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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

MED POL Focal Points Meeting

Barcelona (Spain), 18-21 June 2013

REPORT

**MEETING OF THE CORRESPONDENCE GROUP ON
GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS (GES) AND TARGETS –
POLLUTION AND LITTER CLUSTER**

Delegates are kindly requested to bring their documents to the meeting



United Nations Environment Programme

EP



UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.372/4
12 November 2012

ENGLISH



MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of the Correspondence Group on GES and Targets
Pollution and Litter Cluster

Sarajevo (Bosnia & Herzegovina), 29-30 October 2012

REPORT

MEETING OF THE CORRESPONDENCE GROUP ON GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS (GES) AND TARGETS – POLLUTION AND LITTER CLUSTER

Introduction

1. This first meeting of the Correspondence Group on GES and Targets - Pollution and Litter Cluster took place on 29-30 October 2012 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, at the UNDP premises. The meeting was held in order to discuss targets (as qualitative and quantitative elements of the determination of GES); consider relevant existing targets and underlying methodologies and discuss their suitability for use within the context of Barcelona Convention; and, take initial steps in identifying draft list of targets and corresponding GES.

Participation

2. The meeting was attended by experts from the following Contracting Parties: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, European Union, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain.

3. The Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), MED POL Programme (MEDPOL), Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC), the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) and the Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre (CP/RAC) were also represented at the meeting.

4. The following institutions and organizations were represented by observers: HELMEPA – Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association, CLEAN UP GREECE and Hellenic Center for Marine Research (representing PERSEUS – EU Project).

5. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

Opening of the Meeting

6. The meeting was opened at 9.30 a.m. on Monday 30 October 2012 by Ms Maria Luisa Silva Mejias, Executive Secretary and Coordinator of UNEP/MAP. Ms Silva opened the meeting by welcoming the participants briefly reviewing the progress made since the decision adopted by the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2012 (Decision IG 20/4) underlying the outcomes of the First Meeting of Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) Coordination Group which was held on 29-30 May 2012.

7. The Executive Secretary and Coordinator continued by reviewing the objectives of the meeting mentioned above and concluded by thanking the Ministry of Physical Planning and Environment of Bosnia & Herzegovina for hosting the meeting, and the representatives of the Contracting Parties, UNEP/MAP components and partners for their participation.

Election of officers and adoption of the agenda

8. Following informal consultations, the meeting elected its officers as follows:
Chairperson: Ms Nada Krstulovic (Croatia)

9. The meeting adopted the agenda set out in UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG 372/2. The Agenda of the meeting is contained in **Annex II** to the present report.

Adoption of recommendations and conclusions

10. The meeting considered the draft conclusions prepared by the Secretariat on which comments were made and modifications requested.
11. The recommendations and conclusions were approved by the meeting.

Closure of the meeting

12. Prior to the closure of the meeting the Secretariat highlighted the achievements of the constructive discussions had during the last two days.
13. Following the usual exchange of courtesies, the Chairperson closed the meeting on Tuesday 30 October 2012 at 13.30 pm

General Recommendations and Next Steps

14. The COR-GEST Pollution and Litter Cluster, met in Sarajevo Bosnia and Herzegovina on 29-30 October 2012, and reviewed the proposal of the UNEP/MAP Secretariat with respect to approaches to setting of GES and targets for the pollution and litter related EOs (5, 9, 10 and 11) and agreed as follows:
 - a. GES is defined and targets are set on state and pressure on regional and sub-regional scale, as appropriate, as proposed in the annex to this report
 - b. GES state targets are defined as trends to improve (environmental) quality in risk areas and maintain the status' in non-impacted areas, taking into consideration the relevant baselines;
 - c. For the agreed GES and targets for which there are available data, thanks to the implementation of existing monitoring programmes, the Countries and the Secretariat to further work in order to provide information on the possible baseline values in relation to the relevant indicators as specified in the Annex;
 - d. For the agreed GES and targets, for which baselines cannot be set due to limitations or unavailability of data, the relevant parameters should be included in the integrated monitoring programme of MAP, in line with EcAP Roadmap as agreed by COP17;
 - e. the Secretariat and the Countries to further work in the future with a view to define, based on data availability, relevant thresholds for the agreed GES and targets, subject to the decisions by the Contracting Parties;
 - f. Pressure related GES and targets should be based on the existing pressure targets adopted by the Parties in the framework of SAP MED and relevant Regional Plans, as explained in details in the tables below;
 - g. As mandated by COP 17, UNEP MAP shall continue close cooperation with relevant EU MSFD working groups, with the view to enhance synergies for the definition of GES and targets, and share the Mediterranean experience in the European fora.

