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Fourteenth Meeting of SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points

Portorož, Slovenia, 18-21 June 2019

Agenda Item 8: Programme d'Action Stratégique pour la conservation de la diversité Biologique en Méditerranée (PAS BIO)

Report of the Fifth Meeting of National Correspondents of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO)

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14 March 2019
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Fifth Meeting of National Correspondents of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO)
Marseilles, France, 13-14 February 2019

Agenda item 9. Conclusions and recommendations

Report of the Fifth Meeting of National Correspondents of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO)

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Fifth Meeting of National Correspondents of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO) (Marseilles, France. 13th-14th February 2019)

Introduction

At their 20th Ordinary Meeting (17-20 December 2017, Tirana, Albania), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols invited the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC) to evaluate the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO), after 15 years having passed since its adoption.

Within this frame, SPA/RAC convened the Fifth Meeting of National Correspondents of SAP BIO to allow Parties representatives to have a direct involvement and contributing to the development of such task. The meeting was organized on 13th-14th February 2019, at the Hotel Mercure Marseille Centre Vieux Port, 1, rue Neuve Saint Martin 13001 Marseille, France, with the kind support of the French authorities.

Agenda item 1. – Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was opened on Wednesday, 13th February 2019, at 14.30 p.m., by the representatives of the host country, SPA/RAC on behalf the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and SPA/RAC itself. All the SAP BIO National Correspondents of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention had been invited to attend the meeting or to designate their representative(s). Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned had also been invited to designate their representatives to the meeting as observers. The attending participants are recorded in Annex 1 to this report.

Agenda item 2. – Organizational matters

Rules of procedure

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) apply mutatis mutandis to the present meeting.

Election of officers

Subject to Rule 20 of the rules of procedure, the meeting elected, from among the representatives of the Contracting Parties, a President, two Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur.

The participants unanimously elected the following officers:

President:	Mr. Jean VERMOT. (France)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Admir ALADZUZ (Bosnia & Herzegovina) Mr. Güner ERGÜN (Turkey)
Rapporteur:	Ms. Zeina HASSANE. (Lebanon)

SPA/RAC acted as Secretariat of the Meeting

Adoption of the agenda

Subject to Rule 14 of the rules of procedure, the provisional agenda appearing in document UNEP/MED WG.459/1.rev1 and annotated in the document UNEP/MED WG.459/2.rev1 was reviewed and adopted by the meeting as presented in Annex 2 to this report.

Organization of work

The meeting took place along one day and a half: the afternoon of Wednesday 13 February 2019 and the whole day of Thursday 14 February 2019.

Sessions were scheduled, on day 1 (13 February 2019), from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. and on day 2 (14 February 2019) from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Working languages of the meeting were English and French. Simultaneous interpretation was available during the plenary sessions of the meeting.

The documents prepared for the meeting were listed in document UNEP/MED WG.459/Inf.2.rev2 and available, in English and French, on the SPA/RAC website at the following link: http://rac-spa.org/5_nat_corr_sapbio_2019.html. Participants were encouraged to download the documentation on their computers in advance of the session to aid a more environmentally friendly celebration.

Agenda item 3. – Presentation of the Draft evaluation document of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean region (SAP BIO)

The Secretariat presented the working document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 459/3, *Draft evaluation document of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean region (SAP BIO)*.

The Secretariat presented the methodology used to evaluate the important, complex and diverse activities undertaken in the region by the Parties and organizations during the past 15 years in relation to the preservation of Mediterranean biodiversity, with SAP BIO providing strategic direction.

The Secretariat provided detailed explanations of the complex ongoing process to evaluate SAP BIO action: analysis of hundreds of official reports from different countries, other contributions from countries, more than 200 SPA/RAC documents as well as numerous scientific and technical documents on Mediterranean marine biodiversity produced during the period under review. On the basis of this documentation, the Secretariat is taking stock of the progress achieved during the implementation of SAP BIO at regional and national levels, since its adoption in December 2003.

The ongoing statistical analysis of the progression in the background work supporting conservation in the region was also mentioned, aimed to show how the implementation trend evolved with the years. A conspicuous interest in Mediterranean marine biodiversity has taken place in parallel with the SPA/BD Protocol and SAP BIO implementation.

