



UNITED  
NATIONS

**EP**

UNEP/MED WG.630/Inf.06



**Mediterranean  
Action Plan**  
Barcelona  
Convention

24 July 2025  
Original: English

12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group

Athens, Greece, 15 September 2025

**Report of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Groups on Pollution Monitoring  
(Videoconference, 30 January 2025)**

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UNEP/MAP  
Athens, 2025



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15 May 2025  
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Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Pollution Monitoring  
(CORMON Pollution)

Videoconference, 30 January 2025

## **Report of the Meeting**

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## Introduction

1. In accordance with the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), Programme of Work 2024-2025 adopted by the 23rd Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Portoroz, Slovenia, 5-8 December 2023), the UNEP/MAP Secretariat (MED POL Programme) organized a one day “Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Pollution Monitoring (CORMON Pollution” on January 30, 2025, through teleconference.
2. The main objectives of the Meetings were to:
  - Support the revision of Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) Policy and of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) for the Mediterranean, with a particular focus on the Pollution-Marine Litter cluster of IMAPs (i.e., Ecological Objectives (EOs) 5, 9 and O10).
  - Enhance quality assurance and capacity building for IMAP EO5 and EO9.
  - Share best practices and national experiences on IMAP Pollution Implementation.

## Participation

3. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following Contracting Parties (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Spain, State of Libya, Tunisia, and Türkiye). The following representative was present as observer: Palestine.
4. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), including the Mediterranean Action Plan/ Barcelona Convention Secretariat (UNEP/MAP) was represented by the Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean (MED POL). The following MAP Components also participated in the Meeting: The Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication (INFO/RAC); The Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC); Plan Bleu Regional Activity Center (PB/RAC);
5. The full list of participants is attached as Annex I to the present report.

### Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

6. The meeting was opened at 9:30 AM on Thursday, January 30, 2025, by the MED POL Programme Management Officer, Ms. Olfat Hamdan.
7. In her opening speech, Ms. Olfat Hamdan outlined the objectives of the meeting and emphasized the critical role of providing quality-assured data in achieving the good environmental status of the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment. She highlighted the meeting’s focus on supporting the revision of the ecosystem approach policy and noted that the initial elements for all Ecological Objectives (EOs) of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) were presented during the 11th EcAp Coordination Group (EcAp CG) meeting held on October 2, 2024. Additionally, Ms. Hamdan underlined the importance of strengthening national-driven data collection efforts, recognizing their vital role in enhancing the monitoring and assessment of the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment.

### Agenda Item 2: Organizational matters

#### *a) Rules of Procedure for the Meeting*

8. The Rules of Procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols were applied mutatis mutandis to the present Meeting (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI).

*b) Election of Officer*

9. Subject to Rule 20 of the rules of procedure mentioned in para. 2(a) for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties, the Meeting elected one (1) President, three (3) Vice Presidents, and one (1) Rapporteur from among the participants, as follows:

President: Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Ms. Senida Dzajic - Rghei,

First Vice President : Egypt,  
Mr. Sameh Ayoub

Second Vice President : Tunisia  
Mr. Lassad Chouba,

Third Vice President : Italy  
Ms. Erika Magaletti

Rapporteur : Türkiye  
Ms. Sevil Öksüz, Türkiye

*c) Adoption of the Provisional Agenda*

10. Subject to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure mentioned in para. 2(a), the proposed agenda appearing in document UNEP/MED WG.602/1 and annotated in document UNEP/MED WG.602/2 was reviewed and accepted. The Annotated Agenda was adopted by the Meeting as appended in Annex II to the present document.

*d) Organization of Work*

11. The discussions were held in two plenary sessions, from 9:30 to 12:30 and from 14:30 to 17:30.

12. No simultaneous interpretation in English and French was available for all sessions.

**Agenda Item 3: IMAP Ecological Objectives 5 and 9, Related Common Indicators, GES Definitions and Proposed Targets under the ongoing process for revising EcAP Policy and IMAP**

13. Under this agenda item, representative of MEDPOL presented the Document on, “IMAP Ecological Objectives 5 and 9 under the Ongoing Process for Revising EcAp Policy and IMAP” (UNEP/MED WG.602/3) summarizing the process of revisions and latest agreed status of the Common Indicators 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21.

14. A number of Contracting Parties pointed out some inconsistencies in the Annex I of the above presented document UNEP/MED WG.602/3, in relation to the measurement depth of dissolved oxygen and requested MED POL to re-check the latest document regarding the “5.2.1 Chlorophyll-a concentration in the water column”.

15. One Contracting Party proposed consideration of some refinement on the upper limit of the temperature, regarding CI 13 and 14, since the Contracting Party in question indicated recording higher temperatures than the agreed upper limit, which need to be inserted in the reporting system of IMAP.

