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**Mediterranean  
Action Plan**  
Barcelona  
Convention

9 September 2021  
Original: English

Meeting of the MAP Focal Points

Teleconference, 10-17 September 2021

**Agenda Item 5: Specific Matters for Consideration and Action by the Meeting, including Draft Decisions**

**Outcome of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group (Teleconference, 9 September 2021)**

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UNEP/MAP  
Athens, 2021



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**Mediterranean  
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8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group

Teleconference, 9 September 2021

**Note by the Secretariat**

The Annex to the present note sets out the agreed Conclusions and Recommendations of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group (EcAp CG), 9 September 2021, as adopted by the Meeting.

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## Conclusions and Recommendations of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group

### Introduction

1. In accordance with POW 2020/2022 the meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group was held on 9 September 2021 via teleconference.
2. Following the review and discussions of all agenda items, the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group (EcAp CG) agreed on the following conclusions and recommendations:

### Agenda Item 3: Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap

3. The Meeting acknowledged the progress achieved in the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap and of related Decisions of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, in particular the preparatory work for, and the implementation of, national monitoring programmes by the Contracting Parties and delivery of related quality assured data.
4. Considering the primary importance of monitoring data reporting in line with several decisions of COP 19, 20 and 21, the Meeting called upon all Contracting parties to respond to the data call issued by the Secretariat in June 2020, in line with the agreed timeline.
5. The Meeting discussed the elements and the proposal on possible ways and approaches to strengthen the governance mechanism established to guide and contribute to the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap and recommended that EcAp Coordination Group composition is generally reconfirmed at the level of MAP Focal Points and the meeting is held annually online to review progress and discuss policy directions related to implementation of ecosystem approach Roadmap implementation, as well as all related documentations aimed at submission to COPs and or technical documents with policy impact. The rest of the technical documentation could be left for review and approval by CORMONs and respective Component Focal Points as appropriate and when in line with their mandates.
6. The Meeting agreed with the proposal of the secretariat to strengthen CORMON by adding to their mandate important elements/ scientific aspects of the CORGEST mandate; it acknowledged the added value of the work of the Online Working Groups (OWG) on the understanding as flexible arrangements aiming at supporting and facilitating the work of CORMONs and the Secretariat and working under clear CORMON directions and timeline. The meeting was also in agreement with the continuation of CORESA on an *ad hoc* basis considering the possibility for expanding its mandate to cover socio economic aspects of assessment and related programmes of measures (Annex I).
7. The meeting agreed to transmit to the MAP FP meeting for their consideration the Annex contained in these Conclusions and Recommendations for inclusion in the draft Decision IG.25/3 on Governance. The meeting also requested the Secretariat to further work on the preparation of terms of reference (ToRs) during the next biennium to better specify the scope, mandate and composition of the EcAp Governance mechanism EcAp Coordination Group, CORMONs online working groups and CORESA including the relationship between CORMONs and online working groups for the consideration of EcAp CG meeting in 2022.
8. Finally, the meeting appreciates the work undertaken by CORMONs during the last biennium addressing important issues for the implementation and further development of IMAP, Science Policy Interface (SPI), and strengthening the regional and subregional collaboration.
9. The meeting acknowledges the effort made to enhance the synergies with the relevant work on monitoring and assessment undertaken by Regional Seas at global and regional level, EU MSFD with the view to benefit from existing good practices and lessons learnt and project the Mediterranean work for the

implementation of IMAP noting that only the Contracting Parties which are members of the EU are bound by MSFD requirements and tools.

10. The meeting requested the Secretariat to develop, in collaboration with relevant partners, a list of Common Indicators, the monitoring and assessment specifics of marine food web (EO4) and sea floor integrity (EO6).

#### **Agenda Item 4: State of Play in the Implementation of the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap**

11. The meeting reviewed Working Document UNEP/MED WG.514/04 “Implementation of the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap”, supported by UNEP/MED WG.514/Inf.8. The Meeting thanked the Secretariat for its work and called upon Contracting Parties, CORMONs and the Secretariat and MAP component to continue working effectively to successfully deliver the MED QSR 2023 as indicated in its Roadmap approved by COP 21 in Naples Italy. The Meeting called upon Contracting Parties to submit their data to the IMAP Info System.

12. The meeting also appreciated the work undertaken to involve several partners in the process of 2023 MED QSR preparation in particular the scientific community under the substantive direction of CORMONs and coordination by the Secretariat.

#### **Agenda Item 5: 2023 MED QSR Development Approach and Structure, and Communication and Visibility Strategy**

13. The Meeting reviewed and endorsed the Working Document UNEP/MED WG.514/05 “2023 MED QSR methodology, outline, structure and contents” as contained in these Conclusions and Recommendations, recommending a number of adjustments including: the addition of underwater noise; reflecting how the DPSIR will be approached at level of EO; to strengthen the link between hydrography and biodiversity particularly regarding habitats; and exploring the possibility for including seafloor integrity, recognizing the EO6 was under development with clear links between the common indicators fact sheet, to undertake assessment for the biodiversity component, i.e., for species. Other adjustments are shown in Annex II.

14. The Meeting reviewed and endorsed with minor changes the Working Document UNEP/MED WG.514/06 and the priority activities and opportunities for wide dissemination and high visibility of the 2023 MED QSR at regional and global levels to promote the findings of the 2023 MED QSR on the status of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast, in order to support evidence-based marine and coastal management, and advocate policies and measures based on this enhanced knowledge to underpin efforts aimed at achieving the Good Environmental Status (GES) in the Mediterranean and promote harmonized assessment across regional seas (Annex III).

#### **Agenda Item 6: Technical Guiding Elements on IMAP Implementation: Assessment Criteria and Scales, Thresholds, Baseline Values**

15. The Meeting reviewed Working Document UNEP/MED WG.514/07 “Updated Baseline Values and Proposal for Threshold Values for IMAP Common Indicator 22”. The Meeting thanked the Secretariat for updating the Baseline Values (BV) and proposing Threshold Values (TV) further to a commonly agreed methodology. The Meeting endorsed the Working Document UNEP/MED WG.514/07 and the proposed Baseline and Threshold Values for IMAP Common Indicator 22 and recommended its submission to COP22 for adoption (Annex IV).

16. The meeting reviewed the Working Documents on Background (Assessment) Concentrations (BC/BAC) for Common Indicator 17 and upgraded approach for Environmental Assessment Criteria (EAC) for IMAP Common Indicators 17, 18 and 20 (UNEP/MED WG.514/8, supported by UNEP/MED WG.514/Inf.9). The Meeting appreciated the work undertaken by the Secretariat and took note of the document with the understanding there is a validation process with CORMONs, and on that understanding,

to use it as a basis towards development and testing of the methodologies for GES assessment related to Ecological Objectives 9 and 10 within the preparation of the inputs for 2023 MED QSR. This will depend on the progress in new data reporting from the Contracting Parties into IMAP Info System, and provision of their support through the OWG on Contaminants regarding analysis and testing of proposed values of the assessment criteria for application of GES assessment methodology.

