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Tenth Meeting of Focal Points for SPAs

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**Note on the future orientations of SAPBIO in the light of the
decisions of the 10th Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on Biological Diversity.**

*In the framework of a sustainable development approach, this document will be available only
in electronic format during the meeting*

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INTRODUCTION

The present note takes stock of the main decisions of COP 10 of the CBD (Nagoya, 2010) and proposes a road map to help the Mediterranean countries to act in order to attain the objectives of the 2011 – 2020 Strategic Plan adopted in Nagoya.

As the Mediterranean region has a Strategic Action Programme for the conservation of biological diversity (SAPBIO), the road map proposed in the present note takes into account the SAPBIO main elements and reviews the options in order to define the new orientations for SAPBIO bearing in mind the orientations up to 2020 of the Strategic Plan adopted in Nagoya as well as the other relevant decisions of the 10th Conference of the Parties to the CBD.

The proposals in the present note have been designed in such a way as to translate the Strategic Plan adopted in Nagoya into recommendations and draft actions of MAP and partner organisations involved in conservation and sustainable utilization of marine and coastal biological diversity in the Mediterranean.

They were reviewed by a concertation meeting which was organized by CAR/ASP (RAC/SPA) in Tunis on 4 and 5 April 2011 where several organisations were represented which are involved in the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean. Other participants had been invited to the meeting by CAR/ASP and the list of participants is appended to the present Note.

On the basis of the discussions at the concertation meeting, CAR/ASP elaborated the present version of the Note for submission at the next meeting of the National Focal Points for the SPAs (Marseille, 17 – 20 May 2011) and for it to be submitted to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

Observations:

The following two options will be submitted for consultation purpose to the meeting of the National Focal Points for SPAs (Marseille, 17 – 20 May 2011).

Option 1: the orientations in the present document will be proposed for adoption by the Parties to the Barcelona Convention as a tool to enable the Mediterranean region to be in line with the orientations of the CBD. Further to its adoption, the Parties would then invite the organisations concerned to help them with the implementation.

Option 2: the Contracting Parties will be invited to take note of the orientations in the present document so as to be guided by them within the framework of implementing the Aichi objectives and inviting the organisations concerned to help the countries in this matter.

During the concertation meeting it would be useful to discuss the following points.:

- These orientations are meant for whom ? (for the countries or for the MAP components ?)
- Can these orientations also be addressed to other organisations concerned ?

1. COP 10 DECISIONS OF THE CBD

Out of the 47 decisions adopted by the COP of the CBD, the 20 following decisions are particularly relevant for the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean:

X/1 - access to genetic resources and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their utilization.

X/2 – 2011 – 2020 Strategic Plan and the Aichi objectives pertaining to biodiversity.

X/3 - resource mobilization strategy in support of achieving the Convention's three objectives

X/4 – third edition of World Perspectives of biodiversity: repercussions on the application of the Convention in the future

X/5 – application of the Convention and the Strategic Plan

X/6 – integration of biodiversity in poverty reduction and elimination and in development

X/7 - review of results-based targets and objectives and related indicators and their eventual adjustment for the post-2010 period

X/8 - United Nations decade for 2011 – 2020 biodiversity

X/11 - science – policies interface on biodiversity, the services provided by the ecosystems and human wellbeing and review of the conclusions of the intergovernmental meetings.

X/18 - communication, education and awareness-creation amongst the public and International Year of Biodiversity

X/20 – cooperation with other conventions, organisations and international initiatives

X/21 – engagement of the private sector

X/22 – Action Plan aimed at the sub-national governments, towns/cities and other local authorities for biodiversity

X/23 – pluri-annual Action Plan for South-South cooperation in the domain of biodiversity for development

X/29 – marine and coastal biodiversity

X/30 – mountain biodiversity

X/31 – protected areas

X/32 – sustainable utilization of biodiversity

X/33 - biodiversity and climate change

X/38 - invasive exotic species

X/39 - Global Taxonomy Initiative

Amongst the elements dealt with in these resolutions, the question of access to genetic resources and the 2011 – 2020 Strategic Plan are particularly important to be considered in the present note as they introduce new orientations.

The question of access to genetic resources and fair equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their utilization

The main decision of COP 10 on this issue refers to the adoption of the Protocol on the access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their utilization in connection with the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya Protocol).

The Protocol's aim is to lead to a "fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their utilization, namely through a satisfactory access to genetic resources and an appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, bearing in mind all the rights to these resources and technologies and through adequate funding, thus contributing to the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable utilization of its constitutive elements".