16. One Contracting Party raised the issue for consideration of monitoring of pharmaceuticals in

monitoring programs and suggested considering their inclusion in the IMAP for future programme of works.

17. The meeting proposed to establish an Online Working Group, led by Italy and France, with the participation of Spain, Croatia, Israel and Greece, with the assignment to revise Annex I of Working Document UNEP/MED WG.602/3 “IMAP Ecological Objectives 5 and 9 Under the Ongoing Process for Revising EcAp Policy and IMAP”, for its submission to the CORMON Pollution Meeting.

18. The Meeting agreed that the Online Working Group will conclude assignment by 28 February 2025.

**Agenda Item 4: Quality Assurance and Capacity Building related to IMAP Ecological Objectives 5 and 9**

19. Under this agenda item, the representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mr. Philippe Bersuder, presented the results of the 2022/2023 Proficiency Testing and Training Courses on the determination of Trace Elements and Organic Contaminants in marine samples, the analysis on national laboratories participation in Training Courses and Proficiency Testing from 2012 to 2023, and the ongoing activities aimed at assisting capacity building of the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention to apply good laboratory practices, Proficiency Testing (PTs) and QA/QC protocols for the processing and reporting of monitoring data.

20. Several Contracting Parties showed their interest and willingness to participate in the ongoing 2024-2025 exercises related to Proficiency Testing (PTs), Good Laboratory Practice Training Courses, and Mission Visits.

21. One Contracting Party inquired about the possibility of upcoming programs focusing on biomarker proficiency tests, emphasizing their importance in environmental monitoring and assessment by highlighting that such initiatives would be highly beneficial, particularly in aligning strategies and ensuring comprehensive data quality and reliability.

22. Another Contracting Party inquired about the process of cooperating with the IAEA for sampling and submitting samples for proficiency testing, particularly considering the high level of sea pollution.

23. An additional Contracting Party inquired about the support that the IAEA can provide in cases where laboratory equipment needed for analyzing organic contaminants is not functioning.

24. Furthermore, a Contracting Party suggested bringing forward the issue of biomarkers for consideration and proposed that MED POL explore the possibility of providing financial support to countries that are technically prepared for biomarker testing but face financial challenges in covering sample shipment costs.

25. Mr. Bersuder provided insights into the support available through the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Department. He explained that this department focuses on capacity building and offers various levels of support to countries at the national level. He highlighted that the IAEA could procure laboratory equipment for countries participating in its technical cooperation programs. He further elaborated that, in addition to national-level programs, the IAEA also develops regional projects for different areas. While funding for expensive analytical equipment is generally limited, there is still potential for support through a regional initiative. He noted that such a project would need to be initiated by the IAEA and aligned with the priorities of the UNEP/MAP Secretariat under the Barcelona Convention. Mr. Bersuder also mentioned that if a regional program were to be developed, the design phase for 2028-2029 would begin next year, allowing time for proposals to be put together.

26. The Secretariat emphasized the valuable opportunity for Contracting Parties and National Laboratories to benefit from the support provided by the Secretariat/MED POL through the IAEA. Contracting Parties were encouraged to actively participate and contribute to the ongoing 2024-2025 activities, as the call for contributions remains open. This participation is crucial in ensuring high-

quality data, which is essential for accurate assessments and the preparation of the next QSR report.

**Agenda Item 5: IMAP Pollution Implementation: Experiences, Best Practices, and Needs at the National level**

27. Under this agenda item, the representatives of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention were invited to present their experiences in implementing IMAP Pollution, focusing on sampling, data recording, and analysis pertinent to the Common Indicators for EO5 and EO9.

28. The representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ms. Senida Dzajic – Rghei emphasized that the monitoring and assessment of the marine environment were being carried out in alignment with IMAP, marking a significant step toward comprehensive assessment. However, she highlighted the need for training and equipment, particularly for the determination of nutrients and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in sediments and biota. Additionally, she stressed the importance of inter-laboratory calibration to ensure data accuracy and consistency.

29. The representative of Cyprus, Mr. Konstantinos Antoniadis, provided an overview of the implementation status of coastal and marine monitoring programs under the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research, specifically for EO5 and EO9. He outlined the various frameworks within which these monitoring activities were conducted, including national IMAP, Environmental Impact Assessment Studies, the Offshore Protocol, and Marine Protected Areas, among others.