GES and Targets for EO5 (Eutrophication)

Indicator 5.1.1. Concentration of key nutrients in the water column

GES description	Targets	Next Steps	Timeline
<p>Concentrations of nutrients in the eutrophic layer are in line with prevailing physiographic, geographic and climate conditions</p>	<p>State</p> <p>1. Reference nutrients concentrations according to the local hydrological, chemical and morphological characteristics of the un-impacted marine region ¹</p> <p>2. Decreasing trend of nutrients concentrations in water column of human impacted areas, statistically defined</p>	<p>1. Countries to provide additional data/information and propose baseline on state, where appropriate</p> <p>2. Secretariat to provide harmonized baseline on state, as appropriate, per region, sub-region or smaller scale</p> <p>3. Secretariat to provide guidance on statistical analysis to define trends</p>	<p>Mid-January 2013</p> <p>End of February 2013</p> <p>End of February 2013</p>
	<p>Pressure</p> <p>1.Reduction of BOD emissions from land based sources</p> <p>2.Reduction of nutrients emissions from land based sources</p>	<p>Secretariat to provide by end-February 2013 a first report on the achievements of the SAP MED targets on the agreed BOD, and nutrient emissions targets</p>	<p>End of February 2013</p>

¹ Thresholds to be set in the future, subject to decision of Contracting Parties

Indicator 5.2.1 Chlorophyll-a concentration in the water column

GES description	Targets	Next Steps	Timeline
Natural levels of algal biomass in line with prevailing physiographic, geographic and climate conditions	State Chl-a concentrations in high-risk areas below thresholds ²	4. Countries to provide additional data/information and propose baseline on state, where appropriate	Mid-January 2013
	Decreasing trend in chl-a concentrations in high risk areas affected by human activities	5. Secretariat to provide harmonized baseline on state, as appropriate, per region, sub-region or smaller scale	End of February 2013
		6. Secretariat to provide guidance on statistical analysis to define trends	End of February 2013

Indicator 5.1.2 Nutrient ratios (silica, nitrogen and phosphorus), where appropriate

GES description: Natural ratios of nutrients

Indicator 5.2.2 Water transparency where relevant

GES description	Targets	Next Steps	Timeline
Clear water in line with prevailing physiographic, geographic and climate conditions	State Secchi disk depth above threshold in risk areas ³	To be included in the integrated monitoring programme	In line with the agreed EcAp Road Map
	Increasing trend of transparency in areas impacted by human activities		

Indicator 5.2.3 Number and location of major events of nuisance/toxic algal blooms caused by human activities

GES description	Targets	Next Steps	Timeline
No HABs	State Decreasing trend in the frequency of the occurrence of HABs	To be included in the integrated monitoring programme	In line with the agreed EcAp Road Map

² Thresholds to be set in the future, subject to decision of Contracting Parties

³ Thresholds to be set in the future, subject to decision of Contracting Parties

Indicator 5.3.1 Dissolved oxygen near the bottom, i.e. changes due to increased organic matter decomposition, and size of the area concerned*

GES description	targets	Next Steps	Timeline
Bottom water fully oxygenated in line with prevailing physiographic, geographic and climate conditions	<p>State Dissolved oxygen concentrations in high-risk areas above local threshold⁴</p> <p>Increasing trend in dissolved oxygen concentrations in areas impacted by human activities</p>	To be included in the integrated monitoring programme	In line with the agreed EcAp Road Map on monitoring

GES and Targets for EO9 (Contaminants)

Indicator 9.1.1 Concentration of key harmful contaminants in biota, sediment or water

GES description	Targets	Next Steps	Timeline
Concentrations of contaminants are below a determined threshold defined for the area and when they are not giving rise to pollution effects	<p>State</p> <p>3. Concentrations of specific contaminants below EACs or below reference concentrations⁵</p> <p>4. Decreasing trend in contaminants concentrations in sediment and biota from human impacted areas, statistically defined</p>	<p>5. Countries to provide additional data/information and propose baseline on state, where appropriate</p> <p>6. Secretariat to provide harmonized baseline on state, as appropriate, per region, sub-region or smaller scale</p> <p>7. Secretariat to provide guidance on statistical analysis to define trends</p> <p>8. Secretariat to provide procedures for considering the addition of new contaminants as appropriate by the countries</p>	<p>Mid-January 2013</p> <p>End of February 2013</p> <p>End of February 2013</p> <p>In line with the agreed EcAp Road Map on monitoring</p>

4 Thresholds to be set in the future, subject to decision of Contracting Parties

5 Thresholds to be set in the future, subject to decision of Contracting Parties

	<p>Pressure Reduction of contaminants emissions from land based sources</p>	<p>Secretariat to provide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a first report on the achievements of the SAP MED targets on the agreed contaminant emissions targets A list of the most representative contaminants based on NBB analysis 	<p>End of February 2013</p>
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Indicator 9.2.1. Level of pollution effects of key contaminants where a cause and effect relationship has been established

GES description	Targets	Next Steps	Timeline
Concentrations of contaminants are not giving rise to pollution effects	<p>State Contaminants effects below threshold⁶</p>	Include TBT and imposex in the integrated monitoring programme of MAP	In line with the agreed EcAp Road Map on monitoring

Indicator 9.3.1 Occurrence, origin (where possible), extent of significant acute pollution events (e.g. slicks from oil, oil products and hazardous substances) and their impact on biota affected by this pollution