As the Protocol deals namely with research and development activities on the genetic and/or bio-chemical composition of genetic resources through the application of biotechnologies, its impact on the in situ conservation of biodiversity will not be a direct one. But it could entail a strengthening of conservation activities by orienting the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources towards the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable utilization of its constitutive elements. Such an orientation is encouraged by Article 9 of the Protocol.

This Protocol is open for signing from 2nd February 2011 to 1st February 2012 and will come into force when 50 Parties had deposited their instruments of ratification. It is thus highly unlikely to have any short or medium term impact on the conservation of biodiversity.

To prepare the ground for rapid implementation of this protocol when it comes into force, the recommendation is to promote public awareness-creation actions on the importance of genetic resources and traditional knowledge in connection with genetic resources and issues linked to the access and sharing of benefits. The importance of such awareness-creation actions is stressed in Article 21 of the said Protocol.

2011 – 2020 Strategic Plan

This is the second strategic plan for the CBD. The first one was adopted in 2002 and was based on a commitment of the Parties to the CBD to implement more effectively and more coherently the Convention's three objectives so as to achieve in 2010 a strong reduction in the depletion rate of biodiversity on a world-wide, regional and national level. From the COP 10 working documents and the declarations of the Secretariat and the delegations, it transpires that, despite the efforts deployed and the progress made, the 2010 objective has not been attained, at least not on a world-wide level. The main reasons given are linked to the lack of scientific information for the elaboration of policies and decision-making as well as the lack of financial, human and technical resources.

The 2011 – 2020 Strategic Plan for biodiversity adopted in Nagoya aims to promote a more effective implementation of the CBD. It is based on a vision, a mission, strategic goals and objectives. It provides a flexible framework for the elaboration of national and regional objectives and is also a communication tool to draw the attention of all the stakeholders and to facilitate the integration of biodiversity into global and national programmes which have a much wider scope. It is based on the following 5 strategic goals:

- A. Managing the underlying causes of biodiversity depletion by mainstreaming biological diversity into the whole government structure and society
- B. Reducing direct pressure on biodiversity and encouraging sustainable utilization.

- C. Improving the state of biodiversity by safeguarding the ecosystems, species and genetic diversity
- D. Strengthening the benefits for all arising out of biodiversity and services provided by the ecosystems.
- E. Strengthening implementation through participative planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

Objectives have been determined for each of the 5 strategic goals; a total of 20 objectives; the Aichi objectives pertaining to biological diversity. The whole list of the Aichi objectives is appended to the present note. The 20 objectives and the 5 strategic goals stem from the following vision: "To live in harmony with nature", so that, by 2050, biodiversity is valorized, conserved, restored and used wisely by ensuring the sustainability of services provided by the ecosystems, by maintaining the planet in good health and providing the basic benefits for all peoples".

On the basis of this vision, the mission of the Strategic Plan is to "undertake effective and urgent measures to stop the depletion of biodiversity so as to ensure that, by 2020, the ecosystems are resilient and continue providing the basic services, thus preserving the diversity of life on earth and contributing to human wellbeing and the elimination of poverty. This means that:

- Pressures on biodiversity are to be reduced
- Ecosystems are to be restored
- Biological resources are to be used in a sustainable manner
- The benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources are to be shared fairly and equitably
- Adequate funding resources are to be provided
- Capacity building
- Considerations pertaining to biodiversity and the value of biological diversity are to be mainstreamed and appropriate policies to be applied effectively and
- Decision-making processes are to be based on solid scientific premises and on the precautionary approach.

2. STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMME FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN (SAPBIO)

SAPBIO was adopted in 2003 by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in order to deal with the complex threats facing marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean. It was elaborated over a 3-year period starting in 2001 within the framework of a wider process based on concertations in the countries to make a diagnosis of the state of marine and coastal biodiversity and to identify national priorities and to establish a National Action Plan for each of the priority themes. The results of national concertations were compiled to elaborate a regional component of SAPBIO so as to support national action plans and their coordination.

Priority actions identified by SAPBIO are as follows:

- Inventory, mapping and monitoring of Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity
- Conservation of habitats, species and sensitive sites
- Evaluation and attenuation of the impact of threats to biodiversity
- Development of research to improve knowledge and fill in the knowledge gaps on biodiversity
- Development of competences to ensure coordination and technical assistance
- Information and participation
- Better awareness-creation

Within the framework of SAPBIO, about fifty National Action Plans have been elaborated to deal with priority issues identified by the national process undertaken in each country.

