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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

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**DRAFT UPDATED IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLES
OF THE ACTION PLANS FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF MARINE TURTLES, BIRDS AND CARTILAGINOUS
FISHES**

Delegates are kindly requested to bring their documents to the meeting

Note:

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I. INTRODUCTION,

With regards to the update and/or adjustment of the work timetables of the Action plans related to the conservation of marine turtles, bird species listed in annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol and cartilaginous fishes, an assessment of the implementation of their previous calendars has been done at national and regional levels. This evaluation appears in the information document (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.382/Inf.11).

The assessment of the implementation of these action Plans has taken into account the RAC/SPA Progress activities achieved during the last bienniums (2008-2009/2010-2011/2012-2013) and the activities realized by Contracting Parties as requested by the adopted timetables.

Multilateral Environment Agreements, regional organizations and institutions as well as Partners to these actions Plans were also invited to report on their achievements for the conservation of these species. All the answers received in due time was incorporated on the evaluation document. The draft updated implementation timetables are given in this document.

II. THE DRAFT UPDATED TIMETABLE OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE CONSERVATION OF MEDITERRANEAN MARINE TURTLES

| <i>Implementation Timetable (2014-2019)</i> | | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------|---|
| | <i>Actions</i> | <i>Deadline/periodicity</i> | <i>By whom</i> |
| A.PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT | | | |
| A.1 Legislation | a. Protection of turtles—general species protection | As soon as possible | Contracting Parties |
| | b. Enforce legislation to eliminate deliberate killing | As soon as possible | Contracting Parties |
| | c. Habitat protection and management (nesting, mating, feeding, wintering and key migration passages) | As soon as possible | Contracting Parties |
| A.2 Protection and Management of habitats | a. Setting up and implementing management plans | From 2014 to 2019 | Contracting Parties |
| | b. Restoration of damaged nesting habitats | From 2014 to 2019 | Contracting Parties |
| A.3 Minimisation of incidental Catches | a. Fishing regulations (depth, season, gear) in key areas | From 2014 to 2019 | Contracting Parties |
| | b. Modification of gear, methods and strategies Partners & Parties | From 2014 to 2019 | RAC/SPA, partners and Contracting Parties |
| A.4 Other Measure to Minimise individual Mortality | a. Setting up and/or improving operation of Rescue Centres | As soon as possible | Contracting Parties |
| B. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND MONITORING | | | |
| B.1 Scientific Research | a. Identification of new mating, feeding and wintering areas and key migration passages | From 2014 to 2019 | Contracting Parties and partners |
| | b. Elaboration and execution of cooperative research projects of regional importance aimed at assessing the interaction between turtles and fisheries | From 2014 to 2019 | RAC/SPA, partners and Contracting Parties |
| | c. Tagging and genetic analysis (as appropriate) | From 2014 to 2019 | RAC/SPA, partners and Contracting Parties |
| | d. Facilitate the networking between managed and monitored nesting sites, aiming at the exchange of information and experience | From 2014 to 2019 | RAC/SPA |
| B.2 Monitoring | a. Guidelines for long-term monitoring programmes for nesting beaches and standardisation of monitoring methods for nesting beaches, feeding and wintering areas | 2 years after adoption | RAC/SPA |
| | b. Setting up and/or improving long-term monitoring programmes | From 2014 to 2019 | RAC/SPA and Contracting Parties |
| | c. Setting up stranding networks | As soon as possible | Contracting Parties |

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| | d. Standardization of methodologies to estimate demographic parameters for population dynamics analysis, such as population modelling. | 3 years after adoption | RAC/SPA |
| | f. Tagging standardization | As soon as possible | RAC/SPA |
| C. PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION | | | |
| | Public awareness and Information campaigns in particular for fishermen and local populations | From 2014 to 2019 | RAC/SPA, partners and Contracting Parties |
| D. CAPACITY BUILDING | | | |
| | Training courses | From 2014 to 2019 | RAC/SPA, Contracting Parties and partners |
| E. NATIONAL ACTION PLANS | | | |
| | Elaboration of National Action Plans | From 2014 to 2019 | Contracting Parties |
| F. COORDINATION | | | |
| | a. Assessment of progress in the implementation of the Action Plan | Every two years | RAC/SPA and Contracting parties |
| | b. Cooperation in organizing the Mediterranean Conference on marine turtles | Every three years | RAC/SPA |
| | c. Updating the action plan on Marine Turtles | Five years | RAC/SPA |

