



UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.427/6



UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

18 September 2016
Original: English

Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Pollution Monitoring

Marseille, France, 19-21 October 2016

Agenda item 4: Marine pollution monitoring regional data base and reporting, MED POL Database Gaps and related quality assurance issues

Development of a quality assurance programme for oil and hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) pollution from ships and offshore data reporting and collection in line with IMAP

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Development of a quality assurance programme for oil and hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) pollution from ships and offshore data reporting and collection in line with IMAP

Introduction

1. The Nineteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (“the Barcelona Convention”) (COP19), which was held in Athens, Greece, from 9 to 12 February 2016, adopted basin-wide strategies, action plans and programmes, including the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP) (Decision IG.22/7), the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) (“the Regional Strategy (2016-2021)”) (Decision IG.22/4) and the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan in the framework of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (“the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan”) (Decision IG.22/3).

2. In accordance with Decision IG.22/20 on the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-2017, the EcAp Med II Project supports the development of a quality assurance programme for oil and hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) pollution from ships and offshore data reporting and collection in line with the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) Monitoring Programme, hence the IMAP.

3. This activity is coordinated by the MED POL Programme, with the support of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC).

Development of a quality assurance programme for data reporting and collection in accordance with Article 5 of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol

4. In accordance with Article 5 of the Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (“the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol”), the Parties thereto shall develop and apply, either individually or through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, monitoring activities covering the Mediterranean Sea Area in order to prevent, detect and combat pollution, and to ensure compliance with the applicable international regulations.

5. According to Specific Objective 19 of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021) – *To improve the quality, speed and effectiveness of decision-making process in case of marine pollution incidents through the development and introduction of technical and decision support tools*, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention are expected to contribute to the development of a quality assurance programme for data reporting and collection in line with the EcAp Monitoring Programme, hence the IMAP, with support from the Secretariat (REMPEC).

6. Therefore, the development of a quality assurance programme for data reporting and collection in accordance with Article 5 of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol should be aimed at completing the IMAP with relevant information and indicators as well as measures to implement the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol and the Regional Strategy (2016-2021).

7. Considering that Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention should be efficiently and timely supported to develop a quality assurance programme for data reporting and collection in accordance with Article 5 of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol with a view, thereafter, to enabling them to develop their national monitoring programmes and to produce their monitoring reports on a regular basis, it is necessary to build upon the relevant work that has been undertaken in the Correspondence Group on Monitoring (COR MON) within the EcAp process in line with Decision IG.21/3 on the Ecosystems Approach including adopting definitions of Good Environmental Status (GES) and targets.

8. With a view to completing the IMAP with elements corresponding to the shipping related monitoring at regional level, the following outputs are expected to be delivered through consultancy services that will be carried out for seven (7) weeks over five and a half (5.5) months:

- a) detailed work plan and inception report;
- b) list of monitoring obligations under applicable international regulations;
- c) list of pollutants and parameters monitored in the context of the monitoring obligations referred to in the expected output 2;
- d) list of existing reporting procedures at international and regional level related to pollutants and parameters referred to in the expected output 3;
- e) matrix linking the above-mentioned outputs to the relevant IMAP qualitative indicators and, where required, related fact sheets based on the agreed template; and
- f) final report.

9. Whilst a consultation process will be undertaken with relevant stakeholders, in particular the International Maritime Organization, Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention will also be invited to contribute to the development of a quality assurance programme for data reporting and collection in accordance with Article 5 of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol.

10. A detailed timetable is provided in Annex I.

Establishment of regional offshore monitoring procedures and programmes in accordance with Article 19 of the Offshore Protocol

11. In accordance with Article 19 of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (“the Offshore Protocol”):

- a) the operator shall be required to measure, or to have measured by a qualified entity, expert in the matter, the effects of the activities on the environment in the light of the nature, scope, duration and technical methods employed in the activities and of the characteristics of the area and to report on them periodically or upon request by the competent authority for the purpose of an evaluation by such competent authority according to a procedure established by the competent authority in its authorisation system; and
- b) the competent authority shall establish, where appropriate, a national monitoring system in order to be in a position to monitor regularly the installations and the impact of the activities on the environment, so as to ensure that the conditions attached to the grant of the authorisation are being fulfilled.

12. According to Specific Objective 9 of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan –*To establish regional offshore monitoring procedures and programmes*, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention are expected to contribute to the development of a regional monitoring programme for offshore activities building, *inter alia*, on IMAP, with support from the Secretariat, as well as to report results of the national offshore monitoring programme and the related agreed data to the Secretariat every two years.

