

10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group

Istanbul, Türkiye, 11 September 2023

**Agenda Item 4: 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report**

**Report of the Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Economic and Social Analysis (CORESA) - Marseille, France and videoconference, 30 March 2023**

For environmental and cost-saving reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.



**Mediterranean  
Action Plan**  
Barcelona  
Convention



30 April 2023  
Original : English  
**UNEP/MED WG.558/04**

---

Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Economic and Social Analysis (COR  
ESA)

Marseille, France and videoconference, 30 March 2023

**Meeting report**

## **Introduction**

1. In accordance with the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2022-2023 adopted by the 22nd Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Antalya, Türkiye, 7-10 December 2021), Plan Bleu and the Coordinating Unit of UNEP/MAP have organized the Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Economic and Social Analysis (COR ESA).

2. The main objectives of the Meeting were to:

- (i) Present and discuss the content of the draft chapter on socioeconomic characteristics of the Mediterranean, as a contribution to the 2023 MED Quality Status Report (QSR); and
- (ii) Discuss and provide recommendations for further work of COR ESA.

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

The meeting was opened at 9:30 am on 30 Mars 2023 by Ms. Lina Tode, Deputy Director of Plan Bleu.

## **Agenda item 2: Organisation of work**

Relevant documents: UNEP/MED WG.558/01; UNEP/MED WG. 558/02

4. The meeting elected the bureau of the meeting as follows: The representative of Tunisia has been elected President. The representative of Türkiye has been elected Vice-President. The representative of France has been elected Rapporteur.

5. The meeting adopted the agenda.

## **Agenda item 3: Role and mandate of COR ESA**

6. An overview of the role and mandate of COR ESA has been provided by the Secretariat (Dr. Joanne Foden, UNEP/MAP Programme Management Officer 2023 MED QSR and Ms. Lina Tode, Deputy Director of Plan Bleu).

## **Agenda item 4: 2023 Quality Status Report (2023 MED QSR) and content of draft chapter on socioeconomic characteristics of the Mediterranean Sea**

Relevant documents : UNEP/MED WG.558/Inf.2; UNEP/MED WG.558/03

7. Dr. Joanne Foden, UNEP/MAP Programme Management Officer 2023 MED QSR, gave an overview of the 2023 MED QSR elaboration process as well as of its progress and table of contents.

8. Ms. Lina Tode, Deputy Director of Plan Bleu, presented the content of the draft chapter on socioeconomic characteristics of the Mediterranean Sea. In particular, she underlined the importance of anticipating emerging activities and the lack of indications on the sustainability of human activities, which is the main knowledge gap and which could guide the future work of the COR ESA group. The meeting commented on the preliminary version of the chapter on the socio-economic characteristics of the Mediterranean Sea and provided suggestions on how to finalize it.

9. Türkiye pointed out that some national data needed to be updated or corrected. Türkiye has indicated that they would provide this data and additional comments by email.

10. Israel asked for further clarification of the geographical scale considered for tourism data, including whether it covers national territories in their entirety or only coastal areas. A request for clarification of data relating to aquaculture has also been issued to clearly indicate the type of aquaculture. Israel also announced additional written comments and updated data to be sent following the meeting.

11. Morocco indicated that some data relating to Morocco were old or contained errors, for example the information concerning aquaculture, desalination and population. Some data could be extracted from the documents related to the voluntary review of the SDGs. In this sense, Morocco wished to submit comments in writing following the meeting.

12. Tunisia remarked that the draft chapter would benefit from including an analysis of the impact of irregular migration flows in the Mediterranean, as a phenomenon that is emerging all around the Mediterranean and which is expected to increase further in the future.

13. France highlighted that the DPSIR diagrams contained in the draft chapter could be harmonized graphically. The French representative also indicated that he preferred using data broken down by coastline when possible, instead of using national data. France also wished to send more comments in writing following the meeting.

14. France expressed interest in seeing more information on the sustainability of economic activities, if possible.

15. Morocco indicated its preference for using data from national sources.

16. The representative of Spain asked what length was planned for the final version of the chapter.

17. The Secretariat (Dr. Joanne Foden) responded that the chapter should be around 15-20 pages. Plan Bleu (Lina Tode) added that a long version of the chapter could be kept and made available on the QSR website, while a shorter version could be included in the final version of the QSR.

