

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting

The Meeting will be opened by the MAP Coordinator at 9,30 hours of Tuesday 20 February at the Hotel "Holiday Inn", 50, Mihalakopoulou street, 11528 Athens.

Agenda item 2. Election of Officers

The Meeting will elect a Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur.

Agenda item 3. Adoption of the Agenda and organization of work

The Meeting will review, amend as appropriate and adopt the Agenda proposed in this document. Simultaneous interpretation in English and French will be available. The Meeting is expected to work in plenary only. Under Agenda item 8., the Meeting will review and adopt its conclusions while a full report will be sent by the Secretariat to all participants at a later stage for comments/amendments and adoption.

Agenda item 4. Background, Objective and expected outputs of the Meeting

The Secretariat will review the decisions of the Contracting Parties in relation to the possible application of the ecosystem approach in the region. Subsequently, a short presentation will be made of the work carried out by the Secretariat to comply with the Parties' decisions and in particular of the background and status of implementation of the European Commission/MAP project to prepare and propose to the Parties a draft road map for the gradual application of the ecosystem approach by MAP. The project, that started in 2006 and will end in May 2007, was endorsed by the Parties at their Meeting in Portoroz in 2006 and is being coordinated by MED POL on behalf of MAP.

The objective of the Meeting is to present a draft road map for the gradual application of the ecosystem approach in the Mediterranean, to discuss its content with the countries' representatives, to review the possible implications for MAP and the countries and finally to agree on the next steps to be made in the short-, medium- and long-term.

The Meeting is therefore expected to provide the Secretariat with clear indications on a number of issues highlighted in the draft document which will be introduced under Agenda item 6. to allow the Secretariat to proceed with the necessary work and plan a gradual application of the ecosystem approach.

Agenda item 5. Review of the process of application of the ecosystem approach by other international/regional bodies

Under this Agenda item, representatives of OSPAR, HELCOM and the European Commission will briefly share with the Meeting the relevant experience in the application of the ecosystem approach in their respective areas.

Agenda item 6. A road map for the gradual application of the ecosystem approach in the Mediterranean: review and discussion

Under this Agenda item, the Secretariat will introduce document UNEP(DEPI)MED WG.306/2. The document proposes a road map for the gradual application of the ecosystem approach by MAP and assesses the possible implications on MAP. The document highlights a number of basic elements: the ecosystem approach is a strategy for the comprehensive and integrated management of human activities affecting the marine ecosystem, based on the best available scientific knowledge. Moving to the ecosystem approach is an evolutionary step, not a revolutionary one. The ecosystem approach just highlights the need to approach the goals systematically and in a more coordinated manner. The Meeting is expected to comment on the content of the document and express its position in relation to the specific steps to be made as suggested by the Secretariat. The conclusions of the Meeting will be used by the Secretariat to plan and proceed with its work in view of the possible application of the ecosystem approach by MAP.

Agenda item 7. Other business

Under this Agenda item, the participants will be asked to raise any other business related to the subject of the Meeting.

Agenda item 8. Summary of conclusions

The Secretariat will present a list of draft conclusions that derived from the discussions of the Meeting for comments/amendments and adoption.

Agenda item 9. Closure of the Meeting

The Meeting will be closed by the elected Chairperson at 18,00 hours of Wednesday 21 February