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Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Monitoring (CORMON) Biodiversity and Fisheries
Marseille, France, 12-13 February 2019

Agenda item 2: Organizational matters

Provisional Annotated Agenda

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.

Provisional Annotated Agenda

Introduction

1. In accordance to the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2018-2019 (Decision IG.23/14) adopted by the 20th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017), and on the kind invitation of the Government of France, the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) is convening the meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Monitoring (CORMON), Biodiversity and Fisheries. The meeting will be held on 12 and 13 February 2019, in Marseille, France, at the Hôtel Mercure Centre Vieux Port (1, rue Neuve Saint Martin, 13001 Marseille).
2. The main objectives of this CORMON meeting are to:
 - (i) review the state of play of national Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programmes (IMAP) implementation related to biodiversity and non-indigenous species;
 - (ii) review and discuss the proposed guidelines on monitoring common indicators related to biodiversity and non-indigenous species; and
 - (iii) discuss and provide guidance on the development of data standards and data dictionaries, required for the development of the IMAP compatible information and data sharing system.
3. The meeting will be invited to provide suggestions, comments and recommendations on further work on indicators in order to revise and finalize the monitoring guidelines for consideration by the 14th Meeting of SPA/BD Focal Points scheduled in June 2019.
4. The following annotations to the provisional agenda have been prepared by the Secretariat to assist the meeting with its deliberations.

Agenda item 1. Opening of the meeting

Working document(s)	UNEP/MED WG.458/Inf.1
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5. The opening of the meeting will take place on 12 February 2019, at 9.30 a.m. The UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat representative and SPA/RAC Director will open the meeting, introduce its objectives and invite the representative of the Government of the host country (France) to address the participants.
6. All the SPA/RAC Focal Points have been invited to designate their representatives to the CORMON meeting.
7. The relevant intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations have also been invited to designate their representatives to the meeting as observers.

Agenda item 2. Organizational matters

Working document(s)	UNEP/MED WG.458/1 UNEP/MED WG.458/2 UNEP/MED WG.458/Inf.2
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a) Rules of procedure

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

b) Election of officers

9. Subject to Rule 20 of the rules of procedure, the meeting will elect, from among the representatives of the Contracting Parties, a President, two Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur.

c) Adoption of the agenda

10. Subject to Rule 14 of the rules of procedure, the provisional agenda appearing in document UNEP/MED WG.458/1 and annotated in the present document will be reviewed and proposed for adoption by the meeting, including the timetable contained in the annex to the present document.

d) Organization of work

11. The meeting will take place during one day and a half: the whole day of Tuesday 12 February 2019 and a half-day (morning session) on Wednesday 13 February 2019.

12. Sessions are scheduled, on day 1 (12 February 2019), from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2.30 to 5.30 p.m., and on day 2 (13 February 2019), from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

13. It is expected that the meeting addresses all items of the agenda within the allotted sessions. It is envisaged to close the meeting at 12.30 p.m., on 13 February 2019, after adopting its Conclusions and Recommendations.

14. Working languages of the meeting will be English and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be available during the plenary sessions of the meeting.

15. The documents prepared for the meeting are listed in document UNEP/MED WG.458/Inf.2 and available, in English and French, on the SPA/RAC website at the following link: http://www.rac-spa.org/cormon_2019.html. Participants are encouraged to download the documentation on their computers in advance of the session.

16. The meeting documents will not be distributed in paper copies. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their own copies to the meeting.

Agenda item 3. State of play of national IMAP implementation related to biodiversity and non-indigenous species

Working document(s)	UNEP/MED WG.458/3
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17. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will provide an overview on IMAP national implementation during its initial phase (2016-2019), highlighting progress, challenges and next steps.

18. The representatives of the Contracting Parties will be invited to orally present (in 5 minutes) an update on the progress in the implementation of the existent national monitoring programmes and share their best practices and encountered challenges.

19. The delegates are kindly requested to organise their oral presentations according to the following outline:

- (i) The advances in the national implementation of the IMAP related to biodiversity and non-indigenous species common indicators;
- (ii) The challenges encountered and lessons learned during this initial phase (2016-2019) of IMAP implementation of the monitoring programme;
- (iii) Data availability to contribute to the elaboration of the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report (2023 MED QSR); and
- (iv) Key national needs and major gaps for the successful implementation of the second phase (2019-2021) of the IMAP at national level.