Since Parties had recalled in the Fourth SAP BIO National Correspondents meeting (Rabat, Morocco, 1 July 2013) that more emphasis had to be placed by UNEP/MAP in collaborating with CBD on the open seas conservation issues rise as a priority in the region, the Secretariat further recalled that a joint workshop on Mediterranean EBSAs with the CBD Secretariat, demanded by the SPA/BD Parties and also offered by the CBD during the MPAs Forum held in Antalya, Turkey on November 2012, was celebrated in Malaga, Spain in April 2014. Mediterranean EBSAs definitions commonly agreed by the Barcelona and Biological Diversity Conventions were validated by the Parties, and achieved full recognition upon being included in the global repository maintained by the Secretariat of the CBD and forwarded to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The Secretariat provided also explanation about the proposed next steps for the finalisation of the evaluation emphasising that the draft evaluation as well as the proposed steps for the elaboration of the new SAPBIO will be submitted for the Sixth Meeting of the SAPBIO National correspondents and the next Thematic Focal Points Meeting on Biodiversity both scheduled to take place in Portoroz (Slovenia), in June 2019.

Agenda item 4. – Content review of the Draft evaluation document of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean region (SAP BIO)

The National Correspondents of SAP BIO were invited to comment on the evaluation process and on other information provided.

The participants acknowledged the effort done to analyse that complex information and reach preliminary insights for conclusions regarding regional priorities.

Upon the demand of a delegate regarding the process timeline and the possibility of further elaborating the evaluation before its submission to the Contracting Parties, the Secretariat explained that in accordance with the planned roadmap for a new SAP BIO document until adoption, the current document would be enriched with national inputs integrated within it and adapted to the delegates suggestions. The 6th meeting of national correspondents to SAP BIO would revise the new draft version, including the roadmap, in June 2019. The work process and sources of diverse information were, also, clarified upon requests.

Delegates stressed the importance of taking into consideration the alignment with CBD processes and asked SPA/RAC to closely follow the coming steps concerning the post 2020 framework being elaborated within the framework of CBD. They, also, underlined the need to consider the integration of new Member States in the EU and related engagements, occurred along the 15 years passed since adoption.

Finally, delegates requested to further develop the evaluation regarding certain SAP BIO priorities taking into consideration all what has been agreed by the Parties during the last 15 years in relation to the addressed issues and the related terminology.

With regard to a future SAPBIO elaboration several delegates advanced views on it, such as the need to define which kind of strategy to develop: Focus on major challenges such as acidification? Keep business as usual through action plans for

limited number of species, habitats? Integration within it of relevant regional strategies such as for MPAs, etc?

SPA/RAC director, Mr. Khalil Attia, recalled that it is the Parties' prerogative to drive the priority axes to be followed, through providing relevant views, and animated delegations to do so.

Agenda item 5. – Provision of eventual further inputs to be included in the Draft evaluation document for its revised presentation to the Thematic Focal Points meeting on Biodiversity, to be held on June 2019 at Portoroz, Slovenia

With regard to this item, a delegate recalled that countries prepare along 2019 their 6th national report of the CBD and this information source will be of value for the evaluation.

Some delegates informed on their recent contribution to preserve the open seas through Natura 2000 areas, fisheries conservation areas, and National Marine Parks in their jurisdictions.

The representative of the CMS ACCOBAMS Agreement acknowledged the long term collaboration demonstrated by SPA/RAC on cetacean issues along the implementation of SAP BIO, and also as Subregional Co-ordination Unit of ACCOBAMS for the Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area since 2002. She recalled the need to develop new MPAs, notably embracing the High Seas, of major importance for cetaceans' conservation, for which only Pelagos Sanctuary SPAMI exists so far. The Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMA) process started in 2016, and further recognised and supported by decisions 12.40 and 12.41 of the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP12, Manila, 2017), may aid to support relevant areas identification, likewise the Cetaceans Critical Habitats (CCH) identification process initiated by ACCOBAMS.

