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Mediterranean Action Plan
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Annotated Provisional Agenda

Introduction

At their sixteenth ordinary meeting (Marrakesh,-Morocco, November 2009), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention invited the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) to hold the tenth meeting of the National Focal Points for SPAs in 2011. The meeting will be organized in Marseilles, (France) at the “Mercure Marseille Centre” Hotel from the 17th to the 20th of May 2011 with the support of the French authorities.

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

The meeting will be opened on Tuesday, 17th May 2011 at 9.00 a.m. by the representatives of the host country, the Coordination Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and RAC/SPA. All the National Focal Points for SPAs of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the protection of the Marine and the coastal region of the Mediterranean have been invited to attend the meeting or to designate their representative(s). International and/or non-governmental organisations concerned have also been invited to designate their representatives to the meeting as observers.

Agenda item 2- Rules of Procedure

The internal rules adopted for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution and its related Protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6, Appendix XI) will apply *mutatis mutandis* to the present meeting.

Agenda item 3 - Election of Officers

The meeting will elect from amongst the representatives of the Contracting Parties, a chairperson, two vice-chairpersons and a rapporteur.

Agenda item 4 - Adoption of the Agenda and organisation of work

The Provisional Agenda proposed by the Secretariat and distributed as document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/1 and annotated in the present document, will be proposed for adoption by the Meeting. The Meeting will be invited to examine and to adopt the timetable proposed at the end of the present document.

The meeting's working languages will be English and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be available for all the plenary sessions.

Agenda Item 5 – Status of implementation of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean

a/ Reports of the Parties on the implementation at national level of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD)

The Secretariat will present document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/3, entitled 'Report on the state of implementation of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean', which constitutes a summary of the reports submitted by the National Focal Points of RAC/SPA. The national reports were prepared on the basis of the format defined in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/10 Annex V. These reports cover the period January 2008 to December 2009 and are submitted either through the new system of online reporting or as an electronic file using the same format as the online system.

The delegations will be invited to give their opinion as to how far the SPA/BD Protocol is being implemented. The National Focal Points can also speak if they so wish to give additional information or updating's concerning actions to implement the Protocol by the Parties they represent.

b/ Report on the progress made in RAC/SPA activities

The Director of RAC/SPA will briefly present the activities of the Centre since the last Meeting of National Focal Points, referring to document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/4 ('Report on the progress made in RAC/SPA's activities'). These activities will then be set out in detail and discussed as part of Agenda Item 6.

c/ SPAMIs List

The Secretariat will inform the Meeting about proposals received for the inclusion of sites on the SPAMI List. The presentation report for each proposed SPAMI will be presented by the delegation of the concerned country and the Meeting will be invited to look into the request for inclusion with a view to submitting the file with the opinion of the National Focal Points for SPAs to the next Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties. This will have to rule on whether the proposal for inclusion on the SPAMI List will be acted on.

The Secretariat will also inform the Meeting on the results of the regular ordinary review of areas appearing on the SPAMI List made over the current biennium in compliance with the procedure adopted (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/10 Annex V) by the Contracting Parties. The results of this assessment are presented in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/5. The Meeting will be invited to look into the results of these assessments

In addition, the Secretariat will present the document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/6 related to the Approach to facilitate proposals of area located beyond national jurisdiction for inclusion in the SPAMI List. This approach was elaborated in close collaboration with the MAP Coordination Unit, under request of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties. This document is backed by information document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/Inf.3 on the legal aspects for creating Marine Protected Areas beyond national jurisdictions in the Mediterranean.

The meeting will be invited to review the Approach document and make recommendations on the follow up.

d/ Amending Annexes II and III to the SPA/BD Protocol

The Secretariat will present a note on the amending of Annexes II and III to the SPA/BD Protocol (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/7). The Meeting will be invited to consider the note and make recommendations on the subject. For practical reasons, the forms on species of cartilaginous fishes (chondrichthyans) will be examined as part of Agenda Item 6 at the same time as the implementing of the Action Plan for the conservation of cartilaginous fishes (chondrichthyans) in the Mediterranean Sea.

e/ Future orientations of SAP BIO

The Secretariat will inform the Meeting on how far SAP BIO is being implemented (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/inf.4) and will present a note (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/8) on the future orientations of SAP BIO in the light of the decisions made by the Convention on Biological Diversity's 10th Conference of Parties (COP 10 of the CBD, Nagoya, 2010), particularly the Aichi Strategic Plan for the period 2011-2020 adopted by the CBD's COP10.

