

4 August 2023
Original: English

10th Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group

Istanbul, Türkiye, 11 September 2023

Agenda Item 4: 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report
Agenda Item 6: Ecosystem Approach Governance Mechanism

Report of the 9th Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group, Videoconference, 5 July 2022

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UNEP/MED WG.521/5



**United Nations
Environment Programme
Mediterranean Action Plan**

Distr.: Limited
23 August 2022
Original: English

9th Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group

Videoconference, 5 July 2022

Report of the 9th Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2022

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Introduction

1. In accordance with the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2022-2023 adopted by 22nd Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, Antalya, Türkiye 7-10 December 2022, the 9th Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group (EcAp CG) was held on 5 July 2022, via videoconference.

Participation

2. The following Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention were represented at the Meeting: Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, European Union, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, and Türkiye.

3. The UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention Secretariat was represented, by its Coordinating Unit, the Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL), the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC), the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC), the Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre (PB/RAC), and the Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication (INFO/RAC).

4. The following non-governmental organizations and other institutions were also represented as observers: the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS); Blue World Institute of Marine Research and Conservation (BlueWorld); International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (IOGP); and Youth Love Egypt Foundation (YLF).

5. The full list of participants is attached as Annex 1 to this report.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

6. The Meeting was opened at 10:00 a.m. on 5 July 2022 by Ms. Tatjana Hema, Coordinator, UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention and she welcomed the participants. In her opening statement she recalled that the Meeting was being held one week after the United Nations Ocean Conference. A main objective of the Meeting is how to promote and achieve good environmental status (GES) in line with the COP Decisions and using UNEP/MAP's agreed tools, for which the guidance of the EcAp CG is relied upon for the approach and policy. During this biennium a final evaluation of the EcAp Roadmap as adopted in 2008 will be undertaken, with preparations made for a revised and renewed approach. The Meeting will consider progress in UNEP/MAP's mandate to deliver the 2023 MED QSR, which is a key deliverable of this biennium. Following the COP22 Decision on governance (Decision IG.25/3, Annex I), this Meeting will be an opportunity to discuss the Secretariat's reflections on aspects of EcAp governance to ensure an efficient governance mechanism to underline its added value and complementarity within our system.

Agenda Item 2: Organizational Matters

UNEP/MED WG.521/1; UNEP/MED WG.521/2/Rev.1; UNEP/MED WG.521/Inf.1/Rev.1

a) Rules of Procedure

7. The Meeting agreed that the rules of procedure for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI) would apply *mutatis mutandis* to their deliberations.

b) Election of officers

8. In accordance with rule 20 of the Rules of Procedure for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties, the Meeting elected its officers, as follows:

- President: Mme. Nassira Rheyati, Morocco
- Vice-President: Mr. Luke Tabone, Malta
- Vice-President: Mr. Mitja Bricelj, Slovenia
- Vice-President: Mr. Mohamed Sghaier Ben Jeddou, Tunisia
- Rapporteur: Ms. Annalisa Patania, Italy

c) Adoption of the Agenda

9. The QSR Programme Management Officer, Ms. Joanne Foden, gave an overview of the Annotated Agenda and timetable. The Meeting adopted its agenda on the basis of the Provisional Agenda and Provisional Annotated Agenda, including the proposed timetable, circulated in documents UNEP/MED WG.521/1 and UNEP/MED WG.521/2/Rev.1, respectively.

10. The agenda is attached as Annex 2 to the present report.

d) Organization of Work

11. The discussions were held in line with the agenda. Simultaneous interpretation in English and French was provided during the Meeting.

Agenda Item 3: Ecosystem Approach Roadmap 2008-2021 evaluation

UNEP/MED WG.521/3; UNEP/MED WG.521/Inf.3

12. The QSR Programme Management Officer presented the document UNEP/MED WG.521/3 “Evaluation of Implementation of Ecosystem Approach Roadmap 2008-2021”. The Meeting took note of the approach and that the forward-looking evaluation will provide technical and policy proposals on the main elements for a renewed UNEP/MAP Ecosystem Approach policy for consideration by MAP Focal Points and COP 23 in 2023 on whether to give a full mandate for its elaboration in the biennium 2024-2025. The Coordinator highlighted that in making recommendations, the outcomes of the recent UN Oceans Conference 2022 should be considered, as well as making links to Nature-Based Solutions to achieve good environmental status.

