



**UNITED
NATIONS**

EP

UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.443/Inf.15



**UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

11 September 2017
Original: English

Meeting of the MAP Focal Points

Athens, Greece, 12-15 September 2017

Agenda item 5: Specific Matters for Consideration and Action by the Meeting

Draft Report of the 6th Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group: Conclusions and Recommendations

For environmental and cost-saving reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

Draft Conclusions and Recommendations

The 6th Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group (the Meeting) took place in Athens, Greece, 11 September 2017.

Following review and discussions of all agenda items, the Meeting agreed on the following conclusions and recommendations:

Review of Quality Status Report (QSR 2017)

1. Following the Secretariat's presentations on the process followed for the preparation of QSR 2017, on its current status and its main findings and identified gaps, the Meeting welcomed the draft QSR 2017, as prepared by the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Groups on Monitoring (COR MONs), the Secretariat and Components, despite time constraints and data challenges.
2. The Meeting acknowledged the efforts leading to the preparation of the draft QSR 2017, including the mobilization of national expertise through the COR MONs and submissions of a considerable number of case studies and requested for more involvement of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group throughout the process in the development of QSR 2023.
3. The Meeting reviewed the QSR 2017 findings and key messages and requested the Secretariat to adjust Annex of Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.443/9 (draft Decision of QSR 2017) for consistency with the key messages and knowledge gaps presented in the draft QSR 2017 for each Ecological Objective.
4. The Meeting stressed that the next QSR (QSR 2023) should include more in-depth analysis on sub-regional specifics and establish stronger linkages between the state, impact and pressures affecting marine and coastal environment.
5. The Meeting expressed the importance of implementing as soon as possible a list of actions to be prepared by the Secretariat in close consultation with the EcAp Coordination Group for delivering quality assured data and related assessment at national, sub-regional and regional levels for the QSR 2023.
6. The Meeting emphasized that strengthened national implementation of IMAP and more data collected in a coherent manner and format and provided to the Secretariat are a prerequisite for more complete future assessment products (QSR 2023).
7. The Meeting also stressed the need for further capacity building and exchange of best practices, to enable the implementation of IMAP all over the Mediterranean region.
8. The Meeting agreed to the following timetable in relation to the finalization of the QSR 2017:
 - (a) the Secretariat to further update and edit by 25 September 2017 the draft QSR 2017 (including all case studies) in line with comments of the Contracting Parties to be received by 15 September 2017 at the latest;
 - (b) the Secretariat to share online 25 September 2017 to 10 October 2017 the revised version of the draft Decision and the amended version of the QSR 2017 for final validation of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group Members;
 - (c) the Secretariat to finalize the Annex to the draft Decision of QSR 2017 to enable the timely submission of a strengthened QSR 2017 to COP 20.

9. The Meeting welcomed the ongoing work of GFCM and requested the Secretariats of UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and GFCM, to work further closely together and to integrate regional assessment of fisheries indicators also into the draft QSR 2017. For this purpose, GFCM was invited to provide their contribution to the draft QSR 2017, in line with the above timetable.

10. In relation to the proposed assessment criteria and thresholds, the Meeting welcomed the work undertaken, encouraged the Contracting Parties to test them for national assessment purposes and encouraged the upcoming MAP Focal Points Meeting to consider it as a possible Decision for COP 20, as an evolving document to be updated on a continuous basis, based on implementation of IMAP.

Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap

11. The Meeting acknowledged the progress achieved for the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap and the achievement of outputs provided in the Ecosystem Approach related Decisions of the Contracting Parties under the Barcelona Convention. The Meeting encouraged the Secretariat to start envisaging and outlining potential key activities and outputs for the next cycle of Ecosystem Approach roadmap implementation, considering possible synergies between Ecosystem Approach and ocean related developments of the Agenda 2030 implementation for timely discussions at the EcAp Coordination Group meeting during the 2018-2019 biennium. The meeting requested to complete the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap with information on the contribution of the Governance structure of the MAP/Barcelona Convention system to the implementation of Ecosystem Approach roadmap as well as on other regional relevant projects.

12. The Meeting encouraged further work on the implementation of Ecosystem Approach Roadmap in the current cycle (until 2021), focusing on the strengthened implementation of IMAP at national level, filling the gap for the preparation of the upcoming QSR 2023, further work on defining assessment criteria to assess GES, the implementation of existing measures as well as development of new or upgrade of existing measures with clear time table for their negotiation and implementation while taking into account also the envisioned key findings of the future QSR 2023.

13. The Meeting specifically encouraged further work on assessment criteria to ensure coherence and to improve coordination between the data bases of UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention and other regional or international data-bases with similar parameters.

Review of Proposed IMAP Common Indicator Guidance Facts Sheets

14. The Meeting endorsed the IMAP Guidance Fact Sheets as living documents and welcomed the ongoing work on developing an IMAP compatible Information and Data Sharing System.

Any Other Business

15. The Meeting highlighted the importance of science-policy interface for the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap and considered appropriate to further develop means for the involvement of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group in science-policy interlinkages, as well as the development of a summary of most relevant projects ongoing which can assist Contracting Parties in their efforts to implement IMAP.