



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/2 Rev.1
13 May 2009

ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH



MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Ninth Meeting of Focal Points for SPAs

Floriana, Malta, 3-6 June 2009

Provisional Annotated Agenda

Note : The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNEP concerning the legal status of any State, Territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of their frontiers or boundaries.

© 2009 United Nations Environment Programme
Mediterranean Action Plan
Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA)
Boulevard du leader Yasser Arafat
B.P.337 - 1080 Tunis CEDEX
E-mail : car-asp@rac-spa.org

Annotated Provisional Agenda

Introduction

At their Fifteenth ordinary meeting (Almeria, Spain, January 2008), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention invited the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) to hold the Ninth meeting of the National Focal Points for SPAs in 2009. The meeting will be organized in Malta at the "EXCELSIOR" Hotel (Floriana) from the 3rd to the 6th of June 2009 with the support of the Maltese 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 Wednesday, 3rd June 2009 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 Mediterranean marine and coastal environment 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 - 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.331/1 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 introduce the document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/3 entitled "Report on the status of implementation of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean" which is a synthesis of the reports submitted by the National Focal Points of RAC/SPA. The national reports have been prepared on the basis of the format as defined in the document UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/10 Annex V. As adopted at the Fifteenth ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties (Almeria, January 2008), these reports cover the January 2006 - December 2007 period and have been partly submitted online. The national reports are not appended to the document.

The Meeting will be invited to express its opinion on the status of implementation of the SPA/BD Protocol and the National Focal Points will be able to take the floor if they wish to add further information or to update the document.

b) Progress Report of the activities of RAC/SPA

The RAC/SPA Director will briefly present the Centre's activities which have been going on since the last meeting of the National Focal Points and will refer to document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/4 ("Progress Report of the activities of RAC/SPA"). These activities will then be described in greater detail in the specific agenda items.

The delegations will be given the floor to express their viewpoints and to make their suggestions.

c) Proposals for inclusion in the SPAMI List

In Article 9 the Protocol makes it possible for the Parties to create and to include new sites on the SPAMI List.

In application of the procedures adopted by the Contracting Parties, an inclusion request from France, two inclusion requests from Italy and one from Morocco have been received and examined by the Secretariat (document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/5).

The Meeting will be invited to examine these requests so that they can be submitted for adoption to the Contracting Parties at their next ordinary meeting.

d) Ordinary evaluation of the SPAMIs included in the List in 2001

The Secretariat will inform the Meeting of the ordinary evaluation results of the biennium in conformity with the procedure (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/10 Annex V) adopted by the Contracting Parties. The results of this first ordinary evaluation are summarized in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/Inf.3.

The Focal Points concerned can, if they wish, provide additional information on the conditions under which the evaluation was carried out.

e) Proposals for modification of Annexes II and III to the SPA/BD Protocol

At their last ordinary meeting (Almeria, January 2008) the Contracting Parties adopted joint criteria pertaining to the amendment of Annexes II and III of the SPA/BD Protocol (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/10 Annex V) and requested RAC/SPA to formulate proposals in this regard.

When this item of the agenda is to be discussed, the Secretariat will introduce the modifications to be made to the list of species of Annexes II and III due to taxonomic changes and will submit the species to be added by the ad-hoc experts as indicated in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/6.

The Meeting will be invited to examine these amendments so that they can be proposed for adoption to the Contracting Parties at their next ordinary meeting.

f) Draft mandate for the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas

RAC/SPA will submit the Centre's draft mandate for discussion by the National Focal Points as indicated in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/15 so that it can be adopted by the Contracting Parties.

Agenda item 6 - **Inventorying, mapping and monitoring marine and coastal biodiversity**

As for this agenda item the Secretariat, with reference to the relevant sections of document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/4, will present the activities undertaken by RAC/SPA since the Eighth meeting of the National Focal Points concerning the inventorying, mapping and monitoring of marine and coastal biodiversity. The results concerning the "seagrass meadows" (document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/Inf.5) and "coralligenous" main habitats (document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/Inf.6) will be discussed in detail.

Agenda item 7 - **Protecting sensitive habitats, species and sites**

a) Activities concerning the Specially Protected Areas

With reference to the relevant sections of document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/4, under this item of the agenda, the Secretariat will discuss the activities pertaining to the establishment and management of marine and coastal protected areas.

The Secretariat will introduce the draft regional work programme on the protected areas as described in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/7.

The representatives of the partner organisations which contributed towards the elaboration of this draft work programme will be invited to express their viewpoints and their expectations for implementing this work programme.

The Secretariat will describe the first results of the regional synthesis on the representativity of the Marine Protected Areas (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/Inf.4) and will invite the National Focal Points to revise the programme so that it can be submitted to the next meeting of the Contracting Parties.

The Secretariat will describe the joint Management action between MAP and the European Commission for the identification of potential sites for the creation of ASPIMs on the high seas including deep waters and the information document concerned (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/Inf.7) as well as the report of the first meeting of the Steering Committee of this programme (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/Inf.8) which took place in March 2009 in Tunis.

The Secretariat will then introduce the document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/8 on the "Draft guidelines for the creation and management of Specially Protected Areas for marine turtles in the Mediterranean".

The meeting will be invited to examine the document and take due note of it.

b) Implementation of the Action Plans adopted in the MAP framework

For each action plan the Secretariat will present a synthesis of the activities undertaken with due reference to the relevant sections of document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/4 and to the specific documents. For the concerned Action Plans, applicants related to the status of Action Plan Partners will be examined.

