





## **Action justification**

### **Introduction**

In 2008 the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention recognized the need to better protect the ecosystems by progressively applying the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities that may affect the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment and adopted a roadmap for its implementation (Decision IG 17/6). The Ecosystems Approach is consistent with the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) the main objective of which being to achieve or maintain the Good Environmental Status (GES) of Member State marine waters by 2020. It is also fundamental to the “Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of Marine Environment, including Socio-Economic Aspects” established by the Resolution of the UN General Assembly and Law of the Sea (A/64/L.18).

A timeline for implementing the Ecosystem Approach until 2019 has been adopted by the 17th Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention next January 2012. A project funded by EC and UNEP/MAP ongoing since 2009 is supporting the implementation of the first steps of the roadmap. To continue the cooperation under the current project for the next three years (2012 to 2014) a proposal has been prepared by the MAP Secretariat in the framework of the EC-ENRTP process. The overall objective of this project is to facilitate substantive progress in the implementation of the ecosystem approach roadmap by all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in synergy with MSFD. This proposal involving several MAP’s components comprises work packages aiming at further supporting the development of good environmental status and targets for the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal region.

The project document describe several actions and their outputs. One of these outputs is entitled “Continued socio-economic assessment on ecosystem services and development of a common understanding amongst Contracting Parties ” and should be carried out by Blue Plan/ RAC.

This document presents the Terms of Reference of this action and describes its complementarities with some other related actions led by Blue Plan/ RAC, the whole contributing to improve the achievement of the ECAP-Med objectives.

### **Previous works**

Previously Blue Plan/RAC have contributed to the Initial Integrated Assessment of the Mediterranean Sea, corresponding to the step 3 of the Ecosystem Approach process, by a section entitled “The economic value of sustainable benefits rendered by the Mediterranean marine ecosystems”.

This exploratory study proposes a first initial value of sustainable services rendered by the Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems for human well-being, while clarifying the exercise limitations.

This approach has been generally regarded as relevant and realistic, as it enabled to deliver on time with the available resources both:

- Methodological bases according to the state of the art on these innovative issues.
- A structured analysis of sustainable services rendered by the Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems.
- A first appraisal of the main marine and coastal economic activities (fishing, tourism, recreation, protection of the marine and coastal).
- A review of available data and associated constraints.
- A first estimate of the sustainable monetary benefits.

## **Coherence with progress under the EU MSFD**

Seven Contracting Parties that are EU member states have the obligation to implement the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD, 2008/56/EC) the objectives of which are similar with those of the Barcelona convention and its Protocols and fully consistent with the Application by the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention of the Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean. Moreover, the EU MSFD clearly establishes a role for Regional Seas. In this respect, the MSFD requires Member States to cooperate and is promoting cooperation with and through the Regional Seas Conventions and specifically the Barcelona Convention in the Mediterranean Region. The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) states that, as part of the initial assessment, an economic and social analysis needs to be carried out of the use of Member State waters and of the cost of degradation of the marine environment.

## **Objectives of the Action**

In this context, Blue Plan/RAC will further develop a socio economic analysis of marine ecosystems uses, focusing on priority sectors such as fisheries, aquaculture, maritime transport, recreational activities, oil industry and offshore; the overall objective being to elaborate a common understanding and to foster a broad appropriation by Mediterranean riparian countries of the social and economic dimensions involved in the ECAP implementation.

This is especially important as a majority of Mediterranean riparian countries are not EU Member State and thus are not subjected to enforcement of supranational EU directives aiming at achievement or maintenance of the Good Environmental Status (GES). For these countries, programs of measures will be then decided at national level, as far as there will be convinced that this will be beneficial for them. MAP has a central role to be influential through implementation of ECAP in general and of this action specifically.

## **Links with the UN Regular Process on the state of the marine environment**

Based on a terms of reference to be agreed by parties at first Technical Experts Meeting in 2012, the socio-economic assessment will complement the ecosystems one and both be presented as a major Mediterranean contribution to the UN Regular Process of the General Assembly on the state of the marine environment including socio-economic aspects, in accordance with the Paris Declaration, adopted by COP17 in February 2012.

Despite the obvious economic benefits, the world's oceans are being degraded and continue to be threatened. Against this background there is a great deal of global concern for how adverse impacts on the marine and coastal environment and the goods and services they provide should be utilized in a sustainable manner. In response, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed in 2005, the need for a Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment (Assessment of Assessment – AoA) Based on the decisions of the Ad Hoc Steering Group of the AoA, the AoA should:

- cover relevant existing marine and coastal environmental assessments, including their ecological, social and economic aspects, at global and regional levels, complemented by available selected national assessments with broad geographical representation.
- be implemented through a critical analysis of the assessments in order to evaluate their scientific credibility, policy relevance, legitimacy and usefulness.

This action will contribute to cover the social and economic aspects specified in the AoA.

## Importance of the Action for ECAP implementation

Regionally, this action is very important for the definition of the program of measures needed to achieve the ECAP strategic objectives and will contribute among others to the development of targets at regional, sub-regional and national levels. This activity will enable the contracting parties to establish a common understanding and standards with regard to the analysis to be undertaken and impacts to be taken into account while deciding on targets as well as common methodologies including the scale of the assessment per ecological objectives adopted at COP17 in February 2012.