17. The Meeting reviewed the Working Documents on Assessment Criteria Methodology for IMAP Common Indicator 13: Pilot Application in Adriatic Sub-region (UNEP/MED WG.514/9, supported by UNEP/MED WG.514/Inf.10). The Meeting appreciated the work undertaken by the Secretariat and took note of the document with the understanding there is a validation process with CORMONS and on that understanding, to use as a basis for progressing towards setting the assessment criteria for DIN and TP within the preparation of the inputs for 2023 MED QSR. This will depend on the progress in new data reporting from the Contracting Parties into IMAP Info System and provision of the support through the OWG on Eutrophication regarding elaboration and testing of proposed methodological approaches for setting boundary values, including relevant statistical approaches, as suitable for specific areas in Mediterranean sub-regions.

18. The Meeting acknowledged the progress with regards to assessment scales, baseline and threshold values on common indicators 3, 4 and 5 related to marine mammals and sea turtles (UNEP/MED WG.514/inf.11 and WG.514/inf.12) and encouraged SPA/RAC and CORMON on biodiversity, to continue working, including through the mobilization of national expertise via the informal online working group, and use the findings for the preparation of the inputs for the 2023 MED QSR.

19. The Meeting endorsed the revised guidance fact sheets for the IMAP Common Indicator 6 related to Non-Indigenous Species as annexed to these conclusions and recommendations and requested the Secretariat to use it for the development of the 2023 MED QSR.

#### **Agenda Item 7: IMAP Data Policy**

20. The Meeting reviewed the Working Document UNEP/MED WG.514/11 “Elements for IMAP Data Policy”. The Meeting noted specific metric annexes related to all the UNEP/MAP data flows managed by INFO/RAC will be developed during the next biennium and will complement the general MAP Data Policy. The Meeting called upon Contracting Parties give the maximum availability and priority to the participation in the IMAP data policy definition process in order to establish a common and efficient data management to achieve and share the essential knowledge base for the Mediterranean Sea needed for next QSR. The Meeting endorsed the IMAP Data Policy as annexed to these conclusions and recommendations and recommended its submission to COP22 for adoption.

21. Reaffirming the central role of INFO/RAC Focal Points in the coordination of the IMAP user network to facilitate and harmonize IMAP monitoring data collection and sharing, the meeting reviewed and endorsed UNEP/MED WG.514/11 as contained in the Conclusions and Recommendations of this meeting and welcomed the elaboration (in the biennium 2022-2023) of a specific IMAP data policy to complement the MAP Data Policy submitted to MAP Focal Points Meeting.

22. The Meeting appreciated the work done by the IMAP help desk of INFO/RAC, providing and ensuring a continuous technical support to Contracting Parties to facilitate understanding, access, and use of the IMAP Info System and committed to provide availability to participate into the ongoing Training/Assistance meetings organized by INFO/RAC.

23. The Meeting welcomed the engagement of the Contracting Parties in the IMAP reporting and agreed to timely inform the Secretariat and the MAP Components about the state of play of the availability of monitoring data in each country, used sources and level of ongoing submission in order to facilitate the right support by Secretariat and MAP Components.

24. The meeting took note that MEDPOL Info System is no longer operational and the existing MEDPOL data flows have been replaced by the correspondent data submission to the IMAP Info System (Common Indicators for Pollution and Marine Litter). The Meeting encouraged Contracting Parties to check the availability of previous data, converted and migrated by INFO/RAC from the MEDPOL Info System to the IMAP Info System and to report data in it according to the new Data Standards templates, in the case of new data or for past data never shared.

#### **Any Other Business**

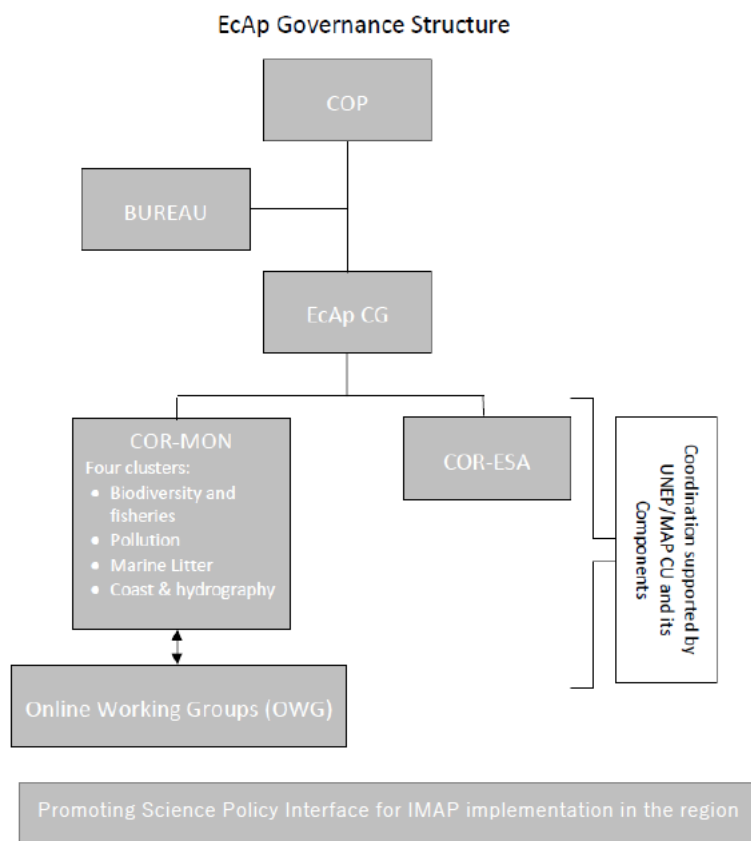
25. The meeting requested the Secretariat to prepare and disseminate the Calendar with a view to mobilize interest and timely participation of the CPs and Partners

#### **Closure of the Meeting**

26. The Chair closed the Meeting at 18:30, on Thursday, 9 September 2021

## Annex I

### EcAp governance structure



The EcAp Coordination Group (EcAp CG) consisting of MAP Focal Points integrates and gives guidance to the work under the Barcelona Convention:

a) On the delivery of the ecosystem approach, making sure that all elements for its implementation are taken into account, weighting of priorities and resource implications; and

b) Coordinating Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP's facilitation role, in support of Contracting Parties in their implementation of EcAp.

Two Correspondence Groups are formed in the process of application of EcAp in the Mediterranean and to support EcAP Coordination Group:

1. The Correspondence Group on Monitoring (**COR MON**) composed of national experts designated by the Contracting Parties, and coordinated by Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP Coordinating Unit and MED POL, working to ensure efficient coverage and in-depth discussions and analysis regarding integrated monitoring and assessment.