3. ANALYSIS OF THE COMMON POINTS AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SAPBIO AND THE AICHI STRATEGIC PLAN

Even though SAPBIO deals with most of the issues raised by the Aichi Strategic Plan, the latter highlights more directly a certain number of concepts, as in the case of the value of biodiversity and its mainstreaming into national policies. In this connection the Aichi Strategic Plan attaches great importance to awareness-creation amongst the decision-makers and invites action so that the Heads of State and of governments, as well as the parliamentarians of all Parties understand the value of biodiversity and the services provided by the ecosystems.

The importance of traditional knowledge and practices of the autochthonous and local communities is another concept particularly highlighted by the Aichi Strategic Plan whereas SAPBIO, which does not ignore it, does not attach much importance to it. The Aichi Strategic Plan in fact, devotes one of its 20 objectives to that and stipulates that, by 2020, such traditional practices, if they are of interest for the conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity, should be respected and fully mainstreamed and taken into account within the framework of applying the Convention.

SAPBIO does not fix quantitative objectives in terms of reducing the rate of loss of biodiversity or the coverage rate for protected areas, whereas the Aichi Strategic Plan contains several objectives of a quantitative nature and thus stipulates for example that by 2020, at least 10 % of the marine and coastal areas should be conserved through ecologically representative and well connected networks of protected areas which are managed effectively and equitably. Such an objective has already been fixed within the framework of the CBD for 2012 and this objective is obviously not going to be achieved by next year.

The question of financing the biodiversity conservation actions is taken up by SAPBIO and the Aichi Strategic Plan. The latter introduces two innovative notions:

- The first notion is linked to using the provisions of the new Nagoya Protocol with the intention of using the income arising out of the utilization of genetic resources for financing biodiversity conservation actions.
- The second one refers to partnership with the private sector.

Obviously SAPBIO and the Aichi Strategic Plan are not comparable in terms of their respective finalities as SAPBIO has been designed as a regional programme made up of precise actions and priorities stemming from a detailed identification of the causes of the degradation of the marine and coastal biodiversity of the Mediterranean region, whereas the Aichi Strategic Plan was elaborated on the basis of global problems and was designed to achieve objectives on a world-wide level.

4. ACTIONS PROPOSED FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

These actions are proposed on the basis of the Aichi objectives bearing in mind the specificities and the state of the marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean. This adaptation to the Mediterranean context is in line with the spirit of the Strategic Plan which stipulates that its goals and objectives are striving to be satisfactory on a global level and that the framework is flexible for national and regional objectives.

The following proposed actions are meant to help the region's countries to attain the Aichi objectives as adapted to the Mediterranean region and therefore their implementation could be envisaged in the short term (3 to 4 years, before the end of 2015).

A. *Managing the underlying causes of biodiversity depletion by mainstreaming biological diversity into the whole government structure and society.*

- To develop awareness -creation programmes for the wider public and the decision-makers on the value of biodiversity and the measures which individuals can take to conserve and use it in a sustainable manner. (Objective 1). These measures are to be implemented by the national bodies concerned. International organisations as well as NGOs can support these measures by elaborating and making available to the national bodies the necessary tools and awareness-creation material. They can also contribute towards carrying out an awareness-creation action.
- Assist those countries that request it to strengthen their national capacity to mainstream the values of biodiversity into their strategies and processes of national and local planning for development and for poverty reduction (Objective 2).
- Prepare an inventory of subsidies and other incentive systems which have, or could have, harmful effects on marine and coastal biodiversity so as to gradually reduce, eliminate or change them. This inventory is to be on a national level and is also to cover international or bilateral aid systems. The elaboration of guidelines and case studies would make it possible to help the country to reduce the negative effects of some of the subsidy systems (Objective 3).

B. *Reducing direct pressure on biodiversity and encouraging sustainable utilization*

- Prepare an inventory of non-indigenous marine species which have established themselves recently in the Mediterranean and which have harmed biodiversity so as to strengthen the early warning system of the Action Plan pertaining to non-indigenous species (objective 9).
- Prepare an inventory of the industrial utilization of sea water sites (desalination plants etc) and assess the impact of this utilization on marine biodiversity.
- List the fishing practices which exert pressure on each type of sensitive habitat and on the species and define, within the framework of the entities concerned, the necessary measures to mitigate these pressures. The 2008 study carried out within the framework of the CGPM on the impact of fishing gear on the marine environment could be used as a basis for this inventory (objective 6).
- Develop pilot projects for the application, for the marine environment, of spatial planning of activities (aquaculture, tourism, fishing etc.).

