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**United Nations  
Environment  
Programme**

**EP**



UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.131/2  
8 August 1997

Original: ENGLISH

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**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

Meeting of Experts on Criteria  
for the preparation of Inventories of  
the Elements of Biological Diversity  
in the Mediterranean Region

Athens, 8-10 September 1997

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

## ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

### Introduction

Section 2.1 of the Mediterranean Action Plan - Phase II and Articles 3.3 and 15 of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean contain provisions for the preparation of inventories of the elements of biological diversity important for its conservation and sustainable use. MAP Phase II also provides for such inventories to be prepared according to common criteria jointly established by the Contracting Parties.

The Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC) was invited by the Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Montpellier, 1-4 July 1996, to prepare common criteria and guidelines for the preparation of inventories of sites, species and other elements of biological diversity.

Within the fulfilment of this mandate, SPA/RAC established an *ad hoc* group of experts composed of representatives of international organizations competent in this domain, with a view to preparing a first draft of the criteria. The group met in Tunis on 6 and 7 March 1997, prepared a first draft of the criteria and issued recommendations on their further elaboration and the adoption of already existing criteria and standards.

The Meeting of the MAP National Focal Points held in Athens, 7-9 July 1997 invited SPA/RAC to finalize the criteria for submission and approval by the Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

The present meeting of experts on criteria for the preparation of inventories of the elements of biological diversity in the Mediterranean region is convened in Athens (Greece) from 8 to 10 September 1997 with the main objectives of further elaborating and finalizing the common criteria.

The following annotations to the proposed agenda for the present meeting were prepared by the Secretariat to assist the meeting in its deliberations.

### Agenda item 1 - Opening of the Meeting

The meeting will be opened at 9.30 hours on Monday, 8 September 1997, at the premises of the Co-ordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan, 48 Vassileos Konstantinou Avenue, Athens by the Co-ordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and the Director of SPA/RAC. All the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution have been invited through the National Focal Points for SPA to designate experts taking into account the specific subject of the meeting. Representatives of relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations have been invited to attend the meeting as observers.

**Agenda item 2 - Rules of Procedure**

The rules of procedure adopted for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution and its related protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6/annex XI) will apply *mutatis mutandis* to this meeting.

**Agenda item 3 - Election of officers**

The meeting shall elect from among the representatives of the Contracting Parties, a chairman, two vice-chairmen and a rapporteur.

**Agenda item 4 - Adoption of the Agenda and organization of work**

The Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat, appearing in document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.131/1 and annotated in the present document, will be proposed for adoption by the meeting. The meeting will review and adopt the proposed timetable appearing at the end of the present document.

Working languages will be English and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be available during the plenary sessions.

**Agenda item 5 - State of inventories/lists of the elements of biological diversity in the Mediterranean region**

The Secretariat will introduce this agenda item by presenting the main results of a preliminary assessment on existing inventories in the Mediterranean region. The representatives of the Contracting Parties will be invited to briefly report on the situation with regard to inventories relevant to marine and coastal biodiversity (notably species and sites) in their respective countries. The experts are kindly invited to provide the Secretariat with the elements of their report in written form during the meeting, for the purpose of the revision of the preliminary assessment. The revised version of the assessment report on existing inventories of marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean will be presented to the Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Tunis, November 1997).

**Agenda item 6 - Common criteria for the preparation of inventories of the elements of biological diversity in the Mediterranean region**

The secretariat will give a general introduction of the document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.131/3, "Draft common criteria for the preparation of inventories of the elements of biological diversity in the Mediterranean region". The meeting will be invited to consider the different sections of the document, as per the different sub-items detailed in the agenda, and to revise the draft criteria as appropriate. The criteria so finalized are expected to be proposed for consideration and adoption to the Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

**Agenda item 7 - Any other matter**

Possible other issues relevant to the subject of the meeting which might be brought to the attention of the meeting by the participants or by the Secretariat will be discussed under this agenda item.

**Agenda item 8 - Adoption of the report of the meeting**

A draft report of the meeting will be submitted to the participants for adoption.

**Agenda item 9 - Closure of the meeting**

The meeting is expected to be closed by the chairman at 18.00 hours on Wednesday, 10 September 1997.

### PROPOSED TIME SCHEDULE

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<i>Sessions</i>	<i>Agenda items</i>
<b><u>Monday 8 September 1997</u></b>	
Morning	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.1
Afternoon	6.2, 6.3
<b><u>Tuesday 9 September 1997</u></b>	
Morning	6.3, 6.4
Afternoon	6.5, 7
<b><u>Wednesday 10 September 1997</u></b>	
Morning	free (preparation of the report)
Afternoon 16.00	8, 9

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*Note: The meeting will be held at the premises of the Co-ordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan, 48 Vassileos Konstantinou Avenue, Athens, tel. (+30)(1) 7253190-5, fax (+30)(1) 7253197.*

*Morning sessions: 09.30 - 13.00*

*Afternoon sessions: 14.30 - 18.00*

*Coffee breaks: 11.00 and 16.00*