2. The Correspondence Group on Economic and Social Analysis (**COR ESA**) is composed of national experts designated by the Contracting Parties and invited experts, and coordinated by Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP Coordinating Unit and BP/RAC. It develops a socioeconomic analysis of marine

*ecosystems uses, focusing on priority sectors such as fisheries, aquaculture, maritime transport, recreational activities, and oil industry and offshore and address as appropriate the socioeconomic aspects related to the formulation and implementation of programmes of measures to achieve/maintain good environmental status (GES)*

*3. Informal Online Working Groups (OWG) composed of experts and scientists nominated by the Contracting Parties and experts mobilised by the Secretariat and MAP Components. The composition should be restricted in number, with well-balanced geographical representation. The agenda of the Informal OWG and the timeline for their operationality is defined by the respective CORMONs. The Informal OWG report to CORMON and do not replace CORMONs.*

*4. Science-Policy Interface (SPI). Every effort should be made to promote SPI for IMAP implementation in the Mediterranean.*



**Annex II**

**2023 MED QSR methodology, outline, structure and contents**

### List of Abbreviations / Acronyms

<b>CI</b>	Common Indicator
<b>COP</b>	Conference of the Parties
<b>CORMON</b>	Correspondence Group on Monitoring
<b>DPSIR</b>	Driver-Pressure-State-Impact-Response
<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>EcAp</b>	Ecosystem Approach
<b>EO</b>	Ecological Objective
<b>GES</b>	Good Environmental Status
<b>GFCM</b>	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
<b>HELCOM</b>	Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission - Helsinki Commission
<b>HOLAS</b>	Holistic Assessment of the Ecosystem Health of the Baltic Sea
<b>ICZM CRF</b>	Common Regional Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management
<b>IMAP</b>	Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme
<b>INFO/RAC</b>	Information and Communication Regional Activity Centre
<b>MAP</b>	Mediterranean Action Plan
<b>MEDPOL</b>	Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea
<b>MPA</b>	Marine Protected Area
<b>MSFD</b>	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
<b>NIS</b>	Non-indigenous Species
<b>OSPAR</b>	Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment for the North-East Atlantic
<b>PAP/RAC</b>	Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre
<b>PoW</b>	Programme of Work
<b>QSR</b>	Quality Status Report
<b>REMPEC</b>	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>SOx ECA</b>	SOx Emission Control Area
<b>SPA/RAC</b>	Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas
<b>SPAMI</b>	Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance

## 1. Vision, concept and elements for the methodological approach of the 2023 MED QSR

### a. Objective and Vision

1. The objective of the 2023 MED QSR is to assess the status of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and the progress towards its Good Environmental Status (GES), as a basis for informed decision-making and enhanced action.
2. As defined in the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap, the vision for the successful delivery of the 2023 MED QSR is: an integrated DPSIR-based GES assessment, developed on consolidated and quality-assured monitoring data sets, reported and processed through an effective IMAP Info System that is interoperable with national and other regional monitoring and reporting networks.

### b. Data sources

3. In line with Decision IG. 22/7 adopted by COP 19 (Athens, Greece February 2016), the IMAP assessment products produced by the UNEP/MAP Secretariat, including the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report, should be mainly based on the Common Indicators and monitoring data provided by Contracting Parties as part of IMAP implementation. In areas of scientific and/or data gaps, the assessment products can also build on relevant scientific projects, pilot outcomes, and comparable data of other regional organizations and in case these are not available, on scientific literature. In addition, they should analyse trends, drivers and build on available socio-economic data.
4. The 2023 MED QSR will be based on the IMAP Ecological Objectives, Common Indicators, Targets and Good Environmental Status descriptions. In consultation with the Contracting Parties, additional key emerging issues may be identified for inclusion in the 2023 MED QSR.
5. The primary sources of data for the 2023 MED QSR will be data reported by the Contracting Parties into the IMAP Info System as part of the implementation of IMAP-based national monitoring programmes. The IMAP Info System is currently supporting the reporting of 11 IMAP Common Indicators (CI 1, 2, 6, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22 and 23), and will be upgraded by June 2022 to include all mandatory IMAP Common Indicators (CI 3, 4, 5, 18, 19, 20).
6. A call for mandatory data submission into the IMAP Info System has been launched in June 2020, requesting Contracting Parties to systematically report all 2020 monitoring data, as well as data collected prior to 2020, which will be both used for the purposes of the 2023 MED QSR assessment. It is expected that the Contracting Parties will be able to report a minimum of 3 new sets of data for IMAP Common Indicators related to the Pollution and Marine Litter cluster (EO5, EO9, EO10), a minimum of 1 new data set for IMAP Common Indicators related to the Biodiversity and Non-indigenous Species (NIS) cluster (EO1, EO2) and 1 data set for IMAP Common Indicators related to the Coast and Hydrography cluster (EO7 and EO8). In addition, cooperation will be ensured with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM-FAO) for data and assessment related to the Common Indicators under Ecological Objective 3 (Harvest of commercially exploited fish and shellfish) (CI 7-12). The monitoring and reporting will be done in line with available standardized methods, guidance factsheets, monitoring protocols and data standards and data dictionaries, which will ensure the comparability of data reported and their subsequent assessment.
7. Where data gaps have been identified, IMAP-generated data will be complemented by other available data sources to be defined and agreed in consultation with the Contracting Parties based on the mapping of relevant scientific projects and institutions, currently undertaken by the UNEP/MAP Secretariat for the 2023 MED QSR and for a strengthened science-policy interface in the Mediterranean (see Table 3 for the partners and list of sources identified for contribution to the 2023 MED QSR preparation). This relates in particular, but not exclusively, to data related to Candidate Common Indicators (24, 25, 26 and 27), Ecological Objectives 4 and 6 which are under development, as well as data related to emerging issues to be addressed in the 2023 MED QSR. To this respect, a meeting with the identified scientific projects, partners, and institutions is currently being organized by the Secretariat for August/September 2021, aiming to identify their contribution in terms of complementary data, tools, and methodologies for the successful preparation and delivery of the 2023 MED QSR, and to agree on a timeline for regional data sharing.

### **c. Methodological approaches for assessment**

8. The assessment for the 2023 MED QSR will be done at regional level, based, as appropriate, on data and information coming from IMAP implementation at national level, as part of the implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and ongoing projects (including the EU-funded IMAP-MPA, EcAp MED III, and ML MED II projects; and the GEF-funded MedProgramme relevant child projects). Where available, results of sub-regional assessments may also be presented for specific Common Indicators.

9. Based on the progress to be achieved on the integrated assessment methodologies, the assessment of the status of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast will be done in an integrated manner within and, to the extent possible across, the two or three IMAP clusters (Pollution and Marine Litter; Biodiversity and Fisheries; Coast and Hydrography), and will address interrelations of pressures and impacts.

10. In line with the progress to be achieved by the UNEP/MAP system in the next two biennia as part of the implementation of the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap, the 2023 MED QSR methodology will be based on:

- Optimal DPSIR methodological approach;
- Methodologies for integrated assessment identified and tested by the UNEP/MAP system as part of the IMAP implementation;
- The UNEP Guidelines for Conducting Integrated Environmental Assessments (2019);
- Regular consultations with Contracting Parties, key regional experts and stakeholders.