Then, the Secretariat passed to explain the process to collect evidence on the national implementation of SAP BIO. It gave some information to the meeting about the way by which implementation fact sheets provided to countries through document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 459/Inf.3 *Information note for the elaboration of further inputs to be included in the Draft evaluation document of SAP BIO*, would be analysed, allowing the definition of profiles on SAP BIO implementation and future needs by each country with regard to the main activity axes and specific actions.

The participants were invited to share that way their expert opinions and experience at national and regional levels to further identify the implementation level of SAP BIO and

Mediterranean biodiversity conservation and management in general, so as to allow also identifying gaps and future needs for Mediterranean conservation beyond 2020.

The works under this Agenda Item were then organised in bilateral sessions during which each delegation met for about thirty minutes with the Secretariat to review and complete the information included in the fact sheets regarding its country.

Thanks to the National Correspondent inputs and contributions, details and further elaboration would be brought to the document UNEP/MED WG.459/3, *Draft evaluation document of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean region (SAP BIO)*, in order to present it to the Sixth Meeting of National Correspondents of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO) and then forwarded to the back to back Biodiversity Thematic Focal Points meeting, next June 2019, at Portoroz, Slovenia.

Agenda item 6. Briefing on the progress in the elaboration of the document “State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean 2019” (SoED 2019)

Under this item, SPA/RAC Director, Mr. Khalil Attia, stated that the aim of the sessions 6 and 7 were to provide an update on the progress of the elaboration of the SoED 2019 and its chapter on biodiversity, in order to have SAP-BIO Correspondents' possible feedback and comments for the continuation of the development of the biodiversity chapter.

The Secretariat informed the participants about the process launched for the elaboration of the report on the *State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (SoED 2019)*, as contained in the document UNEP/MED WG.459/Inf.4, and on the progress made so far in the elaboration of its chapters on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity. For that purpose, a presentation was given by Plan Bleu programme officer in charge of the SoED 2019's elaboration, Mrs. Lina Tode.

Plan Bleu Director, Mrs. Elen Lemaitre-Curri remarked the intermediate moment in the progress of the biodiversity chapter and SoED report.

Then, Mr. Daniel Cebrian, SAP BIO Coordinator and co-leader of SoED 2019 biodiversity chapter, presented in further detail the ongoing work concerning the Marine and Coastal Biodiversity through the document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.459/Inf.5 *Draft chapters concerning the Marine and Coastal Biodiversity for the document “State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean 2019 (SoED 2019)”*.

The SoED 2019 biodiversity chapter concerns not purely environmental issues, but

also the status of development, assessment of coastal and marine ecosystems and biodiversity considering environmental and development aspects. A watershed/basin approach was being used. Partners IUCN Med, FAO, ETC UMA, and Tour du Valat were contributing to the work.

Biodiversity chapter had 60 pages compiled already and needed to be adjusted to fit into the ~300 pages SoED 2019. The chapter is divided into coastal and marine parts. Coastal: wetlands, coastal aquifers, forests, soft and rocky shores, invasive species, threatened species. Marine: seagrass, coral, dark habitats, threatened species, invasive species. Responses to challenges included: MPAs, regional regulatory tools (strategies and action plans), economic and management tools. Major knowledge gaps. Priorities for actions.

Participants were welcomed to identify gaps and additional sources of information that should be considered, key messages and priority responses.

Agenda item 7. Exchange on the content and eventual information update by participants regarding the SoED 2019 chapters on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity

Plan Bleu Director, Elen Lemaitre-Curri underlined the opportunity given to interact with country representatives on the biodiversity content, so allowing to feed their inputs into the biodiversity chapter. So, the participants were invited to review the presented information and provide their comments and suggestions for the finalisation of the biodiversity topics.

Delegations congratulated the extensive document, at the time that recalling that is really important to send optimistic messages. For example, certain birds in wetlands have doubled. Delegations expressed their willingness to contribute to the collective efforts process and welcomed this opportunity to be consulted several times during the development of the SoED 2019.

Asked about the link among the SoED, the QSR, other processes of the current MAP system, and with other evaluations e.g. European directive, other projects, etc. The officer in charge of the SoED elaboration expressed that coordination was ensured through active involvement of all MAP components and partnership with EEA. Support by countries would also be most welcome to help fulfil this ambitious task. In particular countries are invited to inform Plan Bleu/RAC and SPA/RAC of any ongoing exercise relevant to the SoED 2019 Chapter 3, and share any relevant information and data.

