

Contents

Report

Annex I: List of participants

Annex II: List of document

Annex III: Agenda of the meeting

Annex IV: Main Recommendations

Introduction

Since the 2nd Meeting of the Advisory Committee (Tunis, 7-8 May) the majority of countries finalised their national process and RAC/SPA started elaborating the SAP BIO Document, taking into account all the inputs (finalised and draft) produced by countries, the regional documents and other relevant contributions.

This Meeting was the Third Meeting of the Advisory Committee within the elaboration of the SAP BIO. It was convened by RAC/SPA in Tunis for 23 and 24 January 2003. The following organisations were invited to nominate representatives to act as Committee Members:

- Agreement on Cetacean Conservation in the Black Sea, Adjacent Areas and the Mediterranean Sea (ACCOBAMS), represented by its Secretariat
- ADRIAMED
- European Topic Centre / Nature Conservation (ETC/NC)
- FAO
- IUCN - (WESCANIA and Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation)
- MEDWET Programme, under the auspices of the RAMSAR Convention
- . WWF International, Mediterranean Programme

The MAP coordinating Unit was represented at the meeting.

The complete list of participants appears in Annex I to the present Report.

Agenda item 1 - Opening the Meeting

The Meeting was opened at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, 23 January 2003, at the Le Diplomat Hotel, Tunis, by the Director of RAC/SPA, who welcomed the participants and emphasised that all the Mediterranean countries participated actively in the process. He expressed his thanks to the countries and to the organisations that are members of the Advisory Committee.

The representative of the MAP coordinating Unit expressed his congratulation to RAC/SPA for the work made at national and regional level and underlined the importance of producing now a strategic final document.

Agenda item 2 - Electing the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

After informal consultation, the Committee elected from among the members the following Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson:

- Chairperson: Mr. Paolo GUGLIELMI (WWF, Mediterranean Programme)
- Vice-Chairperson: Mr. Carlos ROMAO (ETC/NC)

The RAC/SPA Scientific Director acted as the Committee Rapporteur. The Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson, the RAC/SPA Director, the Rapporteur and the RAC/SPA Expert responsible for the SAP BIO Project acted as the Committee's Secretariat.

Agenda item 3 - Adopting the Agenda and organising the work

The Provisional Agenda, prepared by RAC/SPA, appearing in Document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222/1 and annotated in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222/2, was proposed for adoption by the Meeting. The Meeting reviewed and adopted the proposed Agenda and timetable.

The agenda of the meeting appears in Annex II to the present Report.

Working languages were English and French. Simultaneous interpreting was provided.

Agenda item 4 - Report on the progress so far made in the SAP BIO Project

The Expert of RAC/SPA in charge of the implementation of the SAPBIO project informed the meeting about the progress made in implementing the Project since the second Meeting of the Advisory Committee (7-8 May 2002) with reference to Document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222/inf.3. He pointed out, in particular, that 19 countries participated in the process and that 17 national reports and 24 NAPs were received by RAC/SPA and taken into account in preparing the preliminary draft of the SAPBIO document submitted to the meeting. He drew the participants' attention to the documentation made available in the meeting room (national reports, NAPs and regional reports) stressing that this documentation was the culmination of a wide consultation process which involved 74 national consultants and 15 national committees.

The Expert of RAC/SPA stressed that the SAPBIO Document version submitted to the meeting is a preliminary draft that included, without editing, the inputs received from 11 consultants. Therefore, several chapters needed to be revised. It was, however, important for RAC/SPA to consult with the Advisory Committee before editing these inputs.

Several participants were very satisfied about the dissemination of information made by the project since they were very well informed about the project and they continuously received information from RAC/SPA and from the involved experts.

The committee appreciated the effort made, and congratulated RAC/SPA on the significant work done, underlining the importance of the real and wide participatory approach used within the SAP BIO project.

The representative from MEDU set out that the draft SAPBIO document was very voluminous and didn't clearly elaborate neither targets, nor timetables nor measures. He stressed that to be suitable as a strategic plan, the document had to include, as set out in its introduction, principles, approaches, measures, targets, timetables and priorities for actions for the conservation of biodiversity in the Mediterranean region, as well as a priority list for intervention including an investment portfolio.

The Committee members were of the opinion that the information contained in the preliminary draft version of the SAPBIO document needed to be compiled to produce an action-oriented document with clear targets and timeframe.

