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# WELCOME BY INFO/RAC

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**DIVISION FOR NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION SYSTEM,  
ITALIAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND  
RESEARCH (ISPRA), EEA NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR ITALY**

## About INFO RAC

The **Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication (INFO-RAC)** was established in 2005 by the decision of the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, thus substituting the Regional Activity Centre on Environment Remote Sensing (ERS-RAC) that was approved as MAP Regional Activity Centre by the 8th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 1993.

**INFO-RAC was mandated to establish a common information management infrastructure to facilitate and support information and communication activities across MAP.**

At the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Almeria, 15-18 January 2008), the Italian delegation announced its decision to transfer the functions of INFO-RAC to ICRAM (Italian Central Institute for Applied Marine Research) that merged into **ISPRA** (Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research).

## About INFO RAC

During the 16th Conference of Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention (Marrakesh 2009), the mandate (Decision IG 19/08 - Mandate of MAP Components) for the Regional Center for Information and Communication Activities was outlined as a component of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and coordinated by the UN Environment Program (UNEP) Coordination Unit (CU).

The Italian Ministry of the Environment and of the Protection of the Land and Sea with a directive has mandated ISPRA to ensure from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2010 the functioning of INFO / RAC and consequently to carry out all the activities pertaining to the Center itself. In the same directive the art. 5 states that ISPRA adopts the measures, including organizational measures, necessary to ensure that the INFO / RAC Center is autonomously responsible for decision-making, operations and spending, within the limits of the approved plans and programs.

# INFO RAC scope of action and key issues

(from the mandate UNEP /MEP IG 19/8)

## *Three main thematic areas:*

Information and communication technology

Information sharing, communication, education, training and awareness-raising

Dissemination of results from environmental research and from innovative observation and monitoring technology

# INFO RAC scope of action and key issues

## (from the mandate UNEP /MEP IG 19/8)

### I. Information and communication technology

1. Design and implement a common environmental and spatial data infrastructure and network services (InfoMAP) for internal (UNEP/MAP) and external information among Mediterranean coastal States as a support to the Contracting Parties in carrying out coordinated activities at the national and regional levels, for the full implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the “Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development” (MSSD).
2. Promote networking on Information and Communication technology.
3. Provide technical assistance to Contracting Parties in on-line reporting activities.

# INFO RAC scope of action and key issues

## (from the mandate UNEP /MEP IG 19/8)

- ### II. Information sharing, communication, education, training and awareness-raising
1. Improve the environmental and spatial data flows management, information sharing and reporting mechanisms, through regional cooperation and appropriate training.
  2. Improve the MAP corporate communication, promote education initiatives and participation and ownership of Contracting Parties.
  3. Establish long-term, working partnerships among MAP Components, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders.
  4. Promote public participation and raise awareness on the activities of UNEP/MAP, of the Barcelona Convention and of related programmes on the environmental and sustainable development policies of individual member states of the Convention.

# INFO RAC scope of action and key issues

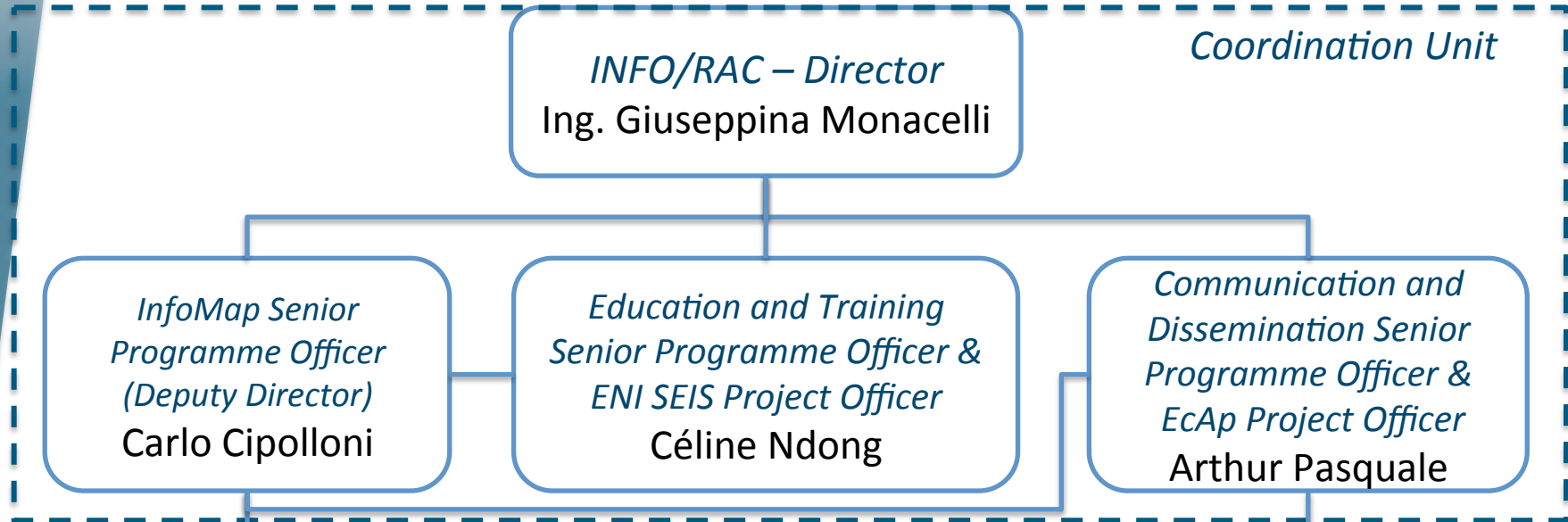
## (from the mandate UNEP /MEP IG 19/8)

### III Dissemination of results from environmental research and from innovative observation and monitoring technology

1. Strengthen the knowledge base for bridging the gap between science, environmental monitoring and policy making in the Mediterranean region, taking into account existing efforts at the Euro-Mediterranean level to focus on good practices relevant to the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and of the MSSD.
2. Promote the sharing of experiences and results stemming from environmental research and innovative technologies, including those resulting from earth observation initiatives relevant to the Mediterranean environment and sustainable development such as the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and the Global Monitoring for the Environment and Security (GMES) *now Copernicus*.

*INFO/RAC will promote the use of the best available ICT for the reduction of the overall ecological footprint of MAP's components, contributing to the greening of the Barcelona Convention.*

# INFO/RAC Structure



## *Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Expert:*

**Cristian Di Stefano** (Information System manager & SUPREME Project Officer)  
**Giordano Giorgi** (EcAP & ICT Expert)  
**Andrea Tosti** (I&CT Expert)  
**Elio Giulianelli** (DBA Expert)  
**Fabio Baiocco** (Remote Sensing Expert)  
**Roberto Visentin** (GIS Analyst Expert)

*Communication and Dissemination Expert:*  
**Alessandra Casali** (Communication Officer)  
**Carla Iandoli** (Communication Officer)  
**Chiara Bolognini** (Communication and Dissemination Officer)  
**Rosanna Cucchi** (Translation Officer)

*Administrative and budget support:*  
**Francesca Caldarelli** (financial Assistant)



# Thank you for your attention

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