



# 1st INFO/RAC National Focal Points Meeting

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**Rome (Italy), 16-17 April 2019**

**Meeting Report**

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Rome, Italy 16-17 April 2019

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## **Report of the first meeting of INFO/RAC National Focal Points Rome, Italy 16-17 April 2019**

### **Introduction**

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> INFO/RAC NFPs Meeting was held on 16-17 April 2019 in Rome, Italy, at INFO/RAC premises.
2. The 1<sup>st</sup> National Focal Point Meeting aimed to present the progress on the state of play of the 2018-2019 work program; the MAP Communication Strategy developed by INFO/RAC and MAP Coordinating Unit with the support of the IMAP Communication Task Force (including one member from each MAP Component; the Data management Policy developed by INFO/RAC; and the draft of the Program of Work 2020-2021

### **Participation**

3. The meeting was attended by the INFO/RAC National Focal Points from Albania; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Croatia; Egypt; France; Greece; Israel; Italy; Lebanon; Libya; Malta; Montenegro; Morocco; Slovenia; Spain; Tunisia; and Turkey. The NFPs from Algeria; Cyprus; European Union; Monaco and Syria were absent.
4. The UN Environment/MAP Coordinating Unit (CU) was represented by the Coordinator of UN Environment/MAP Gaetano Leone. INFO/RAC was represented by its Director Giuseppina Monacelli. The General Director of ISPRA, Alessandro Bratti, also attended to the meeting.
5. The full list of participants is attached as Annex I to the present report.

### **Agenda item 1 - Opening of the meeting**

6. The meeting was opened on Tuesday, 16 April 2019 at 09.30 a.m. by the representatives of the host country, the Coordinator of the UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan and the INFO/RAC Director
7. Mr. Gaetano Leone, Coordinator of the UN Environment/MAP, opened the meeting, thanked INFO/RAC team for the organisation of this meeting and welcomed all participants. He recalled that the biennium 2020-2021 is the 2 majors years of the Barcelona Convention and the last biennium for the implementation of the Medium Term Strategy 2016-2021 and the necessity to build ambitious prospects for the rest of the MAP system. He also recalled that the agenda for this meeting had two strategic components: MAP's operational communications strategy, as requested at the COP20 in Tirana, and the data policy that represents a lack of clarity until today that cannot be possible anymore with the development of IMAP.
8. Mr. Oliviero Montanaro, representative of Italy, country host of the Meeting, welcomed the participants and also thanked INFO/RAC staff for the organization of the meeting and also for its collaboration in the organization of the COP 21 in Naples.
9. Mr. Alessandro Bratti, General Director of ISPRA, welcomed too the participants and thanked INFO/RAC staff for the invitation. He presented the Institution that is a public

and research body that supports at institutional level the Ministry of the Environment. He spoke about the main role of ISPRA that is to coordinate the National network composed by 21 territorial entities and collect data from national environmental institutions. He also said that ISPRA is member of the Bureau and Council of the European Eionet Network, and represents Italy within the European Environment Agency.

## **Agenda item 2 - Organizational issues**

### **2.1. Rules of Procedure**

10. The Rules of Procedure for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution and its protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6, Appendix XI) applied *mutatis mutandis* to this meeting.

### **2.2. Election of officers**

11. The meeting unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairperson:	Ms. Ivana Stojanovic (Montenegro)
Vice-Chairpersons:	Ms. Roberta Debono (Malta) Mr. Adel Radhouani (Tunisia)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Benoît Rodrigues (France)

The chairperson welcomed all participants attending the meeting and invited them to shortly introduce themselves.

### **2.3. Adoption of the agenda**

12. The Chairperson introduced the provisional annotated Agenda, which had been distributed as document UNEP/MED WG.470/2.
13. The representative of Italy proposed to reduce slightly the time given to the communication strategy and the standardization of data to devote the day of the 17th to the work program. The Chair accepted his proposal.
14. After reviewing the document, the Meeting approved the Agenda and the proposed timetable. The Agenda of the meeting appears as Annex II to this report.

