



UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.427/3



UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

18 September 2016
Original: English

Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Pollution Monitoring

Marseille, France, 19-21 October 2016

Agenda item 3: Implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme

Concept for the Quality Status Report

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Concept for the Preparation of the 2017 Quality Status Report (QSR2017) for the Mediterranean.

Introduction

1. The Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) including 23 Common Indicators and 4 Candidate Indicators was adopted at the Conference of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 19) in February 2016¹. The 2017 Quality Status Report (QSR2017) will be the first report on the IMAP-based Ecological Objectives and related common indicators. The UNEP/MAP Programme of Work adopted at COP 19 has a specific Output 1.4.1 “*Periodic assessments based on DPSIR approach and published addressing inter alia status quality of marine and coastal environment, interaction between environment and development as well as scenarios and prospective development analysis in the long run. These assessments include climate change-related vulnerabilities and risks on the marine and coastal zone in their analysis, as well as knowledge gaps on marine pollution, ecosystem services, coastal degradation, cumulative impacts and impacts of consumption and production.*” The specific activity for 2016-2017 is to “*Prepare and publish Quality Status Report (QSR) based on MAP EcAp-based EO and related common indicators*”

2. In view of IMAP implementation, several steps are required. These planned steps include:
 - i. the development of Indicator Guidance Factsheets for each of the IMAP Common indicators. These Guidance Factsheets will extract relevant information from the IMAP Guidance and will be reviewed and discussed at the CORMON meetings on Pollution, Biodiversity and Fisheries, and Coast and Hydrography planned for 2016 and early 2017;
 - ii. the revision of national monitoring programmes to be aligned with IMAP with the support from UNEP/MAP including EU funded ECAP MED II Project. European countries have undertaken this work as part of their obligation under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (EU-MSFD);
 - iii. the development of a UNEP/MAP IMAP data reporting system, linked to INFO/RAC's InfoMap platform; and
 - iv. the development of revised templates for data, meta-data and assessments for each IMAP common and candidate indicator, for future data management and assessments. These templates will be in line with the latest MSFD reporting template and will consider the data and assessment reporting of OSPAR and HELCOM. The draft templates will be discussed at the CORMON meetings with the view for countries to pilot for certain indicators. The results of these tests will be included in the QSR2017, and the final templates will be presented to MAP Focal Points and COP20 in 2017 for review and adoption.

3. Since the adoption of the IMAP decision at COP19, and given the IMAP implementation is still at an early phase, it is important to develop an approach for the QSR2017 which accommodates the short time available for preparation of this report and data gaps on some of the IMAP indicators, and also considers the approach taken by other Regional Seas (such as OSPAR and HELCOM), and global work such as ongoing work of the Regional Process on a second World Ocean Assessment(s) and the process on implementing the 2030 Agenda, especially in relation to oceans related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As countries are still in the process of revising their national monitoring programmes, it will not be possible to compile a full set of data for all IMAP indicators for the QSR2017. Therefore the most practical approach for the QSR2017 is to use all indicator data available and to complement and address gaps with inputs from numerous sources. In the initial steps additional sources of information will be identified and mapped, from other partners, the NAP reports, etc. A draft Table of Contents is presented in Annex 1 for review and guidance by the present meeting.

¹ UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/28. Decision IG.22/7: Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria

4. In parallel, a draft Indicator Assessment Template and Meta Data template will be developed (see Annex 2 for the first draft Indicator Assessment Template). These templates will be developed for discussion at the relevant CORMON meetings in 2016 and 2017 with the aim to review and also for countries to test or pilot these templates for certain indicators where data is available. The results of these tests will be included in the QSR2017, and the final templates will be presented to MAP Focal Points and COP20 in 2017 for review and adoption.

5. It is suggested to prepare the QSR2017 report as an online interactive report so that the report can be made widely available online, be visually appealing, include graphics and animations (such as time series maps of concentrations), and in addition to the main section, can have links to case studies, from Contracting Parties and also partners), or links to other databases and information sources. A Summary Report would also need to be prepared and published.

QSR2017 preparation process and timeline

6. A QSR2017 working group composed of all MAP components will ensure the technical coordination. This working group will assist in defining all relevant experts, data and information sources that will contribute to the QSR2017. A number of thematic experts (related to each Ecological Objective) may be recruited to support the drafting of the report.

