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Introduction

1. This meeting of the Correspondence Group on GES and Targets – Biodiversity and Fisheries Cluster was organised in collaboration with the Secretariat of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM). It took place in the premises of the United Nations Organisations for Food and Agriculture (FAO) in Rome (Italy) on 07-08 February 2013. The objective of the meeting was to discuss methodologies and approaches for setting targets, review relevant existing targets and take initial steps in elaborating draft GES descriptions and identifying corresponding targets for the Ecological Objectives on biodiversity and fisheries.

Participation

2. The meeting was attended by experts from the following Contracting Parties: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, European Union, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, and Spain.
3. The Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC), the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) and the Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre (BP/RAC) were also represented at the meeting.
4. The Secretariat of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) was represented at the meeting as well as the following institutions and organizations: the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), WWF MEDPO WWF European Programme Office (WWF MEDPO), European Project Vectors, Medina Project, Thethys Research Institute and Sound Seas
5. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

Agenda item 1: Welcome and opening of the Meeting

6. The meeting was opened at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday 7 February 2013. Mr. Oliviero Montanaro, Head of Unit of Marine and Coastal Environment Protection, speaking on behalf of the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea, welcomed the participants and emphasized that Italy was fully aware of the importance of the EcAp process launched under the Barcelona Convention and confirmed the commitment of his country to work for the wellbeing of the Mediterranean populations, in particular through improving the quality of the marine environment in the region and working online with the relevant processes and frameworks existing at regional and global levels.
7. Mr. Abdellah Srour, Executive Secretary of GFCM, welcomed the participants and commended the collaboration framework established between the Secretariats of GFCM and the Barcelona Convention. He informed the meeting about the main priorities for GFCM in the coming years emphasizing that the GFCM Framework Programme included five work programmes (Governance and Management, Data Collection, Aquaculture, Artisanal Fisheries/Recreational Fisheries and Sub-regional Cooperation). Mr. Srour stressed that the environmental issues related to fisheries were among the important elements of the GFCM approach for the management of fisheries and that GFCM already adopted recommendations aimed at minimising the incidental catches of endangered species (Monk Seal, Birds and Cetaceans). He also informed the participants that the Italian Ministry of Environment and the Secretariat of GFCM signed an agreement aimed at promoting Ecosystem Approach.

8. Ms. Maria Luisa Silva Mejias, Executive Secretary and Coordinator of UNEP/MAP, welcomed the participants and informed the meeting about the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) process under the Barcelona Convention. She emphasised that the Contracting Parties agreed 7 steps for the application of EcAp for the management of human activities in the Mediterranean. They also agreed on a vision, three strategic goals and Eleven Ecological Objectives. She stressed that the timeline agreed for the implementation of the seven steps was synergic with the process under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive of the European Union. She presented the progress made in implementing Decision IG 20/4 adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 16th Ordinary Meeting (Paris, France, 2012). In this context she emphasized that the First Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) Coordination Group, held on 29-30 May 2012, provided guidance regarding the methodological approach to be followed by the three clusters: (i) Pollution Cluster (EOs 5, 9, 10, 11), (ii) Biodiversity and Fisheries Cluster (EOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 6) and (iii) Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Hydrologic Conditions Cluster (EOs 7 and 8).
9. The Executive Secretary and Coordinator presented also the objectives of the meeting indicating that it was held in close collaboration with the Secretariat of GFCM and expressed her gratitude to FAO and GFCM for hosting the meeting.

Agenda item 2: Introduction to the meeting programme, organization of the days

10. Mr. Atilla Uras, UNEP/MAP Programme Officer, introduced the Provisional Agenda of the meeting contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG 373/1 and annotated in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG 373/2. He explained the flow of the meeting and invited the participants to review and adopt the Agenda. The Agenda as adopted by the meeting is contained in Annex II to the present report.