11. The UNEP/MAP system is currently implementing activities identified in the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap as priority activities to be implemented in order to propose, refine and agree on the scales of assessment and integrated assessment methodologies to support the development of the 2023 MED QSR. The proposals for scales and integrated assessment methodologies have been refined and proposed for consideration at the CORMON cluster meetings in 2021 (CORMON Marine Litter 30 March 2021; CORMON Pollution 26-28 April 2021; and CORMON Biodiversity and Fisheries 10-11 June 2021) and related SPA/RAC Focal Points Meeting (June 2021) and MEDPOL Focal Points Meeting (session of July 2021), and are going to be subsequently tested throughout 2021 and 2022. The scales of assessment defined/agreed by early 2022 CORMONs will be used to prepare the first draft of the 2023 MED QSR.

### **d. Process and governance**

12. The development of the 2023 MED QSR is a participatory, joint effort of the entire MAP System, and its successful delivery will depend on the timely support and contributions of each Contracting Party, MAP Component, Secretariat and Partners to the monitoring, reporting and assessment in line with IMAP.

13. The process of developing the 2023 MED QSR will primarily be guided through the existing EcAp/IMAP governance structure. An effective and regular consultative and coordination process will be ensured with the Contracting Parties through the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group and the CORMONs, as well as sub-regional expert meetings, as appropriate. Meetings with Contracting Parties will be held at least once every biennium at MAP Focal Points, EcAp Coordination Group, and MAP Component Focal Points levels, who will review and approve the progress, proposed operational implementation plan, methodological approaches and content at all key stages of the 2023 MED QSR development process. Intersessional work will be supported through informal Online Working Groups, established at the level of IMAP Clusters, as necessary and under the scope and concrete modalities to be agreed by the Contracting Parties. Any issues, delays, and requirements for adjustment of the 2023 MED QSR implementation plan and contents will be reported to the relevant governance bodies in a timely manner.

14. At the national level, Contracting Parties have been encouraged to establish National IMAP Committees or similar structures ensuring the participation of key institutions and experts involved on IMAP implementation in order to support the timely implementation of national IMAPs, on which the 2023 MED QSR will be based. The Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group members and

designated national IMAP users will play a key role in the process, ensuring the timely contributions of Contracting Parties, including reporting of monitoring data into the IMAP Info System and preparation of national assessments. Each Contracting Party will be expected to develop national assessment factsheets for all or selected Indicators of the national IMAP, which will then be aggregated by the Secretariat at the regional (and possibly sub-regional) level to produce the 2023 MED QSR.

15. At the level of UNEP/MAP Secretariat, the development of the 2023 MED QSR will be coordinated by the Coordinating Unit with the technical support of the IMAP Task Force. MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC and REMPEC will be responsible for the coordination and delivery of substantive work and chapters for the Pollution and Marine Litter, Biodiversity and Fisheries, and Coast and Hydrography clusters, respectively. Plan Bleu will contribute to the socio-economic analysis and to the mobilization of relevant expertise through the science-policy interface. INFO/RAC will support data management, visualization and communication components.

#### **e. Presentation of results**

16. The 2023 MED QSR will be published in a printed and online version, in two languages (English and French). An Executive Summary will be prepared in English, French, Spanish, and Arabic. The printed version will follow the structure approved by the Contracting Parties (presented in Section 2) and will include maps, graphs, and illustrations.

17. Visualizations will be done using latest technologies and innovations available with INFO/RAC, GRID-Geneva and other partner structures to be identified as part of the mapping of sources and partners to be undertaken by the Secretariat in 2021. Graphic designers may be involved from the very beginning of the process of the assessment to produce more advanced infographics (including interactive infographics for online publication). Examples of visualizations (e.g., infographics illustrating status per Common Indicator) used by HELCOM for HOLAS II and other partners for similar assessments may be considered.

18. The online version will be published on a dedicated website which will include more interactive features such as interactive and customizable maps and graphs, dashboards, story-telling features and other functionalities depending on available resources. The 2023 MED QSR website will be linked with the 2017 MED QSR content, and interoperability with other key web-platforms will be ensured to the extent possible, in particular the IMAP Info System, the UNEP World Environment Situation Room (WESR) and the European WISE Marine platform.

19. A 2023 MED QSR Communication and Visibility Strategy has been developed as part of the EU-funded EcAp MED III project, defining priority activities and opportunities for a wide dissemination of the 2023 MED QSR at regional and global levels, and submitted for the consideration by the present Meeting (UNEP/MED WG.514/6).

#### **f. Timeline**

20. A timeline for the preparation of the 2023 MED QSR has been prepared by the Secretariat in line with the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap and taking into consideration the workplan of the EU-funded EcAp MED III Project, which will be instrumental in supporting the process. The timeline was welcomed with no further changes by the Integrated CORMON Meetings (December 2020). Key milestones and timeline for the preparation of the 2023 MED QSR are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1. 2023 MED QSR preparation milestones and timeline.**

<b>Milestones/steps</b>	<b>Expected delivery</b>
Methodology, outline, planning process refined/agreed in a revised Operational Implementation Plan and Concept Note (including through CORMONs)	April 2021
Data sources, partners and requirements for expertise, data sharing and consultancies defined and necessary arrangements for implementation made	August 2021
EcAp Coordination Group updated on progress and issues; Progress in 2023 MED QSR Roadmap implementation, 2023 MED QSR methodology, outline, structure, and contents, and	September 2021

2023 MED QSR Communication and Visibility Strategy presented for CPs' review and endorsement	
First draft of 2023 MED QSR prepared and presented for review by CORMON based on available data and assessment	April 2022
IMAP Info System fully operational to support submission of data for all IMAP Common Indicators	June 2022
Additional data reported/collected and assessment methodologies tested	September 2022
Second draft of 2023 MED QSR prepared/updated based on new data sets and updated assessment methodologies	December 2022
Peer review conducted and contents revised; graphs, maps and visualizations finalized	March 2023
Final draft of 2023 MED QSR presented to the CORMON	March 2023
2023 MED QSR online platform developed with interactive visualizations	July 2023
2023 MED QSR submitted to EcAp Coordination Group and MAP Focal Points meetings	September 2023
2023 MED QSR submitted to the COP 23	December 2023
2023 MED QSR printed version published in two languages	December 2023-January 2024
Dissemination, communication and visibility activities	December 2023-February 2024

## 2. Proposed elements for 2023 MED QSR contents

21. The table below presents a revised annotated proposal for the contents of the 2023 MED QSR for review and endorsement by the Contracting Parties at the present Meeting. This proposal has been developed taking into account the structure of the 2017 MED QSR previously approved by the Contracting Parties, as well as the structure of other similar reports from other Regional Sea Programmes.

