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

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Fifth Meeting of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and  
Gas Group (OFOG) Sub-Group on Environmental Impact

REMPEC/WG.60/3  
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**Agenda Item 3: Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan , 2026-2035**

**Draft Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan 2026-2035 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 (Offshore Protocol)**

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### **Note by the Secretariat**

This document presents the draft Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan 2026-2035 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, (Offshore Protocol). It includes an overview of the process for its development since the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OFOG (Malta, May 2023), involving the Contracting Parties, the UNEP/MAP components and MAP Partners.

## **Background**

1. Following the entry into force 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, (Offshore Protocol) on 23 March 2011, the Nineteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (the Barcelona Convention), (Athens, Greece, February 2016) (COP 19), adopted by Decision IG.22/3 the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan in the framework of the Offshore Protocol (MOAP), for the period 2016-2024, aiming at defining regional measures that if implemented ensure the safety of offshore activities and reduce their potential impact on the marine environment.

2. The fourth Meeting of the Offshore Oil and Gas Group - Sub-group on Environmental Impact (OFOG), held in Floriana, Malta, 23-24 May 2023, noting that the implementation of the MOAP expires on 31 December 2024 and that some of its Specific Objectives had not been fully achieved, agreed to extend the implementation timeframe of the MOAP, for one year, i.e. until December 2025 and instructed the Secretariat to prepare a revised MOAP taking into consideration the achievements to date, as well as the developments in the offshore industry since the adoption of the MOAP. Considering that there was no decision of the COP as regard to its extension, and following the same rationale of COP17 (Paris, France, February 2012 - Decision IG 20/12 Action Plan to implement the Offshore Protocol), in February 2024, the Coordination Unit (CU) established an *Ad Hoc Internal Working Group* to review and update the MOAP 2016-2024.

3. In accordance with COP 23 (Portoroz, Slovenia, December 2023) Decision IG.26/14 on the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the Biennium 2024-2025, a process for the review and update of the MOAP was considered and funds allocated. The work was carried out by the Ad Hoc Internal Group of Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Components, set up for this purpose, which was coordinated by REMPEC and supported by a team of consultants. The work consisted of:

- .1 the preparation of a set of background documents, including a gap analysis with an assessment of the implementation to date of the current MOAP and the future projection for the offshore sector in the Mediterranean for the period 2026-2035 which included a summary of the policies and regulatory frameworks applicable to offshore installations; and
- .2 the development of a revised MOAP for the period 2026-2035 based on the guiding principle that: the MOAP 2026-2035 is a continuation of the MOAP; its objectives, and partially achieved outcomes; the governance aspects, i.e. the role of MAP Components and Partners for its implementation are addressed; and resource mobilization to support the implementation of the MOAP is integrated in the Action Plan and aligned with the updated MAP Resource Mobilization Strategy (RMS) adopted by COP 23.

4. Hereunder is a short description of the deliverables summarizing the content of the work.

### **Overview of the process related to the development of the MOAP 2016-2024**

5. This deliverable consisted of a review of the key milestones and initiatives which were considered to have led to the development and adoption of the MOAP 2016-2024, from COP 17 to its adoption by COP 19. It helped to identify key elements to facilitate framing the MOAP 2026-2035. Key findings of this deliverable are as follows:

- .1 The Offshore Protocol was adopted in 1994, yet only entered into force on 23 March 2011, against the background of two high profile incidents, the Montara Wellhead platform incident (Australia, 21 August 2009) and the Deepwater Horizon incident (US, 20 April 2010) with the social and political fall-out from these two incidents.

Undoubtedly this had a bearing on the development of the MOAP 2016-2024, which took place within the context of the aftermath of these two incidents. It is expected that the specific objectives laid out in the MOAP 2016-2024 will also be reflected in the MOAP 2026-2035 and therefore the revised Action Plan will be a continuity of the MOAP 2016-2024. That said, with a global drive to move away from hydrocarbon-based fuel as a primary energy source and potential new developments in E&P Operations, these evolutions need to be kept in mind when revising the 2016-2024 Action Plan.

- .2 The development of the MOAP was conducted within the framework of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) process, as outlined in the COP 15 UNEP/MAP five-year Strategy. Special emphasis was placed on monitoring-related concerns. Ensuring alignment between the monitoring component of the Action Plan and other UNEP/MAP monitoring initiatives, such as the future EcAp IMAP, was crucial for maintaining consistency and effectiveness between the overall regional monitoring initiatives and the offshore monitoring efforts; and
- .3 A variety of expertise is needed for the implementation of the Offshore Protocol; as a minimum expertise is needed in both safety and protection of the marine and atmospheric environment. This salient point had been raised in the very early stages of the process leading to the adoption of the MOAP 2016-2024.

#### A gap analysis of the implementation of MOAP 2016-2024

6. The gap analysis of MOAP 2016-2024 was conducted with the aim of identifying critical areas requiring updating and improvement in order to facilitate framing the MOAP 2026-2035. Whilst more details can be found in document REMPEC/WG.60/INF 5, the major findings are as follows:

- .1 In the main, it reiterates the gaps previously identified (REMPEC working documents EP/MED WG.498/5, REMPEC/WG.55/5, and REMPEC/WG.55/8) between what was expected from the MOAP 2016-2024 and what was achieved. In essence, these gaps arose because not enough resources were allocated to implement the outputs listed in what can be consequently described as a “too ambitious” action plan for the resources available;
- .2 Addressing these gaps requires funds and the ambition reflected in the MOAP 2026-2035 is very much dependent on securing these funds. That said it would seem that at this stage no new funds from the MTF will be made available, other than the current meagre funds reflected in the current Programme of Work; and
- .3 The key gap to be addressed, as a priority, is one already identified at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the OFOG (working document EP/MED WG.498/6) which calls for securing continuity through at least, a dedicated staff position on the Offshore Protocol which would possibly address, in part, the incongruity of a Protocol without a dedicated Regional Activity Centre (RAC) to coordinate activities and ensure follow-up, but at least have a dedicated person overseeing the implementation of the MOAP.

7. Securing a dedicated staff post on the Offshore Protocol within one of the MAP institutional arrangement (CU or RACs) should, as minimum, address some of the following gaps. It will:

- .1 Provide a focal point within the MAP institutional arrangement to facilitate exchanges among the Contracting Parties (CPs) and the MAP components;

- .2 Coordinate the implementation of the Offshore Protocol by centralizing and disseminating information through the social media and/or other platforms increasing the visibility of the benefits of the Offshore Protocol;
  - .3 Facilitate the establishment of a well-structured capacity building programme;
  - .4 Facilitate the identification of potential donors and/or build a network of contributors to support activities ensuring continuity with relevant stakeholders; and
  - .5 Facilitate exchanges among the MAP components including the CU which can provide clarity on funding and clarity on the governance of the Protocol, and the implementation of the MOAP.
8. In addition, the new MOAP would benefit from:
1. A commitment that the Meetings of the OFOG are supported by the MTF. In this regard, while it is recognized that funding limitations exist and that any additional activities should be financed through extra budgetary resources, at least one capacity building activity, funded by the MTF, is carried out annually;
  - .2 A streamlining of the two OFOG Sub-groups with a view that there is only one OFOG which addresses both the Environmental Impacts as well as Health and Safety (as per the Protocol). Consequent to this, the CPs will need to designate representatives with the appropriate competencies to cover the varied subject matter of the Protocol. Indeed, this might have an impact on the funding required for such meetings; and
  - .3 Performance indicators (main/qualitative indicators) are developed to monitor what is achieved under the SOs of the Action Plan (e.g: number of ratifications, number of common standards and guidelines approved, number of persons trained, progresses made for reducing the main pressures on the marine environment from oil and gas activities, etc).