30. The representatives of France, Ms. Dorothée Vincent and Mr. Javier Castro Jimenez provided updates on the progress of monitoring for EO5 and EO9, respectively. Ms. Vincent presented the national monitoring program for EO5 (eutrophication) and outlined key challenges at the national level, particularly in revising monitoring and assessment strategies for eutrophication. Mr. Jimenez then presented the work, the context, the spatial coverage, and the status of monitoring and management of chemicals in marine waters, with a specific focus on trace metals, organic contaminants, PFAS, and microplastics.

31. Following France's presentation, a Contracting Party inquired about the use of satellite data for coastal areas. The representative of France explained that satellite data is utilized for both offshore and coastal areas where in situ monitoring is not available.

32. Another Contracting Party inquired about the accessibility and usability of satellite data. Ms. Vincent confirmed that the data is accessible to all Contracting Parties but stressed the need to test it before applying it in another country.

33. The Secretariat informed participants about the ongoing offshore monitoring work under the MedProgramme/CP 1.1 framework and underscored the importance of information sharing among the Contracting parties and disseminating lessons learned in this context.

34. The representatives of Italy, Ms. Erika Magaletti, Ms. Giulia Romanelli, and Ms. Ginevra Moltedo, presented Italy's monitoring activities for EO5 and EO9. Ms. Magaletti discussed the monitoring of CI 19 and CI 13, and 14 (eutrophication) under EO5, noting that Italy is updating its monitoring programs for descriptors and Ecological Objectives (EOs), with completion expected by 2026. She emphasized the reassessment of the monitoring strategy to align with assessment tools, the reduction of in situ monitoring complemented by satellite data and modeling, and the importance of standardizing methods and data recording. Ms. Romanelli and Ms. Moltedo presented the monitoring of CIs 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21 under EO9.

35. Following Italy's presentations, one Contracting Party explained that for the proteins in the monitoring protocol, they use a biomarker correction factor when applying different serums.

36. Another Contracting Party inquired about the assessment method used for eutrophication and whether it was the NEAT method. Ms. Magaletti clarified that they use a similar method, which includes oxygen concentration in addition to chlorophyll and nutrient concentrations.

37. The representative of REMPEC expressed satisfaction that no oil spills related to CI 19 had been reported. However, he emphasized the need to activate the monitoring and assessment process for oil spills and strengthen the capacity of Contracting Parties to test the entire process, including contact procedures, monitoring frequency, and assessment. He also highlighted that the current threshold value for oil spills is set at 50 m<sup>3</sup>, which higher than the universal accepted thresholds. REMPEC is collaborating with other relevant agencies to lower this threshold, and this will be presented during the next REMPEC FP meeting.

38. The representative of Israel, Ms. Yael Segal, presented the monitoring program for Israeli Mediterranean waters as part of the IMAP-based National Marine Monitoring Program. She emphasized that measurements were conducted by certified laboratories and that both field and laboratory work required a highly qualified workforce. Additionally, she noted that the collected data is publicly accessible.

39. The representative of Morocco, Mr. Abdesalam Abid, presented the country's monitoring program under the LBS Protocol and national IMAP. He outlined the establishment of 24 monitoring stations for CI 13, 14, and 17, and over 147 stations for CI 21. He highlighted key challenges, including resource limitations, the distance between laboratories and monitoring stations, and reporting difficulties in the IMAP Info System. To address these issues, he emphasized the need to strengthen laboratory capacities, develop a comprehensive database and information system, promote scientific research, and enhance communication and awareness efforts.

40. The representatives of Spain, Ms. Concepción Martínez, and Ms. Nerea Valcarcel presented the monitoring of indicators under EO 5 and EO 9. Ms. Martinez presented the biomonitoring of marine pollution in coastal waters under IMAP CIs 17 and 18. She noted that offshore water monitoring is still under development. Additionally, she emphasized that chemical analyses were conducted using validated methodologies, with data for CI 17 already submitted to the IMAP Info System, while submission for CI 18 is still pending. She also outlined key needs and challenges, particularly the necessity to expand spatial sampling coverage, explore alternative target species for monitoring, and enhance environmental health assessments. As for Ms. Valcarcel, she highlighted the interrelation between IMAP and other programmes (EU MSFD, OSPAR, and EU WFD), the challenges faced in EO5 monitoring of the Alboran Sea, in particular with regard to natural variability, setting the sampling sites and the assessment thresholds, and compatibility between national and regional assessments.

41. The representative of Tunisia, Ms. Afef Fathalli, presented the national IMAP monitoring activities for EO5 and EO9. She outlined the various agencies involved in the monitoring process, the sampling locations, the equipment utilized, and the analysis methods employed to ensure high-quality, reliable data. She also discussed the data management system and its accessibility.

