

Workshop for the validation of the national monitoring programme for biodiversity in Lebanon

Hotel Radisson Blue Verdun (Beirut), 17 January 2018

Agenda

1. General context

At their 15th meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP15, 2008), the Contracting Parties have decided (through Decision IG.17/5) to progressively apply the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) to the management of human activities in the Mediterranean, with the ultimate objective to achieve the Good Environmental Status (GES).

Subsequently, the Parties agreed on strategic goals to achieve the Ecosystem Approach vision, on 11 Ecological Objectives, and on matching GES descriptions, targets and indicators. The adoption of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment programme (IMAP) during the COP 19 (through Decision IG.22/7), is one of the key elements of the implementation of this integrated and multidisciplinary approach. The IMAP provides guidance to the parties on how to practically implement quantitative monitoring and assessment of the ecological status of the Mediterranean, covering three components: i) Pollution and marine litter; ii) Biodiversity and non-indigenous species; and iii) Coast and hydrography.

IMAP is aiming to deliver over 2016-2021 its objectives as described above. It is introduced first however in an initial phase (2016-2019), during which the existing national monitoring and assessment programmes will be integrated, in line with the IMAP structure and principles and based on the agreed common indicators. This implies in practice that the existing national monitoring and assessment programmes will be reviewed and revised as appropriate so that national implementation of IMAP can be fulfilled in a sufficient manner.

In this context, SPA/RAC is actively contributing to the implementation of the IMAP, particularly its biodiversity and non-indigenous species (NIS) component through the support of Southern Mediterranean countries to update their national monitoring programmes for biodiversity in line with the IMAP recommendations.

2. Objectives

The objective of this national workshop is to discuss the draft monitoring programme on biodiversity and NIS in Lebanon in the framework of the EcAp process and its implementation. Potential stakeholders as well as experts and scientists from the different national institutions involved in the monitoring of biodiversity, non-indigenous species (NIS) and fisheries are requested to attend this workshop in order to:

- a) discuss a first draft of the national monitoring programme on biodiversity in Lebanon;
- b) discuss and validate a list of habitats and species to be monitored in the short, medium and long term in Lebanon, based on a reference list;
- c) select the potential areas of monitoring in Lebanon, including at least one low-pressure area (i.e. Marine Protected Area), and one high-pressure area linked to human activities.

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3. Timeline

January 17 th 2018	
9h00 – 9h30	Registration
9h30 – 9h45	Welcome and Opening Speech: - Ministry of Environment of Lebanon - National Focal Point, Ms <i>Lara SAMAHA</i> - SPA/RAC representative, Mr <i>Atef LIMAM</i>
9h45 – 10h00	Introduction of the workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the EcAp-MEDII project • Presentation of the workshop objectives: Mr <i>Mehdi AISSI</i>
10h00 – 10h15	Round table and presentation of participants, their fieldwork and their relevant (planned or ongoing) activities related to biodiversity monitoring
10h15 – 10h45	Presentation of the draft national Monitoring Programme for Biodiversity in Lebanon regarding Habitats and NIS: Mr <i>Ghazi BITAR</i>
<i>10h45 – 11h15</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>
11h15 – 11h45	Presentation of the draft national Monitoring Programme for Biodiversity in Lebanon regarding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marine mammals & Fisheries: Ms <i>Myriam LTEIF</i> - Sea turtles : Ms <i>Souad HRAOUI BLOQUET</i> - Seabirds: Mr <i>Ghassan JARADI</i>
11h45 – 13h15	Discussion and identification of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ the different monitoring initiatives for common indicators related to biodiversity and non-indigenous species ✓ interested areas to be monitored during the implementation of the national monitoring programme ✓ List of habitats to be monitored in the short, mid and long terms ✓ List of species to be monitored (marine mammals, sea birds and marine reptiles) in the short, mid and long terms ✓ List of invasive NIS ✓ potential national institutions that can be involved in the implementation of the national IMAP
13h15 – 13h30	Restitution of the main conclusions and closure of the workshop
<i>13h30</i>	<i>Lunch</i>