**Table 2. Proposed annotated content of the 2023 MED QSR.**

Section	Annotations
<b>Foreword</b> (1 page)	
<b>Acknowledgements</b> Advisory Board Authors/consultants List of experts consulted	For printed publication – online this can be replaced by the menu or tabs on the landing 2023 MED QSR page
<b>Acronyms and abbreviations</b>	For printed publication – online this can be replaced by the menu or tabs on the landing 2023 MED QSR page
<b>Table of Contents</b>	For printed publication – online this can be replaced by the menu or tabs on the landing 2023 MED QSR page
<b>Key findings or Executive Summary</b> (1-2 pages)	<i>NEW</i> – (see examples of HOLAS II and 2010 OSPAR QSR) for a more visual and shorter overview of key findings/conclusions of 2023 MED QSR for each Ecological Objective and other thematic (emerging topics) sections, as well as results of integrated assessment and DPSIR (possible through visual infographic such as in HOLAS II). The Executive Summary will be prepared in English, French, Spanish, and Arabic.

<p><b>Introduction (“About the QSR”)</b></p> <p>0.1. UNEP/MAP and the Barcelona Convention: vision, goals, and Ecological Objectives</p> <p>0.2. Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast</p> <p>0.3. Other key global and regional assessment processes</p> <p>0.4. Approach and methodology for the preparation of the 2023 Mediterranean QSR</p>	<p>Presenting briefly EcAp and IMAP process in the Mediterranean, key decisions, links to SDGs and other global processes, progress on implementation and methodology for this QSR. Could use similar structure as 2017 MED QSR (copied here). The section on IMAP can present an update on national IMAP implementation per CI.</p> <p>The integrated assessment methodology and specificities of DPSIR analysis at MAP level would be presented here in detail.</p> <p>The full list of IMAP EOs and CIs could either be presented in a table here, or as an annex at the end of the publication (for online version, as a separate page/tab).</p> <p>As an alternative, the approach and methodology can be presented in a stand-alone section after the Introduction, to give it more prominence.</p>
<p><b>1. The Mediterranean Sea</b></p> <p>1.1. Environmental characteristics</p> <p>1.1.1. The Mediterranean marine and coastal environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geography, physiography and landscapes</li> <li>Circulation and water masses</li> <li>Hydrological and climatic setting</li> <li>Water and nutrient characteristics</li> <li>Biodiversity</li> </ul> <p>1.1.2. Climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Mediterranean region: a climate change hot-spot</li> <li>Sea level rise (SLR)</li> <li>Climate Change related risks, vulnerabilities and impacts</li> <li>Possible impacts on GES (<i>NEW</i>)</li> </ul> <p>1.2. Socioeconomic characteristics of the Mediterranean</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction</li> <li>Population and development</li> <li>Tourism</li> <li>Maritime transport</li> <li>Energy, gas and oil exploration and exploitation, mining and manufacturing</li> <li>Fisheries and aquaculture</li> <li>Land-based pollution sources.</li> </ul> <p>1.3. Regional cooperation (<i>NEW</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barcelona Convention and Protocols</li> <li>Other relevant regional policy frameworks (e.g., MSFD)</li> </ul>	<p>Section providing an overview of the Mediterranean regional context in terms of environmental and socio-economic characteristics, similar to the 2017 MED QSR. In the printed version, this should come as the first section after the introduction to set the background/context for the quality assessment.</p> <p>Compared to the 2017 MED QSR, a new sub-section (1.3) is proposed to provide the regional policy and cooperation context in the Mediterranean under the Barcelona Convention. While the Introduction above will include a brief overview of the Barcelona Convention process and the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, this sub-section could provide more in-depth information on relevant regional policy frameworks and regional cooperation efforts towards assessing and achieving GES. It could also explain the links to the MSFD.</p> <p>Section 1.1 (Environmental characteristics) or 2 (Socioeconomic characteristics) could briefly address ecosystem services and benefits (as part of the argument of why it is important to preserve ecosystems).</p> <p>The section on climate change (which was also included in 2017 MED QSR) should capitalize on MedECC results and be brief, if possible highlighting relevance and possible influence of climate change on aspects/indicators covered by IMAP (e.g., possible impacts of CC on eutrophication, habitats, species, NIS, coastal</p>

	<p>erosion). This can be a simple analysis relying on available global research if no regional analysis is available. This would make this part more integrated with the rest.</p>
<p><b>2. Mediterranean Quality Status Assessment</b>  <b>2.1 Pollution and Litter Cluster</b></p> <p>2.1.1 Eutrophication (EO5)          - Key findings (introductory paragraph)          - Background information on eutrophication/trends and sources of pressure          - Methodology: Common Indicators used in the assessment (CI 13-14) and assessment methodology          - Integrated GES Assessment for EO5          - Specific issues/trends per selected CI (possibly in the form of diagrams or figures, and maps if feasible)          - Analysis and conclusions</p> <p>2.1.2 Pollution (EO9)          - Key findings (introductory paragraph)          - Background information on pollution/contaminants, including trends and sources of pressure          - Methodology: Common Indicators used in the assessment (CI 17-21) and assessment methodology          - Integrated GES Assessment for EO9          - Specific issues/trends per selected CI (possibly in the form of diagrams or figures, and maps if feasible)          - Analysis and conclusions</p> <p>2.1.3 Marine Litter (EO10)          - Key findings (introductory paragraph)          - Background information on marine litter, including trends and sources of pressure          - Methodology: Common Indicators used in the assessment (CI 22-23) and assessment methodology; CCI24 could be presented in a separate box to update on its status          - Integrated GES Assessment for EO10          - Specific issues/trends per selected CI (possibly in the form of diagrams or figures, and maps if feasible)          - Analysis and conclusions</p>	<p>For the 2023 edition of the QSR, a new approach is proposed by integrating CIs within specific Ecological Objectives (EO), and thereafter of EOs at the level of IMAP Clusters (rather than by individual CI which was the approach of the 2017 QSR). Each section corresponds to one of the 11 IMAP Ecological Objectives; sections are grouped by clusters (Pollution and Litter; Biodiversity and NIS; Coast and Hydrography) in the same order as 2017 QSR.</p> <p>In line with above, for each cluster, a final section is proposed providing elements towards integrated assessment within this cluster (across EOs) following the DPSIR approach, and possibly elements for integration with other clusters; or, if the methodology for integrated GES assessment per cluster is not ready, this section could provide an update on progress on methodologies and recommendations for next assessment.</p> <p>Each section per EO will include the following core elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a short paragraph with the key findings for this Ecological Objective (3-4 sentences max), which can be presented as a chapeau like in HOLAS II or in a box similar to OSPAR.</li> <li>- introduction to the issues associated with this Ecological Objective (trends, sources of pressure, targets, as feasible and applicable).</li> <li>- a presentation of Common Indicators used for the assessment and brief description of applied GES methodology, including use of the criteria of assessment within aggregation of assessment findings at optimally nested scales of assessment, as well as visualization of the assessment findings by applying the tools as feasible within selected specific GES assessment methodology i.e., maps/graphs/infographics;</li> <li>- Integrated assessment for the EO using the DPSIR approach as far as possible, based on results of CI assessment; and if possible, comparison with 2017 QSR</li> <li>- Specific highlights for individual Common Indicators in case they need to be given particular attention (can be in boxes).</li> <li>- Analysis/conclusions on compliance and non-compliance with GES targets, along with the proposals of next steps to further</li> </ul>