Agenda item 3: Introductory Presentations

11. On behalf of the Secretariat, Mr. Atilla Uras, provided a briefing on the process of implementation of the Ecosystem Approach roadmap and the expected results during the biennium and beyond. In this context he presented the eleven Mediterranean Ecological Objectives (EO) adopted by the Contracting Parties highlighting those related to Biodiversity and Fisheries.
12. The Secretariat introduced the main working document of the meeting UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.373/3 "Approaches for definition of Good Environmental Status and setting targets for the following Ecological Objectives (EO) in the framework of the Ecosystem Approach: EO 1(Biodiversity), EO 2(Non-indigenous species), EO 3 (Harvest of commercially exploited fish and shellfish), EO 4 (Marine food webs) and EO 6 (Sea-floor integrity)" and the Information document: UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.373/Inf.3 "Existing targets of relevance for the Mediterranean Sea regarding Biodiversity and Fisheries"
13. On behalf of the GFCM Secretariat, Mr Nicola Ferri presented GFCM activities and programme of special relevance for the subject of the meeting.

Agenda item 4: Plenary – Discussions session

14. During this session, the participants reviewed in depth the proposed approaches, GES descriptions and related Targets for the five Ecological Objectives covered by this meeting. For each Ecological Objective, the Secretariat introduced the relevant section of the working document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.373/3 and the participants were invited to comment the proposed approach and to amend as appropriate the proposed GES descriptions and targets. The amended GES descriptions and targets for each of the Ecological Objectives considered during the meeting appear as Annex III to this report.

Agenda item 5: Presentation of the outcomes and adoption of outcomes, recommendations and conclusions

15. The Secretariat presented the list of the main conclusions and recommendations and the participants were invited to review and where necessary amend them. The adopted recommendations and conclusions appear as Annex VI to this report.

Agenda item 6: Identifying potential way forward and closure of the meeting

16. Given the complexity of the biodiversity and fisheries related issues and the difficulties in identifying the indicator species and habitats, it was proposed that another COR GEST-Biodiversity and Fisheries Cluster meeting will be organized tentatively during the first week of July 2013.
17. During the closing session Ms. Maria Luisa Silva Mejias, Executive Secretary and Coordinator of UNEP/MAP, congratulated the participants for their efforts and constructive comments during the two-days meeting. Following the usual exchange of courtesies, she closed the meeting on Friday 8 February 2013 at 5.30 pm.

Annex I
List of Participants

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Annex II
Agenda of the Meeting

Agenda of the Meeting

- Agenda item 1.** Welcome and opening of the Meeting, adoption of the agenda
- Agenda item 2.** Introduction to the workshop programme, organization of the days
- Agenda item 3.** Introductory Presentations
- Agenda item 4.** Plenary – Discussions session
1. Biodiversity
 2. Non-indigenous species
 3. Harvest of commercially exploited fish and shellfish
 4. Marine food webs
 5. Seafloor integrity
 - i. Discuss methodologies and approaches for setting state targets (as qualitative and quantitative elements of the determination of GES);
 - ii. Consider relevant existing targets and underlying methodologies and discuss their suitability for use within the context of Barcelona Convention
 - iii. Identify first draft list of targets and corresponding GES
- Agenda item 5.** Presentation of the outcomes and adoption of outcomes, recommendations and conclusions
- Agenda item 6.** Identifying potential way forward and closure of the meeting

Annex III
GES descriptions and targets adopted by the meeting

Annex III
The GES descriptions and targets adopted by the meeting

1. Proposed approaches for GES determination and GES targets with regard to Ecological Objective 1 (Biodiversity)

| Operational objective | Indicator | Proposed GES Description | Proposed Targets |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1.4 Key coastal and marine habitats are not being lost | 1.4.1 Potential / observed distributional range of certain coastal and marine habitats listed under SPA protocol | The habitat is present in all its potential ¹ distributional range. ² | <p>State The ratio Potential / observed distributional range tends to 1</p> <p>Pressure Decrease in the main human causes of the habitat decline</p> |
| | 1.4.2 Distributional pattern of certain coastal and marine habitats listed under SPA protocol | The distributional pattern is in line with prevailing physiographic, hydrographic, geographic and climatic conditions. | <p>State Zero net human induced loss of habitat</p> |
| | 1.4.3 Condition of the habitat-defining species and communities | The population size and density of the habitat-defining species are within reference conditions ensuring the long term maintenance of the Habitat | <p>State No human induced significant deviation of population abundance and density from reference conditions³</p> <p>The species shows a positive trends in population abundance and density (for recovering habitats)</p> |

¹ For the purpose of this GES Description, the potential distribution range of the habitat is the historically known distribution of the habitat in the Mediterranean

² This is not realistic for many habitats, given their slow natural expansion rate.