### **2.4. Organization of work**

15. The Coordinator of UN Environment/MAP, Mr. Gaetano Leone, proposed that the meeting be held in daily sessions from 09:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3.00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., subject to adjustments as necessary.
16. The working languages of the meeting were English and French. Simultaneous interpretation was available for all the plenary sessions.

### **Agenda Item 3 - Progress Report on the Status of Implementation of the Programme of Work on Knowledge Management, Information and Communication**

17. Ms. Giuseppina Monacelli, Director of INFO/RAC, welcomed the National Focal Points and the Coordinator of UN Environment/MAP and ISPRA. She introduced the 2018-2019 Work Program contained in the document UNEP/MED WG.470/3. She presented the activities implemented or ongoing again during the above mentioned biennium, particularly the elaboration of the educational platform; the development of the MAP catalogue of metadata; the improvement of the InfoMAP; the update of MED POL Infosystem and the NBB report and the ongoing development of an application dedicated to the marine litter; the update and availability of the BCRS platform; the ongoing development of INFO/RAC and REMPEC new websites; the layout of the Executive Summary of the QSR 2017; the organization with SPA/RAC of a stand at the last COP of the Biodiversity (COP 14 – CBD); the dissemination of the MAP Newsletter (MEDNEWS); the realization of a brochure to illustrate the InfoMAPNode; the elaboration of the MAP Operational Communication Strategy that have been transmitted to the MAP CU for advice; and the involvement of INFO/RAC in 2 projects with the goals to improve the access to environmental information (see ENI SEIS SOUTH II Project) and to develop a regional platform and an internet portal.
18. Some Focal Points manifested their interest to the presentation of Ms. Monacelli, in particular the MAP Coordinator who said that it is very important to publicize the work done by the MAP because the challenges are numerous, its mandate is very broad and the resources are limited, and the progress of the MAP is visible.
19. The representative of Croatia said that it is very important to increase the visibility of INFO/RAC's work on internet, particularly the data portal highlighting the data dictionaries because the majority of countries not provide data manually. He also said that the way to report the data must change, the maps must be interactive and it should be easily accessible to the data through the smartphones.
20. The representative of Italy approved Croatia and added that INFO/RAC should become an everyday tool for experts and Contracting Parties, so an easy-to-use interface is needed to exchange data and improve the implementation of the Barcelona Convention.
21. The representative of France added that a lot of things have be done in particular on the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS) but it is needed to clarify the purpose of the reporting because the workload is important for all. He also asked about the proposed digital calendar of meetings of MAP and its components.
22. The chairperson approved the comments of Croatia; Italy and France.
23. INFO/RAC answered that the MAP's digital tools should be accessible now on smartphones because the data sharing is essential to know how we are progressing. He also added that the creation of a network is essential to help each Contracting Party to implement the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and that the collaboration of Focal Points and National Experts is very important for INFO / RAC in order to update the data and to consolidate the system.
24. The coordinator of UN Environment/MAP answered to France's observation telling that the ultimate object of the reporting is already to respect this textual obligation. He added that the reporting, in recent years, has increased following the analysis of

the reports conducted in Tirana even if it was not perfect but it is improving. He also said that we have a comprehensive regulatory framework, and we need to analyze the implementation of the texts and decisions by the Parties. This will also be used in the development of QSR 2023. Regarding the calendar of meetings, he replied that it is being prepared for presentation to the Bureau and perhaps it is necessary to make it accessible on the website. Regarding the Italy's observation, the MAP Coordinator replied that MAP and INFO/RAC aim to support all Contracting Parties bearing in mind the constraints that exist in other domains in which the Contracting Parties work.