GES description	Targets	Next Steps	Timeline
Non-occurrence of pollution events	<p>State 1. Decreasing trends in the concentrations of oil in the water column and the occurrence of tar balls on the beach</p>		
	<p>Pressure 2. Decreasing trend in the occurrences of pollution events 3. Decreasing trend in the operational releases of oil and other contaminants from coastal, maritime and off-shore activities</p>	<p>Countries to report to REMPEC on pollution accidents, in line with Prevention and Emergency Protocol</p> <p>REMPEC to provide existing data on accidents that cause pollution or where likely to cause it and define a baseline</p> <p>To be treated as part of the contaminants from point sources</p>	<p>-</p> <p>February 2013</p>

⁶ Thresholds to be set in the future, subject to decision of Contracting Parties

Indicator 9.4.1. Actual levels of contaminants that have been detected and number of contaminants which have exceeded maximum regulatory levels in commonly consumed seafood

GES description	Targets	Next Steps	Timeline
Concentrations of contaminants are within the regulatory limits for consumption by humans	State Concentrations of contaminants are within the regulatory limits set by legislation	Apply WHO regulations, to be included in the integrated monitoring programme for implementation by the respective national authorities of the Countries	In line with the agreed EcAp Road Map on monitoring

Indicator 9.4.2. Frequency that regulatory levels of contaminants are exceeded

GES description	Targets	Next Steps	Timeline
No regulatory levels of contaminants in seafood are exceeded	State Decreasing trend in the frequency of cases of seafood samples above regulatory limits for contaminants	Apply WHO regulations, to be included in the integrated monitoring programme for implementation by the respective national authorities of the Countries	In line with the agreed EcAp Road Map on monitoring

Indicator 9.5.1 Percentage of intestinal enterococci concentration measurements within established standards

GES description	Targets	Next Steps	Timeline
Concentrations of intestinal enterococci are within established standards	Increasing trend in the percentage of intestinal enterococci concentrations within established standards	Apply UNEP/MAP criteria as adopted by COP 17, to be included in the integrated monitoring programme	In line with the agreed EcAp Road Map on monitoring

Indicator 9.5.2. Occurrence of Harmful Algal Blooms within bathing and recreational areas

GES description	Targets	Next Steps	Timeline
No occurrence of HABs	State Decreasing trend in the frequency of the occurrence of HABs	To be included in the integrated monitoring programme	In line with the agreed EcAp Road Map

GES and Targets for EO10 (Marine Litter)

Indicator 10.1.1 Trends in the amount of litter washed ashore and/or deposited on coastlines, including analysis of its composition, spatial distribution and, where possible, source

GES description	Targets	Next Steps	Timeline
Number of marine litter on the coastline do not have negative impacts on human health, marine life and ecosystem services	State Decreasing trend in the number of marine litter items deposited on the coast	To be included in the integrated monitoring programme	In line with the agreed EcAp Road Map

Indicator 10.1.2 Trends in amounts of litter in the water column, including microplastics, and on the seafloor

GES description	Targets	Next Steps	Timeline
Number of marine litter items in the water surface and the seafloor do not have negative impacts on human health, marine life, ecosystem services and do not create risk to navigation	State Decreasing trend in the number of marine litter items in the water surface and the seafloor	To be included in the integrated monitoring programme	In line with the agreed EcAp Road Map

Indicator 10.2.1 Trends in the amount of litter ingested by or entangling marine organisms, especially mammals, marine birds and turtles

GES description	Targets	Next Steps	Timeline
	Decreasing trend in the cases of entanglement or/and a decreasing trend in the stomach content of the sentinel species.	To be defined after the setting of the methodology and inclusion in the integrated monitoring programme	

GES and Targets for EO11 (Noise)

Indicator 11.1.1 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

Indicator 11.1.2 Trends in continuous low frequency sounds with the use of models as appropriate

The Secretariat will cooperate with ACCOBAMS and provide detailed information at a later stage. Also, the work of the Noise WG of EU in the context of MSFD will be followed and taken into account as appropriate.

**ANNEX I - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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ANNEX II - AGENDA

Monday, 29 October 2012		
09:30-09:45	1. Welcome and opening of the meeting, adoption of the Agenda	Working Document/s UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.372/1 UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.372/2
09:45-10:00	2. Introduction to the workshop programme, organization of the days	Working Document/s UNEP/(DEPI)/MED WG.372/2
10:00 – 11:30	3. Introductory Presentations	Working Document/s UNEP/(DEPI)/MED WG.372/3 & 372/Inf.3
11:30 – 12:30 & 14:00 – 17:00	4. Plenary – Discussions session	Working Document/s UNEP/(DEPI)/MED WG.372/3 & 372/Inf.3
17:00	End of the day	
Tuesday, 30 October 2012		
09:30 – 10:30	4. Plenary – Discussions session (cont'd)	Working Document/s UNEP/(DEPI)/MED WG.372/3 & 372/Inf.3
10:45 – 12:30	5. Plenary – Presentation of the outcomes	Working Document/s UNEP/(DEPI)/MED WG.372/3 & 372/Inf.3
14:00-16:30	6. Adoption of outcomes, recommendations and conclusions	
16:30 – 17:00	7. Identifying potential way forward and closure of the meeting	