III. THE DRAFT UPDATED TIMETABLE OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIRD SPECIES LISTED IN ANNEX II OF THE SPA/BD PROTOCOL IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

| <i>Implementation Timetable (2014-2019)</i> | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---|
| Action | Deadline/periodicity | By whom |
| 1. Produce and publish an updated version of the Action Plan including all 25 target species. | By 2015 | RAC/SPA |
| 2. Protect legally all bird species in Annex II | By 2019 | Contracting Parties |
| 3. Optimize synergies with international agreements and organizations dedicated to bird conservation | From 2014 to 2019 | Contracting Parties |
| 4. Target and lobby decision-making organisations and government bodies to stimulate the implementation of the Action Plan | From 2014 to 2019 | Contracting Parties, Partners and RAC/SPA |
| 5. Organise specific training courses and workshops in coordination/synergy with international and/or national NGOs | From 2014 to 2019 | RAC/SPA and Contracting Parties |
| 6. Organisation of the 3 rd Mediterranean Symposium on ecology and conservation of the bird species listed in Annex II | By 2017 | RAC/SPA and Contracting Parties |
| 7. Participation in / promotion of a regional network for monitoring populations and distribution of Mediterranean threatened bird species, in co-ordination with other organisations | From 2014 to 2019 | RAC/SPA |
| 8. Establishment / support of research and monitoring programs to fill gaps in the knowledge of threatened species in partnership with other organisations | From 2014 to 2019 | RAC/SPA, Contracting Parties |
| 9. Establishment and implementation of National Action Plans for the conservation of endangered and threatened bird species in the Mediterranean | From 2014 to 2019 | RAC/SPA, Contracting Parties |
| 10. Support contracting parties and partners to produce and publish relevant scientific documentation contributing to update knowledge and enhance conservation action taken on the Annex II species | From 2014 to 2019 | RAC/SPA |
| 11. Identification of areas important for birds on land and at sea (mapping of breeding, feeding, molting and wintering areas). | From 2014 to 2019 | Contracting Parties, Partners |
| 12. Legal establishment of Protected Areas (PAs) with adequate management plans at breeding sites | By 2019 | Contracting Parties |
| 13. Produce the 3 rd Report on progress in the implementation of the Action Plan according to the proposed achieved indicators | By 2019 | RAC/SPA |

IV. THE DRAFT UPDATED TIMETABLE OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE CONSERVATION OF CARTILAGINOUS FISHES (CHONDRICHTHYANS) IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

| <i>Implementation Timetable (2014-2019)</i> | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| Action | Deadline/periodicity | By whom |
| Tools | | |
| 1. Update directory of national, regional and international experts on chondrichthyan fishes. | By 2015 | RAC/SPA, CMS Shark MOU Secretariat, IUCN SSG, RFMO Shark Working Groups |
| 2. Develop, print and distribute multilingual regional and national field identification guides and sheets for remaining priority areas: Adriatic, Aegean, Ionian (in Croatian, Albanian, Italian, Greek, Turkish); and Northwestern Mediterranean (French, Spanish). | 2014 – 2015 | GFCM/FAO, MEDITS, National scientific and management bodies, Regional cooperation agencies |
| 3. Promote use of existing standard monitoring protocols and forms (RAC/SPA, FAO) for species-specific data on landings, discards and observations of threatened species; | From 2014 to 2019 | National scientific and management bodies, Regional cooperation agencies, MedLEM, CMS, GFCM and FAO |
| 4. Update and promote protocols and programmes for improved compilation and analysis of data, for contribution to regional stock assessment initiatives. | From 2014 to 2019 | National and regional agencies and advisory bodies, CMS, GFCM and FAO |
| 5. Formalise/reinforce synchronous submission of catch, bycatch and discard data to both scientific and management bodies, and annually to the GFCM. | Every year From 2014 to 2019 | Contracting Parties |
| 6. Improve data on elasmobranch bycatch in national reports to GFCM, for incorporation in GFCM database | Every year From 2014 to 2019 | Contracting Parties, GFCM, MEDLEM |
| 7. Undertake information campaigns, improve the provision of materials for publication, and disseminate more widely existing RAC/SPA, FAO, CMS and other relevant products to fisheries managers, researchers and the public. | 2014, 2016, 2018 | AP Partners, Associates and donor agencies |