#### **Agenda item 4 – MAP Operational Communication Strategy**

25. The representatives of INFO/RAC, Arthur Pasquale and Chiara Bolognini with some members of the MAP Communication Task Force (Lucille Guiheneuf; Christophe Blazy and Neven Stipica), introduced the MAP Operational Communication Strategy contained in the document UNEP/MED WG.470/4. This document was developed by INFO/RAC and the Coordinating Unit of MAP and with the support from the MAP Communication Task Force (including one member from each MAP component). The Strategy covers over 2 years and it is complementary with the 2018-2023 Strategy. The main messages from this Strategy communicated to the Focal Points are a) to increase the visibility of the MAP coordinating our communication and speaking with an unique voice; b) to reach a wider audience communicating also in Spanish and Arabic languages in addition to English and French, and making websites less institutional; c) to reach opinion and the media because the traditional media have mentioned the MAP less than 10 times in 2017, so the social networks would allow the MAP to have a real media showcase. INFO/RAC also emphasized that communicating as a group does not mean erasing the peculiarities of the components. On the contrary, it will reinforce the messages of the components. SCP/RAC sees this Strategy as an opportunity to support each other in communicating on any topic without erasure of the RACs.
26. The Focal Point of Morocco commented on the commitments to be honored in the Barcelona Convention but also in other domains, in particular the challenges must be met to honor these commitments. In terms of information exchange platform, Morocco wanted to share its experience with the Moroccan platform named SIRRED that aims on a policy of decentralization of environmental information management and involve 12 regional systems. She added that the platform is opened to a general public and also to privileged users. The platform will be soon accessible by other countries. She referred the partnership between INFO/RAC and Morocco in order to submit the information only once. Morocco requested to INFO/RAC to continue this work on the interoperability of systems. Morocco would also like a cooperation with INFO/RAC at communication level.
27. INFO/RAC thanked Morocco for its comments
28. Croatia observed that the website must present interactive maps accessible immediately without textual explanations beforehand, otherwise the visitors/users will not stay on the website. The data must be visible.
29. INFO/RAC replied that the data is the core of our work, but we must communicate around the data, scientific data cannot be separated from communication.
30. Italy communicated its satisfaction on the work carried out. Italy believes that a) the general public needs to be focused on Objective 3 of the Communication Strategy; b) the Communication Strategy must accompany all key issues related to the global

framework, such as climate change, it must demonstrate that the Barcelona system is a bridge between the Mediterranean framework and the global framework; c) the two years following the COP will be focused on the development of MAP's future Medium-Term Strategy; and d) it is needed to develop the Strategy with other RACs (common approach). Italy requested INFO/RAC to develop key messages specific to each event or theme of the MAP.

31. INFO/RAC replied that as for the general public, at the moment the communication is done on the social networks. The general public may have access at any time to information disclosed online. The Strategy must take this audience into account.
32. The MAP's Coordinator thanked Italy for making an official available to join the MAP CU and working on communication. He called on Governments to express this need.
33. INFO/RAC presented the program of the beginning of the afternoon dedicated to a communication work. So the participants were divided in 3 groups and each group had to propose a communication campaign and to present it. The meeting evaluated the proposals and then decided which was the best.
34. The representative of INFO/RAC, Carlo Cipolloni, presented the new website of INFO/RAC. He specified that the site is not yet accessible because it has not yet been translated into French. The goals of the website will be a) to be more oriented towards communication and to refer to the different reporting and information systems (MEDPOL and IMAP); b) develop a training platform in order ensure to the users thematic training online; c) set all IMAP indicators and collect information directly from States in other contexts (notably EU).

## **Agenda item 5 - Data Management Policy**

35. The representative of INFO/RAC, Carlo Cipolloni, introduced the Data Management Policy contained in the document UNEP/MED WG.470/5. He specified that the document recalls the scope of the policy as well as the legal framework in which we find ourselves. The document addresses the following topics such as a) the data collection; b) the authentication / authorization aspects on the Information System; c) the granularity of the data. He also specified that a) the need of transparency and standardization because our mission is to provide adequate information and promote the application of Articles 12 and 26 of the Convention; b) the sharing of management rights and responsibilities between Contracting Parties, MAP components, public, etc; c) an agreement on a data policy (an architecture in 10 articles is proposed, by way of example). He also presented a roadmap on the implementation of a data policy relative to the biennium 2020-2021 and organized in the following way a) organization of different meetings between INFO/RAC, the Coordinating Unit of MAP and each Contracting Party in order to prepare a final version of the Data Policy document; b) submission of the document to COP22.
36. Croatia suggested that it would be useful to bring national / local experts together to share their data.
37. Morocco asked how it is possible to lighten the metadata and what are the required fields for the metadata to be acceptable by the System. Morocco suggested that INFO/RAC assists countries which are in the start-up phase, and asked what is the exact responsibility of the Focal Points, especially in the reporting data.
38. INFO/RAC answered to Morocco the need to discuss on it particularly with the CORMON. INFO/RAC added that the data can be aggregated differently since it is up

to countries to set priorities. In terms of metadata, the system allows the Country to edit the metadata directly in the platform.