#### Projections of the offshore sector in the Mediterranean for the period 2026-2035

9. This deliverable, as presented in document REMPEC/WG.60/INF 6, provides projections on future possible developments to be taken into account in the revised MOAP for the period 2026-2035. The following are the main salient points to be considered:

- .1 As energy transition progresses towards the use of green energy (e.g wind farms, wave energy etc.), which will inevitably impact offshore activities and how the Mediterranean Sea-bed is exploited, clarity will have to be sought, in the future, on what offshore activities fall within the competence of the Offshore Protocol for it to remain fit for purpose and remain current;
- .2 As this transition progresses, a number of country scenarios can be envisaged which will create challenges for the application of the Offshore Protocol to these different scenarios. It can be envisaged that some countries, with governmental support, will be aiming at developing green energy (e.g. wind or wave energy) and progressively move away from the traditional oil and gas sectors. Others might retain the traditional oil and gas sectors. Whilst others might opt for both. The development of renewable energy also means that some countries which before had no offshore interest will now begin to venture in this area of offshore activity; and
- .3 The regulatory framework for offshore oil and gas activities in the Mediterranean Sea

is complex and multifaceted, involving national, regional, and international regulations. While significant efforts have been made to establish a robust regional governance structure through the efforts of the Barcelona Convention system, challenges such as regulatory fragmentation and enforcement issues particularly at national level, as well as geopolitical tensions persist. Enhancing the regulatory framework requires harmonization of regulations, strengthening regional cooperation, building regulatory capacity, promoting public participation, and leveraging technology. By addressing these challenges and seizing these opportunities, Mediterranean countries can ensure the sustainable and responsible exploitation of their offshore resources, balancing economic development with environmental protection and geopolitical stability.

#### Development of the draft MOAP 2026-2035

10. In line with Decision IG 20/12, the involvement of the CPs, MAP partners, and the relevant Secretariats of other regional seas was considered in the revision and development of the MOAP 2026-2035. Similar to the preparations leading to the adoption of the MOAP 2016-2024, but with some adaptation to the current context of the updated MOAP, CPs were involved at two levels. A questionnaire was circulated to the CPs for their input which would assist in the revision and updating of the MOAP 2016-2024 (CL No 10/2024 dated 9 July 2024). The second level providing comments and suggestions on the draft MOAP 2026-2035 highlighting the review and update in blue, as outlined in CL No 14/2024 dated 3 October 2024, involved also the participation of the MAP Partners and other regional secretariats.

11. Following CL No 14/2024, feedback was received from two CPs approving the draft MOAP 2026-2035, one CP provided some editorial revisions and request clarifications, and a MAP Partner expressed a general support to engage across the topics where it can possibly be of an added value.

12. The text of the draft MOAP 2026-2035, incorporating minor editorial revisions changes following the above-mentioned consultations, is set out at **Annex** to the present document.

#### Actions requested by the Meeting

13. **The Meeting is invited to:**

- .1 **take note** of the information provided in the present document;
- .2 **examine and agree** on the text of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan 2026-2035, as set out at Annex; and
- .3 **request** the Secretariat to submit it for approval to the next Meeting of the MAP Focal Points.

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**Annex**

**Draft Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan 2026-2035 in 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**





**[DRAFT]**  
**MEDITERRANEAN OFFSHORE ACTION PLAN IN THE FRAMEWORK OF  
 THE PROTOCOL FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AGAINST  
 POLLUTION RESULTING  
 FROM EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AND  
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## **PART I – INTRODUCTION**

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### **I.1 Secretariat, MAP Components and Partners**

Considering the range of expertise required for the implementation of the Action Plan in 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 as the “Action Plan”), the Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention represented by the United Nations Environment Programme – Mediterranean Action Plan Secretariat (UNEP/MAP) (hereafter referred to as the “Secretariat”) will coordinate the technical support.

The role of the Secretariat, MAP Components and partners will be primarily one of assisting the Contracting Parties to enhance their national capacities and in facilitating the means for regional or sub-regional cooperation.

It is envisaged that there may be several areas of activity within the Specific Objectives of the Action Plan which will require synergy among these entities.

### **I.2. Geographical coverage**

The area to which the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan in 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 (the Action Plan) applies is the area defined in Article 2 of the Offshore Protocol.

### **I.3. Preservation of rights**

The provisions of this Action Plan shall be without prejudice to stricter provisions regulating the management of offshore activities contained in other existing or future national, regional or international instruments or programmes, when considering existing best practices for the development of standards for the Mediterranean region.

### **I.4. Principles**

In implementing the Action Plan, the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention, (hereinafter referred as the “Contracting Parties”), shall be guided by the following principles:

- (a) *Integration Principle* by virtue of which offshore activities management under the Offshore Protocol shall be an integral part of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, the Ecosystem Approach (the **EcAp**), other relevant strategies including regional strategies of the Mediterranean Action Plan and shall not conflict with applicable domestic regulations;
- (b) *Prevention principle* by virtue of which any offshore activities management measure should aim at addressing the prevention of any form of pollution resulting from offshore activities;
- (c) *Precautionary principle* by virtue of which where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost effective measures to prevent environmental degradation;
- (d) *Polluter-pays principle* by virtue of which the costs of pollution prevention, control and reduction measures are to be borne by the polluter, with due regard to the public interest;

- (e) *Ecosystem-based approach* by virtue of which the cumulative effects of offshore activities on air, marine and coastal ecosystem services, habitats and species with other contaminants and substances that are present in the environment should be fully taken into account;
- (f) *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* in particular SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production), SDG 13(Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life below water) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals). and
- (g) *The principle of public participation and stakeholder involvement.*

## 1.5 Definitions

For the purpose of this Action Plan, the following definitions will apply:

- .1 “Output”: an item to delivered over the timeframe of the Action Plan unless otherwise specified; and
- .2 “Performance indicator”: which is cumulative unless otherwise specified, and which is a measure of the achievements against an individual Specific Objective.

## 1.6 Timeframe

The implementation timeframe for this Action Plan is the [1 January 2026].to [31 December 2035]

## 1.7 Appendices

The Action Plan is supported by a number of Appendices, integral to the Plan, as follows:

- 1. **Appendix 1** outlines the technical cooperation and capacity building programme;
- 2. **Appendix 2** defines the Resource Mobilization Framework with an indicative road map and an estimated budget to support the achievement of the objectives of the Action Plan;
- 3. **Appendix 3** lists potential research and development topics;
- 4. **Appendix 4** lists the Regional offshore standards and guidelines to be developed and adopted; and
- 5. **Appendix 5** provides information on the linkage between the objectives of the Action Plan and the various Articles of and Annexes to the Offshore Protocol.