13. A member of the EcAp CG highlighted that the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) builds on the ecosystem-based approach and therefore requested a direct reference be made to MSFD Article 1(3) in the evaluation document. Although the MSFD is being reviewed, implementation of the current MSFD still continued with work taking place under the Common Implementation Structure (CIS). It was also expressed that synergies can be demonstrated between UNEP/MAP’s ecosystem approach and the implementation of other policy frameworks in the Mediterranean.

14. The UNEP/MAP Monitoring and Assessment Officer, Ms. Jelena Knezevic, presented information on the UN Decade on Ocean Science ‘The Mediterranean Sea We Need for the Future We Want’ (SciNMeet) (UNEP/MED WG.521/Inf.3). The Meeting noted that UNEP/MAP has been given a role in the governance perspective and it is important to mobilise and play a role for the benefit of UNEP/MAP, to push forward the science-policy in the Med for IMAP implementation. The Meeting thanked the Secretariat for its engagement in this initiative.

15. The Meeting’s final conclusions related to this agenda item are presented in Annex 3 of this report.

Agenda Item 4: Ecosystem Approach governance mechanism

UNEP/MED WG.521/4; UNEP/MED WG.521/Inf.4

16. The Coordinator presented the document UNEP/MED WG.521/4 “Ecosystem Approach Governance Terms of Reference”, supported by UNEP/MED WG.521/Inf.4. The Meeting thanked the Secretariat for its work in proposing an upgrade of the terms of reference (TORs) for Correspondence Groups CORMONS, COR ESA and Online Working Groups, to align with COP22 Decision IG.25/03 and to clarify the flow of work between Correspondence Groups and other decision-making bodies of the MAP system as well as providing clarity on the relationship between MAP Components and the Coordinating Unit for EcAp related products, as attached to these Conclusions and Recommendations.

17. Members of the EcAp CG proposed amendments such as specifying the frequency of meetings and the language of operation. The Coordinator provided clarification on the timing and order in which meetings of the different EcAp bodies are held.

18. A member of the EcAp CG highlighted some issues that had arisen during the practical implementation of monitoring programmes. The Secretariat confirmed that whilst Data Dictionaries and Data Standards are formally agreed by the CORMONS, there is room for some flexibility to accommodate difficulties encountered in on the ground implementation of monitoring.

19. The Meeting agreed to the proposal as formulated with minor additions (Annex 4), to be presented to the next EcAp bodies for review.

20. The Meeting’s final conclusions related to this agenda item are presented in Annex 3 of this report.

Agenda Item 5: Preparation of the 2023 MED

UNEP/MED WG.521/Inf.5; UNEP/MED WG.521/Inf.6

21. The QSR Programme Management Officer presented information on the 2023 MED QSR draft table of contents of the socio-economic chapter and draft contents of the assessment chapters (UNEP/MED WG.521/Inf.5), and the Meeting noted the 2023 MED QSR Ecological Objective – Common Indicator structure and outline content template (UNEP/MED WG.521/Inf.6).

22. The EcAp CG member for Spain informed the Meeting that it would submit the remaining national monitoring data to the IMAP Info System during summer 2022. The Secretariat addressed a number of technical and data queries from the Contracting Parties about the IMAP Info System.

23. In response to a query about priority pressures in the 2023 MED QSR, the Secretariat confirmed that identification of which pressures are causing non-compliance with GES would be undertaken, so as to make recommendations on measures required. The Secretariat also responded to some specific queries by the Contracting Parties about the potential use of integration tools, assessment criteria, thresholds, and work on benthic habitats indicators.