7. The Contracting Parties, initially through the Biodiversity, Pollution, Litter, Coast and Hydrography CORMON meetings to be held in 2016 and 2017 (see Table 1) are expected to provide guidance and sources of information to contribute to the QSR2017. In addition Contracting Parties will be invited to review and then consider testing the Draft Indicator Assessment Template (Annex 2) for certain indicators. It should be noted that whilst IMAP has been adopted, as yet no meta-data and assessment templates have been presented to Contracting Parties for adoption. It is therefore suggested that whilst these templates are discussed in 2016-2017 in preparation for final adoption by the MAP Focal Points and Contracting Parties (COP20) in 2017, the draft templates are also tested and piloted as part of the process to develop the QSR2017. These national assessment pilots will then also be included in the QSR2017, as appropriate along with case studies from relevant initiatives and projects related to the Common indicators. The report is expected to be online, and this format will allow for, in addition to the core text of the report, to include links to national assessments and case studies as appropriate.

8. The review of the QSR2017 draft chapters in early 2017 will be undertaken by QSR2017 Working Group, the CORMON and then by MAP Component Focal Point meetings in 2017. The final draft will be reviewed by EcAp Coordination Group before submission to the MAP Focal Points meeting and publication for COP 20.

Table 1. Timeline

Timeline	Activity	Responsibility	Output
June '16	Concept, timeline and draft Table of Contents presented and discussed at the EcAp II Task Force meeting	CU/MEDPOL	Draft Concept and Table of contents revised and agreed internally
July- Sept '16	Components to elaborate on ToC, identify information and data sources, list of all partners to contribute and graphics and process.	All components as indicated on the Table of Content	Fully Annotated ToC
July - Sept'16	TOR(s) developed and agreed to support QSR,	Respective Component	Consultant recruited to support the process as need be
Mid Nov'2016	Working paper for the CORMON Biodiversity and ICZM for discussion on sources of information	SPA RAC and PAP RAC in collaboration with key partners	Working paper for the attention of SPA and PAP RAC FP and relevant CORMON meetings/on line consultation
Oct 16	ToRs developed for online QSR and publication preparation including graphics etc.		Elaborated ToRs for online QSR and publication
Oct '16	CORMON Contaminants and Eutrophication	MEDPOL	Review of working paper on inputs to QSR
Oct 16	83 rd Meeting of the Bureau (26-27 Oct) to review QSR Concept and timeline	UNEP/MAP	Review of the proposed process for QSR preparation
Jan '17	1 st draft QSR preparation ready for QSR WG/EcAp Task Force review		First draft reviewed
Feb '17	CORMON Marine Litter meeting Oct '16 to review the first draft of ML chapter		Draft chapter on ML reviewed and cleared as appropriate
April '17	1 st complete draft Online QSR and publication preparation ready for QSR WG/EcAp Task Force		Draft online QSR and publication reviewed
May-June '17	QSR chapters presented for review by MAP component FP meetings (MEDPOL, PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu, SPA/RAC, REMPEC) (Pending available resources it may also envisaged to organize an integrated CORMON meeting to review the final version of the QSR before its submission to the EcAp Coordination Group).		Review and agreement of QSR for submission to EcAp Coordination Group
July '17	Final revision and translation into French		Final QSR in English and French
Sept '17	QSR submitted to EcAp CG (4 Sept) and MAP FP (5-6 Sept) meetings		
Dec '17	Final QSR launched at COP20		

Annex I
Draft Annotated Table of Contents for the QSR2017

Draft Annotated Table of Contents for the QSR2017

It is proposed that the Table of Contents of the QSR2017 combines the 2016-2021 Mid-Term Strategy Themes with the IMAP Ecological Objectives and indicators.

