



**United Nations  
Environment  
Programme**

**EP**



UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECP.8/Inf.5  
11 February 2010

ENGLISH

---

---



**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

Eighth Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Split, Croatia, 15-16 February 2010

**APPLICATION OF ECOSYSTEM APPROACH**  
**Road map**  
**Preparation of a Mediterranean quality status report**

---

UNEP/MAP  
Athens, 2010



**Implementation of the Roadmap for the application of ecosystem approach by MAP:  
A proposed way forward**

Decision IG 17/6 of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties, January 2008 approved the road map for the application of Ecosystem Approach, the ecological vision for the Mediterranean and set up the common Mediterranean strategic goals.

<b>ECAP Roadmap Steps</b>	<b>Status of implementation/Remarks</b>	<b>Next steps</b>
<b>1. Definition of an ecological vision</b>	Defined in January 2008, Decision IG 17/6	NA
<b>2. Setting of common Mediterranean strategic goals</b>	Adopted in January 2008, Decision IG 17/6	NA
<b>3. Identification of important ecosystem properties and assessment of ecological status and pressures</b>	<p>In process: This is a key step which outcome will affect the implementation of the other roadmap steps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MEDPOL and SPARAC have started data collection and recruitment of consultants. Assessment methodologies yet to be defined.</li> <li>- BP has issued the first report and defined the methodology to assess the total economic value of marine ecosystems in the Med</li> <li>- First documents expected to be delivered end of February 2010</li> <li>- Experts to support the Coordinating Unit and the exercise</li> <li>- Coordinating Unit has sent out a letter to the Contracting Parties to re-launch the process asking their support and nomination of contact points: 6 Contracting Parties have communicated their nomination</li> </ul> <p>- The monitoring meeting organized by MED POL in December 2009 has requested the elaboration of a Mediterranean quality status report. In this respect, MED POL has prepared a detailed <u>road map</u> which is presented as <u>Annex II to this document</u>. The work regarding to the assessment of the four areas will be taken fully into account</p>	<p>Two technical meetings are planned to be held in April and July to progress with regard to assessment of the 4 areas</p> <p><b><u>April 2010</u></b>  <i>a) to share the first results,  b) agree on assessment methodologies  c) advise on how to fill data gaps and finalize the assessment</i></p> <p><b><u>July 2010</u></b>  - <i>To consider a first integrated draft of the assessment reports for the four area  - To discuss on what is next for the implementation of the other steps of ECAP ROADMAP adopted in 2008</i></p> <p><b><u>September-October 2010:</u></b>  <i>Finalization of assessment</i></p> <p><b><u>March-June 2011:</u></b> <i>2 Inter governmental Meeting to discuss the outcome of the assessment process and their presentation to the Contracting Parties meeting</i></p> <p><b><u>April 2010 – July 2011:</u></b>  Preparation of Mediterranean quality status report, including an intergovernmental meeting</p>
<b>4. Development of a set of ecological objectives corresponding to the vision and strategic goals</b>	Not yet done: Pending the finalization and outcome of the assessment (step 3)	Possible target for their development: <b><u>2011</u></b> Approval by the 18 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2011
<b>5. Development of operational objectives with indicators and target levels</b>	Not yet done: While defining the set of ecological objectives, the descriptors to be established under WSFD, of MAP relevance, should be taken into account as appropriate	To be implemented possibly during <b><u>2011-2013</u></b>

<b>6. Revision of monitoring programmes for ongoing assessment and regular updating of targets</b>	Not yet done	Possible targets for revision of monitoring Programmes: <b>2013-2015</b> Possible target for implementing the revised monitoring programme <b>2015-2017</b>
<b>7. Development and review of relevant action plans and programmes</b>	The current management actions are being taken on the basis of MAP PW and legal instruments of the BC and the strategies for their implementation	As of 2017. SAP BIO revision during <b>2011-2012</b> could be used as a pilot experience to introduce the first results of ECAP road map implementation (for example to take into consideration the agreed ecological objectives)

A detailed work plan 2010-2011 activities is presented in Annex I to this document.

Annex I

Work plan 2010-2011

Activity	Dec-Jan 2009	Feb-March 2010	Apr-May 2010	June-Sept 2010	Sept-Dec 2010	March-May 2011	Lead Institution	Partners
<b>Regional activities:</b>								
Activity 1. Preparation of the status of implementation of ECAP project							Coordinating Unit	MEDPOL BP, SPA and PAP/ RAC
Activity 2. ToRs for ECAP international expert and recruitment							Coordinating Unit	
Activity 3. Preparation of a planning document and assessment methodologies							Coordinating Unit, Regional experts	
Activity 4. Discussion with the EC on the status of the project and its challenges and follows up							Coordinating Unit	
Activity 5. Data collection and gap analysis for the 4 designated area							MAP components	Coordinating Unit
Activity 6. Kick off of the first technical meeting							Coordinating Unit, regional experts	MAP components
Activity 7. Further Progress: the assessment documents (integration of the work of the components)							Regional expert MAP components	Coordinating Unit
Activity 8. Proposal on follow up and next steps to implement steps 6 and 7 of the ECAP road MAP approved by the Contracting Parties							Coordinating Unit, MAP components	ECP, Bureau
Activity 9. Second technical meeting							Coordinating Unit	
Activity 10. Preparation of a Mediterranean quality status report							MED POL, SPA/RAC	Coordinating Unit
Activity 11. 2 Government designated experts meetings							Coordinating Unit	Components



## Annex II

### Mediterranean Quality Status Report

#### Background

Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention states that: “1. The Contracting Parties shall endeavour to establish, in close cooperation with the international bodies which they consider competent, complementary or joint programmes, including, as appropriate, programmes at the bilateral or multilateral level, for **pollution monitoring** in the Mediterranean Sea Area and shall endeavour to **establish a pollution monitoring system** for the Area.”

In addition, according to the Article 8 of the amended Land Based Protocol of the Barcelona Convention, entered in force in June 2008, Parties shall: “a) **systematically assess**, as far as possible, the **levels of pollution** along the Contracting Parties coasts, ..., and periodically to provide information in this respect; and b) **evaluate the effectiveness** of action plans, programmes and measures implemented under this Protocol **to eliminate to the fullest possible extent pollution of the marine environment.**

Moreover, in the framework of the approved road map for the progressive application of the Ecosystem Approach (ECAP) by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention and in the framework of the application of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), both EU and non-EU Mediterranean countries are expected to develop a methodology to **assess periodically the state of the marine environment, based on comparable status indicators.** The assessment of the quality status of the marine environment, according to the MSFD Descriptors of Good Environmental Status (GES) is mainly based on indicators relative to marine pollution, biodiversity and fisheries.

#### The Regional Seas Conventions practices and the Barcelona Convention

HELCOM is periodically producing **thematic assessments** on eutrophication, biodiversity, hazardous substances and maritime activities, and will publish a Holistic Overall Assessment by 2010. Data and indicators for the preparation of assessments come from the HELCOM monitoring programmes: “Pollution-Load Compilations (PLC-Air and PLC-Water)”, “Monitoring of radioactive substances (MORS)” and the Combine-Programme “Cooperative Monitoring in the Baltic Marine Environment”.

OSPAR is periodically producing **thematic assessments** on biodiversity and ecosystems, eutrophication, hazardous substances, offshore activities, radioactive substances and diverse effects of human activities. It is planning to publish a new Quality Status Report by 2010. Data and indicators for the preparation of the assessment come from the OSPAR monitoring programmes: “Co-ordinated Environmental Monitoring Programme (CEMP)”, “Comprehensive Atmospheric Monitoring Programme (CAMP)”, “Comprehensive study on Riverine Inputs and Direct Discharges (RID)”, as well as the monitoring and assessment procedure on biodiversity. Monitoring of radioactive substances is so far voluntary.

Therefore, taking into consideration the related above international initiatives, a Mediterranean Holistic Quality Status Report to assess the quality of the marine environment in the framework of the ECAP should include information on **pollution loads, marine pollution and biodiversity**. The Mediterranean QSR would also be used as a basis to prepare a broader State of Environment and Development Report (SoED Report), which will include additional elements on sustainable development.