	<p>measures/efforts to be put in place towards GES achievement what is the future outlook and what are the risks, challenges to look out for). This last sub-section could also highlight data gap issues and further efforts required to improve data availability.</p> <p>For each cluster, the assessment will be based on mandatory IMAP Common Indicators monitored and reported by Contracting Parties. Where possible, information/update will also be provided for Candidate Common Indicators as part of relevant chapters/sections based on available data (CCI24, 25, 26 and 27).</p> <p>For the Pollution cluster, section 2.1.4 on EO11 relates to Candidate Common Indicators CCI26 and CCI27 currently not part of mandatory IMAP monitoring and assessment. It will therefore be based on available data from external sources and will be prepared in partnership with ACCOBAMS and other partners; its approach will therefore be to some extent different from other sections, and the proposed outline for this section may change based on available data and methods.</p>
<p>2.2 Biodiversity and NIS Cluster</p> <p>2.2.1 Biodiversity (EO1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Key findings (introductory paragraph)</li> <li>- Background information on Habitats and Species, including trends and sources of pressure</li> <li>- Methodology: Common Indicators used in the assessment (CI 1-5) and assessment methodology</li> <li>- Integrated Assessment for EO1</li> <li>- Specific issues/trends per selected CI/taxa/main species (possibly in the form of box)</li> <li>- Analysis and conclusions</li> </ul> <p>2.2.2 Non-indigenous Species (EO2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Key findings (introductory paragraph)</li> <li>- Background information on NIS, including trends and sources of pressure</li> <li>- Methodology: Common Indicators used in the assessment (CI 6) and assessment methodology</li> <li>- Integrated Assessment for EO2</li> <li>- Specific issues/trends per species/main sources/hotspots/most vulnerable areas to NIS (possibly in the form of box)</li> <li>- Analysis and conclusions</li> </ul>	<p>See explanation above of structure per cluster and per EO sub-section.</p> <p>Section 2.2.1 (EO1) will include background information on habitats and species, which should refer to trends and sources of pressure, the status of knowledge on every concerned habitat / species group across Mediterranean countries/sub-regions.</p> <p>Section 2.2.1 should present one integrated assessment per component of biodiversity (e.g., one assessment for habitats, one for marine mammals, one for seabirds, one for marine turtles)</p> <p>Section 2.2.2 (EO2) will be based mainly on the results of the baseline assessment of NIS and the national lists shared by the Contracting Parties, with possible contribution from the results of sub-regional pilots. The geographical scope of the data and scales used will be clearly presented in the methodology sub-section. A special box could be added to describe the sub-regional pilots and joint monitoring efforts. The section on specific issues/trends may provide trends per taxonomic group or eco-functional group of species, and will include a focus on main sources, hotspots, and most vulnerable areas to</p>

<p>2.2.3 Harvest of commercially exploited fish and shellfish (EO3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Key findings (introductory paragraph)</li> <li>- Background information on commercial fisheries and trends</li> <li>- Methodology: Common Indicators used in the assessment (CI 7-12) and assessment methodology</li> <li>- Integrated Assessment for EO3</li> <li>- Specific issues/trends per selected CI/species (possibly in the form of box - tbc)</li> <li>- Analysis and conclusions</li> </ul> <p>2.2.4 Elements for Marine Food Webs (EO4) and Sea-floor integrity (EO6) (<i>NEW</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EO4             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Key issues and sources of pressure</li> <li>- State of the art on data, monitoring and assessment</li> <li>- Preliminary assessment for EO4 and conclusions</li> </ul> </li> <li>- EO6             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Key issues and sources of pressure</li> <li>- State of the art on data, monitoring and assessment</li> <li>- Preliminary assessment for EO6 and conclusions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>NIS, as well as a reference to the establishment of regional and sub-regional list of invasive species to be monitored.</p> <p>Section 2.2.3 (EO3) will be prepared with support from GFCM based on their database. A clear link will be provided between CI 12 (By-catch of vulnerable and non-target species) to CI 2 (Condition of the habitat’s typical species and communities) and CI 5 (Population demographic characteristics). The conclusions will include focus on commercial species that are listed in Annex III of the Barcelona Convention Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (“Species whose exploitation is regulated”).</p> <p>Section 2.2.4 (EO4 and EO6) relates to Ecological Objectives for which Common Indicators have not been developed yet, and will be advanced during the 2020-2021 and 2022-2023 biennia. In the absence of IMAP monitoring data for these two EOs, the section could build on and reflect available data sources identified and approved through CORMONs, available technologies and techniques for monitoring, provide a preliminary assessment to the extent possible, and draw conclusions and recommendations for further monitoring and assessment of EO4 and EO6 (and if possible, recommendations for measures based on identified key issues/pressures related to these EO).</p> <p>Explore the possibility for including seafloor integrity, recognizing the EO6 is under development, with clear links between the common indicators fact sheet, to undertake assessment for the biodiversity component, i.e., for species.</p>
<p>2.3 Coast and Hydrography Cluster</p> <p>2.3.1 Hydrography (EO7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Key findings (introductory paragraph)</li> <li>- Background information on Hydrography, including trends and sources of pressure</li> <li>- Methodology: Common Indicators used in the assessment (CI 15) and assessment methodology</li> <li>- Specific issues/trends per habitat or type of pressure (possibly in the form of box - tbc)</li> <li>- Analysis and conclusions</li> </ul>	<p>See explanation above of structure per cluster and per EO sub-section.</p> <p>A box on innovative coastal products and data collection and assessment methods and technologies could be added (e.g., Copernicus, EMODnet, Marinomica)</p> <p>Strengthen the link between hydrography and biodiversity, particularly regarding habitats Due to the high complexity of this Common Indicator, a baseline assessment may be conducted at this stage.</p>