39. Morocco commented on the ISO 19115 standard and asked if there are some fields to insist on during the collect of data. Morocco proposed a spreadsheet with 5/6 standard fields and asked a help in order to control the quality of data.
40. Spain suggested the use of INSPIRE guidelines and the potentialities of Copernicus.
41. France invited to be aware of different needs in different states. Some Contracting Parties need to be accompanied, others want to ensure that they will not have to incur new obligations. France also observed that Countries are currently in a very important phase to structure the assessment of the ecological status of the Mediterranean waters, since we are advancing concomitantly on a) the development of indicators; b) the harmonization of monitoring protocols; and c) the standardization of the data dictionaries of the future System Information IMAP . France asked to INFO/RAC how it will process to take into account CORMON's feedbacks on Data Dictionaries.
42. INFO/RAC replied that it will take into account European directives. It specified that the infoMAP is built according the INSPIRE directive and it will therefore not require further collection or transmission for EU countries because the work is done to avoid any duplication. INFO/RAC invited the Contracting Parties already ready to collaborate with it to simplify the collection process as much as possible. INFO/RAC said that The challenge is not to impose an additional burden on the EU Contracting Parties but also to not impose the EU rules to non-EU Parties. INFO/RAC also added that the Medregion project supported by DG Environment will help us avoid duplicate collection for EU Parties.

#### **Agenda item 6 - Draft of the Programme of Work 2020 - 2021 on Knowledge Management, Information and Communication**

43. The MAP Coordinator introduced the Draft of the Programme of Work 2020/2021 on Knowledge Management, Information and Communication contained in the document UNEP/MED WG. 470/6. He recalled that efforts must focus on the completion of the Medium-Term Strategy, which will end in 2021. He said that this biennium is fundamental for the MAP and INFO/RAC, and the budget envelope is not yet presented because these aspects have to be discussed with the Bureau. COP20 proposed to consider two scenarios budget: 0 % and 4 % increase.
44. The representative of INFO/RAC, Giordano Giorgi presented the document and then the Contracting parties representatives were invited to provide their comments and input on the document.
45. Croatia commented on the visibility in Internet and recalled the importance of the data, and also the importance to show what each Contacting Party implements in order to help other Parties to act in the same direction and to invest.
46. France expressed its total satisfaction. It asked for the next few meetings to send the different versions of documents together explanations especially when the document is long as the Program of Work, the architecture of the document evolved and this imposed a complete proofreading in comparison with the old version, without knowing what had changed or not. Perhaps we could try to do differently in the future. France also added that the desire to raise awareness among stakeholders and the public, through training in the topics of interest to us, is a very important point of this work program. France agrees with INFO/RAC on the need to improve compliance



Mechanisms. France proposed a reflection about legal indicators, which would enable us to know whether the application of the Convention and its Protocols is effective or not and to guide States in the changes to be made. France asked explanations on the Climate Change adaptation platform.