18. The meeting agreed to send any additional comments to Plan Bleu by 11 April, 2023, so that Plan Bleu could take them into account in a revised version of the chapter. This version will then be sent to the team in charge of pooling the various chapters of the QSR, and shared with the Contracting Parties as part of the preparatory documents sent ahead of the integrated CORMON meeting (27-28 June 2023). None of the Contracting Party representatives planned to provide additional comments that would challenge the overall message of the draft chapter.

19. Post-scriptum: Three Contracting Parties (Türkiye, France and Israel) shared written comments following the COR ESA meeting. These comments have been taken into account in the revised version of the chapter which has been incorporated into the working documents of the meeting of the integrated CORMONS.

#### **Agenda item 5: Experience sharing: Work on economic and social analysis in other Regional Seas**

20. Representatives of other Regional Seas were invited to share their experiences, the main results and the potential work plan in terms of economic and social analysis carried out in order to achieve good environmental status of the marine and coastal environment. Rob Van der Veeren (Netherlands), shared the experience from the OSPAR Convention. A powerpoint is available on request.

#### **Agenda item 6: Recommandations pour le futur travail de COR ESA**

21. The meeting discussed the potential future work of COR ESA, based among others on the gaps identified in the draft chapter of the QSR MED 2023 on the social and economic characteristics of the Mediterranean Sea. After the discussion, the meeting provided recommendations for this future work.

22. Morocco recommended using data and indicators that cover the Mediterranean coastal area only and not national data.

23. The representative of France questioned the meeting on the number of meetings that the COR ESA group should hold per year, indicating that the working group of the OSPAR Convention meets twice a year. The Secretariat informed the meeting that the frequency of meetings of the COR ESA group was not fixed, but depended on the work plan of the group.

24. The representative of France expressed his interest in further exchanges on economic and social analysis issues with other Regional Seas Conventions as well as with the European working group WG POM ESA. Upon suggestion from France, the meeting agreed that an exchange platform on the socio-economic analysis of maritime policies in the Mediterranean and elsewhere would be desirable, depending on the means available.

**Agenda item 7: Any other matters**

25. There were no other questions.

**Agenda item 8: Conclusions and Recommendations**

26. The participants were invited to consider and adopt the draft conclusions and recommendations resulting from the discussions, as prepared by the Rapporteur.

27. The meeting adopted the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting, as Annex I to this document.

**Agenda item 9: Closing of the meeting**

28. The President closed the meeting at 4:15 pm on Thursday 30 March 2023.

**UNEP/MED WG.558/04**

Annex I Conclusions et recommendations of the meeting

Annex II List of participants

Annex III Agenda of the meeting

## **Annex I Conclusions and Recommendations**

### **Agenda item 3 : COR ESA's role and mandate**

No comments.

### **Agenda item 4 : 2023 Quality Status Report (QSR) and content of draft chapter on socioeconomic characteristics of the Mediterranean Sea**

The meeting reviewed the proposed draft chapter on socioeconomic characteristics of the Mediterranean Sea and requests the Secretariat to consider the following modifications:

- updates of some data sets based on updated data to be submitted by Contracting Parties in writing, including sources and references.
- clarification of scope of data when countries with multiple maritime facades are considered.
- harmonization of the design of the DPSIR-schemes.

The meeting agrees to share any remaining comments and data updates by 11 April 2023, by e-mail to [maguilhou@planbleu.org](mailto:maguilhou@planbleu.org) and [ltode@planbleu.org](mailto:ltode@planbleu.org). The meeting takes note of the limited resources available to further modify the chapter and therefore agrees to share any remaining comments and updates in a way that facilitates their integration.

The meeting takes note of the draft outline of the full 2023 MED QSR and appreciates the mention of recommendations/levers of action/measures to improve the status of the Sea and the availability of relevant data and information.

The meeting takes note of the need to shorten the chapter for integration into the full 2023 MED QSR and requests the Secretariat to maintain a long version of the chapter, that could be made available on the QSR website.

### **Agenda item 5 : Experience sharing - Work on economic and social analysis in other Regional Seas**

No comments.

### **Agenda item 6 : Recommendations for further work of COR ESA**

The meeting suggests further work on:

- narrowing down the scope of data to the Mediterranean facade, when national data of countries with multiple maritime facades is available.
- an online platform to share studies and knowledge about socio-economic analysis relevant to the marine environment in the Mediterranean and in other Regional Seas, that groups studies according to relevant themes and geographical scope.
- the analysis of the sustainability of human activities that impact the Mediterranean marine environment and related indicators.
- building on Voluntary National Reviews on SDGs to support the analysis of the sustainability of human activities.

### **Agenda item 7 : Any other business**

No comments.

