

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introduction and meeting objectives

The objective of the meeting is to take stock of the assessments being prepared by UNEP/MAP with the support of national and regional experts, in view of supporting decision IG 17/6 of the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties on the "Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to the management of human activities that may affect the Mediterranean". Further agreement made at the second meeting of government-designated experts on the application of the ecosystem approach by the Mediterranean Action Plan, regarding implementation of the road map (Step 3) for the application of the Ecosystem Approach, outlined the assessment progress being reviewed herein.

A synthesis of the progress made will be presented, with discussion of how this progress fits in with the overall objective of establishing good environmental status objectives and developing plans for ecosystem-based management that addresses priority issues. Interim assessment reports on each of the four geographic areas agreed to earlier will be provided, and discussion of data gaps as well as constraints to undertaking assessments, will be expected to guide next steps in determining environmental status of Mediterranean ecosystems and furthering the road map towards an Ecosystem Approach.

DAY 1: THURSDAY, 8 APRIL 2010

Agenda Item 1: Registration of the participants (09:00-09:30)

Delegates are kindly asked to be in the Conference Room 15 minutes before the session starts.

Agenda Item 2: Opening of the Meeting (09:30-09.50)

The Meeting will take place at the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA), in "Sala Fazzini"- 1st floor (Via Curtatone, 3 - 00185 Rome) and will be opened by Ms Maria Luisa Silva Mejias, Officer-in-Charge/Deputy Coordinator of MAP and the representative of the Ministry for the Environment, Land, and Sea of Italy.

Agenda Item 3: Election of officers and adoption of the agenda (09:50-10:00)

The Rules and Procedures 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).

The Meeting shall elect a Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur. The Provisional Agenda (UNEP(DEPI)MED WG.347/1/Corr.1) and the Annotated Provisional Agenda (UNEP(DEPI) WG.347/2) will be reviewed, amended as necessary, and adopted by the Meeting. Simultaneous translation in English and French will be provided during the Meeting. While the Meeting will examine and is expected to adopt a list of Conclusions and Recommendations, a full report will be prepared by the Secretariat at a later stage and sent to all participants for comments and review before its adoption.

Agenda Item 4: Assessment of the ecological status of the Mediterranean: methodologies; link to table of contents; first assessment findings (10.00-18.00)

a) Progress on the implementation of the roadmap adopted by Decision IG 17/6 of the Contracting Parties for the application of ecosystem approach by MAP

The Secretariat will present key activities to date and outputs with regard to Decision IG 17/6 since the last meeting of the government-designated experts in July 2008.

Working document: Progress Report on the implementation of the roadmap adopted by Decision IG 17/6 of the Contracting Parties for the application of Ecosystem Approach (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.347/3)

b) Stocktaking

The Consultant will present findings regarding the assessment procedures being undertaken in the context of other relevant Ecosystem Approaches and Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) initiatives from around the world, including the principles adopted by the CBD, the processes undertaken by OSPAR and HELCOM, the actions detailed under the EU Marine Strategy Directive, and EBM-driven assessments from elsewhere in the world. This stock-taking synthesizes the steps taken to derive information needed to determine the environmental quality status of the Mediterranean (i.e. methodologies), including assessments targeting specific descriptors or classes of threat (as listed in the Table of Contents agreed to at the 2nd government-designated experts meeting), and meta-analysis across the four previously agreed geographic areas (preliminary assessment findings).

Following a 45 minute presentation by the ECAP Consultant, the Meeting is expected to discuss the assessment process and provide input regarding the implementation of the assessment approach, its applicability in the Mediterranean region as a whole, and its implications for further research, analysis, and policy development.

Information document: Stocktaking report: A state-of-the-art analysis of the ecosystem approach in the Mediterranean (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.347/Inf.3)

c) Total economic value of Mediterranean marine ecosystems

BP/RAC will present draft findings regarding ecosystem services of the Mediterranean, their economic value, and their link to various marine habitats of the Mediterranean. The Meeting is expected to provide feedback concerning the approach used and preliminary findings and make recommendations as appropriate.