47. Italy agrees fully with French comments, particularly on the need to clarify the climate change adaptation platform. Italy commented the existence of empty columns in the PoW, consequently it is difficult to identify actors for the implementation of activities listed. Regarding the MAP Communicator Officer, Italy agrees on the fact that the budget must be discussed first by the Bureau, but a forecast of costs relative to the general activities could be presented. Italy pointed out the absence of the European Commission and asked to the MAP Coordinator to consider this fact. Italy proposed the draft of a document illustrating what the development of InfoMAP involves for other RACs and what Contracting Parties can do, as well as what should be done to avoid any duplication.
48. Regarding the climate change adaptation platform, INFO/RAC replied that the goal will be to include on the platform everything the PAM components have already developed. INFO/RAC taken note of the comments on how to work and will act coherently.
49. The MAP Coordinator replied to France regarding the development of the work program tables saying it is very delicate but CU will take care to improve this. Regarding the compliance, the MAP Coordinator said that the role of the Compliance Committee is important and the issue of legal indicators can be discussed at the Committee meeting in June so that it can be added to the work program 2020-2021 of the Barcelona Convention. The Committee is now full so there is the possibility to bring this good proposal by involving different components of MAP. Regarding the comments of Italy, the MAP Coordinator replied that the best compromise must be found regarding everyone's responsibility with respect the data to provide. Regarding to the Communication Officer, the MAP Coordinator said that it would be necessary to justify during the COP this post at the MAP Coordinating Unit, but only MAP CU have to the manage its resources. Regarding the budget, the MAP Coordinator replied that the Contracting Parties prioritize the activities proposed by the MAP and its components and it is also difficult to adapt the PoW for the future Medium term strategy given that it must be developed during the next biennium. The MAP Coordinator also regrets the absence of the European Commission, he has already written to DG Environment who announced a conflict of agenda.
50. Italy suggested 2 proposals to the MAP that are a) the possibility to include a cross-cutting initiative on how RACs and Contracting Parties can contribute to shaping the future Medium Term Strategy; b) relative the budget, the Contracting Parties could to identify two or three priority activities among the ones proposed in the PoWs , and if the budget is not enough the Parties could to select the activity(ies) more necessary and useful.
51. Morocco agrees totally with France and Italy. She commented on the Climate Change in particular on the fact that Morocco works about the homogenization of data, and has already developed an Information System named SIREDD in which a hundred indicators has been defined for climate change. A decisional dashboard is now being developed because Policymakers need a set of narrow indicators. Morocco proposed to homogenize what is done so that each country uses the same platform.
52. The meeting commented some activities of the PoW 2020-2021:

- a) Relative to the activity 1.2.1 c) "*Informea*", Italy asked some details. The MAP Coordinator replied that it is an online platform of the UN Environment. In the context of the Barcelona Convention, the basic elements, the decisions taken, etc. will be found there. Involvement of all in Nairobi. Very advanced phase.
- b) Relative to the activity 1.4.5 "*e-learning platform*" Italy asked about the agreement on the academic CV, and INFO/RAC replied that will check.
- c) Relative to the activity 1.5.1 "*InfoMAP*" Italy asked if already exists an idea of the identity of the regional organizations to engage in this activity, and INFO/RAC replied that it will start with MAP partners who have data, in order to obtain an overview of the data by the end of the year, and the next biennium will be dedicated to ensure the interoperability of the different systems. Relative to the activity 1.5.1.3 INFO/RAC said that Contracting Parties have to clarify about the desired content since it is about data to collect in the dashboard.
- d) Relative to the activity 1.5.1.5 c) "Data Dictionaries" Croatia asked if yes or no the Data Dictionaries will be in line with those of the European Environment Agency, and INFO/RAC replies yes.
- e) Relative to the activity 1.5.1.5 Tunisia asked about the versioning and INFO/RAC replied that the MED POL data will be implemented in the IMAP System and everything will be referenced. INFO/RAC added that the idea is to have all the most recent data in the system. But versioning present some challenges.
- f) Relative to the activity 1.6.1 (communication) Croatia asked if the System will allow to access to pages targeting sub-regions. INFO/RAC replied that for the moment only general level is aimed, in a second time we could aim national level but we can think about the sub-regional level.

### **Agenda item 7 - Any other matters**

53. The meeting commented on the others items:

- a) Lebanon asked about the now expectations for the data policy. The MAP Coordinator replied that any comments made now will be included in the next draft of the Data Management Policy. In July, MAP's overall work program will be submitted to MAP FPs for discussion. It is therefore necessary to communicate to MAP PFs your support for this draft data management policy. INFO/RAC added that COP21 will have to validate the document that will be implemented during the next biennium.

### **Agenda item 8 - Conclusions and recommendations**

54. Following the review and discussions of all agenda items, the Meeting agreed on the conclusions and recommendations reported in Annex III.

