



UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.427/Inf.9



UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

5 October 2016
Original: English

Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Pollution Monitoring

Marseille, France, 19-21 October 2016

Agenda item 6. Science-Policy Interface (SPI) Strengthening Related to Marine Pollution: Issues and Priorities to Bridge the Scientific Gaps Hampering the Monitoring Programmes at National and Regional Scales

Presentation of the EcApMed II Project & focus on the Output 3: “Stronger Ecosystem Approach related Science-Policy Interface in the Mediterranean”

For environmental and economy reasons, this document is printed in a limited number and will not be distributed at the meeting. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

Presentation of the EcApMed II Project & focus on the Output 3: “Stronger Ecosystem Approach related Science-Policy Interface in the Mediterranean”

The UNEP/MAP EcApMedII project (2015-2018)

The overall objective of the UNEP/MAP EcApMedII project is to support UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention and its Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties to implement the ecosystem approach (EcAp) in synergy and coherence with the implementation of the European Union (EU) Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

With the ultimate objective of achieving the Good Ecological Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea, the project seeks to support the Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to implement the EcAp Roadmap agreed in Decision IG. 21/3, through assisting them in establishing new monitoring programmes in line with EcAp in the framework of UNEP/MAP Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP). In addition, the project will address some specific challenges of the EcAp Roadmap implementation, strengthening science-policy interface, addressing sub-regional implementation needs, and responding to data and information challenges in the region.

In order to address the challenges related to the next steps of EcAp Roadmap implementation in an integrated manner, the EcApMedII project proposes four key activities (outputs), as follows:

- **Output 1:** Progress in the implementation of EcAp new monitoring requirements in selected countries in the Mediterranean. This output deal with a capacity assessment on a regional level and specific capacity building needs at national level in order to ensure the implementation of the Integrated Monitoring Programme.
- **Output 2:** Establishment of sub-regional cooperation in EcAp implementation in the Mediterranean region. In light of the challenge to address sub-regional cooperation, the output focuses on one sub-region and at the end of the project aims to mirror achievements in other sub-regions.
- **Output 3:** This output deals with a stronger Ecosystem Approach related science-policy interface in the Mediterranean that needs to be pursued from the beginning, i.e. from the stage of scientific project development. Indeed, there is a crucial need for channelling new scientific input/guidance to specific, based on emerging policy questions and ensuring the efficient use of scientific outcomes and existing knowledge in a rapid manner is a specific challenge for the Mediterranean region.

In order to progress on and implement the IMAP on a regional basis, it will be an absolute necessity to ensure links with various other ongoing monitoring frames and projects, EU initiatives (such as the Mediterranean Competence Centre / JRC), including projects with experimental and data collection related activities. In addition, it will be key to ensure that their outcomes will be also reflected in the IMAP and in case they are timely, also in the country specific EcAp monitoring implementation plans.

Output 3 aims to ensure that the outcomes and ongoing work (projects and reports) of the various relevant research projects in the region can be effectively channelled into the policy discussions taking place under the Barcelona Convention and that these projects can have an impact on the regional level, beyond the EU.

In addition, to ensure that scientific projects will address monitoring challenges in the region, the output also aims to highlight key policy challenges in relation to monitoring, where scientific input is necessary. As such, it will also make the scientific community more aware of policy needs and challenges.

- **Output 4:** This output deals with the data-management in the region, especially related to the implementation of IMAP and the EcAp common indicators. They are related to data quality and coherence, especially in relation to additional monitoring and assessment, data-collecting, sharing, and quality assurance requirements.

Planned activities under Output 3 related to “Strengthening Science Policy Interface”

In line with the above presentation of project’s structure, several activities are planned under the output 3, during the period 2015-2018, undertaken by Plan Bleu and CU in cooperation with all components.

Description of the activity	The foreseen outputs	Objective of the activity / workshops
Based on the identification by Contracting Parties of key science and policy gaps relevant to EcAp, organize Scientific Workshops on a regional basis, targeting specific areas that were identified by Contracting Parties, with pre-defined questions and by harnessing existing knowledge and MSFD/EcAp-related relevant scientific projects.	3.1 – Organize 2 workshops per year.	The scientific workshops will allow exchanging information in between science and policy and will enable scientific projects to actively input policy debate with data and scientific developments.
Reflect relevant scientific recommendations and results in the documents prepared by the UNEP/MAP Secretariat.	3.2- Organize the revision of policy documents by scientific experts.	The collection of scientific experts’ comments on policy documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the EcAp Assessment Fact Sheets; • State of Environment Reports (peer-review).
Follow-up with targeted communication material.	3.3- Drafting of 4-5 communication material, targeting a specific scientific area.	The communication material will ensure further knowledge sharing and specific scientific input both to the development of national work (monitoring implementation plans), sub-regional and regional policy-development.