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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Expert Meeting to propose standard methodologies
for the inventory and monitoring of coralligenous/maërl
communities and their main species
Rome, Italy, 7-8 April 2011

Provisional Annotated Agenda

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Annotated Provisional Agenda

Introduction

At their Fifteenth ordinary meeting (Almeria, Spain, 15-18 January 2008), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona convention for the protection of the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment adopted the Action Plan for the conservation of the coralligenous and other calcareous bio-concretions in the Mediterranean sea.

In the implementation of the Action Plan, priority was given to actions to take stock of the state of knowledge on coralligenous as:

- The elaboration of a synthesis of bibliographic data on and other calcareous bio-concretions in the Mediterranean sea
- The elaboration of a review on the distribution of coralligenous and other calcareous bio-concretions in the Mediterranean sea
- The organisation of the 1st Mediterranean symposium on the conservation of the of coralligenous and other calcareous bio-concretions in the Mediterranean sea (Tabarka, Tunisia 15-16 January 2009)

Conducting inventories and monitoring of coralligenous / Marèl communities and their main species is also one of the priorities of the Action Plan. The present Meeting of experts is convened with the main objectives of defining methodologies for the inventory and monitoring of coralligenous/maèrl communities that allow:

- Large scale comparison of assemblages.
- Medium to long-term changes in assemblage composition and species abundance.
- Monitoring of engineering species (corallines, main algal stands, gorgonians, engineering bryozoans, main sponges) and of vagile species (fish, decapods, gastropods).
- Growth and erosion rates in coralligenous/maèrl assemblages.
- Impact of main disturbances affecting coralligenous/maèrl assemblages (trawling, mortality events, degradation by waste water, diving activities, invasive species, artisanal fishing, silting).

The works of the meeting are expected to further elaborate the draft methods proposed by the Secretariat, which will be then examined by the National Focal Points for SPAs and submitted to Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

The following annotations to the proposed agenda for the present meeting were prepared by the Secretariat to assist the meeting in its deliberations.

Agenda item 1 - Opening of the Meeting

The meeting will be opened on Thursday, the 7th of April 2011 at 9.00 a.m. by the representatives of the host country, the Coordinating 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 2 - 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.362/1 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 - Definition of what assemblages are to be included

The Action Plan defines the coralligenous as "underwater seascape comprising coralline algal frameworks that grow in dim light conditions and in relatively calm waters. Mediterranean maërl beds should be considered as sedimentary bottoms covered by a carpet of free-living calcareous algae (Corallinales or Peyssonneliaceae) also developing in dim light conditions". In this Action Plan, bio-concretions of surface are excluded because they are already included in the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Vegetation in the Mediterranean. Under this item of the agenda, the meeting will be invited to review the definition and assess to which extent it is sufficient to define the populations to be included in the standard methodologies for inventory and monitoring to be discussed under agenda item 7.

Agenda item 6 - Draft Lists of coralligenous/ maërl populations and of main species to be considered by the inventory and monitoring

The Secretariat will introduce this agenda item by presenting document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.362/3 'Draft Lists of coralligenous populations and of main species to be considered by the inventory and monitoring'. The meeting will be invited to examine the document, and to revise the draft lists, as appropriate.

Agenda item 7 - Review of the proposals to define standard methodologies for the inventory and monitoring of coralligenous/maërl communities and their main species

The Secretariat will introduce document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.362/4 'Proposed standard methodologies for the inventory and monitoring of coralligenous/maërl communities and their main species'. The meeting will be invited to examine the document, and to revise the proposed standard methodologies as appropriate. The document being in direct relation with the document addressed in the previous agenda item ('Draft Lists of coralligenous populations and of main species to be considered by the inventory and monitoring', which could be modified by the work of the meeting, some adaptation of this document during the meeting might be necessary.

Agenda item 8 - Any other matters

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

Agenda item 9 - Synthesis and adoption of the meeting recommendations

A draft synthesis of the main conclusions and recommendations of the meeting will be submitted to the participants for adoption

Agenda item 10 - Closure of the meeting

The meeting is expected to be closed by the chairperson at 17.30 hours on Friday, 8 April 2011.

PROPOSED TIMETABLE

| Thursday 7 April 2011 | Friday 8 April 2011 |
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| <p><u>Morning session</u> 9h00-9h.30 opening of the meeting</p> <p>9.30 - 12.30 a.m. Agenda items 1,2,3,4,5 and 6</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 7 (continued)</p> <p>10.30 - 11.00 a.m. <i>Coffee break</i></p> |
| <p><u>Afternoon session</u></p> <p>2.30 - 17.30 p.m. Agenda items 6 (contined) and 7</p> <p>16.00 - 16.30 p.m. <i>Coffee break</i></p> | <p><u>Afternoon session</u></p> <p>2.30 - 5.00 p.m. Agenda items 7 (continued) ,8,9 and 10</p> <p>16.00 - 16.30 p.m. <i>Coffee break</i></p> |