42. The representative of Türkiye, Ms. Sevil Öksüz, presented the country's national marine monitoring program for EO5 and EO9. She explained that the program was coordinated by the TÜBİTAK Marmara Research Center in partnership with various marine institutes, university researchers, marine experts, and public authorities. The program also utilized multiple research vessels to enhance its monitoring efforts. Additionally, she highlighted that the program generated multi-variable data sets and conducts comprehensive assessments of pollution levels in sediment, biota, and radioactivity.

**43. Agenda 9: Any Other Business**

44. No issues were raised under any other business related to this agenda item.

**Agenda Item 10: Conclusions and Recommendations**

45. The Meeting participants reviewed, amended, and adopted the draft conclusions and recommendations from the Meeting discussions, which appear in Annex III of this Meeting report.

**Agenda Item 11: Closure of the Meeting**

46. At the conclusion of the Meeting, one Contracting Party reminded the Secretariat of the importance of providing interpretation services. This would enable all Contracting Parties to contribute effectively and ensure equal opportunities for both English and French speakers to share their comments and views.

47. The Secretariat apologized for the inconvenience and assured the CPS that this would be the last occurrence.

48. After expressing the usual courtesies, the President declared the Meeting closed at 17:30 on Thursday, 30 January 2025.

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**Annex I**  
**List of Participants**

**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES / REPRESENTANTS DES  
PARTIES CONTRACTANTES**

|                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA /<br/>BOSNIE ET HERZEGOVINE</b> | <b>Ms. Senida Dzajic-Rghei</b><br>Researcher<br>Hydro-Engineering Institute Sarajevo                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>CROATIA/CROATIE</b>                                    | <b>Ms Slavica Matijevic</b><br>National EcAp Coordinator<br>Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries<br><br><b>Ms Jelena Lusic</b><br>Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>CYPRUS/CHYPRE</b>                                      | <b>Mr. Konstantinos Antoniadis</b><br>Officer of Fisheries and Marine Research<br>Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and<br>Environment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>EGYPT/ÉGYPTTE</b>                                      | <b>Mr. Sameh Ayoub</b><br>Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>FRANCE/FRANCE</b>                                      | <b>Ms. Alexane Lovat</b><br>Ministère de la Transition Ecologique de l’Energie, du<br>Climat et de la Prévention des Risques I<br><br><b>Ms. Dorothée Vincent</b><br>Expert in Plankton Ecology and Eutrophication<br>Office Français de la Biodiversité (OFB)<br><br><b>Mr. Javier Castro Jiménez</b><br>Senior Research Scientist<br>Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer<br>(IFREMER) |
| <b>EUROPEAN UNION/<br/>UNION EUROPÉENNE</b>               | <b>Mr. Javier Villar Burke</b><br>Policy Officer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>ISRAEL/ISRAEL</b>                                      | <b>Mr. Dror Zurel</b><br>Marine Monitoring and Research Coordinator<br>Israel Ministry of Environmental Protection<br><br><b>Ms. Yael Segal</b><br>Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Institute (IOLR)                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>ITALY/ITALIE</b>                                       | <b>Ms. Erika Magaletti</b><br><br><b>Ms Ginevra Moltedo</b><br>Researcher I - Head of Laboratory<br><br><b>Ms Giulia Romanelli</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                              | <p><b>Ms Nicoletta Calace</b></p> <p><b>Ms Daniela Berto</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>LIBYA/LIBYE</b>           | <p><b>Mr. Salih Diryaq</b><br/>Director of Sirte Branch Ministry of Environment<br/>MED POL National Focal Point</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>MALTA/MALTE</b>           | <p><b>Ms. Annabelle Haber</b><br/>Senior Officer<br/>Environment &amp; Resources Authority</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>MONTENEGRO/MONTENEGRO</b> | <p><b>Ms. Ivana Mitrovic</b><br/>Chief of Department for Pollution Control and Chemical Management</p> <p><b>Ms. Jelena Kovacevic</b><br/>Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>MOROCCO/MAROC</b>         | <p><b>Mr. Mohammed El Bouch</b><br/>Directeur, Département du Développement Durable</p> <p><b>Mr. Moulay Lahcen Ouahidi</b><br/>Chef de Service Analyse des Micropolluants<br/>Département du Développement Durable du Ministère de la Transition Energétique et du Développement Durable</p> <p><b>Mr. Abeslam Abid</b><br/>LNESE/Département du Développement Durable</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>SPAIN/ESPAGNE</b>         | <p><b>Mr. Víctor M. León</b><br/>Research Professor<br/>Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO-CSIC)</p> <p><b>Mr. Antonio Sanchez</b><br/>Centro Nacional Instituto Español de Oceanografía (CNIEO - CSIC)</p> <p><b>Ms. Candela García Gómez</b><br/>Instituto Español de Oceanografía (CSIC)</p> <p><b>Ms. Concepción Martínez Gómez</b><br/>Senior Researcher<br/>Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO, CSIC)</p> <p><b>Mr. Juan Antonio Campillo Gonzalez</b><br/>Researcher (IEO-CSIC)</p> <p><b>Ms. Nerea Valcarcel-Perez</b><br/>Spanish Institute of Oceanography, (IEO-CSIC)</p> |