## **PART II – OBJECTIVES**

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### **II.1. General Objectives**

The **General Objectives** of the Action Plan is to provide a uniform basis for the application of the **Offshore Protocol** by 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.

These measures, at regional level focus on:

- Setting-up a **governance framework** to support the implementation of the Action Plan and the adoption, enforcement and monitoring of regional standards, procedures and rules;
- Defining commonly agreed **regional offshore standards and guidelines** to be integrated and used at national level;
- Developing in conformity with EcAp and the relevant indicators of the **Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean (IMAP)** a regional commonly agreed **monitoring programme** for the Action Plan; and
- Developing a format to facilitate the **reporting** on the implementation of the Action Plan.

## II.2. Specific Objectives

The Specific Objectives are described in Part 11.2 below. The Specific Objectives of the Action Plan, if achieved, will meet the general objectives as set out above. The Action Plan is built around **Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties** and to **the Secretariat and its MAP Components**, as well as to **relevant MAP Partners**.

For each Specific Objective, expected outputs are proposed, which will serve as basis to develop performance indicators, as appropriate, for measuring the progress (or otherwise) against the specific objectives of the Action Plan.

### II.2.1 GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

#### **Specific objective 1: To ratify the Offshore Protocol**

In order that there is a comprehensive legal basis for the exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf and the seabed and its subsoil in the Mediterranean Sea, it is important that Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention take the necessary action to ensure that 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 (the **Offshore Protocol**) is ratified and implemented nationally.

<b><u>Specific objective 1:</u> To ratify the Offshore Protocol</b>		
<b>Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties</b>	<b>Outputs relating to the Secretariat and MAP Components, depending on the availability of resources</b>	<b>Outputs relating to the MAP Partners</b>
a) Ratification by all Contracting Parties of the Offshore Protocol, transposition of the Offshore Protocol into national law, and cooperation through the Secretariat to ensure compliance with its provisions <sup>1</sup> .	a) Provision of advice and technical assistance to Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, which so request.	a) Advocacy to promote ratification of the Offshore Protocol
<b><u>Performance indicator (s):</u></b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Number of Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention that have ratified the Offshore Protocol including those yet to enter into force.		

#### **Specific objective 2: To designate Contracting Parties' Representatives to participate in the BARCO OFOG and its Sub-Groups**

At the 18<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, Contracting Parties approved the establishment of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group

<sup>1</sup> Mediterranean coastal States shall consider the ratification of the Offshore Protocol and the transposition of its provisions into national law in accordance with domestic relevant practices and legislation.

(BARCO OFOG) and adopted its terms of reference (Decision IG.21/8). It also agreed to refer to it as the OFOG Group.

Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, with the support of the relevant UNEP/MAP Components will *inter alia* provide, through the OFOG Group and its Sub-Groups, technical support and guidance as detailed in section II.2.2 and make recommendations to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol to accomplish its functions as stipulated in Article 30.2 of the Offshore Protocol, and further detailed in Decision IG.21/8.

The OFOG Group is primarily composed of representatives of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention who are designated by the MAP Focal Point as National Offshore Focal Points. In view of the range of expertise required for the various topics covered by the Protocol, from environmental impact to health and safety, Contracting Parties through their National Offshore Focal Points may designate, as required, their representatives as contact points for any OFOG Sub-Group established.

These Sub-Groups would focus on technical and practical aspects of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan, in particular the development of the standards and guidelines referred in Specific objectives 6, 7, and those related to the proposed Technical cooperation and Capacity Building Programme set out at Appendix 1.

For the effective implementation of the Action Plan, the Contracting Parties shall ensure appropriate involvement of various stakeholders involving national competent authorities, civil society, private sector, operators, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders as appropriate to implement the measures provided for in the Action Plan and other measures as appropriate.

<b>Specific objective 2: To designate Contracting Parties' Representatives to participate in the BARCO OFOG and its Sub-Groups</b>		
<b>Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties</b>	<b>Outputs relating to the Secretariat and MAP Components, depending on the availability of resources</b>	<b>Outputs relating to the MAP Partners</b>
a) Designation 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; 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; and	a) Promote the participation of representatives from relevant IGOs, NGOs and industry as observers to the OFOG Group and Sub-Groups; b) Enhancement of public awareness through the contribution of IGOs and NGOs with a relevant mandate to the topics discussed in the OFOG Group and Sub-Groups, through their participation as observers, ensuring an open and transparent process through public consultations; c) Establishment of institutional cooperation with various relevant regional and global institutions, initiatives and	a) Participation of representatives from relevant IGOs, NGOs and industry as observers to the OFOG Group and Sub-Groups.

<p>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.</p>	<p>agreements and, at an operational level, <b>establish synergies with these entities on ongoing activities of common interest;</b></p> <p>d) Publication and update of the composition of the <b>OFOG Group and any Sub-Groups on a dedicated page of the relevant website of one of the UNEP/MAP Components;</b></p> <p>e) Updated list of the National Offshore Focal Points and OFOG Group Focal Points;</p> <p>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; and</p> <p>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. <b>A Resource Mobilization Framework is set out at Appendix 2.</b></p>	
<p><b><i>Performance indicator (s):</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Number of Contracting Parties with designated National Offshore Focal Points;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Number of Meetings of the OFOG Group organized;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Number of OFOG Sub-Groups established; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Number of representatives from different Ministries of Contracting Parties, IGOs, NGOs and industry involved and or attending the OFOG Group and OFOG Sub-Group Meetings.</li> </ul>		

**Specific objective 3: To establish a technical cooperation and capacity building programme**

According to Article 24 of the Offshore Protocol the Parties shall, directly or with the assistance of competent regional or other international organisations, cooperate with a view to formulating and, as far as possible, implementing programmes of assistance to developing countries.

<p><b><u>Specific objective 3:</u> To establish a technical cooperation and capacity building programme</b></p>		
<p><b>Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties</b></p>	<p><b>Outputs relating to the Secretariat and MAP Components, depending on the availability of resources</b></p>	<p><b>Outputs relating to the MAP Partners</b></p>



<p>a) Technical cooperation and capacity building programme endorsed as set in <b>Appendix 1</b>; and</p> <p>b) Consideration of the possible application of the MOAP beyond oil and gas activities.</p>	<p>a) Integration of the technical cooperation and capacity building programme in the six year programme of activities of UNEP/MAP and its relevant Components and in their biennium programme of work;</p> <p>b) Preparation of the corresponding budget for consideration by the Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention; and</p> <p>c) Identification of donors to secure funds required for the implementation of the technical cooperation and capacity building programme.</p> <p>d) Coordination of a Meeting to discuss the impacts on and mitigating measures for the exploitation of the continental shelf, its seabed and its subsoil beyond oil and gas activities.</p>	<p>a) Provision of support (financial and /or in-kind) for the implementation of the technical cooperation and capacity building programme.</p>
<p><b><u>Performance indicator (s):</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Number of technical and capacity building activities, including major projects requested by Contracting Parties, developed and implemented on a biennium basis; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Number of people trained.</li> </ul>		

**Specific objective 4: To promote access to information and public participation in decision-making**

According to Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, “Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided. Furthermore, a critical element for an effective implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is creating an enabling environment for public participation and its contribution to decision-making. Clearly expressed in SDG 16 and 17 is the call for this environment to promote public participation.

