



United Nations Environment Programme



UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.146/2
23 September 1998

Original: ENGLISH

MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

- Meeting of Experts on the implementation of the Action Plans for marine mammals (monk seal and cetaceans) adopted within MAP

Arta, Greece, 29-31 October 1998

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introduction

Following a recommendation made by the third meeting of the National Focal Points for SPAs (Tunis, 25-27 March 1996), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention approved at their tenth Ordinary Meeting held in Tunis, 18-21 November 1997, the convening by SPA/RAC in 1998 of a meeting of experts on the implementation of the three action plans for the conservation of species adopted within the Mediterranean Action Plan. On the same occasion, the Greek delegation expressed the willingness of the Greek government to host the meeting and to provide the additional funds necessary to its organization.

For organizational reasons, it has been decided to divide the originally conceived single meeting into two separate ones. Two of the action plans deal with marine mammal species. These are:

- Action Plan for the management of the Mediterranean monk seal *Monachus monachus*

- Action Plan for the conservation of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea.

Considering the fact that these action plans concern species which are normally dealt with by the same specialists, it has been decided to deal with the issues relevant to their implementation at the same meeting.

The present meeting of experts on the implementation of the action plans for marine mammals (monk seal and cetaceans) adopted within MAP is convened in Arta (Greece) from 29 to 31 October 1998 with the main objectives of reviewing the implementation of the action plans so far achieved and discussing priorities and measures for their further implementation.

The following annotations to the proposed agenda for the present meeting were prepared by the Secretariat to assist the meeting in its deliberations.

Agenda item 1 - Opening of the Meeting

The meeting will be opened at 9.30 hours on Thursday, 29 October 1998, at the Hotel Byzantinon, Filothei, GR47042 Arta, Greece, by the representatives of the host country and the Director of SPA/RAC. All the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution have been invited through the National Focal Points for SPAs to designate experts taking into account the specific subject of the meeting. Representatives of relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations have been invited to attend the meeting as observers.

Agenda item 2 - Rules of Procedure

The rules of procedure adopted for meetings and conferences of the

Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6/annex XI) will apply *mutatis mutandis* to this meeting.

Agenda item 3 - Election of officers

The meeting shall elect from among the representatives of the Contracting Parties a chairman, two vice-chairmen and a rapporteur.

Agenda item 4 - Adoption of the Agenda and organization of work

The Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat, appearing in document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.146/1 and annotated in the present document, will be proposed for adoption by the meeting. The meeting will review and adopt the proposed timetable appearing at the end of the present document.

Working languages will be English and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be available during the plenary sessions.

Agenda item 5 - Review of national and regional activities carried out within the framework of the implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea

The Secretariat will introduce this agenda item by presenting the relevant sections of the document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.146/3, "Report on the implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea". The representatives of the Contracting Parties will be invited to report to the meeting on the implementation of the Action Plan in their respective countries. The meeting will be invited to consider the recommendations appearing in the annex to the document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.146/3, to comment on them and to propose action for further implementation of the Action Plan.

Agenda item 6 - Establishment of a Mediterranean network for the monitoring of cetacean strandings

The present meeting will be preceded by a one-day workshop on the monitoring of cetacean strandings in the Mediterranean (28 October 1998). The meeting will be invited to consider the recommendations of the workshop and to discuss the possibilities of developing such studies in the Mediterranean countries and of establishing a coordinated network for the monitoring of cetacean strandings in the Mediterranean.

Agenda item 7 - Coordination and collaboration with ACCOBAMS and other international and regional treaties and initiatives

The Secretariat will introduce this agenda item by presenting the relevant section of the document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.146/3. The representative of the interim secretariat of ACCOBAMS will present the views of his/her organisation on the coordination with SPA/RAC. The meeting will be invited to discuss coordination with

ACCOBAMS and other international and regional treaties and initiatives.

Agenda item 8 - Current status of Mediterranean monk seal populations

The Secretariat will introduce this agenda item by presenting the document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.146/4, "Current status of Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) populations". The meeting will be invited to comment on it, providing possible further information or proposing rectifications. The document is expected to be re-edited in the light of the comments made by the meeting.

Agenda item 9 - Assessment of the implementation of the Action Plan for the Management of the Mediterranean Monk Seal

The Secretariat will briefly introduce this agenda item. The representatives of the Contracting Parties will be invited to briefly report on the situation concerning legal measures for the protection and management of the monk seal and on the implementation of the Action Plan in their respective countries since 1995. Country reports are expected to also consider activities carried out by, or in collaboration with, NGOs. The experts are kindly invited to provide the Secretariat with the elements of their report in written form during the meeting, attaching if possible copies of the relevant legal texts.

Agenda item 10 - Conservation policies for the Mediterranean monk seal and priorities for action

Under this agenda item, the meeting will be invited to discuss future conservation policies for the Mediterranean monk seal and priorities for action for the further implementation of the action plan. The document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.146/Inf.6 "Vulnerability of small monk seal groups and conservation policy" is expected to be presented by its author. The meeting is expected to issue agreed recommendations about future conservation policies for the Mediterranean monk seal and the further implementation of the action plan.

Agenda item 11 - Any other matters

Possible other issues relevant to the subject of the meeting which might be brought to the attention of the meeting by the participants or by the Secretariat will be discussed under this agenda item.

Agenda item 12 - Adoption of the report of the meeting

A draft report of the meeting will be submitted to the participants for adoption.

Agenda item 13 - Closure of the meeting

The meeting is expected to be closed by the chairman at 18.00 hours on Saturday, 31 October 1998.

PROPOSED TIME SCHEDULE

<u>Sessions</u>	<u>Agenda items</u>
<u>Thursday 29 October 1998</u>	
Morning	1, 2, 3, 4, 5,
Afternoon	6, 7
<u>Friday 30 October 1998</u>	
Morning	8, 9
Afternoon	10, 11
<u>Saturday 31 October 1998</u>	
Morning	free (preparation of the report)
Afternoon 16.00`	12, 13

Note: The meeting will be held at the Hotel Byzantinon, Filothei, GR47042 Arta, Greece, tel. (+30) 681 52205, fax (+30) 681 52116

Morning sessions: 09.30 - 13.00
Afternoon sessions: 14.30 - 18.00

Coffee breaks: 11.00 and 16.00