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>TUNISIA/TUNISIE</b>                                                                    | <p><b>Mr. Lassaad Chouba</b><br/>Pr. Research<br/>Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer</p> <p><b>Ms Afef Fathalli</b><br/>Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer</p> <p><b>Ms. Dhekra Gharbi,</b></p>                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>TÜRKIYE/TÜRKIYE</b>                                                                    | <p><b>Ms. Ebru Olgun Eker</b><br/>Expert<br/>Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change<br/>Climate Change</p> <p><b>Ms. Sevil Oksuz</b><br/>Environment and Urbanization Expert<br/>Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change<br/>Climate Change</p> <p><b>Ms. Hacer Selamoğlu Çağlayan</b><br/>Ministry of Environment Urbanization and Climate Change</p> |
| <p><b><u>OBSERVER STATES</u></b></p> <p><b>STATE OF PALESTINE / ETAT DE PALESTINE</b></p> | <p><b>Mr. Doaa Draid</b><br/>Environmental Engineer (Inspector)<br/>Environment Quality Authority (EQA)</p> <p><b>Mr. Bahjat Jabareen</b><br/>Environment Quality Authority</p> <p><b>Mr. Amer El- Hamouz</b><br/>An Najah University<br/>Professor of Chemical and Environmental Engineering</p>                                                                                         |

**REPRESENTATIVES OF UNITED NATIONS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND  
OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS / REPRESENTANTS DES  
INSTITUTIONS SPECIALISEES DES NATIONS UNIES ET AUTRES  
ORGANISATIONS INTERGOUVERNEMENTALES**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY<br/>AGENCY - DIVISION MARINE<br/>ENVIRONMENT LABORATORIES) /<br/>AGENCE INTERNATIONALE DE<br/>L'ENERGIE ATOMIQUE - DIVISION DES<br/>LABORATOIRES DE<br/>L'ENVIRONNEMENT MARIN</b> | <b>Mr. Philippe Bersuder</b><br>Head of Laboratory                                                       |
| <b>COMMISSION ON THE PROTECTION OF<br/>THE BLACK SEA AGAINST POLLUTION<br/>(THE BLACK SEA COMMISSION OR BSC)</b>                                                                                                 | <b>Ms Iryna Makarenko</b><br>Programme Management Office<br>Black Sea Commission's Permanent Secretariat |
| <b>THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE<br/>CONSERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF<br/>THE RED SEA &amp; GULF OF ADEN</b>                                                                                               | <b>Mr Mohammed Mahmoud Mohamed</b><br>Programme Officer                                                  |

**NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS /ORGANISATIONS NON-GOUVERNEMENTALES**

|                                                                       |                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ASSOCIATION OF CONTINUITY OF GENERATIONS</b>                       | <b>Ms. Sana taktak</b>                                                                          |
| <b>CITTADINI PER L'ARIA</b>                                           | <b>Ms Anna Gerometta</b>                                                                        |
| <b>HELLENIC MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (HELMEPA) -</b> | <b>Ms. Eleni Tsolka</b>                                                                         |
| <b>MIO-ECSDE</b>                                                      | <b>Ms. Thomais Vlachogianni</b><br>Senior Policy/Programme Officer                              |
| <b>MOHAMMED VI FOUNDATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION</b>            | <b>Mr. Sami El ikilil</b>                                                                       |
| <b>OCEANCARE</b>                                                      | <b>Mr. Carlos Bravo</b><br>Ocean Policy Advisor                                                 |
| <b>SURFRIDER FOUNDATION EUROPE (SFE)</b>                              | <b>Ms. Clémence Baudu-Descamps</b>                                                              |
| <b>TURKISH MARINE RESEARCH FOUNDATION</b>                             | <b>Ms. Ülgen Aytan</b>                                                                          |
| <b>TURKISH SHIPBUILDERS' ASSOCIATION</b>                              | <b>Mr. Talha Yigen</b>                                                                          |
| <b>WORLDWIDE FUND FOR NATURE INTERNATIONAL</b>                        | <b>Ms. Carlotta Bianchi</b><br>Regional Manager Policy & Advocacy<br><br><b>Mr. Tolga Yücel</b> |
| <b>WORLDWIDE FUND FOR NATURE - ITALY</b>                              | <b>Ms. Erica de Rysky</b>                                                                       |
| <b>YOUTH LOVES EGYPT</b>                                              | <b>Mr. Ahmed Fathy</b><br>Chief Executive Officer                                               |