24. The Coordinator thanked the Contracting Parties for their efforts and highlighted that the EU-funded projects IMAP-MPA, EcAp MED III, and Marine Litter MED II projects all have components to support beneficiary countries to implement the IMAP. Whilst Covid has slowed down on-the-ground operations, the Steering Committees of the projects were helping to keep the momentum. Additional national monitoring data can be reported by all the Contracting Parties until October 2022 at the latest, for inclusion in delivery of the 2023 MED QSR and to this end the MAP Components are on stand-by to provide technical support to assist all Contracting Parties in their upload of data to the Info System. There is a last push to finalize the remaining legal agreements of the projects with the countries to implement monitoring programmes and deliver data.

25. The Meeting took note of the data gaps and called upon Contracting Parties to urgently submit their data to the IMAP Info System by the end of October 2023 at the latest. The Contracting Parties were invited to contribute to the work of the Secretariat in developing the 2023 MED QSR Chapters so that good drafts will be submitted to the next CORMONs meetings.

26. The Meeting's final conclusions related to these agenda items are presented in Annex 3 of this report.

Agenda Item 6: Any Other Business

UNEP/MED WG.521/Inf.7; UNEP/MED WG.521/Inf.8

27. The Meeting took note of the review process for the MSFD and the state of play of the evaluation and impact assessment, as presented by the European Union.

28. The Meeting took note of the monitoring and assessment scales, assessment criteria, thresholds, and baseline values for the IMAP Common Indicators 3, 4 and 5 related to sea birds (UNEP/MED WG.521/Inf.7). The Meeting noted that the CORMON Biodiversity and Fisheries Meeting (videoconference, 28-29 March 2022) reviewed and endorsed the document for its use, as appropriate, for the purpose of the 2023 MED QSR.

29. The Meeting took note of the baseline for the IMAP Common Indicator 6 related to non-indigenous species (UNEP/MED WG.521/Inf.8). The Meeting noted that the CORMON Biodiversity and Fisheries Meeting (videoconference, 28-29 March 2022) reviewed and endorsed the document for its use, as appropriate, for the purpose of the 2023 Med QSR.

Agenda Item 7: Conclusions and Recommendations

30. The Participants reviewed, commented, and adopted the draft Conclusions and Recommendations, as amended. The final text of the adopted Conclusions and Recommendations is presented in Annex 3. Documents that were modified during the Meeting are presented in further Annexes to the present report.

Agenda Item 8: Closure of the Meeting

31. The Coordinator summarized that this short meeting had been an opportunity to exchange information on progress since the COP 22 in 2021, to share concerns and to receive guidance from the EcAp CG, as well as to invite countries to offer support to the Secretariat for the successful delivery of the 2023 MED QSR. The President thanked participants and the Secretariat for all their work and urged the Contracting Parties and Secretariat to maintain their efforts. The President closed the Meeting at 16:00 on Tuesday 5 July 2022.

Annex 1
List of Participants

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS****ALGERIA / ALGÉRIE**

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Yasmina Fadli
Ministry of Environment

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Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change

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**SECRETARIAT TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION AND COMPONENTS OF THE
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

**SECRETARIAT DE LA CONVENTION DE BARCELONE ET COMPOSANTES DU
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Mr. Stavros Antoniadis
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Procurement Assistant

Ms. Stellah Lubanga
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**REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
REPRESENTANTS DES ORGANISATIONS INTERGOUVERNEMENTALES**

**AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF
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MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND CONTIGUOUS
ATLANTIC AREA (ACCOBAMS) / ACCORD SUR LA
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Mr. Peter Mackelworth
Conservation Director

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF OIL & GAS
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Mr. Harvey Johnstone
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YOUTH LOVE EGYPT (YLE) FOUNDATION /

Mr. Ahmed Fathy
CEO of youth Love Egypt

Annex 2
Agenda of the Meeting

Agenda of the Meeting

- Agenda Item 1:** Opening of the Meeting
- Agenda Item 2:** Organizational Matters
- Agenda Item 3:** Ecosystem Approach Roadmap 2008-2021 evaluation of implementation and renewal
- Agenda Item 4:** Ecosystem Approach governance mechanism
- Agenda Item 5:** Preparation of the 2023 MED QSR
- Agenda Item 6:** Any Other Business
- Agenda Item 7:** Conclusions and Recommendations
- Agenda Item 8:** Closure of the Meeting