C. *Improve the state of biodiversity by safeguarding the ecosystems, species and genetic diversity.*

- Assessments to be made in 2012 and 2013, using a standard method, of the national and sub-regional networks of marine and coastal protected areas in terms of their representativity and effective management. Elaborate and implement, on the basis of these assessments, programmes/projects to improve the representativity of the Mediterranean network, including areas on the high seas, so as to attain the 10 % objective (objective 11).
- Strengthen the management improvement programmes for protected areas, also by including training programmes.

D. Strengthening the benefits for all arising out of biodiversity and services provided by the ecosystems.

- Develop post –CDP (CDP = Coastal Development Programmes) actions carried out within the framework of MAP, to implement the recommendations of these programmes which are linked to the conservation and sustainable utilization of marine and coastal biodiversity.
- Promote pilot actions to safeguard and to rehabilitate artisanal fishing (1). Such actions could serve as an example for several countries.

E. Strengthening implementation through participative planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

Help the countries which request this to:

- Make an inventory of the knowledge, scientific information, innovations and traditional practices of autochthonous and local communities which are of interest for the conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity as well as their sustainable traditional utilization. The Mediterranean Exchange Centre on biodiversity being developed by CAR/ASP (RAC/SPA) could be used as a structure for collecting and disseminating this type of information.
- Assess the state of implementation of SAPBIO: the time necessary for the implementation of the actions programmed within the framework of SAPBIO was estimated at 15 years. Now 7 years have passed since its adoption at the end of 2003. Therefore this would be a mid-term assessment with the aim of proposing any eventual necessary adjustments so that SAPBIO could make it possible for the Mediterranean region to attain the Aichi objectives by 2020.

5. MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The meeting of the national focal points will be invited to review the modalities and means of implementing the propositions of the present orientation note. What is to be discussed are (i) the activities and actions to be planned for the Mediterranean within the framework of the biodiversity decade decided at Nagoya and (ii) the organisation at the end of 2012 of a Mediterranean conference on marine and coastal biodiversity with the aim of :

- Taking stock of the SAPBIO assessment
- Informing the donors and potential sponsors of the investment portfolios stemming from SAPBIO
- Publicize the Mediterranean action for the conservation of biodiversity so as to sensitize the decision-makers and encourage the incorporation of biodiversity into national policies.

- (1) The results of the support project for artisanal fishing developed by COPEMED in some southern Mediterranean countries as well as those of the DESTINATIONS project of CAR/PAP (PAP/RAC) could be used for such pilot actions.

**ANNEX 1: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE CONCERTATION MEETING ORGANIZED
BY CAR/ASP ON 4 AND 5 April 2011.**

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ANNEX II: AICHI OBJECTIVES

(The annotations at the bottom of the page reflect the main questions raised at the concertation meeting on the relevance of the objectives and their applicability for Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity).

Strategic goal A. Managing the underlying causes of biodiversity depletion by mainstreaming biological diversity into the whole government structure and society.

Objective 1: by 2020 at the latest, individual persons are aware of the value of biodiversity and the measures they can take to conserve and use it in a sustainable manner.

Objective 2: by 2020 at the latest, the values of biodiversity have been incorporated into the strategies and national and local planning processes for development and poverty reduction as well as into national accounts, as need be, and into the notification systems.

Objective 3: by 2020 at the latest, the incentives, including the subsidies which are harmful for biodiversity, have been eliminated, progressively reduced or changed, so as to reduce to a minimum or to avoid negative impacts, and so that positive incentives to promote the conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity are elaborated and applied in a way which is compatible and in harmony with the provisions of the Convention and international obligations in force, whilst taking into account national socio-economic conditions.

Objective 4: by 2020 at the latest, the governments, enterprises and stakeholders, at all levels, will have carried out measures or implemented plans to ensure sustainable production and consumption and maintained the rate of utilization of natural resources within sure ecological limits.

Strategic goal B. Reducing direct pressure on biodiversity and encouraging sustainable utilization.

Objective 5: By 2020, the rate of depletion of all natural habitats, including forests, will have been reduced by at least a half and if possible brought down close to zero. Degradation and fragmentation of habitats should be reduced considerably.

Objective 6: by 2020, all stocks of fish, invertebrates and aquatic plants are to be managed and harvested in a sustainable and legal manner and by applying ecosystem-based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, plans and recovery measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries no longer have an established negative impact on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impact of fishing on stocks, species and ecosystems remains within safe ecological limits. (2).

(2) Such objectives have already been considered by CGPM, but without fixing a timeline for achieving them.

Objective 7: by 2020, the areas devoted to agriculture, aquaculture and silviculture are to manage sustainably to ensure the conservation of biological diversity.

