

Decision IG.20/6

Adoption of the Work Programme and Implementation Timetable of the Action Plan for the conservation of marine vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea for the period 2012-2017

The 17th Meeting of the Contracting Parties,

Recalling Article 11 of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean hereinafter referred to as the "Protocol", on national measures for the protection and conservation of species,

Recalling Article 12 of the Protocol, on cooperative measures for the protection and conservation of species, and in particular its paragraph 3 on the formulation and implementation of action plans for their conservation and recovery,

Considering the "Action Plan for the conservation of marine vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea" adopted by the Contracting Parties in Malta, in October 1999, and more particularly its section G. concerning the assessment of the implementation and revision of the Action Plan,

Considering the "Updated Activity Programme for the implementation of the Action Plan for the conservation of Marine Vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea" adopted by the Contracting Parties, in Portoroz, in November 2005,

Taking into account Decision IG.19/12 related to the "Amendments of the list of Annexes II and III of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean" adopted by the Contracting Parties, in Marrakech, in November 2009, and more particularly the marine vegetation species newly included in Annex II to the Protocol "List of endangered or threatened species",

Noting the work accomplished by the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC) in order to report on the Action Plan achievements over the period 2006-2011,

Taking into account the proposal by the SPA/RAC Focal points Meeting (Marseilles, May 2011) of a new work programme and timetable for the implementation of the Action Plan,

Decides,

1. to adopt the "Work Programme and Implementation Timetable of the Action Plan for the conservation of marine vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea for the period 2012-2017", as contained in Annex to this Decision;
2. to modify the list of species requiring particular attention in implementing the Action Plan (Article 8.1) taking into account the amendments to the Annex II to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean adopted by the 16th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Marrakech, 2009) and entered into force on the 13th of February 2011. Therefore, the species requiring particular attention in implementing the Action Plan will be as follows:

Magnoliophyta: *Cymodocea nodosa* (Ucria) Ascherson, *Posidonia oceanica* (Linnaeus) Delile, *Zostera marina* Linnaeus, *Zostera noltii* Hornemann

Chlorophyta: *Caulerpa ollivieri* Dostál

Heterokontophyta: *Cystoseira* genus (except *Cystoseira compressa*), *Fucus virsoides* J. Agardh, *Laminaria rodriguezii* Bornet, *Sargassum acinarium* (Linnaeus) Setchell, *Sargassum flavifolium* Kützing, *Sargassum hornschurchii* C. Agardh, *Sargassum trichocarpum* J. Agardh

Rhodophyta: *Gymnogongrus crenulatus* (Turner) J. Agardh, *Kallymenia spathulata* (J. Agardh) P.G. Parkinson, *Lithophyllum byssoides* (Lamarck) Foslie (Synon. *Lithophyllum lichenoides*), *Ptilophora mediterranea* (H. Huvé) R.E. Norris, *Schimmelmanna schousboei* (J. Agardh) J. Agardh, *Sphaerococcus rhizophylloides* J.J. Rodríguez, *Tenarea tortuosa* (Esper) Lemoine, *Titanoderma ramosissimum* (Heydrich) Bressan & Cabioch (Synon. *Goniolithon byssoides*), *Titanoderma trochanter* (Bory) Benhissoune *et al.*

Requests the Contracting Parties to take the necessary measures for the implementation of the Action Plan in accordance with the new work programme and within the time limits set out in its updated timetable, and report on their implementation according to the cycle and format of the MAP reporting system;

Requests SPA/RAC to assist the Parties in the implementation of the new work programme and implementation timetable of the Action Plan.

Annex

Work Programme and Implementation Timetable of the Action Plan for the conservation of marine vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea for the period 2012-2017

TYPE OF ACTION PLANNED	ACTIVITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE ACTION PLAN	DEADLINE
1. Regulatory activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parties which have not yet done so ratify the SPA/BD Protocol ▪ Help the Parties take new vegetation species in Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol into account ▪ Help the countries which have legal protections make them operational and efficacious ▪ Urge the Parties to create MPAs to conserve marine vegetation 	<p>As soon as possible</p> <p>As soon as possible</p> <p>From 2013</p> <p>As soon as possible</p>
2. Scientific knowledge and communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organise a symposium every 3 years ▪ Extend the bibliographical database to all the vegetal species in Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol and regularly update it ▪ Make the information layer on distribution of meadows accessible (MedGIS) ▪ Update the information layer on mapping priority habitats ▪ Complete and regularly revise the directory of specialists and laboratories, institutions and organisations concerned 	<p>From 2013</p> <p>From 2013</p> <p>As soon as possible</p> <p>Every two years</p> <p>At each Symposium</p>
3. Inventorying and mapping the main vegetal assemblages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Set up a programme for making national inventories on macrophyta species, with staggered planning according to the regions' priorities ▪ Make theoretical probable distribution maps for the main plant assemblages ▪ Implement targeted mapping and inventorying actions (Annex II species, priority sites) 	<p>From 2012</p> <p>As soon as possible</p> <p>From 2012</p>
4. Monitoring and following up over time the main vegetal assemblages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish a programme for setting up monitoring networks for the main marine plant assemblages at national and regional level ▪ Help the countries set up and/or extend their networks for follow-up of plants in the Mediterranean 	<p>As soon as possible</p> <p>From 2013</p>
5. Taking on the Action Plan and enhancing national capacities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Urge the countries that have so far not done so to develop short-, medium- and long-term action plans according to national and regional priorities ▪ Help countries implement action plans ▪ Set up training of 'liaison officers' responsible for providing national training courses ▪ Help the countries set up regular national trainings 	<p>From 2012</p> <p>As soon as possible</p> <p>From 2013</p> <p>From 2014</p>