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Mediterranean Action Plan
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Introduction

The 2 and 5 year programmes of work of MAP adopted by the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (November 2009, Marrakech, Morocco) highlighted the identification of potential areas, with a view to promoting the establishment of a representative ecological network of protected areas in the Mediterranean, through the SPAMI system, including High Seas sites.

For this purpose, a project funded by the EC DG Environment is implemented by the RAC/SPA and envisages a process to be developed in two phases. The first phase implemented between 2008 and 2009, included an overview of available scientific findings to identify priority areas for conservation in high seas, which could include areas that may be proposed for inclusion in the SPAMI List in accordance with the provisions of the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol. The second phase, which begun in 2010, aims at further advancing the process with a view to undertaking the necessary actions to prioritise, as appropriate, the identified areas on the basis of scientific and feasibility SPAMI criteria and fill any assessment gaps accordingly for a number of areas, as appropriate.

This Extraordinary Meeting of Focal Point for Specially Protected Areas will examine the results of the first phase project and provide guidance with regard to the implementation of the second phase with the view to enabling RAC/SPA to go ahead with implementing the outputs of MAP programme of work related to SPAMI and preparing a final report for the consideration of the 2011 ordinary RAC SPA focal points meeting.

It will be organized in Istanbul, Turkey, at the "The Peak Hotel", the 1st of June 2010, with the support of the Turkish 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 Tuesday 1st June 2010 at 09:00 by the representative of the host country, and RAC/SPA Director. The Coordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and UNEP/DELIC representatives will also deliver a welcome speech.

All RAC/SPA Focal Points have been invited to attend the meeting or to designate their representative(s). International and/or non-governmental organizations concerned have also been invited to designate their representatives to the meeting as observers.

The list of participants is detailed in the document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.348/Inf.1. The list of documents is included in the document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.348/Inf.2.

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, Annex XI - UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.348/Ref.1) 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 organization of work

The Provisional Agenda proposed by the Secretariat and distributed as document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.348/1 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 – Identification of potential sites in open seas including the deep sea that may satisfy SPAMI criteria

The Secretariat will briefly present the progress achieved in the different stages of the implemented process to identify the potential areas for conservation with reference to the working document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.348/3 rev.1, in particular its B section which is a synthesis of the results of the first phase of the Project.

With reference to the C section of the working document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.348/3 rev.1, the Secretariat will present the objectives of the second phase and the proposed approach to achieve them.

Agenda item 6 - Discussion on the results and outcomes of the first phase and on the implementation of the second phase of the Project

The Meeting will be invited to examine the results of the first phase, provide guidance to RAC/SPA and make recommendations for the management of the second phase activities.

Under this agenda item, the meeting is also expected to undertake some discussions on the need to develop an appropriate approach regarding the necessary institutional legal setups for the establishment and management of SPAMIs beyond national jurisdiction as well as the necessary linkages with the other UN relevant processes and agencies for this purpose (working document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.348/4).

Agenda item 7 - 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.

Agenda item 8 - Adoption of the Report of the Meeting

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

Agenda item 9 - Closure of the Meeting

After the adoption of the Report of the Meeting, the President will deliver the closing of the Meeting.

PROPOSED TIMETABLE

Tuesday 1st June 2010
<p><u>Morning session</u></p> <p>9.00 - 9.30 a.m. Opening the Meeting</p> <p>9.30 - 10.30 a.m. Agenda items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the agenda</p> <p>10.30 - 11.00 a.m. <i>Coffee break</i></p> <p>11.00 - 13.00 a.m. Agenda items 6 and 7 of the agenda</p>
<p><u>Afternoon session</u></p> <p><i>Preparation by the Secretariat of the Report of the Meeting</i></p> <p>5.00 - 6.30 p.m. Agenda items 8 and 9 of the agenda*</p>

* If the works of the meeting related to Agenda items 1 to 7 cannot be finalized in time to allow the preparation and the adoption of the Meeting Report during the same day, the adoption of the Report might be planned for the morning session of the 2nd of June 2010.