Agenda item 5 - Analysis of the preliminary draft of the SAP BIO Document

Session 1: General presentation and discussion of the preliminary draft of the SAP BIO Document

RAC/SPA introduced the preliminary draft of the SAP BIO Document with reference to the following documents:

- ~~UNEP(DEC)/MEDWG.222/inf.4: Draft SAP/BIO document – Preface, Methodology, 1. Introduction and Background information, 2. Conceptual framework~~
- ~~UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222/3: Draft SAP BIO document- Chapter III Synthesis of National reports~~
- ~~UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222/4: Draft SAP BIO document - Chapter IV- Regional Assessment~~
- ~~UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222/inf.5: Draft SAP BIO document - Chapter V - Definition of approaches and measures~~
- ~~UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222/5: Draft SAP BIO document - Chapter VI - Identification of priorities~~
- ~~UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222/6: Draft SAP BIO document - Chapter VII - Defining and ranking of priority Actions on specific biodiversity issues~~
- ~~UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222/7: Draft SAP BIO document Chapter VIII - Coordination and synergy between relevant organisations~~
- ~~UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222/inf.6: Draft SAP BIO document - Chapter IX - Monitoring evaluation and reporting~~
- ~~UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222/8: Draft SAP BIO document - Chapter XI - Provision for follow-up~~

The Chairperson invited the Committee members to express their views and comment on the content of the presented documents. The discussions were chiefly about the content and structure of chapter III and IV. The main suggestions and recommendations made by the committee for improving these chapters appear in Annex IV.

Session 2 and 3: Review of Chapter VI “Identification of priorities” and Chapter VII, “Defining and ranking of priority actions on specific biodiversity issues”

Introducing Documents UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222/5 and Document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222/6, RAC/SPA focused mainly on the methodology followed for their elaboration. Since the two documents addressed interlinked issues, the meeting reviewed them together and made recommendations to redraft both of them. These recommendations appear in Annex IV.

Session 4: Review of Chapter VIII, “Coordination and synergy between relevant organisations”

Following a short introduction by RAC/SPA’s Secretariat of this chapter, each Member organisation of the Advisory Committee improved sections directly concerning it and proposed that the list should include only organisations involved in the preparation of the SAP/ BIO, however, synergy and coordination with other organisations could be made.

Their recommendations are in Annex IV.

Session 5: Review of Chapter 11, "Provisions for follow-up"

The next steps for the implementation of the SAP BIO and the future role of the main actors were presented in Document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222/8. The committee members raised several issues concerning the implementation of the SAPBIO. It was mainly recommended, in this context, to establish a steering/Advisory committee under the premises of MAP and to launch the implementation of the SAPBIO through an international conference aimed at establishing partnership with donors and other organisations.

The recommendations made by the Meeting under this session appear in Annex IV.

Following the request of Secretariat a short specific discussion was made on Chapter X " Investment portfolio" with reference to the document (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222/inf.7) in order to have the advise of the Committee about the elaboration and finalisation of this chapter.

Agenda item 6 - Conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting

The draft conclusions and recommendations made by the Advisory Committee and prepared by the Rapporteur were reviewed and adopted.

Agenda item 7 - Closure of the Meeting

The Meeting was closed by the Chairperson at 6.00 p.m. on Friday 24 January 2003.

Annexes

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

**AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF
CETACEANS OF THE BLACK SEA, THE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND THE CONTIGUOUS
ATLANTIC AREA**
**ACCORD SUR LA CONSERVATION DES CETACES
DE LA MER NOIRE, DE LA MEDITERRANEE ET DE
LA ZONE ATLANTIQUE ADJACENTE**

Mrs. Marie Christine VAN KLAVEREN
Executive Secretary of ACCOOBAMS
16, Bd de Suisse
MC-98000
Monaco
Tel: +377 93 15 80 10 / 20 78
Fax: +377 93 15 42 08
E-mail : mcvanklaveren@gouv.mc
www.accobams.mc

**EUROPEAN TOPIC CENTRE ON NATURE
PROTECTION & BIODIVERSITY**
**CENTRE THEMATIQUE EUROPEEN POUR LA
PROTECTION DE LA NATURE ET DE LA
BIODIVERSITE**

Mr Carlos ROMAO
Director
57, rue Cuvier
75005 PARIS
Tel : +33 1 40 79 38 70
Fax: +33 1 40 79 38 67
E-mail: romao@mnhn.fr
<http://nature.eionet.eu.int>

FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION

Mr. Jordi LLEONART
Species Identification and Data Programme
FAO-FIRM
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Italy
Tel: 39 06 570 56 354
Fax: 39 06 570 53 020
E-mail : jordi.lleonart@fao.org

FAO- ADRIAMED

Mr Fabio MASSA
Project Coordinator
AdriaMed and MedSudMed Projects
CSO Umberto I, 30
86039 Termoli (CB)
Italy
Tel: 0039 0875 70 82 52
Fax: 0039 0875 72 00 65
E-mail: fabio.massa@fao.org

**THE WORLD CONSERVATION UNION
IUCN CENTRE FOR MEDITERRANEAN
COOPERATION**
**UICN – UNION MONDIALE POUR LA
CONSERVATION**
**CENTRE DE COOPERATION POUR LA
MEDITERRANEE**