<p>2.3.2 Coastal ecosystems and landscapes (EO8)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Key findings (introductory paragraph)</li> <li>- Background information on Coastal ecosystems, including trends and sources of pressure (a box on climate change and coastal erosion could be added)</li> <li>- Methodology: Common Indicators used in the assessment (CI 16) and assessment methodology, CCI25 could be presented in a separate box to update on its status</li> </ul>	
<p>2.4 Towards an integrated assessment of GES in the Mediterranean</p>	<p>Depending on level of progress on UNEP/MAP integrated assessment methodologies, this section could propose a brief DPSIR-based integrated GES assessment of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and cumulative pressures and impacts; or describe current efforts and status of progress on developing these methodologies, and summarize key pressures, overall state and impacts based on the assessments provided in sections 2.1-2.3.</p>
<p><b>3. UNEP/MAP Actions and Measures to Address Pressures and Protect the Mediterranean Sea and Coast</b></p>	<p>(NEW) This section could include an analysis of existing measures and actions undertaken at the regional level in the Mediterranean as part of MAP Barcelona Convention, to address specific pressures and improve the status of the Sea and Coast in relation to the Ecological Objectives and Common Indicators under IMAP. An analysis of the effectiveness of the measures could be proposed (at least briefly).</p> <p>Boxes could focus on specific achievements to be highlighted (e.g., SPAMI, SOx ECA, Pollution and Marine Litter Regional Plans, Key Species and Habitats Regional Action Plans, ICZM/CRF). This section could highlight in particular efforts for integrated ecosystem management.</p>
<p><b>4. Conclusions and ways forward/future outlook</b></p> <p>4.1 Key issues, risks and priorities</p> <p>4.2 Recommendations for priority actions/measures</p> <p>4.3 Recommendations for future monitoring and assessment</p>	<p>This section could provide a summary of main issues identified in the QSR through the assessment, and an analysis of overall status and trends based on the assessment, as well as possible future risks, if no action is taken. It should then include recommendations on possible priority areas of action and measures to be developed to address key pressures and drivers. This part can also highlight some ongoing and planned efforts identified as particularly effective (e.g., SOx ECA). Finally, it should identify key challenges and provide recommendations in relation to data gaps to be addressed for the next QSR (2029) and monitoring and assessment methods.</p>

<p><b>Annexes</b></p> <p>List of IMAP EOs and CIs  Species list  Marine habitats list  Sub-regional case studies  Other Annexes tbd</p>	<p>The Annexes will include any additional useful information, such as the list of IMAP EOs and CIs, if not included in the introduction; list of key species and habitats considered; specific case studies (if not included in boxes inside the thematic chapters) etc.</p>
<p><b>Glossary</b></p>	<p>For the printed publication – online this can be replaced by the menu or tabs on the landing 2023 MED QSR page.</p>
<p><b>References</b></p>	<p>For the printed publication – online this can be replaced by the menu or tabs on the landing 2023 MED QSR page, or at bottom of each section/page.</p>
<p><b>Illustrations/photo credits</b></p>	<p>For the printed publication – online this can be replaced by the menu or tabs on the landing 2023 MED QSR page, or at bottom of each section/page.</p>

**Table 3**  
**Partners identified for contribution to the 2023 MED QSR preparation**

Scientific Institution/Authority holding the data	Initiative / Project	Type of contribution	Geographical coverage	Possible contribution to IMAP Ecological Objectives / Common Indicators
ACCOBAMS	<a href="#">ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative</a>	Distribution and abundance of cetaceans, sea turtles, elasmobranchs, fish, birds	Mediterranean	CI 3 Species distribution CI 4 Population abundance
		Distribution and abundance of floating marine litter	Mediterranean	CI 23 Litter in the water column
	QuietMED II	Underwater noise	?	CCI 26, CCI 27 Underwater Noise
Birdlife Europe and Central Asia		Data on seabirds	Mediterranean	CI 3 (Species Distribution) and CI 4 (Population abundance) related to seabirds
Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on accidental water pollution (CEDRE)				
CEFE-EPHE PSL	<a href="#">INDICIT-I and INDICIT-II Projects</a>	marine litter ingestion data	Mediterranean	CCI 24 Litter Ingestion
CENER21 Center for Energy, Environment and Resources				
<a href="#">CMCC</a>		Climate change data and modeling tools	Mediterranean	Section 1.1.2 Climate change Multiple Common Indicators
CIESM	<a href="#">Historical Records of Marine Fauna</a>	Biodiversity data	Mediterranean	CI 1-5
	<a href="#">Atlas of Exotic Species</a>	non-indigenous species	Mediterranean	CI 6 Non-indigenous species
EC Joint Research Centre (JRC)		Assessment criteria; assessment methodologies (MSFD and IMAP)	Mediterranean	Multiple Common Indicators
EEA	<a href="#">Copernicus Marine Service (CMEMS)</a>	Chlorophyll a Temperature, Salinity, Sea level, Heat content, Significant Wave Height Variability	Mediterranean	Section 1.1 Environmental characteristics EO 5 Eutrophication (CI 13-14)
	<a href="#">Copernicus Land Monitoring Service (CLMS)</a>	Land use, land cover, land use change, land cover change	Northern shores of Mediterranean - possible expansion to southern shores	Section 1.2 Human activities EO 7 Hydrography (CI 15) EO 8 Coastal ecosystems (CI 16, CCI 25)
<a href="#">EMODnet</a>	Bathymetry	bathymetry	Mediterranean	EO 6 Seafloor integrity
	Biology	Species occurrences: location, date, depth Biological measurements: e.g.,	Mediterranean	EO 1 Biodiversity (CI 1-5)

		abundance, biomass Sampling information and methodology Specimen characteristics: e.g., length, lifestage, sex Abiotic parameters: e.g., sediment type, temperature, salinity		
	Chemistry	Acidity Antifoulants Chlorophyll Dissolved gasses Fertilisers Heavy metals Hydrocarbons Marine litter Organic matter Pesticides and biocides Polychlorinated biphenyls Radionuclides Silicates	Mediterranean	EO 5 Eutrophication (CI 13-14) EO 9 Pollution (CI 17- 21)
	Geology	Sedimentation rate	Mediterranean	EO 6 Seafloor integrity
	Human Activities	Data on maritime activities	Mediterranean	Section 1.2 Socioeconomic characteristics of the Med
	Physics	Water temperature Water salinity Water conductivity Currents and winds Optical properties Sea level Underwater noise (dB)	Mediterranean	Section 1.1 Environmental characteristics CCI 26, CCI 27 Underwater Noise
	Seabed Habitats – EUSeaMap	EUNIS Seabed Habitats	Mediterranean	CI 1 Habitat distributional range
ESA	EOP-SD (Earth Observation Programme Data Applications) Division and the EOP-SI (Earth Observation Programme Sustainable Initiatives) Office	Use of products of ESA MED REGIONAL Initiative/projects, including the following: -Multi-mission high- resolution, gap-free maps directly derived from water quality products (e.g., Chl-a concentration, Total Suspended Matter, Turbidity, ...) - Multi-mission, high- resolution, gap-free maps of experimental EO “indirectly” derived water quality products (e.g., nutrient concentration, bacteriological concentration, dissolved oxygen, or		Multiple Common Indicators

