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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Third EcAp Coordination Group Meeting

Athens (Greece), 9 September 2013

Annotated Provisional Agenda

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Introduction

The ECAP process in the Mediterranean was launched by Decision UNEP(MED)IG 17/6 on the implementation of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities that may affect the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment, adopted by the 15th Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in January 2008 (Almeria, Spain). The first meeting of the government-designated expert (GDE) mandated by the Contracting parties to guide the work of the Secretariat for the implementation of the ecosystem approach *roadmap* was held in Athens in July 2008.

Further to three technical meetings in April 2010 (Rome, Italy), July 2010 (Barcelona, Spain) and March 2011 (Istanbul, Turkey), a GDE in Durres, Albania (2-3 June 2011), followed by the meeting of the MAP Focal Points in September of 2011, the 17th Meeting of Contracting Parties (**COP17**) in Paris (8-10 February 2012) endorsed 11 Ecological Objectives (**EOs**), corresponding 28 Operational Objectives, and 61 Indicators.

COP 17 further emphasized the priority nature of all ECAP related activities for all Barcelona Convention/MAP Activities for 2012 and 2013 and with regard to future actions it mandated the Secretariat to mobilize its full capacity, with the support of MEDPOL and the Regional Activity Centers to work on the determination of the Mediterranean Good Environmental Status (GES) and targets, to prepare an in-depth socio-economic analysis and to enhance on an Integrated Monitoring Programme and on an Integrated Assessment Policy.

During the biennium 2012-2013 work has been ongoing on the necessary further steps of the Ecosystem Approach application, with the overall guidance of the EcAp Coordination Group (**EcAp CG**), through: (i) expert level discussion in the Correspondence Groups on GES and Targets (**COR-GEST** groups, with their five cluster specific meetings comprising country experts, on biodiversity and fisheries; on pollution and litter; and on coast and hydrography) and specifically through: (ii) identifying GES and targets for the 11 agreed Ecological Objectives; (iii) preparing a state of play analysis on the monitoring and assessment activities and gaps with the leadership of the Secretariat, (iv) ongoing work on the socio-economic assessment with the leadership of Plan Bleu, (v) the SAPBIO evaluation with the leadership of SPA RAC; and (vi) the development of data-sharing principles for the upcoming monitoring and assessment activities of EcAp, with the leadership of INFO RAC.

The purpose of this meeting is to prepare and endorse the Decision on the Ecosystems Approach (to be considered by COP 18 for adoption). In particular, it will: (a) agree on the proposed integrated list of targets and GES, which are related to those indicators where available data makes this realistic at the present time while establishing a process on further implementation of the EcAp Roadmap in relation to all EOs; (b) set out the process for progressing on monitoring and assessment (in Correspondence Groups on Monitoring and Assessment, **COR MON**), (c) consider further issues to be addressed in the decision on EcAp as proposed by the Secretariat in Document WG.386/3 (the **Draft Decision**) and reflected in the Agenda under.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting (09.00-09.15)

The Meeting will be opened by the Barcelona Convention Executive Secretary and Coordinator of UNEP/MAP, Ms Maria Luisa Silva Mejias.

Agenda Item 2-3: Scope and purpose of the meeting and election of officers and adoption of the agenda (09:15-09.30)

The Rules and Procedures for meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols will apply *mutatis mutandis* to the present meeting (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI).

The Meeting shall elect a Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur. The Provisional Agenda (UNEP(DEPI)MED WG.377/1) annotated in the present document (UNEP(DEPI) WG.377/2) will be reviewed, amended as necessary, and adopted by the Meeting.

Simultaneous translation in English and French will be provided during the Meeting.

The Meeting is expected to adopt a list of Conclusions and Recommendations.

Agenda Item 4: Discussion of Mediterranean Good Environmental Status and Targets (09:30-11:30)

The Secretariat will provide a brief update on the progress since the last EcAp Coordination Group meeting held in Athens in April 2013 and present the draft integrated list of GES descriptions and targets, Annex I to the EcAp COP18 decision (the **Draft Decision**), as developed by the Correspondence Groups and further integrated by the Secretariat in consultation with all UNEP MAP components, taking into account data availability and overall maturity.

Expected outcome: The EcAp Coordination Group is expected to provide their views and recommendations on the way forward.

Working document	
UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.386/3	Annex I of the Draft Decision on Ecosystem Approach
Information document	
UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.386/Inf.3	Secretariat Explanatory Note on the EcAp process

11.30-11.45 Coffee break

Agenda item 5: Discussion of process on Integrated Monitoring and Integrated Assessment needs under EcAp (11.45-13.00)

The Secretariat will provide a brief presentation on its Integrated Monitoring and Assessment analysis, gaps and challenges identified for the EcAp process, as well present Annex II and Annex III of the Draft Decision. An open discussion will follow on this subject.

Expected outcome: The EcAp Coordination Group is expected to provide their views and recommendations on the way forward.

Working document	
UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.386/3	Annex II and III of the Draft Decision on Ecosystem Approach
Information document	
UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.386/Inf.3	Secretariat Explanatory Note on the EcAp process
UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.386/Inf.4	Secretariat gap analysis on ongoing monitoring activities

Agenda Item 6: Discussion of the Economic and Social Analysis, on-going work and beyond (13.00-13.30)

The Plan Bleu/RAC representative will provide a brief update on the progress of this action since the last EcAp Coordination Group meeting held in Athens in April 2013 in terms of results gained and present proposals for the assessment of the socioeconomic impacts of the future coordinated programmes of measures.

Expected outcome: The EcAp Coordination Group is expected to provide their views and recommendations on the way forward

13:30-15:00 Lunch break

Agenda Item 7: Discussion of draft EcAp related COP decision and its related Annexes (other than ones related to Agenda items 5 and 6) (15.00-16.30)

The Secretariat will present the remaining part of the Draft Decision (including EcAp timeline) and open discussion on the topic.

Expected outcome: The EcAp Coordination Group is expected to provide their views and recommendations.

Working document	
UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.386/3	Draft Decision on Ecosystem Approach
Information document	
UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.386/Inf.3	Secretariat Explanatory Note on the EcAp process

16.30-17.30: Coffee break

Agenda item 8: Adoption of recommendations and conclusions (17:30-18:30)

The Meeting will examine, amend as appropriate, and adopt a set of draft conclusions and recommendations which will be prepared by the Secretariat.

In line with the request of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the report of the meeting will be succinct and mainly focusing on conclusions and recommendations. The Report will be prepared by the Secretariat and shared with the EcAp Coordination Group after the meeting.

Agenda Item 9: Closure of the meeting (18:30)

The Chairperson will close the Meeting at 18.30 hours on Monday 9 September 2013.

DRAFT TIMETABLE

DATE	PLENARY
Monday 9 September 2013	
08.30 – 09.00	Registration
09.00.– 09:30	Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting Agenda item 2-3: Election of officers and adoption of the agenda
09.30-11.30.	Agenda item 4: Discussion of Mediterranean Good Environmental Status and Targets
11.30-11.45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11.45-13.00	Agenda item 5: Discussion of process on Integrated Monitoring and Integrated Assessment needs under EcAp
13.00-13.30	Agenda item 6: Discussion of the Economic and Social Analysis, on-going work and beyond
13:30 – 15.00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
15.00– 16:30	Agenda item 7: Discussion of draft EcAp related COP decision and its related Annexes (other than ones related to Agenda items 5 and 6)
16.30- 17.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
17.30 – 18.30	Agenda item 8: Adoption of recommendations and conclusions Agenda item 9: Closure of the meeting