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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

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Meeting of the Integrated Monitoring Correspondence Group

Athens, Greece, 30 March - 1 April 2015

Agenda item 2: Organizational matters

Provisional Annotated Agenda

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Introduction

Based on the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap (**EcAp Roadmap**), as agreed at the 18th Conference of the Parties, in Istanbul, 3-6 December, 2013 (**COP 18**)¹ the Contracting Parties envision by the next Conference of the Parties Meeting (**COP 19**) an Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme for the Mediterranean.

Regarding this Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme, the Contracting Parties experts set the key direction in an Integrated Correspondence Group (**Integrated CorGest**, 17-19 February, 2014) to the Monitoring Correspondence Groups (**CORMONs**). The latter have met in three sub-clusters (pollution and litter, coast and hydrography and biodiversity and fisheries sub-clusters), and discussed the Secretariat's draft Monitoring and Assessment Guidances on the monitoring topics.

Furthermore, the fourth Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group meeting in October 2014 gave specific recommendations on how to further develop the draft Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Guidance (the **Draft Guidance**) and mandated informal online working groups, with the leadership of volunteer countries to specify some outstanding monitoring and assessment characteristics.

The Secretariat, based on the Draft Guidance and following the comments, suggestions of the Contracting Parties, as well as the ongoing work of the informal online working groups, developed the "Main elements of the draft Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme"(UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG 411/3), which aims to clarify further assessment criteria options, the link in between pressures and their cumulative impacts on the marine and coastal environment.

This "Main elements of the Draft Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme" will be first discussed in expert level during the Integrated Correspondence Group Meeting on Monitoring and further followed up by additional discussions, both in the online informal working groups (biodiversity and non-indigenous species, contaminants, eutrophication, marine litter informal online working groups) and in the upcoming Focal Point Meetings of MED POL, REMPEC, PAP/RAC in between May and June 2015, before it will be presented and discussed again at the 5th EcAp Coordination Group Meeting in September, 2015.

In line with the above, the Integrated Monitoring Correspondence Group aims to follow-up on the recommendations of the fourth Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group and address further in details the following outstanding monitoring and assessment issues, in order to further specify the Main elements of the Draft Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme:

- monitoring methodology and assessment criteria options, aggregation and scale of assessment for each common indicator (and/or sub-indicator) ;
- possible integration of various common indicators, noting the differing nature of the common indicators (state/pressure/trend);
- possible inclusion in the initial phase of candidate common indicators developed through the EcAp process (in relation to marine litter and coast);
- possible inclusion in the initial phase of additional (candidate) common indicators, presented and proposed by partner organizations.

¹ UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.21/3

Provisional Annotated Agenda

Day One / 30 March

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting, Plenary Session (09.30-09.45)

The Meeting will be opened by the Barcelona Convention Secretariat.

Agenda item 2: Organizational matters, Plenary Session (09:45-10.00)

a) Election of officers

The 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 will apply *mutatis mutandis* to the present meeting (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI). The Meeting shall elect a Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur.

b) Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

The Provisional Agenda (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.411/1) annotated in the present document (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.411/2) will be reviewed, amended as necessary, and adopted by the Meeting.

c) Organization of work

The Meeting will include sessions both in plenary and break-out formats, with the latter to discuss monitoring and assessment specifics of the common and candidate indicators in sub-clusters (biodiversity and fisheries; pollution and litter; coast and hydrography), before looking at specific inter-linkages in an integrated manner in a plenary format.

Simultaneous translation in English and French will be provided during the Meeting, both in the Plenary and in the break-out groups.

The Meeting is expected to adopt a list of Conclusions and Recommendations.

Agenda item 3: Draft Monitoring and Assessment Programme, Plenary Session (10:00-10:45)

The Secretariat will present the “Main elements of the draft Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme” (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG 411/3), and provide more information on the EcAp process ahead.

This will be followed by comments and questions by the participants.

Expected outcome: The Integrated Correspondence Group on Monitoring will provide early recommendations on the further development of the draft Monitoring and Assessment Programme.

Agenda item 4: Discussion of the Main elements of the Draft Monitoring and Assessment Programme in break-out groups of (1) Biodiversity and Fisheries; (2) Pollution and Litter; (3) Coast and Hydrography (11:00-17.00)

The Secretariat will present the key outstanding issues in relation to the Main elements of the Draft Monitoring and Assessment Programme (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.411/3), with differentiating in each sub-cluster its presentations on monitoring and assessment related questions on (i) biodiversity and fisheries; (ii) pollution and litter; (iii) and coast and hydrography.

Furthermore, the key recommendations of the online working groups (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.411/5) will be also presented by the volunteer lead countries and discussed in the sub-cluster format.

In the Biodiversity and Fisheries sub-cluster next to the above, the ACCOBAMS contribution for supporting the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean regarding cetacean population estimates and distribution UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.411/4) will be also discussed.