Ms Imène MELIANE
Marine Programme Officer
C/Marie Curie 35
Parque tecnologico de Andalucia
29590 Campanillas – Malaga
SPAIN
Tel: 34 952 02 84 30
Fax: 34 952 02 81 45
E-mail: imene.meliane@iucn.org

MEDWET INITIATIVE
INITIATIVE MEDWET

Mr. Spyros KOUVELIS
Coordinateur MedWet
MedWet Coordination Unit
Villa Kazouli - Kifissias & Lambraki
Kifissia 14561
Greece
Tel: 301 808 92 70
Fax: 301 808 92 74
E-mail: kouvelis@medwet.org

WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE (WWF)
FONDS MONDIAL POUR LA NATURE (WWF)

Mr. Paolo GUGLIELMI
Head of Marine Unit
WWF Med PO
Via Po, 25/c
00198 Rome
Italy
Tel: 39 06 844 97 358
Fax: 39 06 841 38 66
E-mail: pguglielmi@wwfmedpo.org

Mohamed Ali TLILI

WWF
Tabarka
Tunisia

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT (PNUE)
COORDINATING UNIT FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (UNEP/MAP)
UNITE DE COORDINATION DU PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE (PNUE/PAM)

Mr. Ante BARIC

GEF Project Manager
PO Box 18019
48 Vassileos Konstantinou Avenue
11635 Athens
Greece
Tel: 30 210 72 73 102
Fax: 30 210 72 53 19 6/7
E-mail: abaric@unepmap.gr

REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS (RAC/SPA)
CENTRE D'ACTIVITES REGIONALES POUR LES AIRES SPECIALEMENT PROTEGEES (CAR/ASP)

Mr. Mohamed Adel HENTATI
Director

Mr. Chedly RAIS
Scientific Director

Mr Giovanni TORCHIA
Expert Marine Biologist

Daniel CEBRIAN
Expert Marine Biologist

Lobna BEN NAKHLA
Assistant to project

Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA)
Boulevard de l'Environnement
B.P. 337 – 1080 Tunis Cedex
Tunisia
Tel: 216.1.795 760
Fax: 216.1.797 349
E-mail: car-asp@rac-spa.org.tn

LIST OF DOCUMENTS**Working documents**

UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222/1	Provisional Agenda
UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222/2	Annotated Provisional Agenda
UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222/3	Draft SAP BIO Document - Chapter III - Synthesis of National reports
UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222/4	Draft SAP BIO Document - Chapter IV Regional assessment
UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222/5	Draft SAP BIO Document - Chapter VI Identification of priorities
UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222/6	Draft SAP BIO Document - Chapter VII Defining and ranking of Priority Actions on specific biodiversity issues
UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222/7	Draft SAP BIO Document - Chapter VIII - Coordination and synergy between relevant organisations
UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222/8	Draft SAP BIO Document - Chapter XI Provision for follow-up
UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222/9	Report of the Third Meeting of the Advisory Committee of the SAP-BIO Project

Information documents

UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222/Inf.1	Provisional List of Participants
UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222./Inf.2	Provisional List of Documents
UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222./inf.3	Report of the progress so far made in the SAP BIO Project
UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222./inf.4	Draft SAP BIO Document - Preface; Methodology; Chapter I - Introduction and Background information; Chapter II - Conceptual framework
UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222./inf.5	Draft SAP BIO Document - Chapter V - Definition of approaches and measures

UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222/9

Annex IV

Page 2

UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222./inf.6

Draft SAP BIO Document - Chapter IX -
Monitoring evaluation and reporting

UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.222./inf.7

Draft SAP BIO Document - Chapter X -
Investment portfolio

Reference documents

UNEP (DEC)/MED IG.6/7

Final Act of the Conference of
Plenipotentiaries on the amendments to the
Convention for the Protection of the
Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, to the
Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of
the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from
Ships and Aircraft and on the Protocol
concerning Specially Protected Areas and
Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean

UNEP(DEC)/MED IG.12/9

Report of the Eleventh Ordinary Meeting of
the Contracting Parties to the Convention
for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea
against Pollution and its Protocols

SAP BIO PROJECT DOCUMENT

Preparation of a Strategic Action Plan for
the conservation of biological diversity in the
Mediterranean region

UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.175/8 Rev.1

Report of the first meeting of the Advisory
Committee of the project for the preparation
of a strategic action plan for the
conservation of biological diversity

UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.203/6

Report of the second meeting of the
Advisory Committee of the project for the
preparation of a strategic action plan for the
conservation of biological diversity