Annex 3
Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions and Recommendations 9th Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group as adopted on 5 July 2022

Introduction

1. The Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group was held on 5 July 2022 via videoconference, organized by the UNEP/MAP Secretariat.
2. Following the review and discussions of all agenda items, the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group (EcAp CG) agreed on the following conclusions and recommendations:

Agenda Item 3: Ecosystem Approach Roadmap 2008-2021 evaluation

3. The Meeting reviewed Working Document UNEP/MED 521/3 “Evaluation of Implementation of Ecosystem Approach Roadmap 2008-2021”. The Meeting agreed with the approach and noted the forward-looking evaluation will provide technical and policy proposals on the main elements for a renewed UNEP/MAP Ecosystem Approach policy for consideration by MAP Focal Points and COP 23 in 2023 on whether to give a full mandate for its elaboration in the biennium 2024-2025.
4. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to consider and demonstrate synergies between the implementation of the UNEP/MAP ecosystem approach and other policy frameworks in the Mediterranean; in particular MSFD, EUSAIR etc.
5. The Meeting took note of the information on the UN Decade on Ocean Science ‘The Mediterranean Sea We Need for the Future We Want’ (SciNMeet) (UNEP/MED WG.521/Inf.3).

Agenda Item 4: Ecosystem Approach governance mechanism

6. The Meeting reviewed Working Document UNEP/MED WG.521/4 “Ecosystem Approach Governance Terms of Reference”, supported by UNEP/MED WG.521/Inf.4, providing for Correspondence Groups CORMONS, COR ESA and Online Working Groups, to align with COP22 Decision IG.25/03 and clarifying the flow of work between Correspondence Groups and other decision-making bodies of the MAP system as well as providing clarity on the relationship between MAP Components and the Coordinating Unit for EcAp related products. The Meeting agreed to the proposal as formulated with minor additions, noting comments on frequency of meetings; the relationship and timing of the CORMONS and OWG meetings; the language of operation; as well as the need for increased flexibility for some adjustment on monitoring Common Indicators. The Meeting agreed the document could be presented to the next EcAp bodies for review until the 10th EcAp Coordination Group in 2023, as attached to these Conclusions and Recommendations.

Agenda Item 5: Preparation of the 2023 MED QSR

7. The Meeting reviewed the information on the 2023 MED QSR draft table of contents of the socio-economic chapter and draft contents of the assessment chapters (UNEP/MED WG.521/Inf.5), and on the 2023 MED QSR Ecological Objective – Common Indicator structure and outline content template (UNEP/MED WG.521/Inf.6).
8. The Meeting called upon Contracting Parties, CORMONS, the Secretariat and MAP Components to continue working effectively to successfully deliver the 2023 MED QSR as indicated in its Roadmap approved by COP 21 in Naples Italy. The Meeting thanked the partners already working with the Secretariat for their strong collaboration and invited the countries to offer their expertise and to inform the Secretariat by the end of September at the latest of their experts who could be involved in the process.

9. The Meeting took note of the data gaps and called upon Contracting Parties to urgently submit their data to the IMAP Info System by the end of October 2023 at the latest.

Agenda Item 6: Any Other Business

10. The Meeting took note of the review of the MSFD and the state of play of the evaluation and impact assessment, as presented by the European Union.

11. The Meeting took note of the monitoring and assessment scales, assessment criteria, thresholds and baseline values for the IMAP Common Indicators 3, 4 and 5 related to sea birds (UNEP/MED WG.521/Inf.7). The Meeting noted the CORMON Biodiversity and Fisheries Meeting (videoconference, 28-29 March 2022) reviewed and endorsed the document for its use, as appropriate, for the purpose of the 2023 MED QSR.

