**UNITED NATIONS**

**UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

Meeting of the Correspondence Group on Monitoring (CORMON), Biodiversity and Fisheries

Madrid, Spain, 28th February – 1st March 2017

**Agenda item 7: Progress in the preparation of the 2017 Mediterranean Quality Status Report related to biodiversity and NIS (EO1-EO2)**

**Draft guidance for the elaboration of the 2017 Mediterranean Quality Status Report related to Biodiversity and NIS (EO1-EO2)**

**Introduction**

1.      The Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) including 23 Common Indicators and 4 Candidate Indicators were adopted at the Conference of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 19) in February 2016[1]. The 2017 Quality Status Report (QSR2017) will be the first report on the IMAP-based Ecological Objectives and related common indicators. The UNEP/MAP Programme of Work adopted at COP 19 has a specific Output 1.4.1 "Periodic assessments based on DPSIR approach and published addressing inter alia status quality of marine and coastal environment, interaction between environment and development as well as scenarios and prospective development analysis in the long run. These assessments include climate change-related vulnerabilities and risks on the marine and coastal zone in their analysis, as well as knowledge gaps on marine pollution, ecosystem services, coastal degradation, cumulative impacts and impacts of consumption and production." The specific activity for 2016-2017 is to "Prepare and publish Quality Status Report (QSR) based on MAP EcAp-based EO and related common indicators"

2.      In view of IMAP implementation, several steps are required. These planned steps include:

i. the development of Indicator Guidance Factsheets for each of the IMAP Common indicators. These Guidance Factsheets will extract relevant information from the IMAP Guidance and will be reviewed and discussed at the CORMON meetings on Pollution, Biodiversity and Fisheries, and Coast and Hydrography planned for 2016 and early 2017;

ii. the revision of national monitoring programmes to be aligned with IMAP with the support from UNEP/MAP including EU funded ECAP MED II Project. European countries have undertaken this work as part of their obligation under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (EU-MSFD);

iii. the development of a UNEP/MAP IMAP data reporting system, linked to INFO/RAC's Info Map platform; and

iv. the development of revised templates for data, meta-data and assessments for each IMAP common and candidate indicator, for future data management and assessments. These templates will be in line with the latest MSFD reporting template and will consider the data and assessment reporting of OSPAR and HELCOM. The draft templates will be discussed at the CORMON meetings with the view for countries to pilot for certain indicators. The results of these tests will be included in the QSR2017, and the final templates will be presented to MAP Focal Points and COP20 in 2017 for review and adoption.

3.      Since the adoption of the IMAP decision at COP19, and given the IMAP implementation is still at an early phase, it is important to develop an approach for the QSR2017 which accommodates the short time availably for preparation of this report and data gaps on some of the IMAP indicators, and also considers the approach taken by other Regional Seas (such as OSPAR and HELCOM), and global work such as ongoing work of the Regional Process on a second World Ocean Assessment(s) and the process on implementing the 2030 Agenda, especially in relation to oceans related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As countries are still in the process of revising their national monitoring programmes, it will not be possible to compile a full set of data for all IMAP indicators for the QSR2017. Therefore the most practical approach for the QSR2017 is to use all indicator data available and to complement and address gaps with inputs from numerous sources. In the initial steps additional sources of information will be identified and mapped, from other partners, the NAP reports, etc. A draft Table of Contents is presented in Annex 1 for review and guidance by the present meeting.

4.      In parallel, a draft Indicator Assessment Template and Meta Data template will be developed (see Annex 2 for the first draft Indicator Assessment Template). These templates discussed under the agenda item 4 of this meeting aim to review (and also for countries to test) or to pilot these templates for certain indicators where data is available. The results of these tests will be included in

---

[1] UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/28. Decision IG.22/7: Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria

the QSR2017, and the final templates will be presented to MAP Focal Points and COP20 in 2017 for review and adoption.

5.     It is suggested to prepare the QSR2017 report as an online interactive report so that the report can be made widely available online, be visually appealing, include graphics and animations (such as time series maps of concentrations), and in addition to the main section, can have links to case studies, from Contracting Parties and also partners), or links to other databases and information sources. A Summary Report would also need to be prepared and published.

