



UNEP



UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

02 Mai 2017
Original: English

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

Concept Note of the Sub-Regional Pilot Monitoring Study for the Eastern Mediterranean on Non-Indigenous Species in relation to Fisheries

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.

Note:

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) and UNEP concerning the legal status of any State, Territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of their frontiers or boundaries.

© 2017 United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan
(UNEP/MAP)
Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC)
Boulevard du Leader Yasser Arafat
B.P. 337 - 1080 Tunis Cedex - Tunisia
E-mail: car-asp@rac-spa.org

Concept Note of the Sub-Regional Pilot Monitoring Study for the Eastern Mediterranean on Non-Indigenous Species in relation to Fisheries

1. The core of the EcAp-MEDII Project is to assist Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties in updating their national monitoring and assessment programmes as recommended by the COP 19 Decision IG.22/7 on the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP). The project aims also at strengthening capacities through the development of a sub-regional pilot implementation plan for monitoring.

2. The aim of this Sub-Regional Pilot Monitoring Study (the Sub-regional Pilot) is to follow up on the sub-regional cooperation needs in relation to the implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) of the UN Environment/MAP-Barcelona Convention, as well as to provide input to Target 4 of the mid-term strategy (2017-2020) towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries, adopted by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) (Resolution GFCM/40/2016/2).

3. The focus of the Sub-regional Pilot is testing and further developing the Common Indicator related to Non-Indigenous Species (NIS): “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)”, and identify monitoring needs to assess this indicator, towards the development of a sub-regional monitoring programme for a given sub-region.

4. In addition, the Sub-regional Pilot aims to strengthen cooperation, at first step in one sub-region, with the aim that its outcome will be mirrored in the other Mediterranean sub-regions, as a next step.

5. As such, the Sub-regional Pilot will be focusing on monitoring the NIS common indicator in relation to fisheries, and will be implemented in the Eastern Mediterranean Sub-Region, involving the following countries: Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Lebanon and Turkey.

6. Furthermore, the Sub-regional Pilot also aims to strengthen regional ocean governance in a practical manner, through a specific coordinated activity in the area, which is in the mandate of both GFCM and UN Environment/MAP.

7. As such, the Sub-regional Pilot envisages the development of a sub-regional IMAP and GFCM Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF) compatible monitoring programme, with a focus on the IMAP NIS Common Indicator, in relation to fisheries.

8. It foresees to undertake this, through the following steps:

- Exchange of expert views, knowledge and existing monitoring methods, needs and data in relation to the NIS common indicator, with a focus on the Eastern Mediterranean sub-region specifics, with a focus on fisheries, between the GFCM and UN Environment/MAP (month 1 of the Pilot, Output: a Scientific Analysis of the NIS Common Indicator Sub-Regional Monitoring Specifics);
- Holding of a Consultation Meeting between the involved Eastern Mediterranean countries (Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Lebanon and Turkey), with the aim to develop a Sub-

regional Implementation Plan in relation to NIS Common Indicator monitoring in relation to fisheries (month 2 of the Pilot);

- Establishing an online expert group to further discuss specifics in relation to NIS Common Indicator monitoring in relation to fisheries in the Eastern Mediterranean, with working on the Monitoring Protocol details (month 2 of the Pilot);
- Work within online working groups and expert consultations (month 3 of the Pilot);
- Holding an additional Consultation Meeting between the involved Eastern Mediterranean countries (Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Lebanon and Turkey) with the objective to agree about a Sub-Regional Monitoring Implementation Plan for Common Indicator on NIS in relation to Fisheries (including a list of species to monitor, common monitoring guidelines, methodologies, protocols and agreement on data sharing) (month 4 of the Pilot);
- Report developed as an input of the Pilot to the relevant meetings of GFCM and UN Environment/MAP (month 5 of the Pilot).

9. The Pilot will foresee participation from both biodiversity/NIS and fisheries/NIS experts (i.e. experts both from the Ministries of Environment and Fisheries): Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Lebanon and Turkey.

Implementation Plan of the Pilot

➤ 12 May 2017: Preparation of an official letter to the UN Environment/MAP Focal Points/EcAp Coordination Group Members and GFCM SAC Focal Points, about the nomination of experts to follow the Sub-regional Pilot (1 expert on fisheries/NIS by GFCM, and 1 expert on biodiversity/NIS by UN Environment/MAP);

➤ 30 May 2017: Preparation of TORs for hiring a consultant to assist the Sub-regional Pilot (with key tasks (i) preparing a background document for the first sub-regional pilot meeting on monitoring methods, needs and data in relation to the NIS common indicator, with a focus on the Eastern Mediterranean sub-region specifics, (ii) developing a sub-regional implementation plan base and (iii) guiding discussions of the online working group/platform);

➤ 10 June 2017: Deadline of nominations for sub-regional pilot contact points (experts);

➤ 15 June 2017: Meeting documents for the Sub-regional Pilot meeting (Draft Agenda, Analysis of the NIS Common Indicator Sub-Regional Monitoring Specifics, other key background documents) are finalized;

➤ July 2017: Invitation to the sub-regional meeting is sent to country experts along with relevant background documents;

➤ Mid-July 2017: Sub-Regional Pilot NIS/Fisheries, Joint GFCM-UN Environment/MAP Meeting;

➤ Mid-July 2017: Creation of the online working group/platform for further exchange of views between experts;

➤ Mid-July-November/December 2017: Online working group exchange of views;

- September 2017: Possible side-event on initial outcomes of the project at the EcAp Coordination Group Meeting;
- October 2017: Possible side-event at the Forty-First Session of the Commission of GFCM;
- October 2017: Possible side-event at the Our Oceans 2017 Conference;
- November/December 2017: Second Meeting of the sub-regional pilot experts; Conclusions of pilot and adoption of a Sub-regional Implementation Plan in relation to NIS Common Indicator Monitoring in relation to Fisheries (with a list of species to monitor, common monitoring guidelines, methodologies, protocols and agreement on data sharing);
- December 2017: Possible side-event at the UN Environment/MAP COP 20 of the final outcomes of the pilot project.

Proposed financial and legal arrangements

- GFCM Secretariat to send pilot launch letter to GFCM SAC Focal Points, UN Environment/MAP and SPA/RAC to MAP Focal Points and SPA Focal Points respectively (same letter, CC list of other experts/Secretariats);
- Consultant for whole length of the pilot, but total of 5 months working days, P3 or P4 level, to be selected together by UN Environment/MAP and GFCM (TORs prepared jointly); UN Environment/MAP to hire, supervise and finance;
- First Meeting to take place in Athens, Greece, at the UN Environment/MAP office. Foreseen 2 participants/country (Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Lebanon and Turkey), one fisheries and one biodiversity expert, both with experience in relation to NIS;
- Egypt, Israel and Lebanon to be financed by the EcAp-MEDII Project; Cyprus, Greece and Turkey co-financed by MTF/PoW (SPA/RAC budget). Meeting organization will be arranged and financed fully by UN Environment/MAP (CU budget), foreseen expenses for meeting organization from the EcAp-MEDII Project budget;
- Side-Events to be financed by the EcAp-MEDII Project budget;
- Second Meeting to be held in Rome, back to back with relevant GFCM Meeting in the fall of 2017. GFCM to arrange organizational matters (venue, interpretation, catering and technical arrangements of meeting) and UN Environment/MAP, EcAp-MEDII project co-financed with PoW/MTF of SPA/RAC to finance project participants;
- Publication, visibility.