1.	Introduction	
1.1.	UNEP/MAP and the Barcelona Convention	
1.2.	The Ecosystem Approach and the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme.....	
1.3.	Other key global and regional processes (i.e. MSSD, MSFD, SD's etc)	
1.4.	Assessment process and method including integration	
2.	Environmental Characteristics	
2.1.	The Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment and Climate Change	
3.	Socioeconomic characteristics of the Mediterranean	
4.	Core theme 1: Land and Sea-based Pollution.....	
4.1	Eutrophication (EO 5)	
4.1.1	Common Indicator 13: Concentration of key nutrients in water column (EO5)	
4.1.2	Common Indicator 14: Chlorophyll-a concentration in water column (EO5).....	
4.1.3	Overall conclusions and integration of results for EO5	
4.2	Pollution (EO 9)	
4.2.1	Common Indicator 17: Concentration of key harmful contaminants measured in the relevant matrix (EO9, related to biota, sediment, seawater)	
4.2.2	Common Indicator 18: Level of pollution effects of key contaminants where a cause and effect relationship has been established (EO9).....	
4.2.3	Common Indicator 19: Occurrence, origin (where possible), extent of acute pollution events (e.g. slicks from oil, oil products and hazardous substances), and their impact on biota affected by this pollution (EO9).....	
4.2.4	Common Indicator 20: Actual levels of contaminants that have been detected and number of contaminants which have exceeded maximum regulatory levels in commonly consumed seafood (EO9);	
4.2.5	Common Indicator 21: Percentage of intestinal enterococci concentration measurements within established standards (EO9)	
4.2.6	Other Pollution Related issues: Dumping of waste	
4.2.7	Overall conclusions and integration of results for EO9	
4.3	Marine Litter (EO 10).....	
4.3.1	Common Indicator 23: Trends in the amount of litter in the water column including microplastics and on the seafloor (EO10)	
4.3.2	Common Indicator 24: Trends in the amount of litter ingested by or entangling marine organisms focusing on selected mammals, marine birds, and marine turtles (EO10).....	
4.3.3	Overall conclusions and integration of results for EO10	
4.4	Underwater energy; noise (EO 11).....	
4.4.1	Candidate Indicator 26: Proportion of days and geographical distribution where loud, low, and mid-frequency impulsive sounds exceed levels that are likely to entail significant impact on marine animals	
4.4.2	Candidate Indicator 27: Levels of continuous low frequency sounds with the use of models as appropriate	
4.4.3	Overall conclusions and integration of results for EO11	
5.	Core theme 2: Biodiversity and Ecosystems	
5.1	Biodiversity and ecosystems (EO 1)	
5.1.1	Common Indicator 1: Habitat distributional range (EO1) to also consider habitat extent as a relevant attribute.....	
5.1.2	Common Indicator 2: Condition of the habitat's typical species and communities (EO1)	

5.1.3	Common Indicator 3: Species distributional range (EO1 related to marine mammals, seabirds, marine reptiles).....	
5.1.4	Common Indicator 4: Population abundance of selected species (EO1, related to marine mammals, seabirds, marine reptiles)	
5.1.5	Common Indicator 5: Population demographic characteristics (EO1, e.g. body size or age class structure, sex ratio, fecundity rates, survival/mortality rates related to marine mammals, seabirds, marine reptiles).....	
5.1.6	Overall conclusions and integration of results for EO1	
5.2	Non-indigenous species (EO2).....	
5.2.1	Trends in abundance, temporal occurrence, and spatial distribution of non-indigenous species, particularly invasive, non-indigenous species, notably in risk areas (EO2, in relation to the main vectors and pathways of spreading of such species in the water column and seabed, as appropriate)	
5.3	Harvest of commercially exploited fish and shellfish (EO3)	
5.4	Marine Food webs (EO4).....	
5.4.1	Work undertaken to define indicators, key pressures and drivers	
5.4.2	Policy Context and Targets	
5.4.3	Results of the assessment	
5.4.4	Conclusions and identification of gaps.....	
5.5	Sea floor integrity (EO6).....	
5.5.1	Work undertaken to define indicators, key pressures and drivers	
5.5.2	Policy Context and Targets	
5.5.3	Results of the assessment	
5.5.4	Conclusions and identification of gaps.....	
6.	Core theme 3: Land and Sea Interaction and Processes	
6.1	Hydrography (EO7).....	
6.1.1	Common Indicator 15: Location and extent of the habitats impacted directly by hydrographic alterations (EO7)	
6.2	Coastal ecosystems and landscapes (EO8).....	
6.2.1	Common Indicator 16: Length of coastline subject to physical disturbance due to the influence of man-made structures (EO8)	
6.2.2	Candidate Indicator 25: Land use change (EO8).....	
6.2.3	Overall conclusions and integration of results for EO8	
7.	Ecosystem assessment outlook.....	
8.	Conclusions and recommendations	
	Data template and Metadata	