Working document: Economic value of sustainable benefits coming from Mediterranean marine ecosystems (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.347/4)

d) Facilitated group discussion on assessment and the use of the assessment reports in furthering the road map

This portion of the Meeting is designed to present an opportunity to place the assessment work in the context of the roadmap and agreed-to goals for Mediterranean marine management. The Meeting is expected to compare the Mediterranean assessment processes to those undertaken in other contexts or in other regions, and to share experiences on how the work done by each participating country fits into the overarching EA process. The findings from the 4 geographic areas (to be reviewed in detail on Day 2) will be

linked to Basin-wide analyses, such as those undertaken by the BP/RAC in valuation of ecosystem services. Participants are expected to relate their own work to the other activities involved in the ECAP process and to review progress of initiatives against the timelines established.

DAY 2: FRIDAY, 9 APRIL 2010

Agenda Item 4: Assessment of the ecological status of the Mediterranean: methodologies; link to table of contents; first assessment findings (continued 09.00-16.00)

- e) Recap of Day 1 by the Secretariat, with any emergent recommendations**
- f) Presentations by MEDPOL and SPA/RAC on the rationale for what has been assessed regarding pollutants and biodiversity in the four areas**

Following each presentation by MEDPOL and SPA/RAC, participants are expected to ask questions and provide comments concerning the processes for these two classes of assessments.

- g) In-depth analysis of each area and identification of data gaps, with feedback from participants**

In the second meeting of government-designated experts, it was agreed that for assessment purposes only, the Mediterranean Basin would be subdivided into four loosely defined geographic areas: 1) Aegean-Levantine, 2) Ionian and Central Mediterranean, 3) Adriatic, and 4) Western Mediterranean. The Consultant, in concert with MEDPOL and SPA/RAC and associated regional experts, will summarize the assessments in each of these four areas.

The ECAP Consultant will make a presentation on main findings; priority issues that have emerged in the assessment process, data gaps, and implications that these sub-regional assessments have for completing Step 3 of the roadmap process in a timely fashion.

The Meeting is expected to provide input on the assessment and analytical approaches; comment on the working document presenting an integrated pre-assessment of each geographical area; review and comment on the specific information contained in the information documents (interim reports from each area), and provide input regarding the methodology for synthesizing findings, both within and across the four regions.

Feedback from participants would be obtained through facilitated plenary discussions. Discussion questions include:

- 1) How have assessment procedures varied from place to place, and why?
- 2) What are the constraints to undertaking assessments as agreed to in the government-designated experts meeting?
- 3) In which cases are assessments providing baseline information, and in which cases can they be used to determine trends or feed into development of scenarios?
- 4) How can the findings best be integrated to achieve step 3 in the roadmap process at the regional sea scale (Mediterranean Basin-wide)?
- 5) How can assessments addressed environmental quality status be complemented by analysis of existing management practices, in order to articulate information needed to guide an Ecosystem Approach?

The discussions are expected to result in a common understanding of constraints to carrying out assessments, as well as recommendations on adjustments that need to be made to the assessment process as it moves forward.

Working document: Pre-assessment reports for four subregions: Step 3 in the ECAP process (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.347/5)

Information documents: Draft Assessment Areas reports prepared by MEDPOL and SPA/RAC (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.347/Inf.4 and UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.347/Inf.5)

Agenda Item 5: Next steps: Finalization of the assessment process and beyond; other matters (16:00-17:00)

Recommendations that emerge from the discussions will be tabled and reviewed. The Meeting is expected to exchange views on how to proceed further and to guide adjustments in both the undertaking of assessments and the analysis of assessments for application in planning Ecosystem Approaches. The Meeting will also discuss any other matters that may be raised by the participants or the Secretariat.

Agenda Item 6: Adoption of recommendations (17:00-18:30)

While a full report will be prepared by the Secretariat at a later stage and sent to all participants for review and amendments as appropriate before its adoption, the Meeting will examine, amend as appropriate, and adopt a set of draft conclusions and recommendations which will be prepared by the Secretariat as a result of the discussions.

Agenda Item 7: Closure of the Meeting (18:30)

The Chairperson will close the Meeting at 18.30 hours on Friday 9 April 2010.

Note:

Coffee breaks: 10.30-10.50 and 16.30-16.50 hrs

Lunch breaks: 13.00-14.30 hrs