**QSR2017 preparation process and timeline**

6.     A QSR2017 working group composed of all MAP components will ensure the technical coordination. This working group will assist in defining all relevant experts, data and information sources that will contribute to the QSR2017. A number of thematic experts (related to each Ecological Objective) may be recruited to support the drafting of the report.

7.     The Contracting Parties, initially through the Biodiversity, Pollution, Litter, Coast and Hydrography CORMON meetings are expected to provide guidance and sources of information to contribute to the QSR2017. In addition Contracting Parties will be invited to review and then consider testing the Draft Indicator Assessment Template. It should be noted that whilst IMAP has been adopted, as yet no meta-data and assessment templates have been presented to Contracting Parties for adoption. These national assessment pilots will be included in the QSR2017, as appropriate along with case studies from relevant initiatives and projects related to the Common indicators. The report is expected to be online, and this format will allow for, in addition to the core text of the report, to include links to national assessments and case studies as appropriate.

8.     The review of the QSR2017 draft chapters in early 2017 will be undertaken by QSR2017 Working Group, the CORMON and then by MAP Component Focal Point meetings in 2017. The final draft will be reviewed by EcAp Coordination Group before submission to the MAP Focal Points meeting and publication for COP 20.

**Annex I.**
**Timeline for the Preparation of the 2017 Quality Status Report (QSR2017) for the Mediterranean.**

| Date | Action |
|---|---|
| November 2016 – January 2017 | 1. Initial mapping of data and information sources (by the Secretariat)<br>2. Establishment of the online CORMON and thematic expert groups through InfoMap Groupware (by the Contracting Parties and the Secretariat)<br>3. Indicator Assessment factsheet drafted by lead UNEP/MAP Component for each Ecological Objective. MEDPOL (EO5, EO9, EO10), SPA/RAC (EO1, EO2) and PAP/RAC (EO7, EO8).<br>4. Case studies proposed on a voluntary basis (by the Contracting Parties), and reconfirmation of CORMON experts |
| February – March 2017 | 5. First draft of the QSR2017 Assessment Factsheets prepared and submitted to CORMON experts for review<br>6. CORMON Marine Litter, Biodiversity and Coast and Hydrography held 28 Feb – 2 March 2017 in Madrid, Spain to review draft Assessment Factsheets |
| April – May 2017 | 7. Revised Assessment Factsheets, chapters, case studies and structure of the online web-platform for the QSR2017 reviewed by EcAp Coordination Group during the Science Policy Interface meeting planned for May 2017 by Plan Bleu, under the EcAp II project<br>8. Revised Assessment Factsheets, chapters, case studies and structure of the online web-platform for the QSR2017 reviewed during the Component Focal Point meetings in May 2017. |
| June – September 2017 | 9. Secretariat to revised and upload QSR2017 to the online platform.<br>10. Final draft of the online QSR2017 for review by the ECAP Coordination Group and MAP Focal Points (by the Secretariat |
| October – December 2017 | 11. Submission to COP 20 |
| 2018 | 12. QSR2017 Translation and On line Publication |

**Annex II.**

**Draft Table of Contents for the QSR2017**

For each of the Common Indicators, an Assessment factsheet with the results of the assessment will be completed at the regional level to ensure a common approach is used. In addition case studies will be prepared by Contracting Parties, and MAP partners per indicator, at a regional, sub-regional, national or level.