12. The Meeting took note of the baseline for the IMAP Common Indicator 6 related to non-indigenous species (UNEP/MED WG.521/Inf.8). The Meeting noted the CORMON Biodiversity and Fisheries Meeting (videoconference, 28-29 March 2022) reviewed and endorsed the document for its use, as appropriate, for the purpose of the 2023 Med QSR.

Agenda Item 8: Closure of the Meeting

13. The Chair closed the Meeting at 16:00, on Tuesday, 5 July 2022.

Annex 4

Terms of reference (TORs) for Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Groups on Monitoring (CORMONs), Economic and social analysis (COR ESA) and Online Working Groups (OWGs)

Terms of reference (TORs) for Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Groups on Monitoring (CORMONs), Economic and social analysis (COR ESA) and Online Working Groups (OWGs)

1. Background and rationale

1. Since COP15 (Almeria, Spain, 15-18 January 2008, Decision IG.17/6), Contracting Parties decided to progressively apply the Ecosystem Approach to the management of human activities that may affect the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment for the promotion of sustainable development, with the overall objective of achieving the Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea and Coasts. COP15 also set out the governance of the Mediterranean Action Plan Barcelona Convention system, its goals and principles, and the mandates for the CU and the MAP Components (Decision IG.17/5).
2. COP17 (Paris, France, 8-10 February 2012) established the EcAp Coordination Group and adopted 11 Ecological Objectives (EOs) with a suite of associated Operational Objectives and indicators (Decision IG.20/4). The EcAp Coordination Group consists of MAP Focal Points, as per Decision IG.21/3, and its Terms of Reference were agreed by the Bureau (BUR/75/5, July 2012).
3. At their COP19 (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme and related Assessment Criteria (IMAP), (Decision IG.22/7).
4. COP22 Antalya, Türkiye, December 2021 endorsed an updated governance mechanism for the implementation of the ecosystem approach in the Mediterranean in the framework of UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention (Decision IG.25/03). Contracting Parties agreed to “Renew their commitment to the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach and endorse the Governance Mechanism for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach policy in the Mediterranean, set out in Annex I to this Decision”. The Decision, in its Annex I, states, “every effort to be made by the Secretariat to streamline and ensure the technical documents are cleared by the respective CORMON and MAP Component/Thematic Focal Points in line with their mandates, as appropriate, before they are submitted to the decision-making bodies”.
5. The Information Document WG521/Inf.04 contains the Terms of Reference and Mandates of MAP bodies: MAP Focal Points and Component Focal Points (as in Decision IG.17/5, Governance Paper), EcAp Coordination Group and CORMONs (as in document UNEP/BUR/75/5).

2. Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Groups on Monitoring (CORMONs)

2.1 Composition

6. The Correspondence Groups on monitoring (CORMONs) are established for each thematic cluster – Biodiversity and Fisheries; Pollution and Marine Litter; and Coast and Hydrography.
7. CORMONs are composed of national experts designated by the Contracting Parties possessing the necessary expertise and experience in line with the mandates of respective CORMON for IMAP implementation. They can be designated by the MAP Focal Points/EcAp CG members or by the thematic/MAP Components’ Focal Points, preferably in consultation with each other.

2.2 Operation

8. The CORMONs’ work is supported by the respective MAP Component: MED POL for Pollution and Marine Litter; PAP/RAC for Coast and Hydrography; and SPA/RAC for Biodiversity and Fisheries. Technical and scientifically related tasks may be supported by external experts, during preparation of the documents for consideration of respective CORMONs. The overall coordination of the work of CORMONs remains with the Coordinating Unit and is carried out in accordance with MAP Programme of Work (POW) priorities and implementation of the EcAp Roadmap and Policy.
9. CORMONs may meet physically or by teleconference, depending on the agenda, the volume of work and documents to be considered. Provisions for CORMON meetings, numbers, main deliverables and modality are made in the MAP POW. Meetings will be conducted in English and

French. CORMONs will meet during spring at a minimum of once per year as appropriate, depending on the Programme of Work.