1. Introduction

- 1.1. UNEP/MAP and the Barcelona Convention
- 1.2. The Ecosystem Approach and the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme
- 1.3. Other key global and regional processes (i.e. MSSD, MSFD, SD's etc)
- 1.4. Assessment process and method including integration

2. Environmental Characteristics

- 2.1. The Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment and Climate Change

3. Socioeconomic characteristics of the Mediterranean

4. Core theme 1: Land and Sea-based Pollution

4.1. Eutrophication (EO 5)

4.1.1 Common Indicator 13: Concentration of key nutrients in water column (EO5)

- 4.1.1.1 Background and rationale for the indicator, key pressures and drivers
- 4.1.1.2 Policy Context and Targets
- 4.1.1.3 Results of the assessment
- 4.1.1.4 Conclusions and identification of gaps.

4.1.2 Common Indicator 14: Chlorophyll-a concentration in water column (EO5)

- 4.1.1.1 Background and rationale for the indicator, key pressures and drivers
- 4.1.1.2 Policy Context and Targets
- 4.1.1.3 Results of the assessment
- 4.1.1.4 Conclusions and identification of gaps.

4.1.3 Overall conclusions and integration of results for EO5

4.2. Pollution (EO 9)

4.2.1 Common Indicator 17: Concentration of key harmful contaminants measured in the relevant matrix (EO9, related to biota, sediment, seawater)

- 4.2.1.1 Background and rationale for the indicator, key pressures and drivers
- 4.2.1.2 Policy Context and Targets
- 4.2.1.3 Results of the assessment
- 4.2.1.4 Conclusions and identification of gaps.

4.2.2 Common Indicator 18: Level of pollution effects of key contaminants where a cause and effect relationship has been established (EO9)

- 4.2.2.1 Background and rationale for the indicator, key pressures and drivers
- 4.2.2.2 Policy Context and Targets
- 4.2.2.3 Results of the assessment
- 4.2.2.4 Conclusions and identification of gaps.

4.2.3 Common Indicator 19: Occurrence, origin (where possible), extent of acute pollution events (e.g. slicks from oil, oil products and hazardous substances), and their impact on biota affected by this pollution (EO9)

- 4.2.3.1 Background and rationale for the indicator, key pressures and drivers
- 4.2.3.2 Policy Context and Targets
- 4.2.3.3 Results of the assessment

4.2.3.4 Conclusions and identification of gaps.

4.2.4 Common Indicator 20: Actual levels of contaminants that have been detected and number of contaminants which have exceeded maximum regulatory levels in commonly consumed seafood (EO9):

4.2.4.1 Background and rationale for the indicator, key pressures and drivers

4.2.4.2 Policy Context and Targets

4.2.4.3 Results of the assessment

4.2.4.4 Conclusions and identification of gaps.

4.2.5 Common Indicator 21: Percentage of intestinal enterococci concentration measurements within established standards (EO9)

4.2.5.1 Background and rationale for the indicator, key pressures and drivers

4.2.5.2 Policy Context and Targets

4.2.5.3 Results of the assessment

4.2.5.4 Conclusions and identification of gaps.

4.2.6 Other Pollution Related issues: Dumping of waste

4.2.6.1 Background and rationale, key pressures and drivers

4.2.6.2 Policy Context and Targets

4.2.6.3 Results of the assessment

4.2.6.4 Conclusions and identification of gaps.

4.2.7 Overall conclusions and integration of results for EO9

4.3. Marine Litter (EO 10)

4.3.1 Common Indicator 23: Trends in the amount of litter in the water column including micro plastics and on the seafloor (EO10)

4.3.1.1 Background and rationale for the indicator, key pressures and drivers

4.3.1.2 Policy Context and Targets

4.3.1.3 Results of the assessment

4.3.1.4 Conclusions and identification of gaps.

4.3.2 Common Indicator 24: Trends in the amount of litter ingested by or entangling marine organisms focusing on selected mammals, marine birds, and marine turtles (EO10)