Agenda item 4. Guidance on monitoring concerning the biodiversity and non-indigenous species common indicators

Working document(s)	UNEP/MED WG.458/4 UNEP/MED WG.458/Inf.3 UNEP/MED WG.458/Inf.4 UNEP/MED WG.458/Inf.5 UNEP/MED WG.458/Inf.6
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20. Draft monitoring guidelines on cetaceans, monk seal, seabirds, marine turtles and non-indigenous species have been developed in order to better assist countries in the implementation of their national IMAP as well as to harmonize and standardize monitoring and assessment methods on the following agreed common indicators:

- Common indicator 3: Species distributional range;
- Common indicator 4: Population abundance of selected species;
- Common indicator 5: Population demographic characteristics; and
- Common indicator 6: Trends in abundance, temporal occurrence, and spatial distribution of non-indigenous species, particularly invasive, non-indigenous species, notably in risk areas.

21. The draft monitoring guidelines will contribute to harmonize and standardize the monitoring and assessment programmes and will allow to further assess progress towards Good Environmental Status (GES).

22. The Secretariat will present the elaborated draft monitoring protocols for the common indicators 3, 4, 5 and 6 for discussion, review and advice by the meeting in view of their further development.

23. Participants will be invited to provide suggestions, comments and recommendations on further work on the draft guidelines in order to revise and finalize them for consideration by the 14th Meeting of SPA/BD thematic Focal Points scheduled in June 2019.

24. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present the main elements of documents prepared to support the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap, particularly the interaction between marine litter common indicators and species (UNEP/MED WG.458/Inf.3; UNEP/MED WG.458/Inf.4), and the available data to propose GES targets for candidate indicator 24 (UNEP/MED WG.458/Inf.5).

25. The Secretariat will also present the main elements of the document UNEP/MED WG.458/Inf.6 elaborated by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) on approaches to be used to fill the gaps identified in the 2017 Mediterranean Quality Status Report (2017 MED QSR).

26. The meeting is expected to provide feedback on the proposed documents and give recommendations on best approaches to be followed for the integration, as appropriate.

Agenda item 5. Data Standards and Data Dictionaries for selected biodiversity and non-indigenous species common indicators

Working document(s)	UNEP/MED WG.458/5
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27. Under this agenda item, the INFO/RAC representative will introduce the document UNEP/MED WG.458/5 consisting of Data Standards and Data Dictionaries proposals for selected biodiversity and non-indigenous species common indicators.

28. The meeting is expected to review and take note of the IMAP Data Standards and Data Dictionaries and provide guidance to the Secretariat for their future development.

Agenda item 6. Any other business

29. Under this agenda item, the meeting will consider any other relevant matter that may be raised by the participants and agreed during the adoption of the agenda.

Agenda item 7. Conclusions and recommendations

30. The meeting will be invited to review and adopt the draft conclusions and recommendations that will result from the discussions as prepared by the Rapporteur.

Agenda item 8. Closure of the meeting

31. The meeting is expected to be closed at 12.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 13 February 2019.

PROPOSED TIMETABLE
12-13 February 2019

Tuesday 12 February 2019		
Time	Agenda item	Document(s)
9 – 9.30 a.m.	<i>Registration</i>	
9.30 – 9.45 a.m.	Agenda item 1. Opening of the meeting	UNEP/MED WG.458/Inf.1
	Agenda item 2. Organizational matters	UNEP/MED WG.458/1 UNEP/MED WG.458/2 UNEP/MED WG.458/Inf.2
9.45 – 11.30 a.m. <i>(Coffee breaks will be made available in the meeting room)</i>	Agenda item 3. State of play of national IMAP implementation related to biodiversity and non-indigenous species	UNEP/MED WG.458/3
11.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	Agenda item 4. Guidance on monitoring concerning the biodiversity and non-indigenous species common indicators	UNEP/MED WG.458/4
12.30 – 2.30 p.m.	<i>Lunch break</i>	
2.30 – 5.30 p.m. <i>(Coffee breaks will be made available in the meeting room)</i>	Agenda item 4. Guidance on monitoring concerning the biodiversity and non-indigenous species common indicators <i>(continued)</i>	UNEP/MED WG.458/4 UNEP/MED WG.458/Inf.3 UNEP/MED WG.458/Inf.4 UNEP/MED WG.458/Inf.5 UNEP/MED WG.458/Inf.6
Wednesday 13 February 2019		
9.30 – 11.15 a.m. <i>(Coffee breaks will be made available in the meeting room)</i>	Agenda item 5. Data Standards and Data Dictionaries for selected biodiversity and non-indigenous species common indicators	UNEP/MEDWG.458/5
11.15 – 11.30 a.m.	Agenda item 6. Any other business	
11.30 a.m. – 12.15 p.m.	Agenda item 7. Conclusions and recommendations	
12.15 – 12.30 p.m.	Agenda item 8. Closure of the meeting	