, and the coastal plans.

Elaborated and improved ICZM guidance for the preparation of ICZM strategies and plans is required in order to:

- Incorporate current policy drivers such as the Ecosystems Approach, the Regional Adaptation Framework, the Draft Mediterranean Water Directive the EU’s Marine Strategy Framework Directive
- Demonstrate how ICZM will deliver the MAP ecosystem approach (ECAP) in coastal areas.
- Provide integrated planning frameworks for other key sectors in the coastal zone including: water, biodiversity, economic activities, agriculture and fisheries, energy, transport and infrastructure, as well as the integration of the specificities of climate change in the coastal zone.
- Provide a policy and practice ‘bridge’ between the land and sea areas, particularly in regard to spatial planning
- Assist countries in the implementation of specific Articles of the Protocol, notably the definition of set-back zone for development, the use of tools and instruments such as carrying capacity assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).
2.2 Methodologies and Processes

The profusion of thematic programmes in coastal areas presents in itself a challenge to the efficient delivery of the Protocol, notably but not exclusively: water, biodiversity, climate change, economic activities, agriculture and fisheries, energy, transport and infrastructure.

Climate change in particular is further emphasised by the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Marrakesh in 2009, adaptation to climate change in the Mediterranean coastal and marine environments was identified as a priority issue requiring attention. Accordingly, climate change adaptation in the coastal zone has been incorporated into the “Marrakesh Declaration” on Adaptation to Climate Change. There is added value therefore in providing a central regional assessment of in the specific context of coastal zones, identifying agreed scenarios, information and responses.

Outputs: Contracting Parties

- Thematic methodologies and technical capacities reviewed in order to assure that ICZM is effectively and practically integrated at national and local levels.

Outputs: Secretariat

- Guidance to ensure that ICZM is delivered effectively and practically at the national level consistently across the region.

ICZM Guidelines tested at national and local level. The Guidelines will:

i. Describe the ICZM process, illustrating and guiding the effective use of tools and instruments

ii. Provide an integrated methodological framework for the integration of key sectoral issues, notably but not exclusively: water, biodiversity, climate change, economic activities, agriculture and fisheries, energy, transport and infrastructure.

iii. Provide an integrated methodological framework for integrated spatial planning of the marine and terrestrial areas, and for economic and fiscal instruments.

iv. Assist in the definition of set-back zone for development, the use of tools and instruments such as carrying capacity assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).
2.3 Protocol Implementation Projects

Article 27 requires Parties to carry out activities of common interest, such as demonstration projects of integrated coastal zone management. A key to the successful implementation of the Protocol will be the practical results both on the ground and in key thematic areas such as tourism, urban development, water management etc. It will also be essential to disseminate good practice on a continuous basis. Special emphasis on governance and coordination mechanisms to practically implement the Protocol at the local level and to the use of priority methodologies and tools is required.

Outputs: Contracting Parties

- Implementation or support for practical implementation projects at the local and transboundary level.

Outputs: Secretariat

- Support for ICZM Protocol implementation projects at local and transboundary level - prototype interventions to assist countries to implement the Protocol - subject to their clear link to the preparation of over-arching national strategies and policies. Projects to be based on the recognised model developed in the Mediterranean, Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMPs). These include:

  1. CAMPs already underway or approved by the Contracting Parties in Spain, Montenegro, France and Italy.

  2. A further programme - CAMP IIIs - to build in-country capacity and to implement the Protocol at country level - along with thematic demonstration programmes to be agreed and delivered in partnership with donor or sectoral funding.

Objective 3: Promote awareness of the ICZM Protocol within the region and worldwide

Given the unique and innovative nature of the Protocol, its ambition and regional scale, and the relative complexity and importance on a global scale of the Mediterranean coast, the Protocol will require the central coordination and technical support for ICZM of the very highest quality. The Protocol is already recognized internationally as a unique and innovative achievement.

Article 15 also calls for the Parties to organize, directly, multilaterally or bilaterally, or with the assistance of the Organization, the Centre or the international organizations concerned, educational programmes, training and public education on integrated management of coastal zones with a view to ensuring their sustainable development. In addition the parties are required to participate in, at the appropriate administrative and scientific level, in a Mediterranean coastal zone network, in cooperation with the Organization (Article 16)
3.1 Professional Development, Training and Education

The implementation of the Protocol and ICZM in the Mediterranean requires a well-informed constituency of state of the art expertise at regional and national level. It will be particularly important however to target other sectors across government to extend awareness and ownership of ICZM.

The virtual MedOpen training course is also recognised a high quality source of continuing professional development, attracting decision makers (at the local, national, regional, and international level), policy advisors, project managers, staff and experts from international institutions, academic researchers, students, and all others interested in coastal management in the Mediterranean.