³ Reference conditions should be defined for the habitats to be considered under EO1

Marine Mammals:

| Operational objective | Indicator | Proposed GES Description | Proposed Targets |
|--|---|---|---|
| 1.1 Species distribution is maintained | 1.1.1 Distributional range | <p><u>Cetaceans</u>: The species continues to occur in all Mediterranean areas where formerly known.</p> <p><u>Monk Seal</u>: Monk Seal is present along all Mediterranean coasts with suitable habitats for the species.</p> | <p>State <u>Cetaceans</u>: Cetacean distribution is not significantly affected by human activities</p> <p><u>Monk Seal</u>: The distribution of Monk Seal remains stable or expanding and the species is recolonizing areas with suitable habitats.</p> <p>Pressure/Response: Human activities⁴ having the potential to exclude marine mammals from their range area are regulated and controlled.</p> <p>Conservation measures implemented for the zones of importance for cetaceans</p> <p>Fisheries management measures that strongly mitigate the risk of incidental taking of monk seals and cetaceans during fishing operations are implemented.</p> |
| | 1.1.2 Area covered by the species (for sessile/benthic species) | | |
| 1.2 Population size of selected species is maintained | 1.2.1 Population abundance | The population size allows to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status ⁵ | State No human induced decrease in population abundance |
| | 1.2.2 Population density | <p><u>Cetaceans</u>: N/A</p> <p><u>Monk Seal</u>: Number of individuals by colony allows to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status⁶</p> | State Continual recovery of population density |

⁴ Seismic surveys, marine noise generating activities, fishing, maritime traffic, etc.

⁵ For cetaceans, the ACCOBAMS/IUCN evaluation should be considered

⁶ To be applied at local level and not at national scale

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| <p>1.3 Population condition of selected species is maintained</p> | <p>1.3.1 Population demographic characteristics (e.g. body size or age class structure, sex ratio, fecundity rates, survival/ mortality rates)</p> | <p><u>Cetaceans:</u> Species populations are in good condition: Low by-catch induced mortality⁷, balanced sex ratio and no decline in calf production <u>Monk Seal:</u> Species populations are in good condition: Low human induced mortality, appropriate pupping seasonality, high annual pup production, balanced reproductive rate and sex ratio</p> | <p>State (Quantitative targets may be set if baseline data on the extent of incidental catch and the population size will be available)</p> <p>Pressure/Response <u>Cetaceans:</u> Appropriate measure implemented to mitigate incidental catch, prey depletion and other human induced mortality <u>Monk Seal:</u> Appropriate measures implemented to mitigate direct killing and incidental catches and to preclude habitat destruction.</p> |
| <p>1.4 Key coastal and marine habitats are not being lost</p> | <p>1.4.1 Potential / observed distributional range of certain coastal and marine habitats listed under SPA protocol</p> | | |
| | <p>1.4.2 Distributional pattern of certain coastal and marine habitats listed under SPA protocol</p> | | |
| | <p>1.4.3 Condition of the habitat-defining species and communities</p> | | |

⁷ Baseline data are required.

Birds:

| Operational objective | Indicator | Proposed GES Description | Proposed Targets |
|--|---|--|--|
| 1.1 Species distribution is maintained | 1.1.1 Distributional range | The species continues to occur in all Mediterranean areas where formerly known, [non-significant shrinkage or shift in the Mediterranean species distribution range] | State No significant shrinkage in the population distribution in the Mediterranean in all [90% of the] indicator species, and for colonial-breeding seabirds (ie, most species in the Mediterranean): New colonies are established and the population is encouraged to spread among several alternative breeding sites ⁸ . |
| | 1.1.2 Area covered by the species (for sessile/benthic species) | | |
| 1.2 Population size of selected species is maintained | 1.2.1 Population abundance | The absolute number of individuals that compose the population allows to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status [The species population has abundance levels allowing to qualify to Least Concern Category of IUCN] ⁹ | No [human induced] decrease in population abundance. The total number of individuals is sparse enough in different spots to allow adequate resilience. |
| | 1.2.2 Population density | Population density allows to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status | State Continual recovery of population density in enough different spots to allow resilience No decrease in population density in new/ recolonized critical habitat (for recovered populations) |

