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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Eighth Meeting of Focal Points for SPAs

Palermo, Italy, 6-9 June 2007

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

*For reasons of economy, this document will be available
in a limited number at the meeting.
You are kindly requested to bring your copy to the meeting.*

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introduction

At their Fourteenth Ordinary Meeting (Portoroz, November 2005), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention invited the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) to hold an Eighth Meeting of National Focal Points for SPAs in 2007. This Meeting will be organised in the Grand Hotel Wagner, Palermo (Via Riccardo Wagner, 2, 90139 Palermo) from 6-9 June 2007, with the support of the Italian Government.

The annotations to the provisional agenda that appear below were prepared by the Secretariat to help the Meeting in its discussions.

Item 1 of the Agenda: **Opening the Meeting**

The Meeting will be opened at 9 a.m. on Wednesday 6 June 2007 by representatives from the (MAP) Mediterranean Action Plan's and RAC/SPA's Coordinating Unit. All the National Focal Points for SPAs of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Protection of the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment (Barcelona Convention) were invited to attend or to appoint their representative/s to the Meeting. The Republic of Montenegro was invited to appoint a representative to attend the Meeting as an observer. The concerned international and/or non-governmental organisations were also invited to appoint representatives to the Meeting with observer status.

Item 2 of the Agenda: **Rules and regulations**

The rules and regulations adopted for the meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Protecting the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and the protocols relating to it (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI) will apply *mutatis mutandis* to the present Meeting.

Item 3 of the Agenda: **Electing the Committee**

The Meeting will elect a President, two Vice-Presidents and a Reporter from among the representatives of the Contracting Parties.

Item 4 of the Agenda: **Adopting the Agenda and organising the work**

The provisional Agenda proposed by the Secretariat, distributed as UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.308/1 Rev. 1 and annotated in the present document, will be proposed for adoption by the Meeting. The Meeting will be asked to consider and adopt the timetable suggested at the end of the present document.

The working languages for the Meeting will be English and French. Simultaneous interpreting is available at all plenary sessions.

Item 5 of the Agenda: **State of implementation of the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean**

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

The Secretariat will introduce Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.308/3, Summary of National Reports on the Implementation of the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biological

Diversity in the Mediterranean for the Period March 2005-March 2007; this contains a summary of the reports made by RAC/SPA's National Focal Points. These reports were prepared using the form adopted to this end by the Thirteenth Meeting of Contracting Parties (Catania, November 2003).

The Meeting will be invited to give its opinion on the state of implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol, and the National Focal Points will also be able to speak if they wish to give additional information or updates to the document. The updated, amended work document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.308/3 will be put on RAC/SPA's web site (<http://www.rac-spa.org>).

b) Report on the progress made in RAC/SPA's activities

The Director of RAC/SPA will briefly go through the Centre's activities since the last Meeting of National Focal Points, with reference to Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.308/4 (Progress Report on RAC/SPA's Activities). These activities will appear in detail under the specific Agenda item. This presentation will also deal with a suggestion of direction for the Centre.

The delegations will take the floor to express their views and make suggestions, particularly on the approach and the new general directions proposed for RAC/SPA.

c) Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO)

The Secretariat will tell the Meeting about the actions carried on to implement the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO). To this end it will introduce the pertinent sections of Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.308/4.

Partner organisations that are members of SAP BIO's Advisory Committee and are represented at the Meeting will be invited to present their respective SAP BIO objective-linked activities. These are dealt with in Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.308/Inf.3 (State of Implementation of the Strategic Action Plan by the Institutions that are Members of SAP BIO's Advisory Committee).

The Secretariat will also present a proposal for the coming stages of SAP BIO, as defined in Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.308/5 (Major Outlines of the Operational Plan to Implement the Strategic Action Plan for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region).

The Meeting will be invited to give its views on the activities carried out and make recommendations for follow-up of implementation of SAP BIO.

d) Common criteria provided for by the Protocol

In Article 16, the Protocol provides for the Parties adopting common criteria to facilitate its implementation:

- common criteria for choosing marine and coastal protected areas likely to be put on the SPAMI List
- common criteria for including additional species in the Annexes.

Since the first common criteria had already been adopted by the Parties, RAC/SPA was asked to elaborate common criteria for the inclusion of species in Annex II and III to the Protocol. At this item in the Agenda, the Secretariat will present the Draft Common Criteria for Amending Annex II and III of the SPA/BD Protocol. It appears in Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.308/13.

The Meeting will be asked to consider the said Draft Common Criteria with a view to

proposing it to the Contracting Parties for adoption at their next Ordinary Meeting.

Item 6 of the Agenda: Developing Marine and Coastal Specially Protected Areas

a) Activities concerning Specially Protected Areas

In this Agenda item, the Secretariat, with reference to the pertinent sections of Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.308/4, will present the activities undertaken by RAC/SPA since the Seventh Meeting of National Focal Points for SPAs (Seville, May 2005) to boost the setting up and managing of marine and coastal protected areas.

