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Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Marine Litter Monitoring (CorMon Marine Litter)

Videoconference, 30 March 2021

Agenda Item 2: Organizational Matters

Provisional Annotated Agenda

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Introduction

1. In accordance with the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2020-2021 adopted by the 21th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019), and following the Marine Litter Session of the Integrated Meetings of the CORMONs (Videoconference, 1-3 Dec. 2020), the aim of this CORMON Marine Litter Meeting is threefold:

- a) To review the regional operational strategy for monitoring IMAP Candidate Indicator 24 prepared in collaboration with SPA/RAC;
- b) To address the interrelation of pressures impacts of marine litter and the status of marine ecosystem components as provided for from the methodology that has been developed in the framework of IMAP and the expert judgment received by several Contracting Parties after the CORMON Marine Litter Meeting in April 2019 (Podgorica, Montenegro); and
- c) To analyse the potential complementarities and synergies between IMAP and the European Commission new GES Decision (2017/848/EU) for marine litter.

2. The following annotations to the Provisional Agenda were prepared by the Secretariat to assist the Meeting in its deliberations.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

3. The Meeting will be opened at 09:45 AM (EST) on 30 March 2021 via videoconference by the Coordinator of the United Nations Environment Programme/ Mediterranean Action Plan - Barcelona Convention Secretariat.

Agenda item 2: Organizational Matters

Working Documents: UNEP/MED WG.490/1 UNEP/MED WG.490/2 UNEP/MED WG.490/Inf.1

- a) *Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Pollution Monitoring*

4. The Rules of Procedure 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).

- b) *Election of Officers*

5. Subject to Rule 20 of the rules of procedure mentioned at para. 2(a), the Meeting will elect a President, three Vice Presidents and a Rapporteur from among the representatives of the Contracting Parties.

- c) *Adoption of the Provisional Agenda*

6. Subject to Rule 14 of the rules of procedure mentioned at para. 2(a), the proposed agenda appearing in document UNEP/MED WG.490/1 and annotated in the present document will be reviewed and proposed for adoption by the Meeting including the timetable contained in the Annex to the present document.

d) Organization of Work

7. The discussions are planned to be held in three plenary sessions from 09:45 to 11:45: 12:15 to 14:15 and 15:30-17:30 during this one-day Meeting.

8. Simultaneous interpretation in English and French will be available for the three sessions. All documentation will be in English and French. Participants are encouraged to download the documentation on their computers in advance of the session. The meeting will be recorded for future reference.

9. It is envisaged to close the Meeting at 17:30 on 30 March 2021 after adopting its Conclusions and Recommendations.

Agenda item 3: Interrelation of Pressures Impacts of Marine Litter and the Status of Marine Ecosystem Components

Working Documents: UNEP/MED WG.490/3

10. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat (MED POL) will present the interaction of pressures, impacts and state of the marine and coastal environment in the Mediterranean for IMAP Ecological Objective 10 (EO10 – Marine Litter) as mapped by applying the GRID/Table approach, including a pressure analysis for IMAP Common Indicators 22 (CI22) and 23 (CI23), along with an example of an approach for quantifying beach marine litter impacts (IMAP CI 22) (UNEP/MED WG.490/3).

11. The Meeting is expected to discuss and endorse the proposal, as appropriate, and make recommendations on the way forward with regards to its use for the purpose of IMAP implementation and the delivery of the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report (MED QSR).

Agenda item 4: Comparative Analysis IMAP and the European Commission New GES Decision 2017/848/EU for Marine Litter

Working Documents: UNEP/MED WG.490/4

12. The Secretariat (MED POL) will present the outcome of a comparison analysis between UNEP/MAP IMAP and EC's New GES Decision frameworks towards GES assessment for marine litter. The comparison is focusing on how the two monitoring and assessment frameworks are addressing marine litter monitoring elements in terms at the level of criteria/common indicator with the overall scope to further enhance and maximize synergies. The next steps and way forward will be also considered.

