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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of the MAP Focal Points

Athens, Greece, 10-12 September 2013

Draft decision on Strengthening Implementation of Marine Spatial Planning

Draft Decision

Strengthening the Implementation of the Marine Spatial Planning

The 18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties,

Having regard to the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean, signed in Madrid in January 2008 and entered into force in March 2011, herein after referred to as ICZM Protocol, which defines the coastal zone in its landward and seaward limits,

Taking into account that the seaward limit of the coastal zone is established by Article 3, paragraph 1, point (a) at the external limit of the territorial sea of the Parties,

Recalling the general principles of ICZM stated in Article 6, in particular point (c) on the application of the ecosystem approach to coastal zone planning and management,

Considering the complex interactions between the land and sea areas of the coastal zone, as well as among the activities they accommodate,

Acknowledging that planning and management of land and sea areas of the coastal zone are divided between policies, administrations and institutions,

Recalling the gaps identified and priorities set by the Action Plan for the Implementation of the ICZM Protocol in 2012-2019 adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 17th meeting held in Paris in February 2012 in order to ensure efficient coastal zone management, herein after referred to as Action Plan,

Aware that the planning of sea uses in connexion with the planning of coastal land uses is necessary for the implementation of ICZM,

Decides to

Invite the Contracting Parties to reinforce their efforts in the field of marine spatial planning as an essential component for effective delivery of ICZM;

Call upon the Contracting Parties to create enabling conditions for an integrated land and sea use planning and management by improving the consistency of their institutional, legal and governance frameworks;

Invite the Contracting Parties to include the requirement for the implementation of the marine spatial planning into the national ICZM strategies that are to be prepared according to Article 18 of the ICZM Protocol;

Invite the Contracting Parties to encourage the ICZM Protocol implementation projects (such as CAMPs) to include a marine spatial planning and management component;

Request the Coordinating Unit, and in particular PAP/RAC, to provide necessary guidance for the implementation of the marine spatial planning, acknowledging that the planning on land and sea need diverse knowledge and use diverse yet compatible methods and tools;

Request the Coordinating Unit, and in particular PAP/RAC, to propose governance schemes and provide knowledge needed for the implementation of the marine spatial planning by reinforcing and complementing the existing governance and learning tools, in the first place the ICZM Governance Platform managed by PAP/RAC and Plan Bleu within the PEGASO project and the MedOpen virtual training course on ICZM delivered by PAP/RAC;

Invite MAP components to closely cooperate in order to ensure coordinated planning and management of the marine and coastal space in respect of the ecosystem integrity and with the aim to contribute to the implementation of the ICZM Protocol and its Action Plan, and the EcAp objectives.