**RESEARCH INSTITUTES / INSTITUTS DE RECHERCHE**

|                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>HCMR HELLENIC CENTRE FOR<br/>MARINE RESEARCH</b>  | <p><b>Ms. Catherine Tsangaris</b><br/>Research Director</p> <p><b>Mr. Ioannis Chatzianestis</b><br/>Marine Chemist</p> <p><b>Ms. Popi Pagkou</b><br/>Marine Biologist</p> <p><b>Ms. Ioanna Varkitzi</b><br/>Senior Research Scientist PhD</p> <p><b>Ms. Heleni Kaberi</b><br/>Marine Chemist</p> <p><b>Ms. Catherine Tsangaris</b><br/>Marine Ecotoxicologist</p> <p><b>Ms. Christina Zeri</b><br/>Marine Chemist</p> <p><b>Ms Aleka Pavlidou</b><br/>Marine Chemist</p> <p><b>Mr. Sotiris Orfanidis</b><br/>Marine Biologist</p> |
| <b>INSTITUTE OF FISHERIES<br/>RESEARCH</b>           | <p><b>Mr Nikolaos Stamatis</b><br/>Chemist</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>TUNISIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE<br/>BEIT AL HIKMA</b> | <p><b>Ms. Hamza Amel</b><br/>International Expert</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME - COORDINATING UNIT AND  
COMPONENTS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN  
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT - UNITÉ DE  
COORDINATION ET COMPOSANTES DU PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE**

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| <b>PRIORITY ACTIONS<br/>PROGRAMME REGIONAL<br/>ACTIVITY CENTRE (PAP/RAC) /<br/>CENTRE D'ACTIVITÉS<br/>RÉGIONALES DU PROGRAMME<br/>D'ACTIONS PRIORITAIRES<br/>(CAR/PAP)</b> | <b>Mr. Marco Prem</b><br>Deputy Director<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:marko.prem@paprac.org">marko.prem@paprac.org</a><br><br><b>Mr. Ivan Sekovski</b><br>Programme Officer<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:ivan.sekovski@paprac.org">ivan.sekovski@paprac.org</a> |
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**Annex II**  
**Agenda of the Meeting**

## **Agenda**

- Agenda Item 1:** Opening of the Meeting
- Agenda Item 2:** Organizational Matters
- Agenda Item 3:** IMAP Ecological Objectives 5 and 9, Related Common Indicators, GES Definitions and Proposed Targets under the ongoing process for revising EcAP Policy and IMAP
- Agenda item 4:** Quality Assurance and Capacity Building related to IMAP Ecological Objectives 5 and 9
- Agenda Item 5:** IMAP Pollution Implementation: Experiences, Best Practices, and Needs at the National level
- Agenda Item 6:** Any Other Business
- Agenda Item 7:** Conclusions and Recommendations
- Agenda Item 8:** Closure of the Meeting

**Annex III**  
**Conclusions and Recommendations**  
**Conclusions et recommandations**

## Conclusions and Recommendations

On 30 January 2025, the Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Pollution Monitoring was held online. The Meeting was organized by UNEP/MAP Secretariat and its MED POL Programme.

Following the review and discussion of UNEP/MED WG.602/3 “IMAP Ecological Objectives 5 and 9, Related Common Indicators, GES Definitions and Proposed Targets under the ongoing process for revising EcAp Policy and IMAP”, the Meeting reached the following conclusions:

### **Agenda Item 3: IMAP Ecological Objectives 5 and 9, Related Common Indicators, GES Definitions and Proposed Targets under the ongoing process for revising EcAp Policy and IMAP**

1. The Meeting reviewed the Working Document UNEP/MED WG.602/3 “IMAP Ecological Objectives 5 and 9 Under the Ongoing Process for Revising EcAp Policy and IMAP”, and in particular its Annex I and highlighted the need to start the process of revising the proposed targets pertinent to EO5 Eutrophication and discuss priorities to be implemented.
2. The meeting agreed to establish Online Working Group, led by Italy and France, with the participation of Spain, Croatia, Israel and Greece, with the assignment to revise Annex I of Working Document UNEP/MED WG.602/3 “IMAP Ecological Objectives 5 and 9 Under the Ongoing Process for Revising EcAp Policy and IMAP”, for its submission to the CORMON Pollution Meeting, to be held in Athens, Greece, in May 2025 (tbc).
3. The Meeting agreed that the Online Working Group will conclude assignment as described under para (2) above, by 28 February 2025. MED POL will take the necessary action to provide support to the Online Working Group.
4. The Meeting proposed to refine the limits of relevant parameters for reporting. MED POL, confirmed to consider this matter, and, together with Info/RAC, to conduct these adjustments in the respective module of IMAP InfoSystem.
5. The Meeting proposed to explore the inclusion of additional elements, linked with endocrine disrupters, for consideration in the Programme of Work of MED POL for 2026-2027.