⁸ This is recommended by the conservation plans of some taxa (Audouin's G, Lesser-crested T)

⁹ A taxon is Least Concern when it has been evaluated and does not qualify for "Critically Endangered", "Endangered", "Vulnerable" or "Near Threatened"

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| <p>1.3 Population condition of selected species is maintained</p> | <p>1.3.1 Population demographic characteristics (e.g. body size or age class structure, sex ratio, fecundity rates, survival/ mortality rates)</p> | <p>Species populations are in good conditions: Appropriate levels of breeding success & acceptable levels of survival of young and adult birds, incidental catch mortality is at negligible levels, particularly for species with IUCN threatened status.</p> | <p>Population models point to long-term maintenance of populations of all taxa, particularly those with IUCN threatened status</p> |
| <p>1.4 Key coastal and marine habitats are not being lost</p> | <p>1.4.1 Potential / observed distributional range of certain coastal and marine habitats listed under SPA protocol</p> | | |
| | <p>1.4.2 Distributional pattern of certain coastal and marine habitats listed under SPA protocol</p> | | |
| | <p>1.4.3 Condition of the habitat-defining species and communities</p> | | |

Reptiles:

| Operational objective | Indicator | Proposed GES Description | Proposed Targets |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| <p>1.1 Species distribution is maintained</p> | <p>1.1.1 Distributional range</p> | <p>The species continues to occur in all Mediterranean areas where formerly known, including nesting, mating, feeding and wintering sites.</p> | <p>State Turtle distribution is not significantly affected by human activities Turtles continue to nest in all known nesting sites Pressure/Response Protection of nesting turtle nesting sites.</p> |

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|---|---|--|---|
| | | | Human activities ¹⁰ having the potential to exclude marine turtles from their range area are regulated and controlled. |
| | 1.1.2 Area covered by the species (for sessile/benthic species) | | |
| 1.2 Population size of selected species is maintained | 1.2.1 Population abundance | The population size allows to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status | State No human induced decrease in population abundance |
| | 1.2.2 Population density | N/A for Mediterranean marine turtles | N/A for Mediterranean marine turtles |
| 1.3 Population condition of selected species is maintained | 1.3.1 Population demographic characteristics (e.g. body size or age class structure, sex ratio, fecundity rates, survival/ mortality rates) | Low mortality induced by incidental catch ¹¹ , Favourable sex ratio and no decline in hatching rates | Pressure Measures to mitigate incidental catches in turtles implemented |
| 1.4 Key coastal and marine habitats are not being lost | 1.4.1 Potential / observed distributional range of certain coastal and marine habitats listed under SPA protocol | | |
| | 1.4.2 Distributional pattern of certain coastal and marine habitats listed under SPA protocol | Stable or increasing distribution of nesting sites | The species recovers historical nesting sites |
| | 1.4.3 Condition of the habitat-defining species and communities | | |

¹⁰ Uncontrolled use of turtle nesting sites, fishing, maritime traffic, etc.

¹¹ Baseline data are required.

2. Proposed approaches for GES determination and GES targets with regard to Ecological Objective 2 (Non-indigenous species)