2.3 CORMON Mandates

10. CORMONs have the primary role to guide and deliver the implementation of technical and scientific aspects of IMAP and delivery of QSR with support from the Secretariat and MAP Components and foster regional and sub-regional collaboration and exchange of best practices and know-how with regards to monitoring and assessment of marine and coastal environment.

11. The operation of the CORMONs should recognize that the implementation of the ecosystem approach is comprehensive in terms of the multidisciplinary and scientific context of the documents that need to be discussed, and therefore iterative in terms of coordination of the results of work within the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system and at Contracting Party level.

12. Generally, CORMONs are assigned with the preparation and negotiation of the following main types of IMAP products:

- Monitoring guidelines and protocols on, sampling; sample processing analysis/determination; quality assurance (QA); and reporting
- IMAP indicator guidance factsheets
- Areas/scales of assessment, assessment criteria, and guidance for their application
- Assessment methodologies, assessment products and QSR (structure/contents, conclusions)
- Data standards (DS) and data dictionaries (DD)
- Data management QA and QC
- Updates of IMAP & progress reporting on IMAP implementation
- Implementation of national IMAPs
- Proficiency testing
- Capacity building activities
- IMAP related Project outcomes

13. CORMON IMAP products are of a technical and scientific nature, they may impose policy and financial impacts on IMAP implementation. A detailed elaboration of the different levels of responsibilities for consideration and approval of different types of IMAP products is provided in Table 1.

14. Informal Online Working Groups (OWG) may be established by CORMONs in order to provide specific scientific inputs: OWGs are composed of a restricted number of experts and scientists nominated by the Contracting Parties. In their delivery OWGs may be supported by experts mobilized by the Secretariat and MAP Components in accordance with provisions of the approved MAP POW and budget or related projects as appropriate. The tasks and outcome of the work of OWG are defined by the CORMONs and their meetings will be conducted in English only. OWGs report to CORMONs. To this aim the chair of the OWG in consultation with the Secretariat/MAP Components presents the outcome of the OWG to CORMON.

15. The informal OWG do not replace the formal Correspondence Groups.

16. Every effort should be made to maintain geographical balance in the composition of the OWG and mobilize high level expertise.

17. No language interpretation is provided by the Secretariat at the OWG, nor are official meeting documents formally disseminated. Members of the OWG are strongly encouraged to provide scientific and technical inputs and support to the Secretariat/MAP Component work with regards to IMAP implementation and delivery of its products.

3. Correspondence Group on Economic and Social Analysis (COR ESA)

3.1 Composition

18. The Correspondence Group on Economic and Social Analysis (COR ESA) is composed of national experts designated by the Contracting Parties and invited experts and coordinated by

Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP Coordinating Unit and Plan Bleu/RAC. The Group also includes representatives of the other UNEP/MAP Components as well as international experts selected by the Contracting Parties through Plan Bleu/RAC Focal Points and/or by the Secretariat for their experience in similar initiatives or for their scientific expertise.

3.2 Operation

19. The work of COR ESA is supported by Plan Bleu RAC under the overall coordination of the Coordinating Unit. Meetings will be conducted in English and French.

3.3 Mandate

20. The COR ESA is responsible for the following:

- Preparing and guiding the socio-economic assessments
- Preparing the socio-economic chapter of the Mediterranean Quality Status Report (QSR)
- Undertaking analyses of the socio-economic aspects of national programmes of measures
- Supporting Contracting Parties to undertake socio-economic analyses at the national level
- Developing methodological tools with regard to socio-economic assessments

4. Effective interaction among different MAP bodies

21. The level of interaction between the bodies of the EcAp governance structure and MAP decision making bodies i.e., MAP Components/Thematic Focal Points, MAP Focal Points and COP depends on the nature of the products as detailed in Table 1, in line with their respective mandates. Table 1 also provides information on the type of documents to be reviewed by each body.

Table 1 Possible products and interaction between EcAp governance bodies.

