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Meeting of Experts on the finalization of the Classification of benthic marine habitat types for the Mediterranean region and the Reference List of Marine and Coastal Habitat Types in the Mediterranean
Rome, Italy, 22-23 January 2019

Agenda item 3: Adoption of the agenda and election of officer

Provisional Annotated Agenda

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Provisional Annotated Agenda

Introduction

1. At their Twentieth Ordinary Meeting (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols, requested the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) to finalize, in consultation with its focal points, the Classification of benthic marine habitat types for the Mediterranean region and the Reference List of Marine and Coastal Habitat Types in the Mediterranean, with a view to submitting them to the Contracting Parties at their Twenty-first Ordinary Meeting (Decision IG.23/8). In this context, SPA/RAC convened this meeting of experts that will take place, thanks to the kind invitation of the Government of Italy and financial support of the MAVA Foundation for Nature, in the premises of the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research, ISPRA (Via Brancati, 48 - 00144 Rome, Italy), on 22 and 23 January 2019.
2. The following annotations to the provisional agenda have been prepared by the Secretariat to assist the meeting with its deliberations.

Agenda item 1 **Opening of the meeting**

3. The meeting will be opened on Tuesday, 22 January 2019, at 9 a.m., by the representatives of the host country, the Coordinating Unit of the UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and SPA/RAC.
4. All the SPA/RAC Focal Points have been invited to designate a national expert to attend the meeting.
5. The relevant intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations have also been invited to designate their representatives to the meeting as observers.

Information document(s) of special relevance for this agenda item	
UNEP/MED WG.457/Inf.1	<i>Provisional List of Participants</i>

Agenda item 2 **Rules of procedure**

6. The internal rules adopted for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6, Appendix XI) will apply *mutatis mutandis* to this meeting.

Agenda item 3 Adoption of the agenda and election of officers

7. While observing the principle of equitable geographical distribution, the meeting will elect from amongst the representatives of the Contracting Parties, a chairperson, two vice-chairpersons and a rapporteur.
8. The Provisional Agenda proposed by the Secretariat and issued as document UNEP/MED WG.457/1 and annotated in this document, will be proposed for adoption by the meeting. The meeting will be also invited to review and adopt the timetable proposed at the end of this document.
9. It is proposed that the meeting be held in morning sessions: from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and afternoon sessions: from 2.30 p.m. to 6 p.m. on day 1, and morning sessions: from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and afternoon session: from 4.30 p.m. to 6 p.m. on day 2. The afternoon of day 2 will be dedicated to the adoption of the report, including the annexes.
10. It is expected that the meeting addresses all items of the agenda within the allotted sessions.
11. The working languages of the meeting will be English and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be available for all the plenary sessions.

Working document(s) of special relevance for this agenda item	
UNEP/MED WG.457/1	<i>Provisional Agenda</i>
UNEP/MED WG.457/2	<i>Provisional Annotated Agenda</i>
Information document(s) of special relevance for this agenda item	
UNEP/MED WG.457/Inf.2	<i>Provisional List of Documents</i>

Agenda item 4 Draft Updated Classification of benthic marine habitat types for the Mediterranean region

12. The Secretariat will introduce document UNEP/MED WG.457/3 containing the “Draft Updated Classification of benthic marine habitat types for the Mediterranean region”.
13. The representative of the European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity (ETC/BD) will make a brief presentation of the EUNIS habitat classification and the revision of its marine section.
14. The meeting will be invited to review the proposed Draft Updated Classification and where necessary **amend it with the view of its** submission to the 14th Meeting of SPA/BD Focal Points, MAP Focal Points meeting and 21st Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties, for adoption.

Working document(s) of special relevance for this agenda item	
UNEP/MED WG.457/3	<i>Draft Updated Classification of benthic marine habitat types for the Mediterranean region</i>
Information document(s) of special relevance for this agenda item	
UNEP/MED WG.457/Inf.3	<i>Approach for the revision and the update of the existing classification of Mediterranean benthic marine habitats</i>

Agenda item 5 Draft Updated Reference List of Marine Habitat Types for the Mediterranean region

15. The Secretariat will introduce document UNEP/MED WG.457/4 containing the “Draft Updated Reference List of Marine Habitat Types for the Mediterranean region”.
16. The meeting will be invited to review the proposed Draft Updated Reference List and amend it, where necessary, **with the view of submitting it** to the 14th Meeting of SPA/BD Focal Points, MAP Focal Points meeting and 21st Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties, for adoption.

Working document(s) of special relevance for this agenda item	
UNEP/MED WG.457/4	<i>Draft Updated Reference List of Marine Habitat Types for the Mediterranean region</i>
Information document(s) of special relevance for this agenda item	
UNEP/MED WG.431/Inf.4	<i>Criteria for the selection of the Reference List of Marine Habitat Types</i>

Agenda item 6 Any other matters

17. Under this agenda item, the meeting will be invited to raise and discuss other matters that may require attention, as agreed during the adoption of the provisional agenda.

Agenda item 7 Adoption of the meeting report

18. The meeting will be invited to review and adopt the draft report prepared by the Secretariat and submitted by the Rapporteur.

Agenda item 8 Closure of the meeting

19. The meeting is expected to be closed on Wednesday 23 January 2018, at 6 p.m.

PROPOSED TIMETABLE

DAY 1: Tuesday 22 January 2018

8.30 – 9 a.m.	<i>Welcoming of the participants and registration</i>
9 – 11 a.m.	Agenda item 1 Opening of the meeting Agenda item 2 Rules of procedure Agenda item 3 Adoption of the agenda and election of officers Agenda item 4 Draft Updated Classification of benthic marine habitat types for the Mediterranean region
11 – 11.30 a.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Agenda item 4 Draft Updated Classification of benthic marine habitat types for the Mediterranean region (<i>continued</i>)
1 – 2.30 p.m.	<i>Break for Lunch</i>
2.30 – 4 p.m.	Agenda item 4 Draft Updated Classification of benthic marine habitat types for the Mediterranean region (<i>continued</i>)
4 – 4.30 p.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>
4.30 – 6 p.m.	Agenda item 5 Draft Updated Reference List of Marine Habitat Types for the Mediterranean region

DAY 2: Wednesday 22 January 2018

9 – 11 a.m.	Agenda item 5 Draft Updated Reference List of Marine Habitat Types for the Mediterranean region (<i>continued</i>)
11 – 11.30 a.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Agenda item 5 Draft Updated Reference List of Marine Habitat Types for the Mediterranean region (<i>continued</i>) Agenda item 6 Any other matters
1 – 4.30 p.m.	<i>Lunch // Preparation by the Secretariat of the Draft Report of the meeting</i>
4.30 – 6 p.m.	Agenda item 7 Adoption of the meeting report Agenda item 8 Closure of the meeting