### **Agenda item 9 - Closure of the meeting**

55. The chairperson thanked all the participants for the various and positive comments overall.

56. The meeting closed on Wednesday 17 April 2019, at 6:00 p.m.

**Annex I**  
**List of participants**

**Meeting of INFO/RAC National Focal Points  
April 16, 2019 – Rome  
(NFPs)**

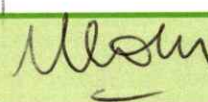

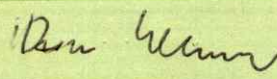

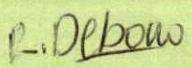

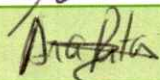
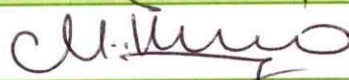
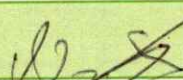
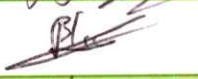
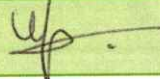
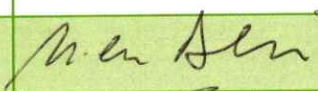

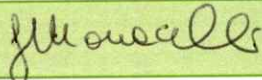

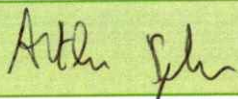
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**Meeting of INFO/RAC National Focal Points  
April 16, 2019 – Rome  
(NFPs)**

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16 April 2019 Rome  
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16 April 2019 Rome  
(Participants)**

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**Meeting of INFO/RAC National Focal Points  
April 17, 2019 – Rome  
(NFPs)**

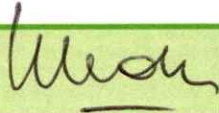


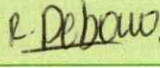
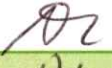
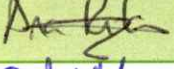
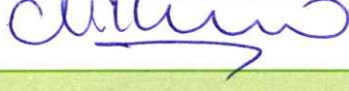

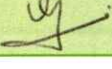
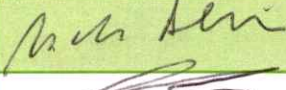

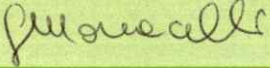

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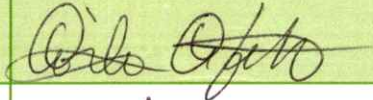
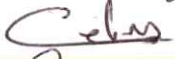
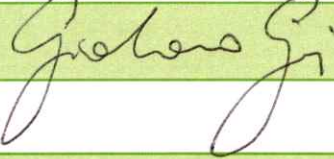
**Meeting of INFO/RAC National Focal Points  
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17 April 2019 Rome  
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17 April 2019 Rome  
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**Annex II**  
**Agenda of the meeting**



**UNITED  
NATIONS**

**EP**

UNEP/MED WG. 470/1



**UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

18 March 2019  
Original: English

Meeting of INFO/RAC National Focal Points

Rome, Italy, 16-17 April 2019

**Provisional Agenda**

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UNEP/MAP  
INFO/RAC - Rome, 2019

**Agenda item 1.** Opening of the meeting

**Agenda item 2.** Organizational matters

1. Rules of procedure
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Organization of work

**Agenda item 3.** Progress Report on the Status of Implementation of the Programme of Work on Knowledge Management, Information and Communication

**Agenda item 4.** MAP Operational Communication Strategy 2020/2021

**Agenda item 5.** MAP Data Management Policy

**Agenda item 6.** Draft of the Programme of Work 2020/2021 on Knowledge Management, Information and Communication

**Agenda item 7.** Any other matters

**Agenda item 8.** Conclusions and recommendations

**Agenda item 9.** Closure of the meeting

**Annex III**  
**Conclusions and recommendations**



## **Meeting of INFO/RAC National Focal Points**

Rome, Italy, 16-17 April 2019

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

Following the review and discussions of all agenda items, the Meeting of INFO/RAC National Focal Points ("the Meeting"), held in Rome, Italy, on 16 and 17 April 2019, agreed on the following conclusions and recommendations:

#### **Agenda item 3: Progress Report on the Status of Implementation of the Programme of Work on Knowledge Management, Information and Communication**

1. The Meeting welcomed the work undertaken by INFO/RAC to implement the approved Programme of Work of the current biennium despite the challenges encountered and encouraged INFO/RAC to continue its efforts to fully implement all the agreed activities.
2. The Meeting acknowledged the high level of commitment in the development of the InfoMAP platform and encouraged a complete integration of the existing MAP Data Bases and linkages with other regional systems.
3. The Meeting appreciated the work done by INFO/RAC in close collaboration with other MAP Components on the development of the MAP Operational Strategy and encouraged its fully implementation in next biennium as PoW 2020-2021.
4. The Meeting appreciated the development of an e-learning platform and the activation of the first set of E-courses made available to all MAP Components to fulfil their training activities.