The Meeting will be invited to consider the suggestions in the said note and make recommendations on the subject.

Furthermore, outside the Meeting proper, each of the delegations of the Parties will be invited by the Secretariat to discuss the implementing of SAP BIO at national level. The discussion will particularly look into the implementing of the national plans crafted as part of SAP BIO as well as future actions to be envisaged at national level related to SAP BIO's objectives. The timing for the holding of the said discussions will be agreed jointly by the Secretariat and each of the delegations of the Parties.

Agenda Item 6 – Progress made in RAC/SPA activities

A) Inventorying, mapping and monitoring Mediterranean coastal and marine biodiversity

Under this Agenda Item, the Secretariat, referring to the pertinent parts of document (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/4), will present the activities carried out by RAC/SPA since the Ninth Meeting of National Focal Points on the subject of inventorying, mapping and monitoring marine and coastal biodiversity. The Secretariat will present the Draft Guidelines for the standardization of Methods for mapping and monitoring marine Magnoliophyta in the Mediterranean (Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/9) as well as the Draft Guidelines concerning standardized methods for inventorying and monitoring the coralligenous/Rhodolites and their main species (Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/10).

The Meeting will be invited to take note of these documents.

B) Protecting vulnerable habitats, species and sites

B.1. Activities concerning Specially Protected Areas

The Secretariat, referring to the pertinent parts of document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/4, will, under this Agenda Item, address the activities related to setting up and managing marine and coastal Protected Areas.

The Secretariat will present the actions carried out in the context of implementing the 'Regional Working Programme for the coastal and marine protected areas in the Mediterranean, including the High Sea,

Particularly, activities relative to the improvement of the representativity of the network on marine and coastal protected areas will be considered, including inventory of MPA and the assessment of their efficiency. The floor will be given to the partner organisations, who contributed to such activities, in order to inform the meeting on their actions.

In addition the Secretariat will present in particular the progress made in the activities of the MedMPAnet Project ('Regional Project for the development of a Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MPAs) Network through the boosting of a Mediterranean MPAs Creation and Management as part of the 'Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea large Marine Ecosystem' (MedPartnership), and the project to set up SPAMIs in open sea areas, including deep sea areas, as set out in detail in document (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/Inf.5).

The delegations will be invited to give their opinions on these activities and make recommendations for future activities.

B.2. Implementing Action Plans for the conservation of species and habitats, adopted in the MAP context

The Secretariat will for each Action Plan present a summary of the activities carried out, referring to the pertinent parts of document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/4, and will set out in detail, for the concerned Action Plans, the specific documents.

Thus in succession the following will be addressed:

1. The Action Plan for managing the Mediterranean monk seal: an information note on the process of preparing sub-regional programmes for the conservation of the monk seal in the Mediterranean will be presented (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/Inf.6)
2. The Action Plan for the conservation of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea; RAC/SPA will present the activities carried out for the conservation of cetaceans in the Mediterranean. Since RAC/SPA assure the function of sub-regional coordination unit of ACCOBAMS for the Mediterranean, the secretariat of this agreement will present the activities relative to the conservation of cetacean in the Mediterranean (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/Inf.7)
3. The Action Plan for the conservation of Mediterranean marine turtles; RAC/SPA will present the activities carried out for the conservation of marine turtles in the Mediterranean and will present in particular, the protocol for collecting and assessment of fishing interaction with marine turtles (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/11) and the document "Satellite Tracking of Marine Turtles in the Mediterranean : Current Knowledge and Conservation Implications " (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/Inf.8)
4. The Action Plan for the conservation of marine vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea. Under this Agenda Item a Note will be presented on the implementing of the Action Plan for the conservation of marine vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea, and a proposal for an updated work programme and timetable (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/12).
5. The Action Plan for the conservation of cartilaginous fishes (chondrichthyans) in the Mediterranean Sea, which will set out in detail the 'Draft Guidelines and code of conduct for sport fishing of sharks and rays' (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/13). The forms on species of cartilaginous fishes (chondrichthyans) presented in document (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/7) will be looked into by the Meeting under this Agenda Item. Those forms will be presented for consideration by the meeting in order to

submit them to the Parties with recommendation for the amendment of Annexes II and III of the SPA/BD protocol.

6. The Action Plan for the conservation of bird species listed in Annex II to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean: RAC/SPA will present the activities carried out for the conservation of bird species.
7. The Action Plan for the conservation of the coralligenous and other calcareous Mediterranean bioconcretions: RAC/SPA will present the activities carried out within the implementation of this action plan.