Means are modest for the preparation of this report, which largely relies on a Collaborative network and pro bono contributions from regional experts. So the offer done in plenary by countries to contribute was particularly acknowledged.

The key role of SoED report to help decision-makers to understand the situation in the Mediterranean basin and take important decisions was highlighted by delegations. In this context, some delegations stressed the need to focus on the priority issues of the Barcelona Convention and use, to the extent possible, official data sources (officially agreed by the Parties) and published, accessible, robust and reliable data sources; not

necessarily MAP documents. Particular attention is needed when using unpublished references.

They emphasised that the SoED 2019 is considered as an important instrument to be used in the future. And some delegates suggested to concentrate on coastal and marine issues. It was suggested that the relevance of each chapter of the report be better introduced and the structure of chapter 3 be aligned with the existing MAP processes/strategies e.g. MSFD, EcAp and its linked indicators. Habitats and birds' directives reports will be coming out in April 2019, their data could feed the SoED 2019. ETC-UMA could probably help here.

Delegates abounded on the report role to assist in the development of UNEP/MAP next Strategic Action Programme to identify priorities, as it will inform on topics beyond what is already observed under the SAP. It is important to share findings to make decisions. The report needs to include information on ecosystem services for stakeholders, to increase awareness of the value of ecosystem services (including a sound financial/valuation of issues such as an estimate of the economic value of carbon storage, cost of non-action, etc.) It is important to study the most urgent pressures to be addressed (rather than focusing on the species component), and identify priorities for not making a report too exhaustive and not legible. A summary for decision makers could provide examples of what we can lose if we continue to treat the ecosystems and biodiversity under business as usual. Boxes to transmit key messages would, also, be very useful.

A delegation mentioned being glad to provide project information as a case study.

Ms. Lemaitre-Curri agreed to review the structure of the chapter with SPA/RAC, essay to integrate the topic of EcAp indicators more explicitly, and go beyond the national monitoring of these indicators to provide a regional vision allowing a systemic analysis and analysis of the interactions between the economic and development aspects; and would be very interested to have countries feedback.

She added that the focus on ecosystem services and link with ongoing initiatives (e.g. natural capital, wetland ecosystem services, etc...), being a recurring demand from countries, the link with these questions will be developed, as possible. A work axis of the report is also the link between pressures and issues/state. Plan Bleu is working actively to make links between the chapters, including the link between chapter 4 and 3. Chapter 9 concentrates on outlining priority areas for decision makers of the Barcelona Convention on coastal and marine-related issues. SoED 2019 will try to make the link between pressures and environmental state, at least by mapping out local, sub-regional and regional pressures and their impact. It will also attempt to draw causal links where possible.

Several delegates provided remarks on some needed amendments regarding topics that they mastered (Wetlands, NIS, etc.).

The consideration of the terrestrial part of the land-sea continuum that influences marine ecosystems and the pressure-state link were appreciated.

Warns were raised on the fact the report mainly mentions the most studied or flag species, but which are not necessarily the most representative for the ecosystem functionality. The report should warn readers of this in its text.

Delegates suggested to take more into account the human factor and to cover also other topics: Food webs (e.g. plankton-jellyfish trophic links), Pelagic environment, Physical pressures, Habitat shifting/alteration, various kinds of pollution (e.g. waste, noise, light).

Countries further congratulated the ongoing effort and offered support, including further comments to aid the ongoing redaction.

Partner organisations, also, showed committed to contribute. ACCOBAMS representative suggested to reflect the importance of the collaborative work between the States on the cetacean survey initiative and proposed to contribute with a text on this topic. She also informed the meeting that her organisation elaborated in 2016 a study on noise hotspots at the Mediterranean scale. The representative of MedPAN offered to review the section on MPAs and suggested to highlight joint activities and initiatives among multiple key partners and stakeholders, via a long-term capacity building strategy on MPAs, MPA management and socio-economic benefits from MPAs.