### **Agenda Item 4: Quality Assurance and Capacity Building related to IMAP Ecological objectives 5 and 9**

6. The Meeting welcomed the work conducted by the IAEA on Quality Assurance and Capacity Building related to IMAP Ecological Objectives 5 and 9 and encouraged the Contracting Parties to contribute and participate to the proficiency tests to ensure delivery of Quality Assured data.
7. The meeting proposed MED POL to explore the possibility for participation of Mediterranean countries within the framework of relevant available programmes meanwhile looking for Mediterranean Institutions with capability to organize PTs of CI18.

### **Agenda Item 5: IMAP Pollution Implementation: Experiences, Best Practices, and Needs at the National level**

8. The Meeting welcomed the work conducted by the Contracting Parties on the implementation of IMAP Pollution (EO5 and EO9) and requested MED POL to further advance towards

operationalizing this exercise and providing technical support to enhance capacity building of the Contracting Parties in this regard.

9. The Meeting took note of the needs and possible elements for improvement (such a biomarkers in fish, acute pollution, endocrine disruptors etc.,) stemming from national experiences of the implementation of the national IMAPs.

## Conclusions et recommandations

Le 30 janvier 2025, la réunion du Groupe de Correspondance e l'Approche Écosystémique sur le Suivi de la Pollution s'est tenue en ligne. La réunion a été organisée par le Secrétariat du PNUE/PAM et son Programme MED POL.

À la suite de l'examen et de la discussion du document UNEP/MED WG.602/3 intitulé « Objectifs Écologiques 5 et 9 de l'IMAP, Indicateurs Communs Associés, Définitions du BGE et Objectifs Proposés dans le cadre du processus en cours de révision de la Politique EcAp et de l'IMAP », la réunion est parvenue aux conclusions suivantes :

### **Point 3 de l'ordre du jour : Objectifs Écologiques 5 et 9 de l'IMAP, Indicateurs Communs Associés, Définitions du BGE et Objectifs Proposés dans le cadre du processus en cours de révision de la Politique EcAp et de l'IMAP**

1. La réunion a examiné le document de travail UNEP/MED WG.602/3 intitulé « Objectifs Écologiques 5 et 9 de l'IMAP dans le cadre du processus en cours de révision de la Politique EcAp et de l'IMAP », et en particulier son Annexe I. Elle a souligné la nécessité d'entamer le processus de révision des objectifs proposés liés à l'EO5 (Eutrophisation) et de discuter des priorités à mettre en œuvre.
2. La réunion a approuvé la création d'un Groupe de Travail en Ligne, dirigé par l'Italie et la France, avec la participation de l'Espagne, de la Croatie, d'Israël et de la Grèce, chargé de réviser l'Annexe I du document de travail UNEP/MED WG.602/3 intitulé « Objectifs Écologiques 5 et 9 de l'IMAP dans le cadre du processus en cours de révision de la Politique EcAp et de l'IMAP », en vue de sa soumission à la réunion du CORMON Pollution, qui se tiendra à Athènes, en Grèce, en mai 2025 (sous réserve de confirmation).
3. La réunion a convenu que le Groupe de Travail en Ligne achèvera la mission décrite au paragraphe (2) ci-dessus, d'ici le 28 février 2025. MED POL prendra les mesures nécessaires pour apporter son soutien au Groupe de Travail en Ligne.
4. La réunion a proposé d'affiner les limites des paramètres pertinents pour le rapportage. MED POL a pris note de cet ajustement, ainsi que d'autres ajustements possibles, si nécessaire, et, conjointement avec Info/RAC, effectuera ces ajustements dans le module correspondant du Système d'Information de l'IMAP.
5. La réunion a proposé d'explorer l'inclusion d'éléments supplémentaires, en lien avec les perturbateurs endocriniens, pour examen dans le Programme de Travail de MED POL pour 2026-2027.

### **Point 4 de l'ordre du jour : Assurance Qualité et Renforcement des Capacités liés aux Objectifs Écologiques 5 et 9 de l'IMAP**

6. La réunion a salué les travaux réalisés par l'AIEA sur l'Assurance Qualité et le Renforcement des Capacités liés aux Objectifs Écologiques 5 et 9 de l'IMAP, et a encouragé les Parties Contractantes à contribuer et à participer aux tests d'aptitude afin de garantir la production de données certifiées de qualité.
7. La réunion a proposé que MED POL explore la possibilité de la participation des pays méditerranéens dans le cadre des programmes pertinents disponibles, tout en recherchant des institutions méditerranéennes capables d'organiser des tests d'aptitude pour l'indicateur commun CI18.