#### QSR road map

According to the experience of other Regional Seas Conventions (HELCOM and OSPAR), thematic assessments (emission of pollutants from LBS, status of marine pollution and biodiversity) are first prepared and then integrated into a holistic QSR. **Therefore, the first step to produce a holistic QSR is to prepare thematic assessments on the three main issues.**

#### MED POL Thematic Assessments road-map

MED POL has the necessary data on pollution pressures and status of marine pollution, which is generated through the regular updating of the National Baseline Budget of Emissions and Releases (NBB) and the National Monitoring Programmes. In particular:

- a) Pollution pressures from land-based sources have already been monitored through Regional Reports of pollution loads from industrial sources prepared by MEDPOL in 2003 and 2008 (National Baseline Budget database) and are planned to be updated every five years.
- b) Three draft Marine Pollution Assessment Reports (on Eutrophication, Hazardous Substances and Pollution Trends), have already been prepared by MED POL and presented to the last Consultation Meeting to review MED POL monitoring activities (Rome 1-2 December 2009). At this Meeting the countries representatives *“expressed their wish that the Secretariat should continue working on the preparation of a Mediterranean Quality Status Report and a Report on Gaps using the data available in the MEDPOL database, as well as other relevant data sources”* They also recommended that *“In order to proceed to the preparation the Quality of Status Report (QSR) and to develop Environmental Assessment Criteria (EAC) to enable the interpretation of contaminants concentration in sediments and biota in the Mediterranean Region, the Secretariat will form a small group of regional and national experts to develop EAC and to prepare a QSR draft to be further discussed and approved by the MED POL Focal Points in order to be presented at the COP Meeting in 2011.”* (Draft Report UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.343/4, 2010).
- c) Four sub-regional Assessment Reports on pollution sources and marine pollution, based on MED POL work and additional international scientific literature are under preparation in the framework of the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach road map.



As a result, in order to prepare a Thematic Assessment on land-based pressures and marine pollution, MED POL proposes the following road map:

1. Collection of available data from:
  - the MED POL pollution sources database (NBB) (April 2010)
  - The MED POL marine pollution database with the assistance of the countries for necessary corrections (May 2010)
  - the MEDPOL draft Assessment Report on eutrophication (available since December 2009)
  - the MED POL draft Assessment Report on hazardous substances in sediment and biota (available since December 2009)
  - the MED POL draft Assessment Report on metal pollution trends in biota from selected pollution hot spots (available since 2009)
  - the international scientific literature
  - the 4 sub-regional assessments on land-based sources and marine pollution prepared by MED POL experts, in the framework of the Ecosystem Approach (under preparation; to be finalized by March 2010)
2. Preparation of a draft Thematic Assessment on land based sources and marine pollution with the assistance of experts (April – November 2010)
3. Review of the draft Thematic Assessment on land based sources and marine pollution by national experts (December 2010 – March 2011)
4. Presentation of the Thematic Assessment on land based sources and marine pollution to government designated experts for review (April – May 2011)
5. Finalization of the Thematic Assessment on land based sources and marine pollution (July 2011)
6. Presentation of the Thematic Assessment on land based sources and marine pollution to the COP 17 (end 2011)

#### Towards an holistic Mediterranean QSR

A holistic Mediterranean QSR should be based on both pollution and biodiversity monitoring data. However, because within MAP there is no monitoring strategy for biodiversity, including methodological standards and reporting procedures, it is difficult to foresee in the short term the integration of the information on biodiversity into the pollution monitoring data in a Holistic QSR.

However, through the implementation of the road map for the application of the Ecosystem Approach within MAP, four sub-regional assessments on biodiversity are under preparation and will be presented in April 2010. These assessments could be the basis for the preparation of a **Thematic Assessment on Biodiversity** in the Mediterranean marine environment within the same time frame (until the end 2011). The Thematic Assessment on biodiversity could be presented to the COP 17 (2011) together with the Thematic Assessment on marine pollution.

In the long term, based on the Thematic Assessment on Biodiversity and taking into consideration the methodologies and the indicators under development in the framework of the MSFD and the WFD, a monitoring strategy for biodiversity could be developed by MAP, in order to generate monitoring data for future holistic Mediterranean QSRs. SPA/RAC could define the road-map for the development and implementation of this monitoring strategy.