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Thirteenth Meeting of Focal Points for Specially Protected Areas

Alexandria, Egypt, 9-12 May 2017

Agenda item 9: Assistance in the implementation of the first phase of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) on biodiversity and non-indigenous species in the framework of the EcAp roadmap

Information note on the 2017 Quality Status Report (QSR2017) Elaboration process

For environmental and economy reasons, this document is printed in a limited number and will not be distributed at the meeting. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

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Information note on the 2017 Quality Status Report (QSR2017) Elaboration process

1. The 2017 Quality Status Report (QSR2017) is the first report on the assessment of the status of the IMAP-based Ecological Objectives and related Common Indicators. The UNEP/MAP Programme of Work for the period 2016-2017, adopted at COP 19, has a specific output (Key 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.*") addressing such kind of region-wide assessments.

2. 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*". This task is entrusted to the UNEP/MAP Secretariat with the support of all the Components, including SPA/RAC. The QSR2017 will be presented to 20th ordinary Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 20) in December 2017, that is expected to provide recommendations for such future assessments.

3. Since the adoption of the IMAP decision at COP 19 (Decision IG.22/7), and given that the IMAP implementation is still at an early phase, it is important to develop an approach which (i) accommodates the short time availably for the preparation of QSR2017 and data gaps on some of the IMAP indicators, and also (ii) considers the approach taken by other Regional Seas (such as OSPAR and HELCOM), and global work such as the 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 ocean related Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 14).

4. 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 other sources. In the initial steps, additional sources of information will be identified and mapped, from other partners, the NAP reports, etc. The QSR2017 will be prepared as an online interactive report including graphics and animations (such as time series maps of concentrations). It will include case studies related to the different common indicators, and/or to other databases and information sources.

5. Contracting Parties and participants to the meeting of the Correspondence Group on Monitoring (CORMON) on Biodiversity and Fisheries (Madrid, Spain, 28 February - 1 March 2017) provided guidance and sources of information to contribute to the QSR2017.

6. Contracting Parties will be invited to review and contribute to this initial draft of the QSR2017 through the following steps:

i. Provide comments for the revision of the draft QSR2017,
ii. Provide data and information that can be included in the revision of the draft assessment factsheets, and

iii. Propose, in addition to the regional level assessment, factsheet proposals for case studies at the local, national or regional level for one or more indicators that can also be included in the QSR 2017.

7. The review of the QSR2017 draft chapters will be undertaken by the QSR2017 Working Group, the CORMON and then MAP Components' Focal Point meetings in 2017. The final draft will be reviewed by the EcAp Coordination Group before submission to the MAP Focal Points meeting and publication for COP 20 (see timeline in the table below).

Date	Action
November 2016 – January 2017	1. Initial mapping of data and information sources (by the Secretariat) 2. Establishment of the online CORMON and thematic expert groups through InfoMap Groupware (by the Contracting Parties and the Secretariat) 3. Indicator Assessment factsheet drafted by lead UNEP/MAP Component for each Ecological Objective. MEDPOL (EO5, EO9, EO10), SPA/RAC (EO1, EO2) and PAP/RAC (EO7, EO8). 4. Case studies proposed on a voluntary basis (by the Contracting Parties), and reconfirmation of CORMON experts
February – March 2017	5. First draft of the QSR2017 Assessment Factsheets prepared and submitted to CORMON experts for review 6. CORMON Biodiversity, Marine Litter and Coast and Hydrography held 28 February - 1 March 2017 in Madrid, Spain to review draft Assessment Factsheets
April – May 2017	7. Revised Assessment Factsheets, chapters, case studies and structure of the online web-platform for the QSR2017 reviewed by EcAp Coordination Group during the Science Policy Interface meeting planned for May 2017 by Plan Bleu, under the EcAp-MED II project 8. Revised Assessment Factsheets, chapters, case studies and structure of the online web-platform for the QSR2017 reviewed during the Component Focal Point meetings in May 2017.
June – September 2017	9. Secretariat to revised and upload QSR2017 to the online platform. 10. Final draft of the online QSR2017 for review by the EcAp Coordination Group and MAP Focal Points (by the Secretariat)
October – December 2017	11. Submission to COP 20
2018	12. QSR2017 Translation and Online Publication

8. The Table of Contents (see hereafter) of the QSR2017 combines the 2016-2021 Mid-Term Strategy three Core Themes with the IMAP Ecological Objectives and indicators. For the candidate indicators, the Contracting Parties (EcAp Coordination Group/MAP Focal Points) will advise whether assessment factsheets are included in this QSR2017, or kept as internal reference documents.

Table of Contents of the QSR2017

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 for the QSR2017

2. Environmental Characteristics

2.1. The Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment

2.2. Impacts of Climate Change

3. Socioeconomic characteristics of the Mediterranean

4. Core Theme 1: Land and Sea-Based Pollution

Eutrophication (EO 5)

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

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

Pollution (EO 9)

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

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

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)

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);

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

Marine Litter (EO 10)

Common Indicator 22: Trends in the amount of litter washed ashore and/or deposited on coastlines (EO10);

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

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

Underwater Energy; Noise (EO 11)

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

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

5. Core Theme 2: Biodiversity and Ecosystems

Biodiversity and Ecosystems (EO 1)

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

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

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

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

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)

Non-indigenous species (EO 2)

Common indicator 6: 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)

Commercially exploited fish and shellfish (EO 3)

Common Indicator 7: Spawning stock Biomass (EO3);

Common Indicator 8: Total landings (EO3);

Common Indicator 9: Fishing Mortality (EO3);

Common Indicator 10: Fishing effort (EO3);

Common Indicator 11: Catch per unit of effort (CPUE) or Landing per unit of effort (LPUE) as a proxy (EO3)

Common Indicator 12: Bycatch of vulnerable and non-target species (EO1 and EO3)

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

Hydrography (EO 7)

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

Coastal Ecosystems and Landscapes (EO 8)

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

Candidate Indicator 25: Land use change (EO8)

7. Ecosystem Assessment Outlook

8. Conclusions and Recommendations