



UNITED  
NATIONS

EP

UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.429/2



UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

30 January 2017  
Original: English

Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Marine Litter Monitoring

Madrid, Spain, 28 February – 2 March 2017

**Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting**

**Provisional Annotated Agenda**

For environmental and economic 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

## **Provisional Annotated Agenda**

### **Introduction**

1. In accordance with the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2016-2017 adopted by COP 19, Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016, the Secretariat is organizing the meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Marine Litter (CORMON) from 28 February – 2 March 2017, in Madrid, Spain, at the kind invitation of the Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs of Spain.

2. The main objectives of the meeting are to:

- a) provide Contracting Parties with a training programme on specific elements of marine litter monitoring and related best practices,
- b) share and exchange information on the revision of their national monitoring programmes in relation to Marine Litter to be updated in light of the Integrated Monitoring and assessment programme (IMAP) adopted by COP 19 held in Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016;
- c) review and discuss the draft Indicator Guidance Factsheets on Marine Litter for the two common and one candidate indicator;
- d) review and discuss the first completed Quality Status Report (QSR) Assessment Factsheets Common Indicator's 22 and 23;
- e) review and discuss Marine Litter Metadata Templates and Monitoring Protocols and the steps to be taken to develop a Marine Litter Reporting system.

3. It should be noted that on the first day 28 February, with the support of the EU EcAp-MED II project, a targeted training session on Marine Litter will be held with key experts prior to the opening of the CORMON meeting. Also within the framework of the EcAp II-MED II project, Plan Bleu will coordinate a special session/workshop during the meeting related to Science-Policy Interface (SPI) Strengthening related to Marine Pollution, Biodiversity and Coast and Hydrography on the 2 March, with participants from the three CORMON.

4. In parallel, the CORMON on Biodiversity (28 February – 1 March) and Coast and Hydrography (3 March) will also be held during the same week in Madrid at the kind invitation of the Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs of Spain. Separate invitations and agenda's regarding these two CORMONs will be sent by the respective leading MAP Components.

### ***Best Practices on Marine Litter Monitoring: Training Session***

5. A targeted training session on Marine Litter with key experts will be held on Tuesday 28 February until 15.30 on various aspects of Marine Litter Monitoring. After each presentation there will be a discussion with all participants.

#### **a) Monitoring Beach Marine Litter (EO10, Common Indicator 22)**

6. The methodology and best practices on monitoring beach litter within the framework of the DeFishGear Project will be presented which will include the areas of assessment, applied protocol and relevance to other protocols, comparability of results, management of the collected marine litter items and main results at sub-regional level and per country. The European Environment Agency (EEA) will then present the methodology for beach marine litter monitoring via the use of the Marine LitterWatch (MLW) application.

#### **b) Monitoring Benthic & Floating Litter (EO10, Common Indicator 23)**

7. The methodological approach followed for monitoring floating macro-litter and microplastics will be presented to include tools and protocols used, data management and available data at the

regional and sub-regional level. This will be followed by the best practices in monitoring sea-floor litter in the framework of the MEDITS cruises using bottom trawling.

c) **Effect of Marine Litter on Biota: Ingested Litter by Marine Organisms (EO10, Candidate Indicator 24)**

8. The methodology for monitoring and assessing the effect of marine litter on sea turtles will be presented, including information and results at the regional and sub-regional level. This will be followed by a presentation on the effect of marine litter (including microplastics) on marine mammals, the applied methodology for monitoring the effect of marine litter on marine mammals, together with information and results.

d) **Monitoring Riverine Marine Litter**

9. EC/JRC will present the best practices and experiences of monitoring riverine marine litter within the EC/JRC RIMMEL Project, to include an overview on riverine litter, the importance of rivers in connecting land-based sources and sea, the significant marine litter loads coming from rivers, the current situation in terms of related initiatives and projects, the RIMMEL application for monitoring marine litter, and preliminary results.

e) **Baseline Values on Marine Litter Indicators: Definition of Methodology.**

10. The methodology for developing baselines values and corresponding targets on marine litter will be presented to include data and information requirements in order to further guide the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention in their marine litter related assessment work.

f) **Citizen engagement in marine litter data collection**

11. A presentation will be given on best practices of engaging citizens on marine litter related events, organizing and managing groups of volunteers to carry out specific marine litter tasks, sharing best-practices and lessons learnt, and data collection and management.

***Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Marine Litter Monitoring***

12. The Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Marine Litter Monitoring will open on Tuesday 28 February in the afternoon following the training session on Marine Litter.

**Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting**

13. The meeting will be opened by UNEP/MAP Secretariat and a representative of the host country.

**Agenda item 2. Adoption of the Agenda and Election of Officers**  
*UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.429/1, UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.429/2*

14. The Meeting will elect one (1) President, three (3) Vice Presidents and one (1) Rapporteur from among the participants in accordance with Rules and Procedures for meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI).

15. The Provisional Agenda annotated in the present document will be reviewed, amended as necessary, and adopted by the Meeting. Simultaneous translation in English and French will be provided during the Meeting.

**Agenda item 3. Current status of national Marine Litter Monitoring Programmes**  
UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/10, UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.21/7

16. A number of Contracting Parties will be invited to present the current status of the updating of their national monitoring programmes to be aligned with IMAP, with particular focus on Marine Litter.