#### **Agenda item 4: MAP Operational Communication Strategy**

5. The Meeting welcomed the development of the MAP Operational Communication Strategy aimed to achieve greater coherence in communication activities with a growing emphasis on the Communicating as One approach in order to strengthen the MAP network.
6. The Meeting acknowledged the operative approach of the MAP Operational Communication Strategy and took notes that the document complements the Communication Strategy 2018-2023, remaining at same time a self-standing document.
7. The Meeting appreciated the compliance of the MAP Operational Communication Strategy with the Mid Term Strategy 2016-2021 and its flexibility in view of the development of the incoming Mid Term Strategy.
8. The Meeting pointed out that the Operational Communication Strategy should be the voice of the whole MAP system and a bridge to the global audience .
9. The Meeting requested to INFO/RAC to enhance the dissemination of best practices, communication experiences, communication tools developed by Contracting Parties, extending "Communication as ONE" to all the MAP system and its partners. It was requested also to increase the accessibility and involvement of general public.
10. The Meeting agreed on the importance to develop a communication network at national level to ensure the involvement and the participation of Contracting Parties, with the engagement of INFO/RAC National Focal Points to promote it and the support of INFO/RAC.



11. The Meeting noted the continued need for a stronger communication capacity at the UN Environment/MAP Coordinating Unit and recommended that COP21 considers supporting the long term / permanent presence of a Communication Officer at that Unit.

#### **Agenda item 5: MAP Data Management Policy**

12. The Meeting welcomed the development of a MAP Data Management Policy as general framework to be finalized in the biennium 2020-2021, once the mandate for its completion during next biennium is agreed by Contracting Parties at COP 21.

13. The Meeting acknowledged the importance of developing an information system for IMAP based on SEIS principles, which should be interoperable to the extent possible with existing information and reporting systems already used by the Contracting Parties.

14. The Meeting highlighted the need to consider official Countries data and to use existing data from other International and European programmes like GEO and Copernicus.

15. The Meeting endorsed the implementation of the proposed road map, highlighting the need to carry out specific bilateral meetings with the Contracting Parties to ensure the necessary thorough discussion on sharing type of data and data products.

#### **Agenda item 6. Draft of the Programme of Work 2020/2021 on Knowledge Management, Information and Communication.**

16. The Meeting welcomed with satisfaction the proposed plan of activities as provided in the 2020/2021 Programme of Work, which builds on the good progress made in the last two biennia by INFO/RAC and the MAP system. The Meeting encouraged INFO/RAC to continue its efforts to promote the planned activities and their related deliverables within the whole MAP Programme of Work.

17. The Meeting highlighted the need to improve synergies with relevant Regional and International organisations in order to avoid overlapping of efforts, duplication of reporting and ensure coherence of quality status assessment, also considering MAP Components data sharing.

18. The Meeting acknowledged the utmost importance to give more visibility within InfoMAP platform to official monitoring data collected and shared by Contracting Parties in order to raise awareness by decision-makers on resources needed to deliver monitoring programmes.

19. The Meeting took note of the proposal for a prototype of "Climate Change adaptation platform" by INFO/RAC as part of the infoMAP platform.

20. The Meeting highlighted the need to assure coherence in terms of Data Standards and Data Dictionaries between BCRS protocols and IMAP data flows and EEA reporting obligations at EU level.

21. The Meeting encouraged the development of specific contents at sub-region level to be published on MAP websites in order to reach targeted audiences and assure a more efficient involvement of stakeholders.

22. The Meeting encouraged a further dissemination of the "Annual Report" planned in the Operational Communication Strategy through the quarterly newsletter MED NEWS.