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| 8. Widely disseminate RAC/SPA guidelines and code of conduct for shark and ray recreational fishing. | 2014 | RAC/SPA, Contracting Parties, AP Partners, CMS |
| 9. Promote catch and release, research activity and improved reporting of catches to shark and ray recreational fishers. | From 2014 to 2019 | Contracting Parties and AP Partners |
| <i>Legal processes</i> | | |
| 10. Establish strict legal protection for species listed in Annex II and GFCM Recommendation through national laws and regulations. | As soon as possible | Contracting Parties |
| 11. Establish and promote national, sub-regional and regional plans or strategies for species listed in Annexes II and III. | 2014 | Contracting Parties, RAC/SPA, GFCM, CMS |
| 12. Support GFCM finning prohibition by enacting national regulations and monitoring their implementation & enforcement. | As soon as possible | Contracting Parties |
| 13. Monitor and protect critical habitats for chondrichthyan fishes, as soon as they are identified. | From 2014 to 2019 | Contracting Parties, MEAs, |
| <i>Monitoring and data collection</i> | | |
| 14. Promote existing research proposals developed under the RAC/SPA Action Plan to funding agencies; develop similar proposals for the Levantine basin. | 2014 | RAC/SPA, CPs, AP Partners |
| 15. Develop and support improved data collection efforts, particularly in southern and eastern Mediterranean | 2014 – 2015 | National and regional scientific bodies and cooperation agencies, GFCM, FAO |
| 16. Promote input and shared access to the MEDLEM database under the appropriate protocol. | From 2014 to 2019 | Contracting Parties, research institutes, GFCM |
| 17. Complete and disseminate inventories of critical habitats (mating, spawning and nursery grounds) | 2015 | Contracting Parties |
| 18. Increase compliance with obligations to collect and submit species-specific commercial catch and bycatch data to FAO and GFCM, including through increased use of observers. | From 2014 to 2015 | Contracting Parties |
| 19. Comply with obligations under GFCM Recommendations to collect and submit data on pelagic shark catches. | As soon as possible | Contracting Parties |
| 20. Improve programmes for the collection and reporting of data from coastal fisheries. | As soon as possible | Contracting Parties |

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| 21. Support expert participation in RFMO and other relevant meetings and workshops, to share expertise and build capacity for data collection, stock assessment and bycatch mitigation. | As soon as possible | Contracting Parties, RFMO, RAC/SPA |
| <i>Management and assessment procedures</i> | | |
| 22. Continuously review data and undertake new studies to clarify the status of Mediterranean endemics and large bodied species assessed as Data Deficient or Near Threatened | 2014, 2017 | Contracting Parties, Partners |
| 23. Monitor Critically Endangered, Endangered and endemic species | From 2014 to 2019 | Contracting Parties |
| 24. Submit to the GFCM annual Shark Assessment Reports describing all national target and/or bycatch fisheries | Every year | Contracting Parties |
| 25. Develop and adopt (where these do not exist) national Shark Plans and specific regulations for fisheries exploiting chondrichthyans, whether target or bycatch. | As soon as possible | Contracting Parties individually and through GFCM |
| 26. Develop a Regional Shark Plan and associated fisheries management regulations outside territorial waters. | 2015 | Contracting Parties, GFCM |
| 27. Review national and regional Shark Plans every four years | 2014, 2018 | Contracting Parties, GFCM |
| 29. Continue to implement programme for the development of stock assessments, by area and by species. | 2014, 2016, 2019 | Contracting Parties, GFCM |
| 30. Assessment of progress in the implementation of the Action Plan and update its timetable | 2019 | RAC/SPA, Contracting Parties |