| Operational objective | Indicator | Proposed GES Description | Proposed Targets |
|--|---|---|--|
| 2.1 Invasive non-indigenous species introductions are minimized | 2.1.1. Spatial distribution, origin and population status (established vs. vagrant) of non-indigenous species | Minimised risk of introduction and spread of NIS linked to human activities, in particular for potential IAS | <p><u>State</u> IAS introduced as a result of human activities are reduced.</p> <p><u>Pressure/Response</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Improved management of the main human related pathways and vectors of NIS introduction (Mediterranean Strategy for the management of ballast waters, early warning systems, etc.) – Action plans developed to address high risk NIS, should they appear in the Mediterranean. |
| | 2.1.2 Trends in the abundance of introduced species, notably in risk areas | Decreasing abundance of introduced NIS in risk areas ¹² | <p><u>State</u> Abundance of NIS introduced by human activities is reduced towards zero¹⁴</p> |
| Operational objective | Indicator | Proposed GES Description | Proposed Targets |
| 2.2. The impact of non-indigenous particularly invasive species on ecosystems is limited | 2.2.1 Ecosystem impacts of particularly invasive species | No decrease in native species abundance, no decline of habitats and no change in community structure that have been generated by IAS via competition, predation or any other direct or indirect effect. | <p><u>Pressure/Response</u> Impacts of NIS reduced to the feasible minimum</p> |
| | 2.2.2 Ratio between non-indigenous invasive species and native species in some well-studied taxonomic groups | Stable or decreasing rate of NIS | <p><u>State</u> To be set upon species choice and their related impact degree of the invasive upon the indigenous ones, taking into account the role of Climate Change in accelerating the establishment of NIS populations.</p> |

¹² For indicator taxonomic group

3. Proposed approaches for GES determination and GES targets with regard to Ecological Objective 3 (Harvest of commercially exploited fish and shellfish)

Proposed GES description and targets for EO3

| Operational objective | Indicator | Proposed GES Description | Proposed Targets |
|---|--|---|--|
| 3.1 Level of exploitation by commercial fisheries is within biologically safe limits | 3.1.1 Total catch by operational unit ¹³ | Total catch does not exceed the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) ¹⁴ . Remark: If only landings by commercial fleet are considered, the total catch would not reflect all the fish biomass removed from the stock, since IUU and recreational fishing may generate significant taking in some stocks. However data on IUU and recreational fishing are missing for most areas and stocks. | 40% MSY as precautionary limit reference point. |
| | 3.1.2 Total effort by operational unit ¹⁵ | Total effort does not exceed the level of effort allowing the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY). It includes the effort deployed by commercial fleet and estimated effort from recreational fishing and IUU operators. | Fishing effort does not exceed the level of effort allowing 40% of the MSY |
| | 3.1.3 Catch per unit effort (CPUE) by operational unit | Stable or increasing CPUE ¹⁶ | Stable or positive trend. |
| | 3.1.4 Ratio between catch and biomass index (hereinafter catch/biomass ratio). | The catch/biomass ratio allows to recover the stock or to maintain it at a level where it can produce the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) Remark: This ratio can be calculated only if regular sampling programmes are carried out by the countries | |
| | 3.1.5 Fishing mortality | Fishing mortality in the stock does not exceed the level that allows MSY ($F \leq F_{MSY}$) | $F_{0.1}$ |

¹³ Where the Total catch data are not available at Operational Unit level, Total catch by stock will be considered

¹⁴ MSY: The largest annual catch that may be taken from a stock every year without affecting the catch of future years

¹⁵ Where the Total effort data are not available at Operational Unit level, Total effort by stock will be considered

¹⁶ Not to be applied for gregarious species such as small pelagic. For other species, if CPUE data are not available at Operational Unit level, CPUE at the stock level will be considered.

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| 3.2 The reproductive capacity of stocks is maintained | 3.2.1 Age structure determination (where feasible) | Size structure of the stocks allows to maintain or to reach the Maximum yield-per-recruit | Average size of fish caught > average size at maturity. |
| | 3.2.2 Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) | The spawning stock biomass (SSB) is at a level capable of providing MSY or higher | |

4. Proposed approaches for GES determination and GES targets with regard to Ecological Objective 4 (Marine food webs)¹⁷

| Operational objective | Indicator | Proposed GES Description | Proposed Targets |
|--|---|---|---|
| 4.1 Ecosystem dynamics across all trophic levels are maintained at levels capable of ensuring long -term abundance of the species and the retention of their full reproductive capacity | 4.1.1 Production per unit biomass estimates for selected trophic groups and key species, for use in models predicting energy flows in food webs | Production per unit biomass allows for levels of energy flows in food webs that sustain the long -term abundance of the species and the retention of their full reproductive capacity | Quantitative targets may be established if baseline information will be available. (Remark: modelling energy flows in food web requires a significant amount of data) ¹⁸ |

¹⁷ Considering the knowledge gaps on food webs in Mediterranean ecosystems and the impact of the continuous change in species composition induced by NIS, in particular in the Eastern Basin, the GES description and Targets for EO4 should be addressed at local level.