13. The Meeting is expected to embark on a discussion and make recommendations as may deem them useful on the way forward.

Agenda item 5: Regional operational strategy for monitoring IMAP Candidate Indicator 24

Working Documents UNEP/MED WG.490/5

14. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat (MED POL) will present the Regional Operational Strategy for Monitoring IMAP Candidate Indicator 24. The aim of this document is to provide practical guidelines to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to support them in designing and

developing monitoring programmes to collect standardized data on marine litter ingested by sea turtles, and to assess how GES can be achieved.

15. The Meeting is expected to discuss and endorse the document as appropriate and make recommendations the implementation of this strategy and activities required to this aim.

Agenda item 6: Addendum to the MED POL Beach Marine Litter Item List and their Data Standards and Data Dictionaries to include Two New COVID-19 Related Items

16. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat (MED POL) taking into consideration the abrupt changes that the COVID-19 Pandemic has brought to our lives and to our everyday behaviours', including those for littering, and based on sound scientific evidence; is proposing the addition of two new COVID-19 related marine litter items (i.e. single-use plastic masks & gloves) into the MED POL beach marine litter item list.

17. The Meeting is expected to discuss and endorse the proposal, as appropriate, and to make recommendations on the way forward and the hopefully the inclusion of these two additional marine litter items into the DS and DD of IMAP EO10 CI22.

Agenda item 7: EU-funded IMAP MPA, EcAp MED III and Marine Litter MED II Projects to Boost IMAP EO10 Implementation

18. The Secretariat (MED POL) will deliver a presentation on complementarities and specific scopes with regards to marine litter monitoring under the EU-funded IMAP MPA, EcAp MED III and Marine Litter MED II Projects.

19. The Meeting is expected to embark on a discussion on ways and means to maximize the synergy among relevant outputs and outcomes and national and subregional levels.

Agenda item 8: Any Other Business

20. Under this Agenda Item, the Meeting will be invited to raise and discuss other matters that may require attention, as agreed during the adoption of the agenda.

Agenda item 9: Conclusions and Recommendations

21. The Meeting will be invited to review and adopt the draft conclusions and recommendations that will result from the discussions as prepared by the Rapporteur.

Agenda item 10: Closure of the Meeting

22. The Chair is expected to close the Meeting at 17:30 on Tuesday 30 March 2021.

PROPOSED TIMEABLE

Tuesday, 30 March 2021		
09:30 – 09:45	Registration	
09:45 – 10:00	Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting	
10:00 – 10:15	Agenda Item 2: Organizational Matters	UNEP/MED WG.490/1 UNEP/MED WG.490/2 UNEP/MED WG.490/Inf.1
10:15 – 11:15	Agenda Item 3: Interrelation of Pressures Impacts of Marine Litter and the Status of Marine Ecosystem Components	UNEP/MED WG.490/3
11:15 – 11:45	Agenda Item 4: Comparative Analysis IMAP and the European Commission New GES Decision 2017/848/EU for Marine Litter	
11:45 – 12:15	<i>Break</i>	
12:15 – 12:45	Agenda Item 4: (Cont.)	UNEP/MED WG.490/4
12:45 – 13:45	Agenda Item 5: Regional operational strategy for monitoring IMAP Candidate Indicator 24	UNEP/MED WG.490/5
13:45 – 14:15	Agenda item 6: Addendum to the MED POL Beach Marine Litter Item List and their Data Standards and Data Dictionaries to include Two New COVID-19 Related Items	UNEP/MED WG.490/5
14:15 – 15:30	<i>Break</i>	
15:30 – 16:15	Agenda Item 7: EU-funded IMAP MPA, EcAp MED III and Marine Litter MED II Projects to Boost IMAP EO10 Implementation	
16:15 – 16:30	Agenda item 8: Any Other Business	
16:30 – 17:30	Agenda item 9: Conclusions and Recommendations	
17:30	Agenda item 10: Closure of the Meeting	