



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

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

REMPEC/WG.60/6
10 January 2025

Lija, Malta, 19-20 February 2025

Original: English

Agenda Item 6: Programme of Work for the biennium 2026-2027

**Proposed Programme of Work for the biennium 2026-2027 based on the updated Mediterranean Offshore Action
Plan for the 2026-2035 period**

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Note by the Secretariat

This document presents the proposed Programme of Work for the biennium 2026-2027 based on the updated Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (MOAP) for the 2026-2035 period introduced in REMPEC/WG.60/3.

Introduction

1 The Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan within the framework of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil, hereinafter referred to as the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (MOAP), was adopted by the 19th Ordinary Contracting Parties Meeting (COP 19, Athens, Greece, February 2016), with the overall objective of “*defining measures which, if applied at regional level and by each Contracting Party within their jurisdiction will ensure the safety of offshore activities and reduce their potential impact on the marine environment and its ecosystem*”. The document REMPEC/WG.60/3 proposes an updated MOAP for the period 2026-2035.

2 The proposed updated MOAP, sets out 10 Specific Objectives, based on four main components, namely: 1) Governance Framework; 2) Regional Offshore Standards and Guidelines; 3) Monitoring; and 4) Resource mobilisation and Reporting.

3 Specific Objective 3 of the MOAP calls for the establishment of a technical cooperation and capacity building programme, with Specific Objectives 6 and 7 calling for the development of offshore standards and guidelines. Appendix 1 of the proposed updated MOAP specifies the elements of this programme and includes both potential technical support for the development of standards and guidelines, as well as training. Appendix 2 of the proposed updated MOAP introduces the Resource Mobilization Framework with an indicative road map and an estimated budget to support the achievement of the objectives of the Action Plan. The overall objective is to strengthen national capacities and enhance regional harmonization.

Programme of Work for the biennium 2026-2027

4 The proposal of Programme of Work (PoW) 2026-2027 is set out in the **Annex** to the present document. The PoW is based on Appendix 1 and 2 of the proposed updated MOAP for the period 2026-2035.

5 The Annex provides a zoom-in of the proposed overall planning cycle of activities in the MOAP. Priorities for biennium 2026-2027 are set around making the transition between the initial MOAP (set for the period 2016-2024) and the MOAP to be approved for the period 2026-2035. It involves a training on standards and guidelines which are already (or will be) developed, as well as the establishment of an Intersessional Correspondence Group (ICG) to develop standards and guidelines on the Use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material, following a dedicated training held in November 2023. The proposed PoW is structured in accordance with the Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027 programmes: Programme 4: “Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Resources”, and Programme 6: “Shared Vision of the Mediterranean Programme” and will be refined based on the priorities set by the Contracting Parties (CPs) and other considerations related to the overall planning, including the availability of resources.

6 For the following biennium, covering period 2026-2035, it is anticipated to have a cycle of activities structured around:

- An online familiarization activity of adopted standards and guidelines at the Meetings of the Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties (COP) during the previous biennium;
- A capacity building training on a subject from the technical cooperation and capacity building programme of the MOAP;
- The establishment of an ICG to develop standards and guidelines on the same subject the training was about; and
- An approval, at the Meeting of the Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG), on the standards and guidelines to be submitted at the COP ending the biennium.

7 The proposal is based on the premise that the MOAP 2026-2035 will be approved, as well as the approval of the REMPEC forthcoming Programme of Work (PoW) for the biennium 2026-2027.

Actions requested by the Meeting

8 The Meeting is invited to:

- .1 **Take note** of the information provided; and
- .2 **Evaluate** the priorities and proposed planning cycle for a technical cooperation and capacity building programme for the biennium 2026-2027.

Annex

**Anticipated Programme of Work for the period 2026-2027 based on Appendix 1 and 2 of the
MOAP for the 2026-2035 period**

Table 1. Anticipated Programme of Work for biennium 2026-2027 based on Appendix 1 and 2 of the MOAP for the 2026-2035 period.

MTS Programme 4. Towards the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources including circular and blue economy		2026				2027					
Outcome 4.4. Measures defined within the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan applied at regional level and by each Contracting Party within their jurisdiction to ensure the safety of offshore activities and reduce their potential impact on the marine environment and its ecosystem											
<u>Anticipated Activities under the MOAP</u>											
Capacity building Training A: <i>Indicative length: 2.5 days</i>			x								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the Offshore Protocol and to the MOAP 2026-2035; • Special Restrictions or Conditions for Specially Protected Areas (SPA); • Guidelines for the Conduct of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); • Monitoring; • Removal of installations. 											
Intersessional Correspondence Group (ICG) to develop standards and guidelines on the Use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and material				#	#	#					
Online Familiarization activity of adopted standards and guidelines											
<u>Anticipated Meetings of the UNEP/MAP</u>											
6 th Meeting of the Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG)							x				
25 th Meeting of the Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties (COP)										x	
MTS Enabling Programme 6: Together towards a shared knowledge and foresight of the Mediterranean sea and coast											
Outcome 6.3. [IMAP implementation and] Environment and Development Observation provide updated and quality assured data in support of decision-making by Contracting Parties and assessment of GES											
Streamline shipping and offshore data-sharing and monitoring platform with InfoMAP Data management system				#		#					

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