CORMONs	Component/ Thematic Focal Points (FP)	EcAp Coordination Group (CG)	MAP Focal Points (FP) / COP
1. Monitoring guidelines/ protocols			
Products of a complex scientific and technical nature that may have financial implications for implementation of IMAP	MAP Components report on progress to their Focal Points Focal Points review proposed activities for their inclusion in the programme of Work (POW)	Coordinating Unit (CU) reports to EcAp CG on progress based on reports of MAP Components	CU reports on progress and related activities of POW and Budget
2. IMAP indicator guidance factsheets			
Products of a complex scientific and technical nature that may have policy and financial implications	MAP Components report on progress to their Focal Points Focal Points review proposed activities for their inclusion in POW Recommended by CORMONs for no objection procedure	CU reports to EcAp CG on progress based on reports of MAP Components Based on current practice, endorsement by EcAp CG	Approval of the respective provisions in the POW & budget, as appropriate
3. Data dictionaries and data standards (DDs and DSs)			
Products of a technical nature	MAP Components report on progress to their Focal Points Focal Points review proposed activities for their inclusion in POW Recommended by CORMONs for no objection for their submission to EcAp CG meeting and approval of the related provisions in the POW	CU reports to EcAp CG on progress based on reports of MAP Components Based on current practice, endorsement by EcAp CG	Approval of the respective provisions in the POW & budget, as appropriate
4. Assessment criteria			
Products of a complex scientific and technical nature that may have policy implications, including allocation of financial resources for implementation of IMAP	MAP Components report on progress to their Focal Points Focal Points review proposed activities for their inclusion in POW	CU reports to EcAp CG on progress based on reports of MAP Components Review and endorsement for submission to MAP FP	Review and approval for submission to COP COP Decision

CORMONs	Component/ Thematic Focal Points (FP)	EcAp Coordination Group (CG)	MAP Focal Points (FP) / COP
	Review and endorsement for submission to EcAp CG meeting		
5. Assessment methods & products, QSR structure, contents & conclusions			
Scientific products with recommendations for COP consideration	MAP Components report on progress to their Focal Points Focal Points review proposed activities for their inclusion in POW No objection from the scientific point of view; endorsement of main findings and recommendations. Recommendation for transmission to EcAp CG meeting.	CU reports to EcAp CG on progress based on reports of Map Components Endorsement of the full report	Overall endorsement of report General review of main findings and recommendations In depth review and approval of the related draft Decision COP Decision
6. Thematic assessments			
Thematic assessments	MAP Components report on progress to their Focal Points Focal Points review proposed activities for their inclusion in POW No objection from the scientific point of view Overall discussion and feedback on assessment recommendations. Endorsement for publication	Report on the progress; review of recommendations as appropriate	Review of potential activities included in the POW
7. IMAP development and update			
Scientific and policy products	MAP Components report on progress to their Focal Points	CU reports to EcAp CG on progress based on reports of MAP Components	Responsible for approving all updates of IMAP implementation and approving the

CORMONs	Component/ Thematic Focal Points (FP)	EcAp Coordination Group (CG)	MAP Focal Points (FP) / COP
	<p>Focal Points review proposed activities for their inclusion in POW</p> <p>Review and approval for transmission to EcAp CG meeting</p>	<p>Review and endorsement for submission to MAP FP</p>	<p>financial resources to address the needs as proposed by the respective CORMON and Component FPs.</p> <p>Review and approval for submission to COP, COP Decision</p> <p>COP Decision</p>
8. Implementation of National IMAPs			
<p>National IMAPs are of a technical nature with the implications for financial and policy aspects.</p> <p>The respective CORMON should be responsible for providing the recommendations in relation to (i) the effectiveness of implementation of the National IMAPs related to the relevant IMAP Cluster; (ii) the gaps identified in the process of the National IMAPs implementation; (iii) the needs to be addressed, including technical, human resources, governance and financial aspects; (iv) harmonization of National IMAPs implementation; and (v) mechanisms/sources/means that could provide solutions and be used to improve implementation of National IMAPs</p>	<p>MAP Components report on progress to their Focal Points</p> <p>Focal Points review proposed activities for their inclusion in POW</p> <p>Report on the progress, POW provisions as appropriate</p>	<p>CU reports to EcAp CG on progress based on reports of MAP Components</p>	<p>CU reports on progress and related activities of POW and Budget as appropriate</p>
9. Proficiency Testing			
<p>Proficiency Testing (PT) is of a technical nature, based on the complex scientifically related procedures; however, with certain implications for policy decision-makers.</p>	<p>MAP Components report on progress to their Focal Points</p> <p>Focal Points review proposed activities for their inclusion in POW</p> <p>Review of the outcome of Proficiency</p>	<p>CU reports to EcAp CG on progress based on reports of MAP Components</p>	<p>CU reports on progress and related activities of POW and Budget as appropriate</p>