		any parameter relevant to the engaged end-users...) -Multi-mission added-value product of river plume extension and characteristics, as well as other available maps of relevance for IMAP EOs -The products related to application of forecasting techniques-		
FAO/GFCM	<a href="#">Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF)</a>	Global figures of national fisheries (number of vessels, total landing, total capacity, total engine power) Catch Incidental catch of vulnerable species Fleet Effort Socio-economics Biological information	Mediterranean	Section 1.2 Socioeconomic characteristics of the Med EO 3 Fisheries (CI 7-12) EO 4 Food webs (partially) EO 6 Seafloor integrity EO 10 Marine litter EO 11 Underwater noise
INOGS	Harmonia	Contaminants in the Adriatic-Ionian sub-region	Adriatic-Ionian sub-region	CI 17, 18, 19, 20, 21
HCMR (host)	<a href="#">MedOBIS</a>	Non-indigenous species	Mediterranean	CI 6 Non-indigenous species
HCMR	MED REGION	methodologies for marine monitoring and assessment for the Mediterranean	Mediterranean	All CIs, especially CI 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, and CCI 24
IAEA			Mediterranean	Multiple Common Indicators
IUCN Mediterranean			Mediterranean	Multiple Common Indicators
ICES	ICES has published work (June 2021)	Distribution of fishing pressure, including a preliminary compilation of data for the Mediterranean.	Mediterranean	EO6
MAVA Foundation		<a href="#">Biodiversity data</a>	Mediterranean	Biodiversity-related Common Indicators
Medasset		Sea turtles-related data and methodologies	Mediterranean	CI 3 (Species distribution) and CI 4 (Population abundance) for sea turtles
MEDPAN			Mediterranean	
MIO-ECSDE		Marine litter data and methodologies	Mediterranean	CI 22, 23, CCI 24
University of Siena	<a href="#">Plastic Busters MPAs</a>	marine litter data	Mediterranean	CI 22, 23, CCI 24
UN Decade of Ocean Science		Science-Policy Interface, Mediterranean priorities related to monitoring,	Mediterranean	Multiple Common Indicators



		assessment, climate change		
UNEP-WCMC	<a href="#">Data portal</a>	Biodiversity data	Not specified	Biodiversity-related indicators
University of Malaga	<a href="#">MedBioLitter</a>	Interaction between marine litter and biota	Mediterranean	CCI 24 Litter ingestion/entanglement
WWF Mediterranean			Mediterranean	

**Annex III**

**2023 MED QSR Communication and Visibility Strategy**

## Communication and Visibility Strategy for the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report

### 1. Introduction

1. This Communication and Visibility Strategy for the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report (MED QSR) is developed in line with the UNEP/MAP Operational Communication Strategy, Activity 1.1.1, which provides for the development of a communication pack for MAP flagship publications, including the 2023 MED QSR.

### 2. Overall Objective

2. The overall objectives of the 2023 MED QSR Communication and Visibility Strategy are to:

- Ensure that the 2023 MED QSR publication has a wide dissemination and receives a high level of visibility;
- Promote the findings of the 2023 MED QSR on the status of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast, in order to support evidence-based marine and coastal management, and advocate policies and measures based on this enhanced knowledge to underpin efforts aimed at achieving GES.

3. The achievement of these objectives will be measured through a range of specific indicators, as detailed below:

Objective	Indicators of success
Ensure that the 2023 MED QSR publication receives a high level of visibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of speaking engagements on the 2023 MED QSR by MAP representatives in conferences and events pertaining to environment and development</li> <li>• Total number of recipients targeted by MAP-initiated communication activities</li> <li>• Aggregated download metrics of the 2023 MED QSR from the dedicated website</li> <li>• Prominence of 2023 MED QSR in Google search results with the key words: Mediterranean+ environment+ assessment (the 2023 MED QSR should appear in the first 20 results returned by Google).</li> <li>• Number of press clippings and prominence (circulation/following of media organizations reporting on or quoting from the 2023 MED QSR) of media material citing and/or using content, findings, and/or messages from the 2023 MED QSR</li> </ul>
Promote the findings and key messages of the 2023 MED QSR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number and size (i.e., number of participants) of outreach events in key policy fora attended by decision-makers in Mediterranean countries where 2023 MED QSR messages are disseminated.</li> <li>• Number of stakeholders and decision makers informed about the 2023 MED QSR findings;</li> <li>• 2023 MED QSR messages appear in statements by Ministers of the Environment and other decision-makers in Mediterranean countries</li> <li>• 2023 MED QSR messages appear in partners and other stakeholders' statements/interventions/presentations around the Mediterranean</li> </ul>

### 3. Target Groups

4. Target groups have been identified as relevant for the communication and visibility activities of the 2023 MED QSR: decision-makers; experts/scientists; multipliers (non-media); conventional media; and social media. The list may include the following:

- Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention
- UN Country Teams in Mediterranean countries
- Mediterranean countries' Permanent missions to the UN in New York, Geneva, Nairobi, and Athens
- Members of environment and development commissions in the Parliaments of the Mediterranean countries
- UN Global Compact network offices in the Mediterranean region
- the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean – GFCM
- UfM fora
- World Bank, GEF, EBRD, EIB and other financial institutions
- MAP partners
- Local / elected authorities in Mediterranean coastal cities
- SciDev MENA Network
- Other regional (Mediterranean) projects, institutions, networks, initiatives and processes (e.g., MedProgramme, MEDREGION, QuietMED II, INDICIT II).
- Other Intergovernmental Organizations and relevant Conventions/Agreements (e.g., the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (FAO/GFCM), UNESCO-IOC).
- UN Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and its actors
- Projects, in line with the suggested themes
- etc.

#### Experts/Scientists

- Scientific community

#### Conventional Media

- UNEP/MAP contact list, including news agencies in Mediterranean countries
- RACs media contacts
- Media representatives at Palais des Nations via UNEP Geneva press office
- International and regional media outlets offering an Environment section
- Africa 21 and network of Maghreb journalists
- Networks of green journalism

#### Social media

- Users of social platforms with an interest in environment and development issues in the Mediterranean region

### 4. Other aspects

- The 2023 MED QSR will receive an ISBN as UNEP publication; UNEP broadcasting resources must be harnessed to maximize visibility.
- Focus on the Key Findings of the 2023 MED QSR in all communication activities.
- Create a topical and clear hashtag: (to be defined; possible examples include #2023MEDQSR and #MedReport2023).
- Enlist members of the wider MAP-Barcelona Convention system “community”, including MAP partners and MCSD members, to promote the 2023 MED QSR at all relevant events/conferences with a view to advancing reflections and dialogue based on evidence (provided by the 2023 MED QSR).

- Provide visibility to the overall Ecosystem Approach implementation process in the region ensuring coherence and continuity of communication with related past and ongoing projects funded by the EU (e.g., EcAp MED III, Marine Litter MED II, IMAF MPA and MedProgramme) and other relevant UNEP/MAP initiatives and projects within the UNEP/MAP Communication Strategy as well as UNEP Regional Seas work on ecosystem approach implementation at global level.

**Annex IV**

**2021 Baseline Values and Threshold Values for IMAP Common Indicator 22**

*Table 1: 2021 Baseline Values and Threshold Values for IMAP Common Indicator 22*

<b>IMAP Indicators</b>	<b>Categories of Marine Litter</b>	<b>2016 Baseline Values</b>	<b>2021 Baseline Values</b>	<b>2021 Threshold Values</b>
Common Indicator 22	Beach Marine Litter	450-1400 items/100m	<b>369 items/100m</b>	<b>130 items/100m</b>