<p><b><u>Specific objective 4:</u> To promote access to information and public participation in decision-making</b></p>		
<p><b>Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties</b></p>	<p><b>Outputs relating to the Secretariat and MAP Components, depending on the availability of resources</b></p>	<p><b>Outputs relating to the MAP Partners</b></p>

<p>a) <b>On-line</b> template for public information <b>submitted</b> in line with national and regional rules on access to information;</p> <p>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; and</p> <p>c) Report to the Secretariat every two years, <b>under the BCRS</b>, discharges, spills and emissions from offshore oil and gas installations data in accordance with the monitoring programme to be defined by the <b>OFOG Group in support of Specific Objective 8</b>.</p>	<p>a) Support the preparation of the <b>on-line</b> template for public information in line with existing Decisions of the Contracting Parties addressing public access to information and with UNEP's Access to Information Policy;</p> <p>b) Development of an online regional system to be maintained for the purpose of public information sharing;</p> <p>c) Publication every two years, <b>on a dedicated page of the relevant website of one of the UNEP/MAP Components</b>, of the inventory of installations as well as the discharges, spills and emissions from offshore oil and gas installations data submitted by the Contracting Parties; and</p> <p>d) Consolidated report every two years on the discharges, spills and emissions from offshore oil and gas installations data submitted by the Contracting Parties.</p>	<p>a) <b>Provision of relevant information to complement the reports listed in Outputs b) and c) related to the Contracting Parties.</b></p>
<p><b><u>Performance indicator (s):</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A functional and updated dedicated portal set-up as an information dissemination tool for the Action Plan;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Number of national reports submitted every two years to the Secretariat by Contracting Parties containing relevant information on offshore installations within their jurisdiction including, when appropriate, information on their disposal; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Number of national reports submitted every two years to the Secretariat by Contracting Parties containing relevant information on discharges, spills and emissions from offshore oil and gas installations in accordance with the monitoring programme.</li> </ul>		

**Specific objective 5: To enhance the regional transfer of technology**

The Offshore Protocol emphasises the need for cooperation and exchange of information concerning research and development (R&D) of new technologies. In order to make the results of R&D activities undertaken in the Mediterranean region better known, the Secretariat shall endeavour to encourage the participation of regional research institutions, scientific project leaders and industry in relevant events. The Secretariat shall also facilitate, through the network of its **National Offshore** Focal Points, the exchange of these results amongst the Contracting Parties. In addition, the Secretariat might indicate to its **National Offshore** Focal Points the potential fields that call for further R&D in order to encourage more active participation and contribution of the relevant Mediterranean institutions in global efforts in this field. In this regard, a list of potential research topics is presented in **Appendix 3** to this document.

<b>Specific objective 5: To enhance the regional transfer of technology</b>		
<b>Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties</b>	<b>Outputs relating to the Secretariat and MAP Components, depending on the availability of resources</b>	<b>Outputs relating to the MAP Partners</b>
<p>a) Active participation of the respective scientific and technical institutions, as well as the industry, in R&amp;D activities and programmes related to prevention, response and monitoring of pollution from offshore activities;</p> <p>b) Presentation of the results of R&amp;D activities and programmes by their respective national institutions and industry in international fora; and</p> <p>c) Information on ongoing R&amp;D activities and research needs provided to the Secretariat.</p>	<p>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;</p> <p>b) Dissemination and exchange of results of national R&amp;D activities and programmes within and outside the Mediterranean region; and</p> <p>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&amp;D activities undertaken in the Mediterranean region.</p>	<p>a) Provision of relevant information to complement the reports listed in Outputs b) and c) related to the Contracting Parties</p>
<p><b><u>Performance indicator (s):</u></b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Number of R &amp; D activities and programmes reported.</p>		

## II.2.2 REGIONAL OFFSHORE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

In accordance with the Specific objective 3 and Article 23 of the Offshore Protocol, as the core substance of the Offshore Protocol aims at establishing common standards and guidelines to harmonise regional practices in the Mediterranean region, Contracting Parties will consider relevant existing standards and guidelines in this field, in line with overarching ecosystem-based ecological objectives, EcAp Roadmap and in particular with the IMAP of UNEP/MAP.

### **Specific objective 6:** To develop and adopt regional offshore standards

<b>Specific objective 6:</b> <i>To develop and adopt regional offshore standards</i>		
<b>Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties</b>	<b>Outputs relating to the Secretariat and MAP Components, depending on the availability of resources</b>	<b>Outputs relating to the MAP Partners</b>
a) Development and adoption of regional offshore standards as set out in <b>Appendix 4</b> .	a) Support the OFOG Group and specific OFOG Sub-Groups, to be established as appropriate, for the development of the common standards.	a) Provision of expertise to the OFOG Group and specific Sub-Groups for the development of the common standards.
<b>Performance indicator (s):</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Number of common standards developed and adopted.		

### **Specific objective 7:** To develop and adopt regional offshore guidelines

<b>Specific objective 7:</b> <i>To develop and adopt regional offshore guidelines</i>		
<b>Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties</b>	<b>Outputs relating to the Secretariat and MAP Components, depending on the availability of resources</b>	<b>Outputs relating to the MAP Partners</b>
a) Development and adoption of regional offshore guidelines as set out in <b>Appendix 4</b> .	a) Support the OFOG Group and specific OFOG Sub-Groups, to be established as appropriate, for the development of the common guidelines.	a) Provision of expertise to the OFOG Group and specific Sub-Groups for the development of the common guidelines.
<b>Performance indicator (s):</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Number of common guidelines developed and adopted.		

## II.2.3 REGIONAL OFFSHORE MONITORING PROGRAMME

### **Specific objective 8:** To establish regional offshore monitoring procedures and programmes

The EcAp is the overarching principle of the Barcelona Convention, aiming to achieve good environmental status (GES) of the Mediterranean and ensuring adequate monitoring and assessment of the status on a cyclical basis.

The Offshore monitoring programme will be developed in line with the EcAp Roadmap and in particular with the [IMAP](#).

According to Decision IG 20/4 “Implementing the MAP ecosystem approach roadmap: Mediterranean Ecological and Operational Objectives, Indicators and Timetable for implementing the ecosystem approach roadmap adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention” (COP17, 2012), and according to Decision 21/3 on the EcAp including adopting definitions of GES and Targets, for the purposes of this Action Plan, in compliance with the monitoring obligations under Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention and Article 19 of the Offshore Protocol, the expected outputs under this specific objective are:

<b>Specific objective 8:</b> <i>To establish regional offshore monitoring procedures and programmes</i>		
<b>Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties</b>	<b>Outputs relating to the Secretariat and MAP Components, depending on the availability of resources</b>	<b>Outputs relating to the MAP Partners</b>
a) A regional monitoring programme for offshore activities building, <i>inter alia</i> , on the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme; and b) Results of the national offshore monitoring programme and the related agreed data are reported to the Secretariat every two years.	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; 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 Contracting Parties); and c) <a href="#">Provision of relevant information for the State of Environment Report regarding the impacts of the offshore oil and gas industry.</a>	a) <a href="#">Provision of guidance on the regional monitoring programme.</a>
<b><u>Performance indicator (s):</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Section on the impacts of the offshore oil and gas activities on the Mediterranean Sea published in the State of Environment Report presented;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The number of monitoring and assessments of the marine environment using IMAP Common Indicators: 1, 2, 15, 17, and 18;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The number of monitoring and assessments of the marine environment using IMAP Common Indicator 19.</li> </ul>		