At the end of each Action Plan, the Meeting will be invited to (i) give its opinion on the activities carried out, and (ii) look into the documents and take note of them.

At the end of all the discussions on this Agenda Item, the Meeting will be invited to look into the recommendations suggested by the Secretariat with a view to submitting them to the Contracting Parties for adoption.

C) Assessing and mitigating the impacts of threats to biodiversity

This Agenda Item will offer an opportunity to deal with the activities undertaken within the context of the Action Plan concerning introductions and invasive species in the Mediterranean Sea, as presented in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/4, with the presentation of a 'Feasibility study for setting up a regional mechanism for collecting, compiling and circulating information on marine alien species in the Mediterranean', presented in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/Inf.9.

The Focal Points will be informed about the activities carried out in the context of implementing the UNEP/MAP system's Ecosystem Approach. Documents (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/Inf.10), (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/Inf.11), (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/Inf.12), and (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/Inf.13), will be presented. The Focal Points for SPAs will be invited to take note of the documents mentioned.

D) Training, coordination and technical assistance

The Secretariat will set out in detail the regional and national training actions carried on during the biennium to improve capacities in terms of conservation techniques, follow-up, monitoring and assessing biodiversity or preventing and reducing threats on the basis of the information presented in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/4.

The Focal Points will be invited to give their opinions and make recommendations for future activities.

Agenda Item 7 – Programme of work of RAC/SPA for 2012-2013

The Director of RAC/SPA will present the Programme of work (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.359/14) that will be proposed by RAC/SPA at the next Meeting of Parties and will inform the Meeting about an internal reorganisation of the Centre work.

The Meeting will be invited to give their opinion on the proposed programme and the reorganisation of work.

Agenda Item 8 –Any other matters

Possible other questions about subjects of the Meeting that could be raised by participants or the Secretariat will be examined under this Agenda Item.

Agenda Item 9 – Adoption of the Report of the Meeting

A draft Report of the Meeting will be submitted to participants for adoption.

Agenda Item 10 – Closure of the Meeting

The meeting is expected to be closed on Friday 20 May 2011, at 5.30 p.m.

PROPOSED TIMETABLE

Tuesday 17 May 2011	Wednesday 18 May 2011	Thursday 19 May 2011	Friday 20 May 2011
<p><u>Morning session</u></p> <p>8.00 - 9.00 a.m. Registration and distribution of Badges</p> <p>9.00 - 12.30 a.m. Agenda items: 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 (A, B, C and D)</p> <p>10.30 - 11.00 a.m. <i>Coffee break</i></p>	<p><u>Morning session</u></p> <p>9.00 - 12.30 a.m. Agenda items: 6 (B2)</p> <p>10.30 - 11.00 a.m. <i>Coffee break</i></p>	<p><u>Morning session</u></p> <p>9.00 - 12.30 a.m. Agenda items: 6 (C and D)</p> <p>10.30 - 11.00 a.m. <i>Coffee break</i></p>	<p><u>Morning</u></p> <p><i>Free; preparation by the Secretariat of the Report of the Meeting</i></p> <p>Excursion to Frioul islands, (organised by la Ville de Marseille and the Conservatoire du Littoral)</p>
<p><u>Afternoon session</u></p> <p>2.30 - 5.30 p.m. Agenda items: 5 (E) and 6 (A and B1)</p> <p>4.00 - 4.30 p.m. <i>Coffee break</i></p>	<p><u>Afternoon session</u></p> <p>2.30 - 5.30 p.m. Agenda items: 6 (B2 continuation)</p> <p>4.00 - 4.30 p.m. <i>Coffee break</i></p>	<p><u>Afternoon session</u></p> <p>2.30 - 5.00 p.m. Agenda items: 7 and 8</p> <p>4.00 - 4.30 p.m. <i>Coffee break</i></p>	<p><u>Afternoon session</u></p> <p>2.30 - 5.30 p.m. Agenda items: 9 and 10</p> <p>4.00 - 4.30 p.m. <i>Coffee break</i></p>
<p>5.30 - 6.30 p.m. <i>Side events</i></p>	<p>Dinner (offered by the Ministère de l'Ecologie, du Développement Durable, des Transports et du Logement and by the Conservatoire du Littoral)</p>	<p>5.00 – 6.00 <i>Side events</i></p>	