4.3.2.1 Background and rationale for the indicator, key pressures and drivers

4.3.2.2 Policy Context and Targets

4.3.2.3 Results of the assessment

4.3.2.4 Conclusions and identification of gaps.

4.3.3 Overall conclusions and integration of results for EO10

4.4. Underwater energy; noise (EO 11)

4.4.1 Candidate Indicator 26: Proportion of days and geographical distribution where loud, low, and mid-frequency impulsive sounds exceed levels that are likely to entail significant impact on marine animals

4.4.1.1 Background and rationale for the indicator, key pressures and drivers

4.4.1.2 Policy Context and Targets

4.4.1.3 Results of the assessment

4.4.1.4 Conclusions and identification of gaps.

4.4.2 Candidate Indicator 27: Levels of continuous low frequency sounds with the use of models as appropriate

4.4.2.1 Background and rationale for the indicator, key pressures and drivers

4.4.2.2 Policy Context and Targets

4.4.2.3 Results of the assessment

4.4.2.4 Conclusions and identification of gaps.

4.4.3 Overall conclusions and integration of results for EO11

5. **Core theme 2: Biodiversity and Ecosystems**

5.1. **Biodiversity and ecosystems (EO 1)**

5.1.1 Common Indicator 1: Habitat distributional range (EO1) to also consider habitat extent as a relevant attribute

5.1.1.1 Background and rationale for the indicator, key pressures and drivers

5.1.1.2 Policy Context and Targets

5.1.1.3 Results of the assessment

5.1.1.4 Conclusions and identification of gaps.

5.1.2 Common Indicator 2: Condition of the habitat's typical species and communities (EO1)

5.1.2.1 Background and rationale for the indicator, key pressures and drivers

5.1.2.2 Policy Context and Targets

5.1.2.3 Results of the assessment

5.1.2.4 Conclusions and identification of gaps.

5.1.3 Common Indicator 3: Species distributional range (EO1 related to marine mammals, seabirds, marine reptiles)

5.1.3.1 Background and rationale for the indicator, key pressures and drivers

5.1.3.2 Policy Context and Targets

5.1.3.3 Results of the assessment

5.1.3.4 Conclusions and identification of gaps.

5.1.4 Common Indicator 4: Population abundance of selected species (EO1, related to marine mammals, seabirds, marine reptiles)

5.1.4.1 Background and rationale for the indicator, key pressures and drivers

5.1.4.2 Policy Context and Targets

5.1.4.3 Results of the assessment

5.1.4.4 Conclusions and identification of gaps.

5.1.5 Common Indicator 5: Population demographic characteristics (EO1, e.g. body size or age class structure, sex ratio, fecundity rates, survival/mortality rates related to marine mammals, seabirds, marine reptiles)

5.1.5.1 Background and rationale for the indicator, key pressures and drivers

5.1.5.2 Policy Context and Targets

5.1.5.3 Results of the assessment

5.1.5.4 Conclusions and identification of gaps.

5.1.6 Overall conclusions and integration of results for EO1

5.2. Non-indigenous species (EO 2)

5.2.1 Trends in abundance, temporal occurrence, and spatial distribution of non-indigenous species, particularly invasive, non-indigenous species, notably in risk areas (EO2, in relation to the main vectors and pathways of spreading of such species in the water column and seabed, as appropriate)