## **PART III – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN**

### **III.1. Resource Mobilization**

#### **Specific objective 9: To mobilise resources for the implementation of the Action Plan**

The 18<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 2013 decided that the BARCO OFOG should be financed through extra budgetary resources and 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. The Meeting further invited the relevant oil and gas offshore industry to assist the BARCO OFOG, through technical support and financial contributions for the implementation of the program of work that may result from the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan. *Nevertheless, the experience gained, and lessons learned from the implementation of MOAP 2016-2024 has shown serious limitations in achieving its objectives should there be a complete reliance on extra budgetary resources. For this purpose, a more appropriate approach has been explored and a resource mobilization framework has been developed which also considers minimum funding through the MTF.*

<b><u>Specific objective 9:</u> To mobilise resources for the implementation of the Action Plan</b>		
<b>Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties</b>	<b>Outputs relating to the Secretariat and its Components, depending on the availability of resources</b>	<b>Outputs relating to the MAP Partners</b>
a) Financial and human resources mobilised to support the implementation of the Action Plan, in particular its provisions related to the OFOG Group and its Sub-Groups, technical cooperation, capacity building and monitoring activities.	a) Identification of donors to secure <b>non-voluntary contributions</b> for the implementation of the Action Plan. <b>A Resource Mobilization Framework is set out at Appendix 2;</b> b) Identification of opportunities to secure a dedicated coordinator, including through secondments, for the implementation of the Action Plan, facilitating the identification of additional non-voluntary contributions.	a) <b>Secondment of personnel to the Secretariat to assist in the implementation of the Action Plan.</b>
<b><u>Performance indicator (s):</u></b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-voluntary contributions from donors secured for the implementation of the Action Plan.</b>		

### **III.2. Reporting**

#### **Specific objective 10: To report on the implementation of the Action Plan**

**Specific objective 10: To report on the implementation of the Action Plan**

<b>Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties</b>	<b>Outputs relating to the Secretariat and MAP Components, depending on the availability of resources</b>	<b>Outputs relating to the MAP Partners</b>
a) Input to the biennial review of the implementation of the Action Plan under the BCRS.	a) Preparation of a template within the framework of the BCRS to report on the implementation of the Action Plan; b) Meetings of the OFOG Group; and c) Consolidated report on the implementation of the Action Plan every two years for its submission to the Meetings of the OFOG Group and the Meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.	a) Provision of information, as appropriate, to the Consolidated Report on the Implementation report of the Action Plan prepared by the Secretariat.
<p><b><u>Performance indicator (s):</u></b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated report on the implementation of the Action Plan using the performance indicators as a basis.</p>		

**APPENDICES**

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**Appendix 1 – Technical cooperation and capacity building programme**

**Appendix 2 – Resource Mobilization Framework, indicative road map and estimated budget**

**Appendix 3 – Indicative potential research and development topics**

**Appendix 4 – Development of Regional offshore standards and guidelines**

**Appendix 5 – Links between outputs and articles of the offshore protocol**



MEDITERRANEAN OFFSHORE ACTION PLAN

Appendix 1: TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

<i>Specific Objective 3: To establish a technical cooperation and capacity building programme</i>	Key stages	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
<b>Standards and Guidelines:</b>											
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring</li> </ul>	<p>Within the framework of IMAP’s monitoring requirements five (5) Common Indicators (CI 1, 2, 15, 17, and 18) have been agreed to be monitored for offshore activities.</p> <p>A training activity to facilitate their use should be organised.</p>	X									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material</li> </ul>	<p>A Training Course on “<i>Common Standards and Guidance on the Disposal of Oil and Oily Mixtures, the Use and Disposal of Drilling Fluids and Cuttings, and on Guidelines related to the Use and Discharge of Harmful or Noxious Substances and Materials, including Chemical use plan for Offshore operations</i>” was held on the 7 - 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023.</p> <p>An Intersessional Correspondence Group (ICG) on the Use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material should be established in 2026 for the development of related standards and guidelines.</p> <p>Following adoption of these standards and guidelines an online activity should be organized to facilitate their implementation.</p>	#	#	X							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offshore Preparedness and Response &amp; Contingency Plan</li> </ul>	<p>While preparedness for, and response to, offshore pollution incidents in general, as well as contingency planning, should be addressed within the framework of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol (Article 16 and Annex VII of the Offshore protocol refers), it is also an element for consideration when granting authorizations by a competent authority.</p> <p>A training activity should be organized to assist in the evaluations of contingency plans as requirements for and granting of authorizations.</p>			X							

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety measures including health and safety requirements</li> </ul>	<p>A training course on the sharing of experiences on the common criteria, rules and procedures including health and safety requirement applicable to the offshore industry should be organised.</p> <p>An ICG established to develop a checklist on key elements of safety with regard to design, construction, placement, equipment, marking, operations, maintenance of installation and firefighting which can help Contracting Parties in their inspection of installations.</p> <p>Following approval of the checklist, an online activity should be organized to facilitate its familiarization and use.</p>							X	#	#		X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum standards of qualifications for professionals and crews</li> </ul>	<p>A training course on the sharing of experiences on the common criteria, rules and procedures on minimum standards of qualifications for professionals and crews should be organised.</p> <p>An ICG established to develop minimum standards of qualifications for professionals and crews.</p> <p>Following approval of the standards, an online activity should be organized to facilitate their familiarization and use.</p>							X	#	#		X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Granting of authorizations</li> </ul>	<p>A training course on the sharing of experiences on the authorization system (Section II) under the Offshore Protocol based on Standards and Guidelines approved, should be organised.</p> <p>An ICG established to develop a guidance to be followed when granting authorizations.</p> <p>Following approval of the guidance an online activity should be organized to facilitate its familiarization and use.</p>							X	#	#		X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspection/sanctions</li> </ul>	<p>A report reflecting the national, regional and international rules, procedures and practices regarding liability and compensation for loss and damage resulting from activities dealt with in the Offshore Protocol to be presented to the appropriate Meeting of the Contracting Parties.</p>								#	#	#		X	

Overview of the associated capacity building trainings:																							
<b>Training A:</b> Indicative length: 2.5 days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the Offshore Protocol and to the MOAP 2026-2035;</li> <li>• Special Restrictions or Conditions for Specially Protected Areas (SPA);</li> <li>• Guidelines for the Conduct of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA);</li> <li>• Monitoring ;</li> <li>• Removal of installations.</li> </ul>													X										
<b>Training B:</b> Indicative length: 1.5 days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offshore platform Preparedness and Response &amp; Contingency Plan assessment.</li> </ul> <i>Focus on elements to be assessed in an Offshore OSCP within the framework of a permit application</i>															X								
<b>Training C:</b> Indicative length: 1.5 days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety measures including health and safety requirements and fire fighting;</li> <li>• Minimum standards of qualifications for professionals and crews;</li> </ul> <i>Focus on key elements to enforce for the safety of offshore operations</i>																	X						
<b>Training D:</b> Indicative length: 2 days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction on the adopted standards and guidelines developed under the MOAP 2016-2024 and the MOAP 2026-2035;</li> <li>• Granting of authorizations ;</li> <li>• Inspection/sanctions (Installation/Discharge/Competent manning) ;</li> </ul> <i>Training course building on the adopted standards and guidelines as well as on the previous trainings held</i>																				X			
<b>Training E:</b> <i>To be specified at the mid-term review of the MOAP</i> Potential topics for 2034-2035 biennium: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• /</li> </ul>																							X

X / Blue, anticipated structuring training or meeting - # / Green, anticipated implementation period.