¹⁸ The use of MTI (Marine Trophic Index) is recommended for the areas with accurate data about fishery catches.

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| 4.2 Normal proportion and abundances of selected species at all trophic levels of the food web are maintained | 4.2.1 Proportion of top predators by weight in the food webs | The ratio of top predator is at level that will not have long-term adverse effects on food web dynamics and related viability | Threshold may be established if baseline information will be available. |
| | 4.2.2 Trends in proportion or abundance of habitat-defining groups | The population size and density of the habitat-defining species are at levels ensuring the long term maintenance of the ecosystem | No [human induced] decrease in population abundance and density The species shows a positive trends in population abundance and density (for recovering ecosystems) |
| | 4.2.3 Trends in proportion or abundance of taxa with fast turnover rates | Taxa with fast turnover rates significantly contribute in maintaining food web dynamics | The partitioning of biomass among trophic levels is adapted to the trophic structure of the ecosystem |

5. Proposed approaches for GES determination and GES targets with regard to Ecological Objective 6 (Sea-floor integrity)

| Operational objective | Indicator | Proposed GES Description | Proposed Targets |
|--|---|---|--|
| 6.1 Extent of physical alteration to the substrate is minimized | 6.1.1 Distribution of bottom impacting activities | Limited distribution of bottom impacting activities | All bottom impacting activities are regulated. Maritime Spatial Planning is used to control bottom impacting activities |
| | 6.1.2 Area of the substrate affected by physical alteration due to the different activities | Limited surface area of the substrate affected by bottom impacting activities (for sensitive substrate types) | Threshold may be established if baseline information will be available. |

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| 6.2 Impact of benthic disturbance in priority benthic habitats is minimized | 6.2.1 Impact of bottom impacting activities in priority benthic habitats | Impact of bottom impacting activities on priority benthic habitats is minimized | No priority benthic habitat impacted by bottom impacting activities |
| | 6.2.2 Change in distribution and abundance of indicator species in priority habitats | The population size and density of the habitat-defining species are at levels ensuring the long term maintenance of the Habitat | State No [human induced] decrease in population abundance and density The species shows a positive trends in population abundance and density (for recovering habitats) |

Annex IV
Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions and Recommendations

The COR-GEST Biodiversity and Fisheries Cluster met in Rome, Italy on 7-8 February 2013 and reviewed the proposal of the UNEP-MAP with respect to approaches to setting GES and targets for biodiversity and fisheries related to EOs (1, 2, 3, 4 and 6) and agreed as follows:

- to ask the Secretariat to make efforts to reduce (if applicable) and focus the targets to ensure their applicability
- pursue collaboration with relevant organizations to further elaborate targets and finalize wording (in particular for cetaceans and birds)
- invite the Secretariat to elaborate list of pelagic habitats to be considered under EO1
- to ask the Secretariat to work on the elaboration of the habitat list, regarding pelagic and deep sea habitat types and species list to be considered within the relevant indicators in collaboration with relevant organizations
- Enhance integration and links between GES descriptions and targets and ensure further harmonization between clusters
- enhance the country capabilities to implement these targets to reach GES (capacity building)
- pursue further collaboration with the GFCM and its scientific advisory bodies as regard the EO3
- No definition of GES and targets should be provided for indicators that are not relevant to an area, country, sub-region, habitat or species group
- the finalization of GES and targets should take into account the financial and human resources in connection with the integrated monitoring
- MAP and its components should assist the contracting Parties to fulfill their obligation under this process

The revised report will be prepared by the Secretariat by mid-March and will be distributed to meeting participants, and RAC SPA and MAP FPs.

Another COR GEST-Biodiversity and Fisheries Cluster meeting will be organized tentatively during the first week of July 2013 to finalize the GES descriptions and targets.