13. Moreover, depending on the availability of resources, the Secretariat and its Components are also expected to:

- a) develop the Mediterranean Offshore Reporting and Monitoring System (e.g. Regional Data Bank on Offshore activities through the Barcelona Convention Reporting System or other systems defined by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention); and
- b) produce, disseminate and publish every two years a report on Discharges, Spills and Emissions from Offshore Oil and Gas Installations, based on data submitted by countries, which should be

used as a basis for the State of the Environment Report regarding the impacts of the offshore oil and gas industry.

14. Therefore, the establishment of regional offshore monitoring procedures and programmes in accordance with Article 19 of the Offshore Protocol should be aimed at completing the IMAP with relevant information and indicators as well as measures to implement the Offshore Protocol and the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan.

15. Considering that Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention should be efficiently and timely supported to establish regional offshore monitoring procedures and programmes in accordance with Article 19 of the Offshore Protocol with a view, thereafter, to enabling them to develop their national monitoring programmes and to produce their monitoring reports on a regular basis, it is necessary to build upon:

- a) the relevant work that has been undertaken in COR MON in line with Decision IG.21/3; and
- b) the findings of the analysis of existing recognised international best practices and regulations relevant to the implementation of the Offshore Protocol and of the comparative analysis of existing legislative and administrative framework in the region, which were prepared in the framework of the EcAp Med Project and submitted to the Third Offshore Protocol Working Group Meeting held in Attard, Malta from 17 to 18 June 2014 (REMPEC/WG.34/19/Rev.1).

16. With a view to completing the IMAP with elements corresponding to the Offshore related monitoring at regional level as well as developing guiding elements in support of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the development of a National Monitoring Programme and at Offshore operator level as well as of a National Monitoring Inspection Programme, the following outputs are expected to be delivered through consultancy services that will be carried out for four (4) months over five and a half (5.5) months:

- a) detailed work plan and inception/progress reports;
- b) list of pollutants to be monitored as well as potential emerging pollutants resulting from new techniques applied by operators for exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf and the seabed and its subsoil, including the rationale for their selection;
- c) list of parameters to be monitored by operators for exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf and the seabed and its subsoil, including an analysis of methodological guidance for their monitoring and data availability;
- d) checklist with minimum requirements to enable competent authorities to establish a National Monitoring Inspection Programme aimed at inspecting the regular monitoring by operators of the installations and the impact of the activities on the environment;
- e) list of IMAP qualitative indicators relevant to the Offshore Monitoring Programme and related fact sheets based on the agreed template;
- f) detailed Regional Road Map for the establishment of a Regional Offshore Monitoring Programme and Assessment, considering the above-mentioned outputs, which should indicate in a clear manner all activities/tasks to be undertaken and the timetable; and
- g) final report.

17. In accordance with the recommendations identified in Section 5.4.5 of the study on international best practices (REMPEC/WG.34/19/Rev.1) and considering the review of international best practices under Section 3.3.16 of the said study, when preparing the above-mentioned expected outputs, the consultant will:

- a) define criteria for “qualified entity”, including competency requirement or any certification standard;
- b) determine acceptable operator conducted monitoring frequency and scope;
- c) determine operator reporting frequency, scope and geographical scope;
- d) develop inspection scope and checklist;

- e) determine inspection frequency;
- f) determine qualifications (competency and/or certification) required by inspector;
- g) provide recommendation for the possible establishment of a shared/pooled set of inspectors from all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention; and
- h) define “removal operations” – recommended for decommissioned platforms and pipelines in terms of monitoring.

18. Whilst a consultation process will be undertaken with relevant stakeholders from the private sector, in particular the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (IOGP) and competent authorities, Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention will also be invited to contribute to the establishment of regional offshore monitoring procedures and programmes in accordance with Article 19 of the Offshore Protocol.

19. A detailed timetable is provided in Annex II.

Annex I

Timetable for the development of a quality assurance programme for data reporting and collection in accordance with Article 5 of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol

Timetable for the development of a quality assurance programme for data reporting and collection in accordance with Article 5 of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol

| | | | Month 1 | | | | Month 2 | | | | Month 3 | | | | Month 4 | | | | Month 5 | | | | Month 6 | | | |
|---|--|---------------------|---------|---|---|---|---------|---|---|---|---------|----|----|----|---------|----|----|----|---------|----|----|----|---------|----|----|----|
| | Outputs/tasks | Working week | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 1 | Work plan and inception report | 0.5 week | | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | List of monitoring obligations | 1 weeks | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | List of pollutants and parameters monitored | 2 weeks | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | List of existing reporting procedures | 1 weeks | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Matrix linking the above-mentioned outputs to the relevant IMAP qualitative indicators and draft the related fact sheets | 2 weeks | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | |
| 6 | Final report | 0.5 week | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | |

Annex II

Timetable for the establishment of regional offshore monitoring procedures and programmes in accordance with Article 19 of the Offshore Protocol