The letters “A,B, C, D, E” associated with the Trainings, reflect the order in which they would be organized.

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## **MEDITERRANEAN OFFSHORE ACTION PLAN**

### **Appendix 2: RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FRAMEWORK, INDICATIVE ROAD MAP AND ESTIMATED BUDGET**

#### **Part I: Resource Mobilization Framework.**

##### **Overview of primary funding sources**

1 Core funding for the implementation of the Offshore Protocol and its Action Plan is provided by the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) which is replenished on a biennial basis through contributions of the Contracting Parties. Contributions to the MTF are encouraged from Member States, industry, organizations and private individuals. In addition, organizations provide financial and in-kind support for specific capacity building activities.

##### **Strategic Objective**

2 To ensure the continued financial viability through core funding and leveraging of external financial and in-kind support.

##### **Actions**

- .1 Ensure the MTF as a core fund to support the delivery of the primary activities and as a means to leverage financial support from external donors;
- .2 Mobilize external financial and in-kind support through partnerships with Contracting Parties, organizations e.g. E. U. and industry;
- .3 Involve Contracting Parties and MAP partners (NGOs and industry) in the resource mobilization process; and
- .4 Maximize the cost-effectiveness of the technical co-operation mechanism as part of the implementation of the Action Plan.

##### **Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF)**

3 Allocate no less than the amount reflected in part III of this same Appendix.

##### **A Multi-donor trust fund (MDTF)**

4 A specific revolving MDTF is established to encourage contributions targeted on the implementation of the Action Plan or on specific issues of the Action Plan (thematic funding) and are also used to support specific technical co-operation programmes which address these issues.

##### **Partners in Resource Mobilization**

5 **Contracting Parties are urged:**

- .1 to consider providing financial contributions to the MTF and the MDTF established by Secretariat established for this purpose;
- .2 to enter into bilateral partnership arrangements with the Secretariat, providing financial and in-kind support for the implementation of the Action Plan;

- .3 to draw the attention of their relevant government authorities, including in particular those responsible for ODA (official development assistance), to the linkage between the relevant components of the technical capacity building programme defined in the Action plan and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals;
- .4 to co-operate with the Secretariat in the development and execution of resource mobilization campaigns and to facilitate consideration by the aforementioned authorities; and
- .5 to draw the attention of relevant international and regional organizations in which they participate, to the importance of the offshore sector to sustainable development and the role of the UNEP/MAP system in implementing the Offshore Protocol legal framework for the sustainability of the Mediterranean Sea.

## **6 Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) as MAP partners are urged:**

- .1 to draw the attention of their respective memberships to the central importance of the Secretariat and its Components to enhance the capacity of Contracting Parties to implement the Offshore Protocol and its Action Plan in a uniform manner; and
- .2 to assist in the mobilization of the resources and expertise of their members to contribute to the implementation of the Action Plan.

## **7 Oil and gas offshore industry as MAP partners is urged:**

- .1 to enter into partnership arrangements with the Secretariat, providing in-kind expertise support, through the secondment of experts, for implementation of the Action Plan; and
- .2 to provide in-kind expertise, at no cost or no fee, to support the technical capacity building programme of the Action Plan.

## **8 The Secretariat is requested:**

- .1 to continue to engage with the United Nations, international and regional organizations in the development and execution of a capacity building programme which addresses the objectives of the Action Plan;
- .2 to engage interested bilateral and multilateral donors to provide funding support for the realization of the objectives of the Action Plan.

## **9 Cost effective delivery**

- .1 request the Secretariat to continue to keep under review the cost of delivering technical assistance and introduce cost reduction measures as appropriate without lowering the quality of the services provided;
- .2 urge Contracting Parties to consider making available qualified experts to provide technical advisory services at no fee or no cost to the UNEP/MAP system for the implementation of the Action Plan; and
- .3 urge Contracting Parties to consider, when requesting technical advisory assistance and training, to undertake to share the costs associated with providing the assistance.

**Part II: Provisional road map**

	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
<i>Anticipated Meetings of the UNEP/MAP</i>										
- Meetings of the Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties (COP)		X		X		X		X		X
- Meetings of the Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG)		X		X		X		X		Xh
- Meeting of the OFOG with mid-term review of the MOAP						X				
<i>Anticipated Activities under the MOAP</i>										
- Capacity building Trainings (A, B, C, D and E)	A			B		C		D		E
- Intersessional Correspondence Groups (ICG) to develop standards and guidelines	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
- Online Familiarization activity of adopted standards and guidelines			X		X		X		X	X

X / Blue, anticipated structuring meeting or training - # / Green, anticipated implementation period.

The letters "A,B, C, D, E" associated with the Trainings, reflect the order in which they would be organized.

**Part III: Projected budget for a basic implementation of the Action Plan**

	Lead Component	Expected support	Indicative implementation period	Indicative type of means required	Indicative estimated budget (Euro)
<b>Expected Activities per biennium</b>					
Meetings of the Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG)	Secretariat	-UNEP/MAP Components	2 <sup>nd</sup> year 2 <sup>nd</sup> trimester	- <i>CPs time</i> - <i>Secretariat staff time</i>	60,000
Capacity building Training	Secretariat	-UNEP/MAP Components -In-kind support from MAP Partners	1 <sup>st</sup> year 2 <sup>nd</sup> trimester	- <i>CPs time</i> - <i>Secretariat staff time</i>	60,000
Intersessional Correspondence Groups (ICG) to develop standards and guidelines	Secretariat	-UNEP/MAP Components	1 <sup>st</sup> year 3 <sup>rd</sup> trimester to 2 <sup>nd</sup> year, 2 <sup>nd</sup> trimester	- <i>CPs time</i> - <i>Secretariat staff time</i> - <i>Consultancy funds</i>	25,000
Online introduction of adopted standards and guidelines	Secretariat	-UNEP/MAP Components -In-kind support from MAP Partners	1 <sup>st</sup> year 1 <sup>st</sup> trimester	- <i>CPs time</i> - <i>Secretariat staff time</i>	/
<b>Expected IT technical support</b>					
Adapted development of the website of the relevant UNEP/MAP Component for a dedicated portal and publications	Secretariat	-UNEP/MAP Components	<i>Continuous</i>	- <i>Secretariat staff time</i> - <i>Website developer</i>	20,000
Estimated amount per biennium:					165,000
Estimated budget for a mid-term review workshop:					60,000
TOTAL:					885,000 <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Total for five biennium