The proposed activities will involve elaborating a common understanding through close consultation and negotiation with countries including through the established ECAP structure and the establishment of an ad hoc working group with the Parties, as required. It will also require internal consultation and mobilization of technical external expertise, collaboration frames with the MAP system and other partners (IUCN, others) and workshops with the representatives of the contracting Parties.

## Action statement & approach

### Action Statement

This action will enable Blue Plan/RAC and thus UNEP/MAP to further develop the economic and social analysis involved in the ECAP implementation, in coherence with the European Union (EU) Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and specially Article 8(c). For those countries which are members of the EU, the project contributes to meet their obligations under the MSFD.

### Action Approach

This action will complement the integrated assessment by developing by 2014 a **socio-economic assessment** of the Mediterranean which further develops the preliminary study on ecosystem services carried out by Blue Plan/RAC during the previous project. Consideration of social and economic dimensions is important to elaboration the programs of measures aiming to achieve or maintain the Good Environmental Status.

EU MFSD is a source of inspiration for the implementation of ECAP-Med. As for ECAP, MFSD implementation require to make an initial assessment as a preparation of marines strategies to be implemented in order to achieve or maintain GES. Article 8(c) states that Member States shall make an initial assessment of their marine waters comprising an economic and social analysis of the use of those waters and of the cost of degradation of the marine environment. By contrast to the ECAP-Med project, which is a regional cooperation initiative involving the Mediterranean coastal states, MFSD should be implemented by MS following a Common Implementation Strategy. For this purpose, EC has initiated in due time several working groups (WG) in order to assist MS, in particular for the completion of the initial assessment. Representation includes mainly selected experts, Member States and Regional Sea Conventions. Blue Plan/RAC was designated to represented UNEP/MAP in the Economic and Social Analysis working group (ESA WG) whose the working plan runs till end of 2012. A first Guidance document has been issued end of 2010. If the economic and social analysis of the use of those waters is rather straightforward, different approaches to estimate the degradation costs have been proposed by participating MS, mainly: the ecosystem services approach, the thematic approach and the cost-based approach. The WG work has also stressed constraints due to paucity of relevant data and statistics, crucial both in method selection and quality insurance of the results. The on-going implementation of

these various approaches by MS will certainly provide useful experience for application at regional level in the frame of the present action.

### **Action program**

In this context, the program of activities is as follows:

- Preparation of the economic and social analysis at regional and sub-regional scale of the human activities (mainly fisheries, aquaculture, maritime transport, recreational activities, oil industry and offshore) using the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal zone, including the costs of degradation for human wealth in the absence of the implementation of the relevant actions plans and programmes of measures aiming to achieve or maintain GES (step 7 ECAP road map).
- Establishment of an Ad hoc working group for socio economic assessment gathering experts mandated by CP.
- Development of guidelines for national studies adapted to non MS, discussed with the Ad hoc working group.

Guidelines for national studies will be built as an adaptation to the Mediterranean context of the Guidance document produced by the ESA WG in the frame of the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS). Other sources of inspirations will be considered as results of relevant other WG of the MSFD CIS, the UN Regular Process of the General Assembly on the state of the marine environment including socio-economic aspects, OSPAR assessment, System of Environmental Economic Accounts... Adaptations will be mainly done for Non-MS and will bear on regional aspects such as specificities of the Mediterranean ecosystems or lack of data.

The Action Provisional Work Plan is presented in Annex 1.

### **Synergies with other related works**

This work will also be beneficial of potential synergies that will be developed with two related projects:

- A specific activity of the Regional – Governance and Knowledge generation Project. The ReGoKo project, mainly funded by a GEF grant of \$ 3 million, has been conceived to foster the integration of environmental issues into sectoral and development policies of Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia (present Beneficiaries). In coordination with the MAP/CU, Blue Plan/RAC has proposed a specific activity aiming to strengthen ECAP implementation and specially appropriation of EA principles by non MS. The project will consist in developing Pilot Cases within the three beneficiary countries. Pilot cases will aim to make an assessment bearing on an economic and social analysis of the use of the marine waters under their national jurisdictions. Experience gained within these Pilot cases will be discussed within the Ad hoc regional working group for socio economic assessment and will be valuable for the Development of guidelines for national studies adapted to non MS.
- The EC FP7 research project PERSEUS of the 7th Framework Programme for the topic OCEAN.2011-3: Assessing and predicting the combined effects of natural and human-made pressures in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea in view of their better governance. The project objective is to promote sustainable well-coordinated research efforts in order to characterize patterns of pressure in environmental and socio-economic terms on the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and to develop a framework for future implementation of adaptive policies and management schemes, while fostering international cooperation with neighbouring countries, in coherence with MSFD principles.

## Annex 1. Action Provisional Work Plan

Version 22/03/2012																																	
Months	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	
<b>Events</b>																																	
18th CoP																					*												
<b>Activities</b>																																	
Common understanding for socioeconomic assessment in ECAP, Ad'hoc regional working group		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Meetings of the Ad'hoc group			*														*													*			
<b>Regional scale</b>																																	
Socio-economic analysis of the uses of marine and coastal ecosystem at regional level		□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□																
Report at regional level, provisional, final														📖			📖																
<b>National level</b>																																	
Common understanding for socioeconomic analysis in ECAP at national level guidelines, provisional report, final report																	📖																📖

**Note :** The Common understanding for the socioeconomic assessment in ECAP at national level will also benefit from the three national Pilot Cases (Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon) envisaged in the frame of the ReGoKo project funded by GEF, as well as synergy with the FP7 research project PERSEUS.