The Secretariat's presentation will be followed in all three sub-clusters by detailed, expert level discussion of the outstanding monitoring and assessment specifics.

Next to the above working documents, the experts of the break-out groups will also pay special attention during their discussions to the first reports of the informal online working groups, as they are presented in UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.411/Inf.7; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.411/Inf.8; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.411/Inf.9; UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.411/Inf.10.

Day Two / 31 March

Agenda item 5: Discussion of the Main elements of the Draft Monitoring and Assessment Programme in break-out groups of (1) Biodiversity and Fisheries; (2) Pollution and Litter; (3) Coast and Hydrography (09.30-10.45)

The three sub-cluster groups will discuss and form specific recommendations on the outstanding issues of the Main elements of the Draft Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme.

Expected outcome: The break-out groups will form recommendations on the outstanding issues of the Main elements of the Draft Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme.

Agenda item 6: Conclusions and recommendations of the sub-cluster groups presented to the Plenary (11.00-12.30)

The Secretariat will present the key recommendations of the sub-cluster groups in a Plenary format (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 401/6).

Comments will be addressed by the participants.

Agenda item 7 Discussion of the Main elements of the Draft Monitoring and Assessment Programme in an integrated manner, in light of sub-cluster recommendations, with a focus on interlinking issues on monitoring requirements, Plenary Session (14:00-17:00)

The Secretariat will present its analysis of inter-linkages and common challenges in relation to the Main elements of the Draft Monitoring and Assessment Programme (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.411/3), with a focus on key outstanding issues.

The Secretariat's presentation will be followed by detailed, expert level discussion in an integrated manner, with all sub-cluster experts present.

Day Three / 1 April

Agenda item 8 Conclusions and recommendations of the Integrated Monitoring Correspondence Group (Plenary Session) (09:30-12:00)

The participants will address key outstanding issues in relation to the discussions of the previous two days and will formulate a specific list of conclusions and recommendations.

Expected outcome: The meeting participants will adopt a list of Conclusions and Recommendations

Agenda item 9: Any Other Business (12:00-12.30)

Participants will have the opportunity to raise any other relevant business.

Agenda item 10: Closure of the meeting (12.30)

The Chairperson will close the Meeting at 12.30 hours, 1 April 2015.

DRAFT TIMETABLE

Monday, 30 March 2015	
09.00 – 09.30	<i>Registration</i>
09.30– 10:00	<i>Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting, Plenary Session Agenda item 2: Organizational matters, Plenary Session</i>
10.00-10.45	<i>Agenda item 3: Draft Monitoring and Assessment Programme, Plenary Session</i>
10.45-11.00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11.00-12.30	<i>Agenda item 4: Discussion of the draft Monitoring and Assessment Programme in break-out groups of (1) Biodiversity and Fisheries; (2) Pollution and Litter; (3) Coast and Hydrography (Separate, parallel working sessions)</i>
12.30-14.00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14.00-15.30	<i>Agenda item 4: Discussion of the draft Monitoring and Assessment Programme in break-out groups of (1) Biodiversity and Fisheries; (2) Pollution and Litter; (3) Coast and Hydrography (Separate, parallel working sessions)</i>
15.30-15.45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
15.45-17.00	<i>Agenda item 4: Discussion of the draft Monitoring and Assessment Programme in break-out groups of (1) Biodiversity and Fisheries; (2) Pollution and Litter; (3) Coast and Hydrography (Separate, parallel working sessions)</i>
Tuesday, 31 March, 2015	
09.30– 10:45	<i>Agenda item 5: Discussion of the draft Monitoring and Assessment Programme in break-out sub-cluster groups of (1) Biodiversity and Fisheries; (2) Pollution and Litter; (3) Coast and Hydrography (Separate, parallel working sessions)</i>
10.45-11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.00-12.30	<i>Agenda item 6: Conclusions and recommendations of the sub-cluster groups presented to the Plenary (Plenary Session)</i>
12.30-14.00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14.00-15.30	<i>Agenda item 7: Discussion of the draft Monitoring and Assessment Programme in an integrated manner, in light of sub-cluster recommendations, with a focus on interlinking issues on monitoring requirements (Plenary Session)</i>
15.30-15.45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
15.45-17.00	<i>Agenda item 7: Discussion of the draft Monitoring and Assessment Programme in an integrated manner, in light of sub-cluster recommendations, with a focus on interlinking issues on monitoring requirements (Plenary Session)</i>

Wednesday, 1 April, 2015	
09.30– 10:45	<i>Agenda item 8: Conclusions and recommendations of the Integrated Monitoring Correspondence Group (Plenary Session)</i>
10.45-11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.00-12.00	<i>Agenda item 8: Conclusions and recommendations of the Integrated Monitoring Correspondence Group (Plenary Session)</i>
12:00 – 12.30	<i>Agenda item 9: Any Other Business</i>
12.30	<i>Agenda item 10: Closure of the meeting</i>