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Second Meeting of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter

Barcelona, Spain, 9-10 November 2017

Agenda item 8: Communication and Visibility: Regional Node on Marine Litter

Terms of Reference of the Regional Node on Marine Litter

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1. The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), in the framework of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), is establishing Regional Nodes on Marine Litter to coordinate, assist and facilitate the establishment of cooperation mechanisms at regional level. This activity is in line with component 1 of project 323.1 “Global Partnership on Marine Litter – out of sight, out of mind? Changing the state of marine litter globally”.
2. In that view GPA/GPML is financially supporting UN Environment/MAP to establish a Regional/Mediterranean Node on Marine Litter which aims to support the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean.
3. The objectives of the Regional/Mediterranean Node on Marine Litter are to:
 - i. Enhance awareness of marine litter prevention and reduction measures and actions undertaken at the regional, national, and local levels;
 - ii. Strengthen the exchange of information and knowledge, along with the best practices and measures for prevention and reduction of marine litter in the Mediterranean;
 - iii. Establish linkages and synergies with the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML); and
 - iv. Enhance knowledge of GPML among local governments, NGOs/NPOs and local people in the Mediterranean.
4. The Mediterranean Node on Marine Litter will be hosted by the UN Environment/MAP website (<http://www.unep.org/unepmap/>), aiming to be a hub of knowledge and information on marine litter for the region.
5. The Mediterranean Node on Marine Litter could also facilitate the implementation by the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter to key elements set out in the joint work plan, mainly related to communication, visibility and awareness raising on marine litter.
6. MAP Secretariat is currently working in preparing and designing architecture of the Mediterranean Node on Marine Litter, before initiating the development of its web platform. During its preparatory phase, already existing marine litter nodes and hubs are taken into account; e.g. i) the Marine Litter Network (<http://marinelitternetwork.com/>) powered by the Global Partnership on Marine Litter; ii) the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (http://www.npec.or.jp/NWPacific_node/); iii) the WiKi Space of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) Technical Group on Marine Litter (TGML) (<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpifs/wikis/pages/viewpage.action?spaceKey=TGML&title=MSFD+Technical+Group+on+Marine+Litter>).
7. Currently, a number of Regional Nodes on Marine Litter are under development, which will also serve as a source of inspiration for the establishment of the Mediterranean Node of Marine Litter, such as the Pacific Regional Node for the Global Partnership on Marine Litter which is being prepared by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. Moreover, additional input from existing and upcoming marine litter platforms are welcomed.
8. At this stage the MAP Secretariat is working towards the following two directions:
 - i. Reviewing existing regional nodes on marine litter, and on other relevant themes, in order to prepare a proposal for the structure of the website of the Regional Node, and to define its different sections;
 - ii. Drafting the content of the different sections of the Regional/Mediterranean Node on Marine Litter.

9. The identified content will be as follows:
 - i. A summarized chapter on the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, including identification of relevant documents and provision of web links;
 - ii. A summarized chapter on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean based on the 2015 UN Environment/MAP Assessment Marine Litter Report, the EO10 QSR Factsheets, and also other relevant reports, publications and documents;
 - iii. A summarized chapter on the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean;
 - iv. A summarized chapter on the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast (IMAP) addressing the marine litter-related Ecological Objective (EO10) and the corresponding common and candidate indicators;
 - v. A summarized chapter on GPA/GPML including the Honolulu Strategy, the #CleanSeas Campaign, the MOOC on Marine Litter, etc.;
 - vi. A summarized chapter on public awareness including information on national/regional campaigns, smartphone applications etc.;
 - vii. A list of key publications and scientific papers for the Mediterranean taking into account all different aspects of marine litter and a compilation of electronic version files;
 - viii. A list of projects implemented in the Mediterranean, dealing with marine litter (including web links and short description);
 - ix. A summarized chapter on the Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Action Plan and related elements;
 - x. A summarized chapter on Circular Economy and related elements;
 - xi. A summarized chapter on the banning of single-use plastic bags and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), country coalitions and related elements;
 - xii. A summarized chapter on G7 and G20 Action Plans on Marine Litter;
 - xiii. A list of key prevention and reduction measures and best practices on marine litter, providing sort examples of their implementation in the Mediterranean countries;
 - xiv. A roster list of marine litter experts in the Mediterranean including profile and contact information;
10. The feedback, comments and proposals from the members of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean would be highly appreciated by the Secretariat, as the aim of the Mediterranean Node on Marine Litter is to be a place where all the information on marine litter for the Mediterranean is gathered and thus become available to all interested parties, stakeholders, communities, and individuals.
11. We envisage a very fruitful discussion on the Mediterranean Node on Marine Litter from the members of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter along with their proposal for additional items/elements to be included in the Mediterranean Node on Marine Litter.