The Secretariat will introduce Documents UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.308/8 and UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.308/10 concerning respectively the Draft Guidelines for Creating and Managing Protected Marine Areas for Cetaceans and the Draft Guidelines for Monitoring and Managing Marine and Coastal Protected Areas of Importance for Birds.

The Meeting will be asked to consider and give opinions on these documents and take due note of them.

b) Assessing SPAMIs

The Secretariat will introduce Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.308/6 concerning the Draft SPAMI Assessment Procedure.

The Meeting will be asked to consider the document with a view to submitting it to the Parties for adoption.

Item 7 of the Agenda: Implementing the Action Plans adopted in the MAP context

The Secretariat will present, for each Action Plan, a summary of activities carried out, with reference to the pertinent sections of Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.308/4, and for the Action Plans concerned give details of the specific documents.

Thus, in succession, the following will be addressed:

1. The Action Plan for managing the Mediterranean monk seal
2. The Action Plan for the conservation of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea
3. The Action Plan for the conservation of cartilaginous fishes (chondrichthyans) in the Mediterranean Sea
4. The Action Plan for the conservation of Mediterranean marine turtles, with a presentation of Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.308/7, Draft Action Plan for the conservation of Mediterranean marine turtles, which constitutes the updating proposal for the said Action Plan
5. The Action Plan for the conservation of bird species listed in Annex II to the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean
6. The Action Plan for the conservation of marine vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea, with a presentation of the future work programme on the coralligenous appearing in Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.308/9 (Proposal for a Work Programme to Protect the Mediterranean Coralligenous and Other Calcareous Bioconcretions)

7. The Action Plan on introductions of species and invasive species in the Mediterranean Sea, with a presentation of Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.308/11 (Draft Guidelines for Checking Vectors of Introduction of Marine Non-native Species and Invasive Species into the Mediterranean) and Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.308/12 (Draft Guide for Analysing the Risks and Assessing the Impacts of Introductions_of Non-Native Species), which suggest tools for assessing or controlling the risks of impacts linked to the introduction of non-native species.

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

At the end of the whole debate on this Agenda item, the Meeting will be invited to consider the recommendations proposed by the Secretariat with a view to submitting them to the Contracting Parties for adoption.

Item 8 of the Agenda: Crossover subjects

The Secretariat will inform the Meeting about RAC/SPA's crossover activities, with reference to the pertinent sections of Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.308/4.

In the context of this Agenda item, the Meeting is expected to consider the following files:

- Capacity building and training activities related to SPAs and the conservation of biodiversity
- Activities linked to processing and managing biodiversity-related data.

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

Item 9 of the Agenda: RAC/SPA's budget/programme for 2008-2009

The Secretariat will introduce RAC/SPA's activities programme and the budget proposed for 2008-2009, with reference to the pertinent section of Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.308/4. The Meeting will be invited to examine the suggested budget/programme and give its opinion in budgetary allocation priorities.

Item 10 of the Agenda: Other issues

Possible other issues relating to the topics of the Meeting which could be raised by participants or by the Secretariat will be considered in this Agenda item.

In accordance with the Coordinating Unit, the Meeting will be informed about the interest of the ecosystemic approach and the means of taking this into account in future regional actions.

The delegations will be asked for comments.

Item 11 of the Agenda: Adopting the Report of the Meeting

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

Item 12 of the Agenda: Closing the Meeting

The Meeting is expected to be closed on Saturday 9 June 2007 at 3.30 p.m.

SUGGESTED TIMETABLE

Wednesday 6 June 2007	Thursday 7 June 2007	Friday 8 June 2007	Saturday 9 June 2007
<p><u>Morning session</u></p> <p>9-9.30 a.m. Opening the Meeting</p> <p>9.30-12.30 a.m. Agenda items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5</p> <p>10.30-11 a.m. <i>Coffee break</i></p>	<p><u>Morning session</u></p> <p>9-12.30 a.m. Agenda items 6 (continuation) and 7</p> <p>10.30-11 a.m. <i>Coffee break</i></p>	<p><u>Morning session</u></p> <p>9-12.30 a.m. Agenda items 8 and 9</p> <p>10.30-11 a.m. <i>Coffee break</i></p>	<p><i>Free; preparation by the Secretariat of the Report of the Meeting</i></p>
<p><u>Afternoon session</u></p> <p>2.30-5.30 p.m. Agenda items 5 (continuation) and 6</p> <p>4-4.30 p.m. <i>Coffee break</i></p>	<p><u>Afternoon session</u></p> <p>2.30-5.30 p.m. Agenda item 7 (continuation)</p> <p>4-4.30 p.m. <i>Coffee break</i></p>	<p><u>Afternoon session</u></p> <p>2.30-4 p.m. Agenda item 10</p> <p>4-4.30 p.m. <i>Coffee break</i></p>	<p><u>Afternoon session</u></p> <p>1.30-3.30 p.m. Agenda item 11 and 12</p>
<p>5.30-6.30 p.m. <i>Parallel events</i></p>	<p>5.30-6.30 p.m. <i>Parallel events</i></p>	<p>4.30-5.30 p.m. <i>Parallel events</i></p>	