The following will be dealt with in succession:

1. The Action Plan for the management of Mediterranean monk seal with an assessment of the implementation of this Action Plan (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/Inf.9).
2. The Action Plan for the conservation of cetaceans in the Mediterranean and document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/Inf.10 on the Mediterranean Database of Cetacean Strandings (MEDACES).
3. The Action Plan for the conservation of marine turtles in the Mediterranean with the presentation of the "Draft guidelines for developing marine turtles stranding networks and for data collection protocols" (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/9).
4. The Action Plan for the conservation of marine vegetation in the Mediterranean with a presentation of the results of the MedPosidonia project (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/Inf.11).
5. The Action Plan for the conservation of cartilaginous fish (chondrichthyans) in the Mediterranean with a description of the "Draft guidelines for reinforcing laws and regulations for the conservation and management of cartilaginous fish" (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/10) and the proposal of a sub-regional working programme (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/Inf.12), assessment of the implementation of the Action Plan (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/Inf.13) and a new timetable.
6. The Action Plan for the conservation of bird species listed in Annex II of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean with the "Draft guidelines for reinforcing laws and regulations for the conservation and management of bird species listed in Annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol" (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/11) and the information document on the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) and its state of conservation in Montenegro, Albania and Greece (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/Inf.14).
7. The Action Plan for the conservation of the coralligenous and other Mediterranean calcareous bio-concretions.

After each Action Plan the Meeting will be invited to (i) give its opinion on the activities undertaken and (ii) examine the documents and take due note of them.

After all the discussions on this agenda item, the Meeting will be invited to examine the recommendations of the Secretariat so that they can be submitted to the Contracting Parties for adoption.

Agenda item 8 - Assessing and mitigating the impacts of threats to biodiversity

This agenda item will be an opportunity to deal with the activities undertaken within the framework of the Action Plan concerning species introductions and invasive species in the Mediterranean Sea as indicated in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/4.

The Secretariat will inform the Meeting of the activities carried out with its partners for the reduction of the impact of threats to biodiversity and will propose "Draft guidelines for reducing by-catch of seabirds in the Mediterranean region" (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/12).

Finally in order to respond to the recommendations of the Almeria Declaration, RAC/SPA will expound on the actions carried out to evaluate the vulnerability and impacts of climate change on marine biodiversity on a sub-regional and regional level (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/Inf.15, UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/Inf.16, UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/Inf.17 and UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/Inf.18) and the proposal for updating of the SAP BIO on this theme (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/13).

The Focal Points will be invited to express their opinion on these documents and to take them into account.

Agenda item 9 - Developing research to supplement knowledge and fill in gaps on biodiversity

The Secretariat will inform the Meeting of the cross-cutting activities to improve knowledge and to fill in the gaps on biodiversity by referring to the relevant sections of document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/4 and document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/Inf.19. Under this agenda item the meeting is expected to examine in particular the activities to strengthen the scientific watch and to improve access to information.

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

Agenda item 10 - Training, coordination and technical assistance

The Secretariat will give information on the regional training actions carried out during the biennium to improve capacity building in terms of conservation techniques, monitoring, surveillance and evaluation of biodiversity, prevention or reduction of threats on the basis of the information in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/4.

Agenda item 11 - Programme-Budget of RAC/SPA for 2010-2011

The Secretariat will introduce RAC/SPA's activities programme and the budget proposed for 2010-2011 with due reference to document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.331/14.

The Meeting will be invited to examine the proposed budget-programme and to give its opinion on priorities in terms of budget allocations.

Agenda item 12 - Any other matters

Possible other issues relevant to the subject of the meeting which might be brought to the attention of the Meeting by participants or by the Secretariat will be examined under this agenda item.

The delegations will be invited to make their comments.

Agenda item 13 - Adoption of the Report of the Meeting

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

Agenda item 14 of the agenda - Closure of the Meeting

The meeting is expected to be closed on Saturday, 6th June 2009, at 4.00 p.m.

PROPOSED TIMETABLE

Wednesday 3 June 2009	Thursday 4 June 2009	Friday 5 June 2009	Saturday 6 June 2009
<p><u>Morning session</u></p> <p>9.00 - 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 - 11.00 a.m. <i>Coffee break</i></p>	<p><u>Morning session</u></p> <p>9.00 - 12.30 a.m. Agenda items 6 (continuation) and 7</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 8 and 9</p> <p>10.30 - 11.00 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>4.00 - 4.30 p.m. <i>Coffee break</i></p>	<p><u>Afternoon session</u></p> <p>2.30 - 5.30 p.m. Agenda items 7 (continuation) and 8</p> <p>4.00 - 4.30 p.m. <i>Coffee break</i></p>	<p><u>Afternoon session</u></p> <p>2.30 - 5.00 p.m. Agenda items 10, 11 and 12</p> <p>4.00 - 4.30 p.m. <i>Coffee break</i></p>	<p><u>Afternoon session</u></p> <p>2.00 - 4.00 p.m. Agenda items 13 and 14</p>
<p>5.30 - 6.30 p.m. <i>Side events</i></p>	<p>5.30 - 6.30 p.m. <i>Side events</i></p>	<p>5.00 - 6.00 <i>Side events</i></p>	