17. Participants are expected to share experiences and lessons learned, and gather an overview of the different stages of revision and implementation of national monitoring plans, and the challenges encountered as well as possible mechanisms for follow up, exchange and support between countries.

**Agenda item 4. Guidance Factsheets on Marine Litter Monitoring (EO10)**  
UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 429/3, UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/Inf.8

18. The Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Guidance presented at COP 19 in February 2016 provides guidance on how to monitor and measure the adopted indicators. Draft indicator guidance factsheets for Marine Litter Common Indicators 22 and 23, along with Candidate Indicator 24 have been developed in order to better assist countries in the revision of their monitoring programmes. The Secretariat will present the draft indicator guidance factsheets for discussion, review and advice by the CORMON for their further development.

19. Participants will provide suggestions and comments in order to revise and finalize the factsheets for consideration by the MEDPOL Focal Points meeting in 2017.

**Agenda item 5. QSR Factsheets on Marine Litter**  
UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 429/4, UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/Inf.8

20. The Secretariat will present the concept for the preparation of the QSR2017, process timeline and the first draft assessment templates for Common Indicator 22. Trends in the amount of litter washed ashore and/or deposited on coastlines; and Common Indicator 23. Trends in the amount of litter in the water column including microplastics and on the seafloor, focused on seafloor litter.

21. Participants will be invited to review and provide inputs to the draft QSR2017 concept, timeline and draft assessment factsheets for Common Indicators 22 and 23.

**Agenda item 6. Marine Litter Metadata Templates and Monitoring Protocols**  
UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 429/5, UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 429/6,  
UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.429/Inf.3, UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.429/Inf.4

22. The Secretariat will present a paper on Top Marine Litter Items, current Monitoring Protocols available on Marine Litter Monitoring and examples of templates for Marine Litter data and meta-data reporting. This will be followed by a discussion with participants on the structure of templates for reporting Marine Litter data and meta-data to the Secretariat in line with IMAP.

**Agenda item 7. Conclusions and Recommendations**

23. Under this Agenda item, the meeting will review, amend and adopt draft conclusions and recommendations that will result from the meeting discussions as prepared by the Rapporteur.

**Agenda item 8. Any Other Business**

24. Under this Agenda item, the participants and the Secretariat will be able to raise any other business related to the subject of the Meeting agreed during the adoption of the agenda.

**Agenda item 9. Closure of the meeting**

25. The President will close the Meeting at 17:30 hours on 1 February 2017.

***Science-Policy Interface (SPI) Strengthening Related to Marine Litter, Biodiversity and Coast and Hydrography.***

26. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> March, Plan Bleu will organize a special session/workshop during the meeting related to Science-Policy Interface (SPI) Strengthening related to Marine Pollution, Biodiversity and Coast and Hydrography, with all three CORMON participants. The agenda and documents will be prepared separately by Plan Bleu and shared with participants of all three CORMON meetings.

**TIMETABLE**  
**28 February – 2 March 2017**

<b>Tuesday 28 February 2016</b>		<b>Relevant documents</b>
<b>Best Practices on Marine Litter Monitoring: Training Session</b>		
09:00 – 09:30	<i>Registration</i>	
09:30 – 10:30	a) Monitoring Beach Marine Litter (EO10, Common Indicator 22);	UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.429/Inf.5
10:30 – 11:30	b) Monitoring Benthic & Floating Litter (EO10, Common Indicator 23);	UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.429/Inf.5
11:30 – 12:30	c) Effect of Marine Litter on Biota: Ingested Litter by Marine Organisms (EO10, Candidate Indicator 24);	UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.429/Inf.5
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14:00 – 14:30	d) Monitoring Riverine Marine Litter;	UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.429/Inf.5
14:30 – 15:00	e) Baseline Values on Marine Litter Indicators: Definition of Methodology;	UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.429/Inf.5
15:00 – 15:30	f) Citizen engagement in marine litter data collection.	
<b>Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Marine Litter Monitoring</b>		
15:30 – 15:45	Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting	
15:45 – 16:00	Agenda item 2. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers	UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.429/1 UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.429/2
16:00 – 17:30	Agenda item 3. Current status of national Marine Litter Monitoring Programmes	UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/10 UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.21/7
<b>Wednesday 1 March 2016</b>		<b>Relevant documents</b>
09:30 – 11:30	Agenda item 4. Guidance Factsheets on Marine Litter Monitoring (EO10)	UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.427/Inf.6 UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.429/3 UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/10 UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.21/9
11:30 – 13:00	Agenda item 5. QSR Factsheets on Marine Litter (EO10)	UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.429/4 UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/Inf.8
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14:30 – 15:30	Agenda item 6. Marine Litter Metadata Templates and Monitoring Protocols	UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.429/5 UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.429/6 UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.429/Inf.3 UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.429/Inf.4
15:30 – 16:30	Agenda item 7. Conclusions and Recommendations	
16:30 – 17:00	Agenda item 8. Any Other Business	
17:00 – 17:30	Agenda item 9. Closure of the meeting	
<b>Thursday 2 March 2016</b>		<b>Relevant documents</b>
<b>Science-Policy Interface (SPI) Strengthening related to Marine Litter, Biodiversity and Coast and Hydrography.</b>		
09:30 – 17:30	Separate agenda to be provided (by Plan Bleu) for the joint SPI session for the three CORMON's: Marine Litter, Biodiversity and Coast and Hydrography	