Agenda item 8 - Any other business

PAP/RAC consultant, Ms. Marina Markovic, presented the *Draft methodology for the analysis of coherence between regional documents adopted under the SPA/BD Protocol and provisions of the ICZM Protocol*, as reflected in document UNEP/MED WG.459/Inf.6, together with preliminary findings from applying the proposed methodology to SAP BIO.

The participants were invited to review the presented information and provide their comments and suggestions, thus providing guidance to PAP/ RAC for methodology finalisation and development of full-scale analysis of coherence between SPA/BD and ICZM policy frameworks.

The PAP/RAC consultant explained that the rationale for carrying out the coherence analysis was found in the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 (Decision IG.22/1), which *inter alia* calls for 'synergy, harmonisation of efforts and optimisation of the use of resources in implementing the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols'. As a collaborative effort of PAP/RAC and SPA/RAC, the analysis is meant to contribute to integrated implementation of the Barcelona Convention sectoral policies and to streamlining the ICZM. The proposed methodology provides for a structured assessment of coherence between the various regional documents adopted under the SPA/BD Protocol on one, and provisions of the ICZM Protocol and the evolving policy frameworks for ICZM and maritime spatial planning on the other side. In this context, the issue of artificial reefs is also to be addressed.

The delegates commented on several points emphasised in the presentation and provided suggestions on how to approach and carry out coherence analysis. Moreover, positions and explanations related to artificial reefs were provided. Finally, the delegates shared information on workshop proceedings and projects deemed useful for the preparation of the analysis.

The coherence analysis was primarily seen as beneficial in relation to provision of recommendations for the preparation of the new SAP BIO for post 2020 period, since the period to which the existing document refers is soon to be over. Coherence analysis for the MPA Roadmap was seen as more pertinent, given the recent adoption of the document. The ensuing discussion also pointed out the need to look into the implementation of SAP BIO (as evaluated in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 459/3) and identify areas where, for example, application of ICZM tools and instruments could at the same time advance biodiversity protection agenda.

SPA/RAC Director, Mr. Khalil Attia, suggested that for other documents adopted under the SPA/BD Protocol, coherence analysis could be conducted on a more strategic level, looking primarily into consistency between their principles and strategic objectives with those of the ICZM Protocol. He also emphasised the need for mainstreaming biodiversity into other sectoral policies, and was backed on this point by other delegates who believed the future SAP BIO could have a role of transversal policy within the Barcelona Convention system.

Another point raised was that, for countries that have not signed/ ratified the ICZM Protocol, the focus is on implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol, and the coherence analysis and integrated implementation do not appear as current priorities. Other delegates shared information on positive national experiences with integrated approaches, including a case where implementation of an ICZM project has had a significant positive impact on biodiversity protection.

The delegates expressed (in principle) concerns towards artificial reefs, pointing out that highly restrictive/ prohibitive legislation applies to the placement of such structures in several countries. Nevertheless, the interest for artificial reefs exists for certain cases, as expressed by one delegate, and further efforts should be made to come to a common understanding on what is acceptable if they are to be created.

Mature draft of the coherence analysis (including methodology and recommendations for streamlining the ICZM Protocol provisions into a new SAP BIO) will be presented to the June 2019 Thematic Focal Points Meeting on Biodiversity for their approval; the report containing the final analysis will be submitted to COP21.

No other question relating to the subjects of the meeting was raised by participants or the Secretariat.

Agenda item 9 - Conclusions and recommendations

The Secretariat presented the draft conclusions and recommendations resulted from the discussions. The meeting revised and adopted them as follows:

SAPBIO

1. The participants stressed the importance and role played by the SAPBIO as a strategic framework for the implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol at national and regional levels, in terms of harmonization and alignment of all planning for biodiversity conservation. It played a role to aid the exchange among different departments within countries and also among countries regarding common biodiversity conservation concerns.
2. Given the changes in the contexts and the biodiversity policies occurred during the fifteen years period after the adoption of the SAPBIO in 2003, there is an obvious need to define new orientations and priorities tailored to addressing current and future global, regional and national challenges in the Mediterranean.
3. The participants commended the work initiated by SPA/RAC for the evaluation of the efforts undertaken in the Mediterranean for the implementation of SAPBIO and expressed their willingness to collaborate with SPA/RAC in order to further elaborate the evaluation with the view of preparing the second version of the evaluation report that will be submitted to the Sixth Meeting of the SAPBIO National Correspondents (scheduled on 18 June 2019). In this context, it was agreed that, in addition to the comments and remarks made orally during the meeting, the participants will provide SPA/RAC their written comments and information as appropriate, before 15 March 2019.
4. In the evaluation document, the achievements towards the Aichi Target 11 should not be considered only in terms of MPA surface areas, but also in terms of management quality, representativeness and connectivity.
5. Further consideration should be given in the evaluation to the activities relating to research (Priority Action 22) and taxonomy (Priority Action 23).
6. The meeting stressed the importance of developing a new SAPBIO aligned with the relevant trends as agreed within the framework of the global contexts such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the CBD post 2020 Biodiversity Framework, the UNFCCC, etc.
7. The approach for the elaboration of a new SAPBIO should fully take into account the EcAp process and in particular the IMAP and the related indicators, as well as the relevant other on-going processes (Implementation of the ICZM Protocol and of the EU MSFD, the development of the Natura 2000 network, etc.). Where possible, SAPBIO should complement other frameworks by addressing topics that are not covered in other contexts and are considered a priority for the Mediterranean.

8. Taking note of the proposed timing for the finalisation of the SAPBIO implementation evaluation, the meeting asked SPA/RAC to make available the new version of the draft evaluation document one month before the next meeting of SAPBIO National correspondents planned for 18 June 2019. It also asked SPA/RAC to prepare a concept note highlighting the importance and added value of SAPBIO for all countries and providing options for the new SAPBIO structure, elaboration steps and timeline.
9. The new version of the draft evaluation document should provide details about the documentation and other sources of information used for the evaluation.

SoED 2019

10. The participants stressed the importance of the SoED 2019 and commended the effort made for the elaboration of the SoED 2019 and several of them expressed the willingness of their countries or organisations to contribute to the drafting of the report
11. The biodiversity chapter of the report should focus primarily on the priority issues of the Barcelona Convention and its structure should be harmonised with the indicators of the EcAp process and paying attention to synergies with the EU MSFD, while taking also into consideration other relevant topics for the Mediterranean biodiversity.
12. The meeting recommended that the SoED 2019 document follows a common thread showing a clear link and integration between the different chapters. It should deliver strong and clear messages for the stakeholders and decision makers, using where possible cases of success stories and positive achievements.
13. Accurate and referenced data from reliable sources should be used for the analysis presented in the SoED 2019.

It was decided that the draft report of the meeting would be submitted later to participants for adoption, and that the agreed revision of the SAP BIO evaluation document would be presented to the Sixth Meeting of National Correspondents of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO); and then forwarded to the back to back Biodiversity Thematic Focal Points meeting, next June 2019, at Portoroz, Slovenia, for consideration before being transferred to the MAP Focal Points.

Agenda item 10 - Closure of the meeting

The President adjourned the meeting on Thursday, 14th February 2019, at 6h 50' p.m.

Annex 1
List of Participants

List of Participants / Liste des Participants

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**ACCOBAMS - Agreement on the
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**ACCOBAMS - Accord sur la Conservation
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Annex II
AGENDA

AGENDA

- Agenda item 1.** Opening of the meeting
- Agenda item 2.** Organizational matters
a) Rules of procedure
b) Election of officers
c) Adoption of the agenda
d) Organization of work
- Agenda item 3.** Presentation of the Draft evaluation document of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean region (SAP BIO)
- Agenda item 4.** Content review of the Draft evaluation document of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean region (SAP BIO)
- Agenda item 5.** Provision of eventual further inputs to be included in the Draft evaluation document for its revised presentation to the Thematic Focal Points meeting on Biodiversity, to be held on June 2019 at Portoroz, Slovenia
- Agenda item 6.** Briefing on the progress in the elaboration of the document “State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean” (SoED 2019)
- Agenda item 7.** Exchange on the content and eventual information update by participants regarding the SoED 2019 chapters on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity
- Agenda item 8.** Any other business
- Agenda item 9.** Conclusions and recommendations
- Agenda item 10.** Closure of the meeting