**1. Introduction**

    1.1. UNEP/MAP and the Barcelona Convention

    1.2. The Ecosystem Approach and the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme

    1.3. Other key global and regional processes (i.e. MSSD, MSFD, SD's etc)

    1.4. Assessment process for the QSR2017

**2. Environmental Characteristics**

    2.1. The Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment

    2.2. Impacts of Climate Change

**3. Socioeconomic characteristics of the Mediterranean**

**4. CORE THEME 1: LAND AND SEA-BASED POLLUTION**

    **Eutrophication (EO 5)**

1.1    Common Indicator 13: Concentration of key nutrients in water column (EO5)

1.2    Common Indicator 14: Chlorophyll-a concentration in water column (EO5)

    **Pollution (EO 9)**

1.2.1    Common Indicator 17: Concentration of key harmful contaminants measured in the relevant matrix (EO9, related to biota, sediment, seawater)

1.2.2    Common Indicator 18: Level of pollution effects of key contaminants where a cause and effect relationship has been established (EO9)

1.2.3    Common Indicator 19: Occurrence, origin (where possible), extent of acute pollution events (e.g. slicks from oil, oil products and hazardous substances), and their impact on biota affected by this pollution (EO9)

1.2.4    Common Indicator 20: Actual levels of contaminants that have been detected and number of contaminants which have exceeded maximum regulatory levels in commonly consumed seafood (EO9);

1.2.5    Common Indicator 21: Percentage of intestinal enterococci concentration measurements within established standards (EO9)

    **Marine Litter (EO 10)**

1.2.6    Common Indicator 22: Trends in the amount of litter washed ashore and/or deposited on coastlines (EO10);

1.2.7    Common Indicator 23: Trends in the amount of litter in the water column including micro plastics and on the seafloor (EO10)

1.2.8    Candidate Indicator 24: Trends in the amount of litter ingested by or entangling marine organisms focusing on selected mammals, marine birds, and marine turtles (EO10)

**Underwater energy; noise (EO 11)**

1.2.9 Candidate Indicator 26: Proportion of days and geographical distribution where loud, low, and mid-frequency impulsive sounds exceed levels that are likely to entail significant impact on marine animals

1.2.10 Candidate Indicator 27: Levels of continuous low frequency sounds with the use of models as appropriate

**5.     CORE THEME 2: BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS**

**Biodiversity and ecosystems (EO 1)**

1.2.11 Common Indicator 1: Habitat distributional range (EO1) to also consider habitat extent as a relevant attribute

1.2.12 Common Indicator 2: Condition of the habitat's typical species and communities (EO1)

1.2.13 Common Indicator 3: Species distributional range (EO1 related to marine mammals, seabirds, marine reptiles)

1.2.14 Common Indicator 4: Population abundance of selected species (EO1, related to marine mammals, seabirds, marine reptiles)

1.2.15 Common Indicator 5: Population demographic characteristics (EO1, e.g. body size or age class structure, sex ratio, fecundity rates, survival/mortality rates related to marine mammals, seabirds, marine reptiles)

**Non-indigenous species (EO 2)**

1.2.16 Common indicator 6: Trends in abundance, temporal occurrence, and spatial distribution of non-indigenous species, particularly invasive, non-indigenous species, notably in risk areas (EO2, in relation to the main vectors and pathways of spreading of such species in the water column and seabed, as appropriate)

**Commercially exploited fish and shellfish (EO 3)**

1.2.17 Common Indicator 7: Spawning stock Biomass (EO3);

1.2.18 Common Indicator 8: Total landings (EO3);

1.2.19 Common Indicator 9: Fishing Mortality (EO3);

1.2.20 Common Indicator 10: Fishing effort (EO3);

1.2.21 Common Indicator 11: Catch per unit of effort (CPUE) or Landing per unit of effort (LPUE) as a proxy (EO3)

1.2.22 Common Indicator 12: Bycatch of vulnerable and non-target species (EO1 and EO3)

**6.   CORE THEME 3: LAND AND SEA INTERACTION AND PROCESSES**

**Hydrography (EO 7)**

1.2.23 Common Indicator 15: Location and extent of the habitats impacted directly by hydrographic alterations (EO7)

**Coastal ecosystems and landscapes (EO 8)**

1.2.24 Common Indicator 16: Length of coastline subject to physical disturbance due to the influence of man-made structures (EO8)

1.2.25 Candidate Indicator 25: Land use change (EO8)

**7.   Ecosystem assessment outlook**

**8.   Conclusions and recommendations**