5.2.1.1 Background and rationale for the indicator, key pressures and drivers

5.2.1.2 Policy Context and Targets

5.2.1.3 Results of the assessment

5.2.1.4 Conclusions and identification of gaps.

5.3. Harvest of commercially exploited fish and shellfish (EO 3)

5.3.1.1 Work undertaken to define indicators, key pressures and drivers

5.3.1.2 Policy Context and Targets

5.3.1.3 Results of the assessment

5.3.1.4 Conclusions and identification of gaps.

5.4. Marine Food webs (EO 4)

5.4.1 Work undertaken to define indicators, key pressures and drivers

5.4.2 Policy Context and Targets

5.4.3 Results of the assessment

5.4.4 Conclusions and identification of gaps.

5.5. Sea floor integrity (EO 6)

5.5.1 Work undertaken to define indicators, key pressures and drivers

5.5.2 Policy Context and Targets

5.5.3 Results of the assessment

5.5.4 Conclusions and identification of gaps.

6. Core theme 3: Land and Sea Interaction and Processes

6.1. Hydrography (EO 7)

6.1.1 Common Indicator 15: Location and extent of the habitats impacted directly by hydrographic alterations (EO7)

6.1.1.1 Work undertaken to define indicators, key pressures and drivers

6.1.1.2 Policy Context and Targets

6.1.1.3 Results of the assessment

6.1.1.4 Conclusions and identification of gaps.

6.2. Coastal ecosystems and landscapes (EO 8)

6.2.1 Common Indicator 16: Length of coastline subject to physical disturbance due to the influence of man-made structures (EO8)

6.2.1.1 Work undertaken to define indicators, key pressures and drivers

6.2.1.2 Policy Context and Targets

6.2.1.3 Results of the assessment

6.2.1.4 Conclusions and identification of gaps.

6.2.2 Candidate Indicator 25: Land use change (EO8)

6.2.2.1 Work undertaken to define indicators, key pressures and drivers

6.2.2.2 Policy Context and Targets

6.2.2.3 Results of the assessment

6.2.2.4 Conclusions and identification of gaps.

6.2.3 Overall conclusions and integration of results for EO8

7. Ecosystem assessment outlook

8. Conclusions and recommendations

Annex II
Draft Indicator Assessment Template

Annex 2. Draft Indicator Assessment Template

Introduction

The approach for the development of Quality Status Reports should be based on common indicators assessment fact sheets that will allow assessments to be linked via metadata to the underlying datasets, methods, authors, increasing transparency, and repeatability. It will be linked and published on the UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention Integrated Data and Information System.

Table 2 is a draft Indicator Assessment Template. It has been developed in consideration of the following documents:

- Common Indicator Assessment Model Fact Sheet included in the Monitoring and Assessment Guidance presented at COP19, February 2016 (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/Inf.7)
- Table 2 MSFD indicator schema updated draft outline adopted at the 18th Meeting of the Marine Strategy Coordination Group (MSCG) in April 2016 (MSCG_18-2015-08)
- OSPAR's IA2017 template for Common Indicator Assessment Sheet
- The H2020 Indicators Fact Sheets developed and presented at the UNEP/MAP MED POL Regional meeting on PRTR and Pollution indicators in June 2014 (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.399/4)

This draft Assessment template will be initially presented and reviewed at the various CORMON meetings in 2016 and early 2017, and based on review and feedback it is proposed that countries pilot the completion of these templates for the QSR2017. The final template will then be presented to the MAP Focal Points meeting for adoption in 2017, to be then used as the basis for future reporting.

The metadata reporting template will be developed in October 2016 for review through the CORMON.

Table 2 Indicator Assessment Template

Field	Data Type	Explanation
General		
Country reporting		
Ecological Objective	Text	Name of Ecological Objective(s). <i>Tick from check-list of all EO (to be included in next version)</i>
IMAP Indicator	Text	Name of IMAP indicator
Contributing countries	text	List of contributing countries (only if for joint monitoring)
Methods		
Background (short)	Text	Background and rationale for the indicator, key pressures and drivers
Background extended	Text	Additional background with technical background and include scientific references
Assessment methods	Text	Description of methods used to calculate the indicator and deliver the assessment
Policy context and targets		
Policy context description	text	Short description on national policy context
Targets	text	Description of National and Regional Policy targets
Policy documents		List all key National and Regional Policy documents
Findings		
Key assessment	Text	Key messages, assessment results (text and graphic form), trend analysis and conclusions presented primarily as text Longer description of assessment results by assessment/reporting units

Field	Data Type	Explanation
Key messages	Text	Short descriptions of indicator outcome, e.g. trends, outcome against assessment threshold
Results and Status	Text and figures	Textual description of assessment results, could include graphics i.e. Shape file or WFS
Trend	Text and figures	Textual description of assessment trend, could include graphics
Conclusions		
Conclusions (brief)		
Conclusions (extended)		
Knowledge gaps (brief)		
Knowledge gaps (extended)		
Recommendations		