AGENDA

- Agenda item 1.** Opening of the meeting
- Agenda item 2.** Election of Chairperson and Vice chairperson
- Agenda item 3.** Adoption of the Agenda and Organisation of work
- Agenda item 4.** Report by RAC/SPA on the progress so far made in the SAP BIO project
- Agenda item 5.** Analysis of the preliminary draft of SAP BIO Document
- Session 1:* General presentation and discussion on the Preliminary draft of SAP BIO Document
- Session 2 and 3:* Review of chapter VI “Identification of priorities” and chapter VII “Defining and ranking of priority Actions on Specific biodiversity
- Session 4:* Review of chapter VIII “ coordination and synergy between relevant organisations”
- Session 5:* Review of chapter XI “Provision of follow-up”
- Agenda item 6.** Conclusions and recommendations of the meeting
- Agenda item 7.** Closure of the meeting

**Third Meeting of the Advisory Committee
of the SAP BIO Project**
(Tunis, 23-24 January 2003)
Main Recommendations

Recalling that the SAPBIO should include principles, approaches, measures, targets, timetables and priorities for actions for the conservation of biodiversity in the Mediterranean region, as well as a priority list for intervention including an investment portfolio, the Advisory committee at its third meeting (Tunis, 23-24 January 2003) made the following recommendations:

Recommendations for the further elaboration of the draft SAP BIO document chapters:

Introduction chapters

The introduction chapters (including the preface), should be redrafted and fitted in 3 pages maximum

Chapter III

Chapter III should be replaced in the main body of the document by a small section (about 3 pages) giving a brief summary of the Synthesis of the National Reports and giving information about the methodology used as well as the main difficulties faced in its preparation. The whole synthesis of the national reports should be presented as an annex to the SAPBIO Document. It should be harmonised and passed through a quality control checking. It should be made of extracts from the national reports.

Chapter IV

Chapter IV should be restructured and not exceed 15 to 20 pages, presented according to the schema: Status /problem/ causes/management. It should be harmonised with the view of avoiding contradictions.

This chapter should also take into account the views of the users and not only of conservationists. It should include criteria for identification of priorities.

The first sections of chapter IV, giving general description of the Mediterranean and its main features, should be summarised to fit in one page.

- Chapter IV should include other important issue such as:

- The conservation of biodiversity on the high seas (take advantage of the results of the IUCN/WWF workshop in Malaga)
- The problem of acoustic pollution.
- The impact of using pingers and other repulsive devices/methods
- Incidental captures
- The increasing of the see-watching (seals, whales, turtles, etc)
- Coastal biodiversity (wetlands and other valuable coastal habitats) deserves to be given further importance.

Information about the achievements obtained in the conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity should be included in the chapter 4.

Chapter V

The criteria used for identifying priorities should appear in this Chapter.

Chapters VI and VII

The Chapters VI and VII should be redrafted according to the following recommendations:

- Since some of the considerations presented cannot be translated into achievable objectives, they should be moved to an introduction of this chapter.
- The priorities should be translated into proper objectives including targets and timeframe.
- Move the species list from chapter VI to chapter VII making reference to the lists annexed to the SPA Protocol without listing the species. Only objectives concerning endangered species should be included in Chapter six.
- Include objectives for ASPIM, High sea biodiversity and synergy between existing legal instruments.
- Chapter VII should be interlinked with chapter VI. Make sure that each priority/objective raised in the chapter 6 be addressed in chapter VII through action not only at national level but also at regional and when necessary global levels.
- Chapter VII should contain actions to be carried out at regional and/or sub regional level to support the implementation of national actions
- The organisation members of the AC are committed to provide RAC/SPA with their suggestions for additional priority actions to be carried out at national level by the end of February 2003.

Chapter VIII

Only organisations involved in the preparation of the SAPBIO should be dealt with here. However the door should be kept open for participation, synergy and coordination with other organisations (governmental, NGOs,etc.)

The AC members will provide RAC/SPA with their inputs to revise the section “areas of potential contributions”

The list of organisations should be split subdivided according to the nature of the organisations.

Chapters IX and XI

The Chapters IX and XI should be merged. The new chapter should contain provisions for monitoring and evaluation (including indicators) for each objective.

The content of Chapter XI should be harmonised with chapter VIII giving more explanation about the next steps to conclude the process and implement the SAPBIO.

The SAPBIO should include a formal proposal to set up a Steering/Advisory committee under the premises of MAP for the implementation of the SAPBIO. TOR for this committee should be given in this chapter.

In order to ensure continuity it's advisable to extend the mandate of the present AC to cover the interim period of SAPBIO finalisation.

Continuity requires also, that the new steering/advisory committee will include the members of the present AC.

It is strongly recommended to launch the implementation of the SAPBIO through a conference with three objectives: attract donors attention, ensure media coverage and establish partnership with other organisations.

General recommendations:

RAC/SPA should carry out a quality control for all the information and actions contained in the SAPBIO and invite the national correspondents to prioritise further more the actions at national level.

RAC/SPA should endeavour to organise one-day meeting of the AC just before the next meeting of the national correspondents.