Article 15 recognises the importance of awareness-raising activities on integrated coastal zone management, educational programmes, training, and public education national, regional or local level.

Outputs: Contracting Parties

- National and local training and education programmes on ICZM.

Outputs: Secretariat

- Programme of high-level seminars, round tables and workshops at regional, sub-regional and national to promote and train high and medium level administration in the implementation of the ICZM Protocol.

- Maintenance and development of the MedOpen training course

3.2 Excellence on ICZM issues for the Mediterranean

The ambition of the Protocol poses a significant challenge to the capacity of MAP and the relevant Regional Centres, in particular PAP/RAC. The potential of the Protocol puts the Mediterranean at the forefront globally in coastal management in Regional Seas. However, to maintain this will require the highest calibre and state of the art technical support. PAP/RAC is already a centre of excellence in ICZM and Plan Bleu in development and the environment. This capacity should be maintained and enhanced primarily through training and staff-development on Protocol related issues.

Article 15 requires the Parties to provide for interdisciplinary scientific research on integrated coastal zone management and on the interaction between activities and their impacts on coastal zones. To this end, the Protocol proposes that the Parties establish or support specialized research centres to further knowledge of integrated coastal zone management, to contribute to public information and to facilitate public and private decision-making.

Outputs: Contracting Parties

- Development or support for research programmes for ICZM in accordance with Article 15 of the Protocol.
3.3 Awareness Raising

Article 14 of the Protocol “Participation” calls for Parties to ensure the appropriate involvement in the phases of the formulation and implementation of coastal and marine strategies, plans and programmes or projects, as well as the issuing of the various authorizations, of the various stakeholders. It also calls for the right of stakeholders to challenge “…decisions, acts or omissions, subject to the participation provisions established by the Parties with respect to plans, programmes or projects concerning the coastal zone.”

The effective implementation of the Protocol will require therefore a wide societal engagement involving civil society and individual citizens in the coastal zone, as well as governmental institutions. Good communication, open and transparent access to information and decision-making processes will be key to this engagement.

Continued awareness-raising of ICZM issues at the public level will be required. The annual Coast Day (September 25th) has been a success as a focus for this activity, generating widespread participation amongst the general public, events and publicity in coastal regions across the Mediterranean. It is proposed to continue this event and awareness-raising actions to compliment the implementation of the Protocol at the political and technical levels.

3.4 Promoting the Protocol

The full implementation ICZM Protocol will require continued promotion within the region along with the reprinting of the document itself and supporting promotional interest.
addition, the Protocol is the first international legal instrument addressing ICZM of its type and is attracting significant interest from other regional seas. Other dissemination activities include published papers, materials for regional and local administrations, ICZM practitioners and other key audiences, case studies with national examples of success. Additional funding is proposed over and above the core administrative budget for printing, travel, presentations etc. INFO-RAC (Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication) will also have an important role to facilitate and support information and communication about the Protocol.

Outputs: Contracting Parties

• Support for the promotion of the Protocol and its implementation.

Outputs: Secretariat

• Promotion of the ICZM Protocol and good practice in its implementation across the Mediterranean.

• Promotion of the ICZM Protocol and its implementation internationally through publications, published papers, networks and conferences.

3.5 Networks

The Mediterranean has a number of thematic networks such as coastal cites and regions, or sub-regional agreements such as the Adriatic-Ionian and RAMOGE (France, Monaco, Italy) initiatives. Such networks provide opportunities to both promote and deliver aspects of the ICZM Protocol, particular transnational within the region.

Outputs: Contracting Parties

• Collaboration with appropriate networks to assist in the implementation of the Protocol.

Outputs: Secretariat

• Identification and development of synergies and partnerships with appropriate networks to assist in the implementation of the Protocol.
XIII. **Coordination and Synergies**

The effective delivery of the ICZM Protocol in general, and the individual outputs in particular will require the collaboration, partnership and possible funding of other international and regional bodies such as UNDP, GEF, World Bank, EU etc. along with NGOs and networks.

These partnerships will be identified at the delivery stage of individual actions following approval of this Action Plan.

XIV. **Financial Resources**

The full delivery of the Action Plan will require a substantial funding partnership over that of the MAP itself.

The existing funding base is relatively narrow and will not be sufficient to fully deliver the ambitions of the ICZM Protocol and this Action Plan. Effort will therefore be required at the regional and national levels to attract external funding, both from established sources such as GEF, World Bank and EU, and from others where a common agenda can be identified, notably in the field of economic development. Particular attention should be given to this Action Plan in the MAP resource mobilisation strategy that will seek for funding sources required, identification of potential donor organisations, partners and country contributions. In particular, the strategy should identify those complimentary aspects of the work programme that can be ‘bundled’ into packages more attractive to funders.