CORMONs	Component/ Thematic Focal Points (FP)	EcAp Coordination Group (CG)	MAP Focal Points (FP) / COP
	testing and delivery of recommendations to Focal Points; consideration of their outcome in the design of the POW as appropriate		
10. Capacity Building Activities			
Products of a technical character.	MAP Components report on progress to their Focal Points Focal Points review proposed activities by CORMONs for their inclusion in POW	CU Report on the progress	CU reports on progress and related activities of POW and Budget
11. Data management/QA/QC			
Products of a technical nature.	MAP Components report on progress to their Focal Points Focal Points review proposed activities for their inclusion in POW as appropriate	CU reports to EcAp CG on progress based on reports of MAP Components	CU reports on progress and related activities of POW and Budget as appropriate

COR ESA	Component/ Thematic Focal Points	EcAp Coordination Group	MAP Focal Points / COP
Review of relevant assessments/studies			
COR ESA is responsible for reviewing analyses and assessments carried out for EcAp that are of relevance for social and economic considerations. In particular:	Report on the progress	Report on the progress	Report on the progress
Socio-economic assessments	MAP Components report on progress to their Focal Points Focal Points review proposed activities for their inclusion in POW	CU reports to EcAp CG on progress based on reports of MAP Components Endorsement of assessment by the EcAp CG Possible recommendations to MAP FP	CU reports on progress and related activities of POW and Budget Approval of assessment

COR ESA	Component/ Thematic Focal Points	EcAp Coordination Group	MAP Focal Points / COP
		meeting	
Socio-economic chapter of the Mediterranean Quality Status Report (QSR)	<p>MAP Components report on progress to their Focal Points</p> <p>Focal Points review proposed activities for their inclusion in POW</p> <p>No objection from the scientific point of view</p>	<p>CU reports to EcAp CG on progress based on reports of MAP Components</p> <p>Review and Endorsement of the chapter</p>	<p>Overall endorsement of the chapter as part of the relevant 2023 MED QSR endorsement</p> <p>COP Decision</p>
Analyses of the socio-economic aspects of national programmes of measures	<p>MAP Components report on progress to their Focal Points</p> <p>Focal Points review proposed activities for their inclusion in POW</p>	<p>CU reports to EcAp CG on progress based on reports of MAP Components</p> <p>Endorsement of analyses,</p> <p>Possible recommendations to MAP FP</p>	<p>Report on the progress. Submission of COR ESA recommendations by the EcAp CG to MAP Focal Points/COP as relevant</p>
Provide guidelines to support Contracting Parties to undertake socio-economic analyses at the national level	<p>MAP Components report on progress to their Focal Points</p> <p>Focal Points review proposed activities for their inclusion in POW</p> <p>Review and Endorsement and recommend submission to EcAp CG</p>	<p>CU reports to EcAp CG on progress based on reports of MAP Components</p> <p>Review and endorsement</p>	<p>Report on the progress</p>
Methodological tools with regard to socio-economic assessments	<p>MAP Components report on progress to their Focal Points</p> <p>Focal Points review proposed activities for their inclusion in POW</p> <p>Review and Endorsement and recommend submission to EcAp CG</p>	<p>CU reports to EcAp CG on progress based on reports of MAP Components</p> <p>Review and endorsement</p>	<p>Report on the progress</p>