## MEDITERRANEAN OFFSHORE ACTION PLAN

### **Appendix 3: INDICATIVE POTENTIAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TOPICS**

#### **Offshore Energy Development**

- Innovations in extraction technologies, economic impact assessments and risk management strategies for drilling

#### **Environmental Impact of Offshore Activities**

- Impact of offshore activities such as the generation of noise on marine ecosystems
- Short-term and long-term impact of the oil and gas exploration and exploitation on Mediterranean fisheries including migration patterns and marine protected areas

#### **Offshore Engineering and Technology with an emphasis on prevention**

- Innovations in underwater technologies such as ROVs and AUVs applicable to the Mediterranean context

#### **Legal and Regulatory Aspects of Offshore**

- Challenges faced in the compliance and enforcement of international law for offshore industries by Mediterranean countries and ways to overcome them

#### **Preparedness for and Response to accidental marine pollution**

- Environmental Impact Assessment of extended use of dispersants on major oil spills from offshore platforms in the Mediterranean Region
- Challenges in Offshore source-control response planning in the Mediterranean region and ways to improve

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## MEDITERRANEAN OFFSHORE ACTION PLAN

### Appendix 4: DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL OFFSHORE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

<b>Regional offshore standards</b>
Common standards, on the use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material, in line with relevant international standards and conventions defining <i>inter alia</i> limits and prohibitions at regional level
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
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
Common criteria, rules and procedures for the removal of installations and the related financial aspects
Common criteria, rules and procedures for safety measures including health and safety requirements
Common minimum standards of qualification for professionals and crews
<i>Any other standards that may be proposed by OFOG</i>
<b>Regional offshore guidelines</b>
Regional Guidelines on the use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material
Regional Guidelines on removal of installations and the related financial aspects
Regional Guidelines on installation safety measures including health and safety requirements
Regional Guidelines on minimum standards of qualification for professionals and crews
Regional Guidelines on authorisation requirements based on the above mentioned Standards
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
<i>Any other guidelines that may be proposed by OFOG</i>

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**MEDITERRANEAN OFFSHORE ACTION PLAN**

**Appendix 5: LINKS BETWEEN OUTPUTS AND ARTICLES OF THE OFFSHORE PROTOCOL**

**A) Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties**

<b>Specific Objective</b>	<b>Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties (CPs)</b>	<b>Link to the Protocol<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Means required for the implementation of the action plan</b> <i>for indicative purposes only</i>
1. To ratify the Offshore Protocol	a) Ratification by all Contracting Parties of the Offshore Protocol, transposition of the Offshore Protocol into national law, and cooperation through the Secretariat to ensure compliance with its provisions	Art.32	Contracting Parties time
2. To designate Contracting Parties' Representatives to participate in the BARCO OFOG and its Sub-Groups	a) <b>Designation</b> 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	Art.28 Decision IG.21/8	Nomination Contracting Parties time
	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	Art.28 Decision IG.21/8	Nomination
	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	Art.28 Decision IG.21/8	Volunteering

<sup>3</sup> Linkage between the objectives of the Action Plan and the Articles of and Annexes to the Offshore Protocol considering that the Article 1 on Definitions, Article 2 on Geographical coverage and Article 3 on General undertakings apply to all Specific Objectives, that Article 29 on Transition measures is no longer applicable and that the discharge and disposal of machinery oil, the treatment and discharge of sewage (Article 11), the disposal and discharge of garbage (Article 12), the reception facilities (Article 13) and the ship storage shall be regulated according to the requirements listed under the relevant Annexes of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).

Specific Objective	Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties	Link to the Protocol <sup>2</sup>	Means required
3. To establish a technical cooperation and capacity building programme	a) Technical cooperation and capacity building programme endorsed as set in <a href="#">Appendix 1</a>	Art.24	
	<b>Technical Cooperation for the development of Standards and Guidelines</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Monitoring</a></li> </ul>		Consultancy funds
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material</a></li> </ul>		Consultancy funds
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Offshore platform Preparedness and Response &amp; Contingency Plan Assessment</a></li> </ul>		Consultancy funds
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Removal of installations and the related financial aspects</a></li> </ul>		Consultancy funds
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Safety measures including health and safety requirements and fire fighting</a></li> </ul>		Consultancy funds
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Minimum standards of qualification for professionals and crews</a></li> </ul>		Consultancy funds
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Granting of authorisations</a></li> </ul>		Consultancy funds
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Inspection/sanctions (Installation/Discharge/Competent manning)</a></li> </ul>		Consultancy funds
	<b>Capacity building training</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Training A as set in <a href="#">Appendix 1</a></a></li> </ul>		Training funds
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Training B as set in <a href="#">Appendix 1</a></a></li> </ul>		Training funds
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Training C as set in <a href="#">Appendix 1</a></a></li> </ul>		Training funds
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Training D as set in <a href="#">Appendix 1</a></a></li> </ul>		Training funds
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Training E as set in <a href="#">Appendix 1</a></a></li> </ul>	Training funds		
b) Consideration of the possible application of the MOAP beyond oil and gas activities	Art.30	Contracting Parties time, and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol	

Specific Objective	Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties (CPs)	Link to the Protocol <sup>2</sup>	Means required for the implementation of the action plan <i>for indicative purposes only</i>
4. To promote access to information and public participation in decision-making	a) <b>On-line</b> template for public information submitted in line with national and regional rules on access to information	Art.23, 25 & 26	Contracting Parties time and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol
	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	Art 6 & Art 17	Contracting Parties time
	c) Report to the Secretariat every two years, <b>under the BCRS</b> , discharges, spills and emissions from offshore oil and gas installations data in accordance with the monitoring programme to be defined by the <b>OFOG Group in support of Specific Objective 8</b> .	Art 17	Contracting Parties time
5. 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	Art.22	Contracting Parties time
	b) Presentation of the results of R&D activities and programmes by their respective national institutions and industry in international fora	Art.22	Contracting Parties time
	c) Information on ongoing R&D activities and research needs provided to the Secretariat	Art.22	Contracting Parties time
6. To develop and adopt regional offshore standards	a) <b>Common standards, on the use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material, in line with relevant international standards and conventions defining <i>inter alia</i> limits and prohibitions at regional level formulated and adopted</b>	Art.5,6,7,8,9,14 & 23 Annexes I, II & III	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol
	b) <b>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</b>	Art.5,6,7,8,9 & 23 Annexes I, II & III	

Specific Objective	Outputs relating to the Contracting Parties (CPs)	Link to the Protocol <sup>2</sup>	Means required for the implementation of the action plan <i>for indicative purposes only</i>
	c) 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	Art.5,6,7,8,16,17,18,26 & 23 Annex VII	
	d) Common criteria, rules and procedures for the removal of installations and the related financial aspects adopted	Art.5,6,7, 8,20 & 23	
	e) Common criteria, rules and procedures for safety measures including health and safety requirements adopted	Art.5,6,7,8,15 & 23 Annex VI	
	f) Common minimum standards of qualification for professionals and crews adopted	Art.5,6,7,8,15 & 23 Annex VI	
7. To develop and adopt regional offshore guidelines	a) Regional Guidelines on the use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material	Art.5,6,7,8,9,14 & 23 Annexes I, II & III	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in Specific Objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol
	b) Regional Guidelines on removal of installations and the related financial aspects	Art.5,6,7, 8,20 & 23	
	c) Regional Guidelines on installation safety measures including health and safety requirements	Art.5,6,7,8,15 & 23 Annex VI	
	d) Regional Guidelines on minimum standards of qualification for professionals and crews	Art.5,6,7, 8,15 & 23	
	e) Regional Guidelines on authorisation requirements based on the above-mentioned Standards.	Art.4,5,6,7,8,14 & 23	
	f) 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. The report is to be presented to the Contracting Parties at CoP 20 to form the basis of a proposal to facilitate implementing Article 27 of that Protocol.	Art.5,6,7, 8, 17, 23 & 27	