**Point 5 de l'ordre du jour :    Mise en œuvre de la Pollution IMAP : Expériences, Bonnes Pratiques et Besoins au niveau national**

8.        La réunion a salué les travaux réalisés par les Parties Contractantes sur la mise en œuvre de la Pollution IMAP (EO5 et EO9) et a demandé à MED POL de renforcer les capacités nationales, de progresser davantage vers l'opérationnalisation de cet exercice et de fournir un soutien technique pour améliorer le renforcement des capacités des Parties Contractantes à cet égard.

9.        La réunion a pris note des besoins et des éléments possibles d'amélioration (tels que les biomarqueurs chez les poissons, la pollution aiguë, les perturbateurs endocriniens, etc.) issus de l'expérience nationale de la mise en œuvre des Programmes de surveillance et d'évaluation intégrées (IMAP) nationaux.

#### **Annex IV**

**Operational objectives, indicators, GES definitions and targets defined for eutrophication (EO5) and contaminants (EO9)**

**Annex I:** Operational objectives, indicators, GES definitions and targets defined for the eutrophication (EO5) and contaminants (EO9)

| Ecological Objective 5 (EO5): Eutrophication Human-induced eutrophication is prevented, especially adverse effects thereof, such as losses in biodiversity, ecosystem degradation, harmful algal blooms and oxygen deficiency in bottom waters |                                                          |                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| Operational Objective                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Indicator                                                | GES                                                                                                                                                     | Proposed Targets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 5.1 Human introduction of nutrients in the marine environment is not conducive to eutrophication                                                                                                                                               | 5.1.1 Concentration of key nutrients in the water column | Concentrations of nutrients in the euphotic layer are in line with prevailing physiographic, geographic and climate conditions                          | State: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reference nutrients concentrations according to the local hydrological, chemical, and morphological characteristics of the un- impacted marine region.</li> <li>• Decreasing trend of nutrients concentrations in water column of human impacted areas, statistically defined.</li> </ul> Pressure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of BOD emissions from land-based sources.</li> <li>• Reduction of nutrients emissions from land-based sources.</li> </ul> |
| 5.2 Direct and indirect effects of nutrient over- enrichment are prevented                                                                                                                                                                     | 5.2.1 Chlorophyll-a concentration in the water column    | Natural levels of algal biomass, water transparency and oxygen concentrations in line with prevailing physiographic, geographic, and weather conditions | State: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chlorophyll a concentration in high-risk areas below thresholds.</li> <li>• Decreasing trend in Chl-a concentrations in high-risk areas affected by human activities.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

| Ecological Objective 9 (EO9): Contaminants cause no significant impact on coastal and marine ecosystems and human health |                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| Operational Objective                                                                                                    | Indicator                                                                                                                                                         | GES                                                                                        | Proposed Targets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 9.1 Concentration of priority contaminants is kept within acceptable limits and does not increase                        | 9.1.1 Concentration of key harmful contaminants measured in the relevant matrix                                                                                   | Level of pollution is below a determined threshold defined for the area and species.       | <p>State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concentrations of specific contaminants below Environmental Assessment Criteria (EACs) or below reference concentrations</li> <li>No deterioration trend in contaminants concentrations in sediment and biota from human impacted areas, statistically defined.</li> </ul> <p>Pressure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction of contaminants emissions from land-based sources.</li> </ul> |
| 9.2 Effects of released contaminants are minimized                                                                       | 9.2.1 Level of pollution effects of key contaminants where a cause-and-effect relationship has been established                                                   | Concentrations of contaminants are not giving rise to acute pollution events               | <p>State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contaminants effects below thresholds.</li> <li>Decreasing trend in the operational releases of oil and other contaminants from coastal, maritime and offshore activities</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 9.4 Levels of known harmful contaminants in major types of seafood do not exceed established standards.                  | 9.4.1 Actual levels of contaminants that have been detected and number of contaminants which have exceeded maximum regulatory levels in commonly consumed seafood | Concentrations of contaminants are within the regulatory limits for consumption by humans. | <p>State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concentrations of contaminants are within the regulatory limits set by legislation.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 9.5 Water quality in bathing waters and other recreational areas does not undermine human health                         | 9.5.1 Percentage of intestinal enterococci concentration measurements within established standards                                                                | Concentrations of intestinal enterococci are within established standards                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing trend in the measurements within established standards (levels of intestinal enterococci comply with established standards)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |