

Introduction and meeting objectives

At their 17th Meeting of Contracting Parties (COP 17) held in Paris from 8 to 10 February 2012 the Parties have taken note of the progress made and have further emphasized the priority nature of all ECAP related activities for all MAP Components during 2012 and 2013 and mandated the update of a number of MAP regional sectorial policies as provided for in the 5 year strategic programme of work of MAP, thus giving an excellent opportunity to take into account as appropriate the results of ecosystem approach implementation in their revision, as well as to harmonize their implementation within the ECAP concept.

In particular, Decision 20/4 on “Implementing the Ecosystems Approach Roadmap” validated the work done so far with regard to the 11 ecological objectives, operational objectives and indicators for the Mediterranean. With regard to future actions the 17th Contracting Parties meeting mandated the Secretariat to mobilize its full capacity, with the support of MEDPOL and the Regional Activity Centers and in addition to several other tasks, to:

- Work on the determination of Mediterranean Good Environmental Status (GES) and targets during the next biennium through a participatory process involving MAP components, contracting parties and scientific community;
- Prepare in cooperation with Contracting Parties, MAP components and competent partner organizations, an in-depth socio-economic analysis developed through a common methodology;
- Continue supporting the Contracting Parties in their efforts to implement the other steps of the road map according to the agreed timeline and enhance cooperation with partners and stakeholders and other global and regional processes.

The ECAP process in the Mediterranean was launched by Decision UNEP(MED)IG 17/6 'On the implementation of the ecosystem approach by MAP to the management of human activities that may affect the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment, adopted by the 15th Contracting parties meeting in January 2008 (Almeria, Spain), and the first meeting of the government-designated expert (GDE) mandated by the Contracting parties to guide the work of the Secretariat for the implementation of the ecosystem approach *roadmap* was held in Athens in July 2008.

Further to that, three technical meetings were convened respectively in April 2010 (Rome, Italy), July 2010 (Barcelona, Spain) and March 2011 (Istanbul, Turkey) to review the work carried out for the preparation of the initial integrated assessment report as well as the proposals regarding ecological objectives with its associated set of operational objectives and indicators. A Government-Designated Expert Meeting was then held in Durres, Albania (2-3 June 2011), to review and discuss the progress achieved with a particular focus on the initial integrated assessment report; draft ecological, operational objectives and indicators and the proposed timetable for further implementing the ecosystem approach roadmap. A meeting of the MAP Focal Points in September of 2011 endorsed these Ecological Objectives, Operational Objectives, and Indicators.

The next step in the Ecosystem approach process is to agree on methodologies for setting targets related to the agreed Ecological and Operational Objectives. This will be discussed at the ECAP Workshop in Athens, scheduled for 29-30 May 2012, with the following agenda.

DAY 1: TUESDAY, 29 MAY 2012

Registration of participants will take place from 08.30 and delegates are kindly asked to be in the Conference Room 15 minutes before the session starts.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting (09:00-09.15)

The Meeting will be opened by the Barcelona Convention Executive Secretary and Coordinator of UNEP/MAP, Ms Maria Luisa Silva Mejias.

Agenda Item 2: Election of officers and adoption of the agenda (09:15-09.30)

The Rules and Procedures for meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols will apply *mutatis mutandis* to the present meeting (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI).

The Meeting shall elect a Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur. The Provisional Agenda (UNEP(DEPI)MED WG.369/1) annotated in the present document (UNEP(DEPI) WG.369/2) will be reviewed, amended as necessary, and adopted by the Meeting.

Simultaneous translation in English and French will be provided during the Meeting.

The Meeting is expected to adopt a list of Conclusions and Recommendations.

Agenda Item 3: Review of Methodologies for Setting Targets (09:30 – 10:30)

The Secretariat will present a review of how targets are determined for ecological objectives in other regions/ countries. The discussion will focus on what can be learned from other regions and how methodologies might be adapted to guide countries in setting of targets relating to the Ecological and Operational Objectives identified in the Mediterranean Ecosystem Approach Process.

The meeting is expected to discuss and provide its views and recommendations as appropriate.

Working document “Methodologies for the Determination of Targets and Good Environmental Status” UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 369/3

Coffee break: 10.30-11.00

Agenda Item 4: Proposed methodology for adoption in the Mediterranean context (11:00 – 13:00)

The Secretariat will present a draft proposed methodology for adoption by countries in determining targets at the regional and national levels.

The meeting is expected to embark in a general discussion of the proposal and review the proposed methods for setting targets for each ecological and operational objective.

Working document: “Methodologies for the Determination of Targets and Good Environmental Status” UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 369/3

Lunch break: 13.00-14.30 hrs

Agenda Item 5: Specific discussion relating to each Ecological Objective
(14:30-18:30)

A discussion session in the Plenary on each Ecological Objective, together with Operational Objectives and Indicators, and how Targets can be set.

Background Document: "Decision IG.20/4 "Implementing MAP ecosystem approach roadmap: Mediterranean Ecological and Operational Objectives, Indicators and Timetable for implementing the ecosystem approach roadmap"

Coffee break: 16.00-16.30 hrs

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, 30 MAY 2012

Agenda Item 6: Integrating across Ecological Objectives (09:00- 11:00)

A short preliminary discussion will follow to establish consensus on the need for, and means to, integrate information about targets across all the Ecological Objectives, in line with an Ecosystem Approach.

Coffee break: 11:00 – 11:30

Agenda Item 7: Progress and Road Map in implementing the Ecosystem Approach
(11:30-13:00)

The Coordinating Unit and the components will provide an update on the progress made on implementation of the Ecosystem Approach roadmap and expected results during the biennium and beyond, as per the COP17 decision.

Working document: "Progress and the Roadmap on the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach" UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.369/4

Lunch break: 13.00-14:30 hrs

Agenda Item 8: Review of Terms of Reference for Socio-Economic Assessments
(14:30-15:30)

The Blue Plan Regional Activity Center will provide information on the Terms of Reference. The meeting is expected to discuss and provide its views and recommendations as appropriate

Working document: "Economic and Social Analysis" Terms of Reference" UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.369/5

Coffee break: 15:30-15.45 hrs

Agenda Item 9: Activities to further the application of the ecosystem approach in the Mediterranean in this biennium in line with the timeline agreed at COP17 (15:45-16:30)

Based on discussions held at the meeting, the next steps on the further application of the ecosystem approach will be amended on the spot in light of the discussions.

Working document: "Progress and the Roadmap on the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach" UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.369/4

Agenda Item 10: Adoption of recommendations and conclusions (16:30-18:00)

The Meeting will examine, amend as appropriate, and adopt a set of draft conclusions and recommendations which will be prepared by the Secretariat.

The report of the meeting will be prepared by the Secretariat at a later stage and circulated to all participants for review and amendments as appropriate for adoption.

Agenda Item 11: Closure of the meeting (18:00)

The Chairperson will close the Meeting at 18.00 hours on Thursday 30 May 2012.

TIMETABLE

Tuesday, 29 May 2012			
09:00 – 09:30	1. Opening of the meeting 2. Adoption of the Annotated Agenda and organization of work	Executive Secretary and Coordinator	Working Document/s UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.369/1
09:30 – 10:30	3. Review of Methodologies for Setting Targets	Secretariat	Working Document/s UNEP/(DEPI)/MED WG.369/3
11:00 – 13:00	4. Proposed methodology for adoption in the Mediterranean context	Secretariat	Working Document/s UNEP/(DEPI)/MED WG.369/3
14:30 – 18:30	5. Specific discussion relating to each Ecological Objective	Secretariat	Reference Document/s Decision IG.20/4 Implementing MAP ecosystem approach roadmap: Mediterranean Ecological and Operational Objectives, Indicators and Timetable for implementing the ecosystem approach roadmap
Wednesday, 30 May 2012			
09:00 – 11:00	6. Integrating across Ecological Objectives	Secretariat	
11:30 – 13:00	7. Progress and Road Map in implementing the Ecosystem Approach	Secretariat	Working Document/s UNEP/(DEPI)/MED WG.369/4
14:30-15:30	8 Review of Terms of Reference for Socio-Economic Assessments	Plan Bleu	Working Document/s UNEP/(DEPI)/MED WG.369/5
15:45-16:30	9 Activities to further the application of the ecosystem approach in the Mediterranean in this biennium in line with the timeline agreed at COP17	Plan Bleu	Working Document/s UNEP/(DEPI)/MED WG.369/5
16.30 – 18.00	10. Adoption of recommendations and conclusions	Secretariat	
18.00	11. Closure of the meeting	Chairperson	