**Annex II List of participants**

<b>Family name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Country</b>
Hadziahmetovic	Sabina	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Brlek Juren	Anica	Croatia
Andreou	Kyriacos	Cyprus
Réaud	Pierre	France
Gidron	Tsafir	Israel
Grimida	Samia	Libya
Perez	Carolina	Malta
Debono	Roberta	Malta
Moufarreh	Amal	Morocco
Elbouch	Mohammed	Morocco
Amrani	Mohammed	Morocco
Boutaba	Nassira	Morocco
Rudic	Milica	Montenegro
Francoy Olague	Carmen	Spain
Suarez Ronay	Samuel	Spain
Ben Haj	Sami	Tunisia
Örme	Özlem	Türkiye
Van der Veeren	Rob	OSPAR
Foden	Joanne	UNEP/MAP
Guilhau	Marie-Amélie	Plan Bleu/RAC
Théou	Philippe	UNEP/MAP
Tode	Lina	Plan Bleu/RAC



**Annex III Agenda of the Meeting**

<b>Thursday, 30 March 2023 / Jeudi, 30 Mars 2023</b>		Relevant documents / <i>Document de référence</i>
9.00 – 9.30	Registration of participants / <i>Enregistrement des participants</i>	
9.30 – 9.45	<b><u>Agenda item 1</u></b> <b>Opening of the meeting / <i>Ouverture de la réunion</i></b>	
	<b><u>Agenda item 2</u></b> <b>Organizational matters / <i>Organisation de la réunion</i></b>	UNEP/MED WG.558/1 UNEP/MED WG. 558/2
9.45 – 10.00	<b><u>Agenda item 3</u></b> <b>COR ESA's role and mandate / <i>Le rôle et le mandat de COR ESA</i></b>  Presentation / <i>Présentation</i>	
10.00 – 10.45	<b><u>Agenda item 4</u></b> <b>2023 Quality Status Report (2023 MED QSR) and content of draft chapter on socioeconomic characteristics of the Mediterranean Sea / <i>Rapport 2023 sur la qualité de la Méditerranée (2023 MED QSR) et contenu de la version préliminaire du chapitre sur les caractéristiques socio-économiques de la mer Méditerranée</i></b>  4.1 Draft 2023 MED QSR annotated table of contents / <i>Version préliminaire de la Table des Matières annotée du 2023 MED QSR</i>  4.2 Draft 2023 MED QSR chapter on socioeconomic characteristics of the Mediterranean Sea / <i>Version préliminaire du chapitre du 2023 MED QSR sur les caractéristiques socio-économiques de la mer Méditerranée</i>  Presentation and discussion / <i>Présentation et discussion</i>	UNEP/MED WG.558/Inf.2 UNEP/MED WG.558/3
10.45 – 11.15	Break / <i>Pause</i>	
11.15 – 12.30	4.2 Draft 2023 MED QSR chapter on socio-economic characteristics of the Mediterranean sea (continued) / <i>Version préliminaire du chapitre du 2023 MED QSR sur les caractéristiques socio-économiques de la mer Méditerranée (suite)</i>  Discussion / <i>Discussion</i>	
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch break / <i>Pause déjeuner</i>	
13.30 – 14.15	<b><u>Agenda item 5</u></b>	

	<p><b>Experience sharing: Work on economic and social analysis in other Regional Seas / <i>Partage d'expériences : Le travail sur l'analyse économique et sociale dans d'autres Mers Régionales</i></b></p> <p>Presentation(s) and discussion / <i>Présentation (s) et discussion</i></p>	
14.15 - 15.15	<p><b><u>Agenda item 6</u></b>  <b>Recommendations for further work of COR ESA / <i>Recommandations pour le futur travail de COR ESA</i></b></p> <p>Discussion / <i>Discussion</i></p>	<p>Based on knowledge gaps identified / <i>Basés sur les écarts de connaissances identifiés</i>            UNEP/MED WG.558/3</p>
15.15 – 15.30	<p>Break / <i>Pause</i></p>	
15.30 – 15.45	<p><b><u>Agenda item 7</u></b>  <b>Any other business / <i>Autres questions</i></b></p>	
15.45 – 16.15	<p><b><u>Agenda item 8</u></b>  <b>Conclusions and recommendations of the meeting / <i>Conclusions et recommandations de la réunion</i></b></p>	
16.15	<p><b><u>Agenda item 9</u></b>  <b>Closure of the meeting / <i>Clôture de la réunion</i></b></p>	