Objective 8: by 2020, pollution, caused in particular by an excess of nutrient elements, is brought down to a level which has no harmful effect on the functions of the ecosystems and biodiversity.

Objective 9: by 2020, invasive exotic species and the pathways of introduction are to be identified and classified in order of priority, the priority species are to be controlled or eradicated and measures are to be in place to manage the pathways of penetration so as to prevent the introduction and the establishment of these species (4).

Objective 10: by 2015, the numerous anthropogenic pressures on the coral reefs and other marine and coastal vulnerable ecosystems affected by climate change or the acidification of the oceans are to be reduced to a minimum so as to preserve their integrity and functioning. (5).

Strategic goal C: Improve the state of biodiversity by safeguarding the ecosystems, species and genetic diversity.

Objective 11: by 2020, at least 17 % of land areas and internal waters and 10 % of the marine and coastal areas, including areas of particular importance for biodiversity and services provided by the ecosystems, are conserved through ecologically representative and well connected networks of protected areas which are managed effectively and equitably and other effective conservation measures per area, and integrated into the whole marine and terrestrial landscape.

Objective 12: by 2020, the extinction of known threatened species is to have been avoided and their state of conservation, in particular of those which had declined the most, is to have been improved and maintained. (6).

Objective 13: by 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants, stock-farming and domestic animals and their wild relatives, including that of other species which have a socio-economic or cultural value, are to have been preserved and strategies to have been elaborated and implemented to reduce genetic erosion to a minimum and to safeguard their genetic diversity.

(3) In the Mediterranean, the pollution caused by excess nutrient elements, without being negligible, is not the only type of pollution which threatens marine and coastal biodiversity. For example, the pollution generated by the industrial utilization of sea water is exerting ever more pressure on Mediterranean marine biodiversity.

(4) The eradication of invasive marine species is not easy in the Mediterranean.

(5) For the Mediterranean, it is more appropriate to talk of habitats on the list of types of reference habitats adopted for the inventories of sites of interest for conservation.

(6) Several Mediterranean countries have developed national plans for the conservation of some threatened marine species (marine turtles, cetaceans, monk seals etc.). It is strongly recommended to start evaluating the implementation of these action plans.

Strategic goal D. Strengthening the benefits for all arising out of biodiversity and the services provided by the ecosystems.

Objective 14: by 2020, the ecosystems which provide essential services, water in particular and which contribute towards health, to the means of subsistence and wellbeing, are to have been restored and safeguarded, taking into consideration the needs of women, autochthonous and local communities and poor and vulnerable populations.

Objective 15: by 2020, the resilience of ecosystems and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks are to have been improved thanks to conservation and restoration measures, including the restoration of at least 15 % of degraded ecosystems, thus contributing towards the mitigation of climate change and adaptation to climate change as well as to combating desertification. (7).

Objective 16: by 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on the access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their utilization is to be in force and operational, in conformity with national legislation.

Strategic goal E: Strengthening implementation through participative planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

Objective 17: by 2015, all the Parties are to have elaborated and adopted, as a general policy instrument, and started implementing, an effective national action plan and strategy which are participative and updated for biological diversity. (8)

Objective 18: by 2020, the knowledge, innovations and traditional practices of autochthonous and local communities which are of interest for the conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity, as well as their sustainable traditional utilization, are to have been respected, subject to the provisions of the national legislation and international obligations in force, and are fully integrated and taken into account within the framework of the application of the Convention, with the full and effective participation of the autochthonous and local populations at all relevant levels.

Objective 19: by 2020, the knowledge, the scientific base and technologies associated with biodiversity, its values, its functioning, its state and its tendencies, and the consequences of its depletion, are to have been improved, widely shared, transferred and applied.

Objective 20: by 2020 at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources, from all possible sources, necessary for the effective implementation of the 2011 – 2020 Strategic Plan for biological diversity, in conformity with the consolidated and agreed upon mechanism of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy, will have been increased considerably compared with present levels. This objective will be subject to modification depending on the assessments of the needs in terms of resources; these assessments will be carried out and notified by the Parties.

(7) In view of the extent of coastal wetlands in the Mediterranean, they are likely to play an important role in carbon sequestration. The preservation of these environments is likely to effectively contribute towards the mitigation of climate change. Collaboration is necessary between CAR/ASP and MedWet on this aspect.

It is strongly recommended to promote research work to assess the potential of Posidonia meadows for carbon sequestration.

(8) National strategies for the conservation of biodiversity need updating in several Mediterranean countries.