Specific Objective	Outputs <b>relating to the Contracting Parties</b>	Link to the Protocol <sup>2</sup>	<b>Means required for the implementation of the Action Plan</b> <i>for indicative purposes only</i>
8. To establish regional offshore monitoring procedures and programme	a) A regional monitoring programme for offshore activities building, <i>inter alia</i> , on the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme	Art.5 & 10	Contracting Parties time, technical support as set in specific objective 3 and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol
	b) Results of the national offshore monitoring programme and the related agreed data are reported to the Secretariat every two years	Art. 5 & 19	Contracting Parties time
9. To mobilise resources for the implementation of the Action Plan	a) Financial and human resources mobilised to support the implementation of the Action Plan, in particular its provisions related to the OFOG Group <b>and its Sub-Groups</b> , technical cooperation, capacity building and monitoring activities	Art.31	Contracting Parties time and participation to the Meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol
10. To report on the implementation of the Action Plan	a) <b>Input to the biennial review of the implementation of the Action Plan under the BCRS</b>	Art. 25 & 30	Contracting Parties time

**B) Outputs relating to the Secretariat and MAP Components**

Specific Objective	Outputs relating to the Secretariat and MAP Components	Link to the Protocol	Means required for the implementation of the Action Plan <i>for indicative purposes only</i>
1. To ratify the Offshore Protocol	a) Provision of advice and technical assistance to Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, which so request	Art.32	Technical Support and Secretariat staff time
2. To designate Contracting Parties representatives to participate in the BARCO OFOG and its Sub-Groups	a) Promote the participation of representatives from relevant IGOs, NGOs and industry as observers to the OFOG Group and Sub-Groups	Art.28 Decision IG.21/8	Secretariat staff time and travels
	b) Enhancement of public awareness through the contribution of IGOs and NGOs with a relevant mandate to the topics discussed in the OFOG Group and Sub-Group, through their participation as observers, ensuring an open and transparent process through public consultations	Art.28 Decision IG.21/8	Secretariat staff time
	c) Establishment of institutional cooperation with various relevant regional and global institutions, initiatives and agreements and, at an operational level, establish synergies with these entities on ongoing activities of common interest	Art.28 Decision IG.21/8	Secretariat staff time and travels
	d) Publication and update of the composition of the OFOG Group and any Sub-Groups on a dedicated page of the relevant website of one of the UNEP/MAP Components	Art.28 Decision IG.21/8	Website developer
	e) Updated list of the National Offshore Focal Points and OFOG Sub-Group Focal Points	Decision IG.21/8	Secretariat staff time
	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	Art.28 Decision IG.21/8	Secretariat staff time
	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. A Resource Mobilization Framework is set out at Appendix 2.	Art.28 Decision IG.21/8	Secretariat staff time

Specific Objective	Outputs relating to the Secretariat and MAP Components	Link to the Protocol	Means required for the implementation of the Action Plan <i>for indicative purposes only</i>
3. To establish a technical cooperation and capacity building programme	a) Integration of the technical cooperation and capacity building programme in the six-year programme of activities of UNEP/MAP and its relevant Components and in their biennium programme of work	Art.24	Secretariat staff time
	b) Preparation of the corresponding budget for consideration by the Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Art.24	Secretariat staff time
	c) Identification of donors to secure funds required for the implementation of the technical cooperation and capacity building programme	Art.24	Secretariat staff time
	d) Coordination of a Meeting to discuss the impacts on and mitigating measures for the exploitation of the continental shelf, its seabed and its subsoil beyond oil and gas activities	Art.30	- Secretariat staff time - Travel/DSA
4. To promote access to information, public participation in decision making	a) Support the preparation of <b>on-line</b> template for public information in line with existing Decisions of the Contracting Parties addressing public access to information and with UNEP's Access to Information Policy	Art.23, 25 & 26	Consultancy funds
	b) Development of an online regional system and to be maintained for the purpose of public information sharing	Art.23, 25 & 26	Online regional system
	c) Publication every two years, <b>on a dedicated page of the relevant website of one of the UNEP/MAP Components</b> , of the inventory of installations as well as the discharges, spills and emissions from offshore oil and gas installations data submitted by the Contracting Parties	Art 6 & Art 17	Secretariat staff time
	d) Consolidated report every two years on the discharges, spills and emissions from offshore oil and gas installations data submitted by the Contracting Parties.	Art 17	Secretariat staff time



Specific Objective	Outputs relating to the Secretariat and MAP Components	Link to the Protocol	Means required for the implementation of the Action Plan <i>for indicative purposes only</i>
5. To enhance the participation of 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	Art.22	Secretariat staff time
	b) Dissemination and exchange of results of national R&D activities and programmes within and outside the Mediterranean region	Art.22	Secretariat staff time
	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	Art.22	Travels
6. To develop and adopt regional offshore standards	a) Support the <a href="#">OFOG Group and specific OFOG Sub-Groups, to be established as appropriate, for the development of the common standards</a>	Art.23	Secretariat staff time
7. To develop and adopt regional offshore guidelines	a) Support the <a href="#">OFOG Group and specific OFOG Sub-Groups, to be established as appropriate, for the development of the common guidelines</a>	Art.23	Secretariat staff time
8. 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	Art.19	Secretariat staff time
	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 Contracting Parties)	Art.19	Mediterranean Offshore Reporting and Monitoring System
	c) <a href="#">Provision of relevant information for the State of Environment Report regarding the impacts of the offshore oil and gas industry</a>	Art.17 & 19	Secretariat staff time, publication and dissemination

Specific Objective	Outputs relating to the Secretariat and MAP Components	Link to the Protocol	Means required for the implementation of the Action Plan <i>for indicative purposes only</i>
9. To mobilise resources for the implementation of the Action Plan	a) Identification of additional donors to secure <b>non-voluntary contributions</b> for the implementation of the Action Plan. <b>A Resource Mobilization Framework is set out at Appendix 2;</b>	Art.31	Secretariat staff time
	b) Identification of opportunities to secure a dedicated coordinator, including through secondments, for the implementation of the Action Plan, facilitating the identification of additional non-voluntary contributions	Art.31	Secretariat staff time
10.To report on the implementation of the Action Plan	a) Preparation of a template within the framework of the BCRS to report on the implementation of the Action Plan	Art.25& 30	Secretariat staff time
	b) Meetings of the OFOG Group	Art.30	Travel/DSA
	c) Consolidated report on the implementation of the Action Plan every two years for its submission to the Meetings of <b>the OFOG Group</b> and the Meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	Art 30	Secretariat staff time