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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Third EcAp Coordination Group Meeting

Athens (Greece), 9 September 2013

Terms of Reference for Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Economic and Social Analysis



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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Plan Bleu/1st meeting of the correspondence group on ESA

Sophia-Antipolis (France), 11-12 April 2013

Terms of Reference for Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Economic and Social Analysis

Version modified according recommendations given during the First Meeting of the Correspondence Group, to be approved by participants of the meeting.

Background

Based on Operational Paragraph 6 of decision IG.20/4, "Implementing MAP ecosystem approach roadmap: Mediterranean Ecological and Operational Objectives, Indicators and Timetable for implementing the ecosystem approach roadmap" adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at its 17th meeting in Paris, it was decided to establish an EcAp Coordination Group (EcAp CG) consisting of MAP focal points, the Coordinating Unit, the MAP components and MAP partners to oversee the implementation of the ecosystem approach, identifying progress gaps in the implementation of the road map and finding feasible solutions for the advancement of the EcAp agenda.

The first Meeting of Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) Coordination Group was held in Athens, Greece on 29-30 May 2012. The meeting was held in order to: (1) Agree on a road-map on the activities to be undertaken by MAP under the EcAp process during the 2012-2013 biennium so as to meet the expectation of the Contracting Parties for the 18th Meeting of the COP; (2) Discuss a Governance structure to support EcAp Coordination Group in guiding the EcAp activities in this biennium; (3) Provide substantive inputs upon which a common methodology for defining Good Environmental Status and targets for the 11 Ecological Objectives in the Mediterranean can be based; and, (4) Discuss the activities and coordination needed towards the development of the monitoring program and social and economic analysis. The meeting agreed on a governance structure formed of three correspondence groups in the process of application of EcAp in the Mediterranean and to support EcAp Coordination Group: the Correspondence Group on GES and Targets, the Correspondence Group on Monitoring and the Correspondence Group on Economic and Social Analysis.

The work of each group will be facilitated by an expert (Consultant or partner organization).

This ToR addresses the responsibilities and tasks of the Correspondence Group on Economic and Social Analysis (COR ESA Group) in the context of the Ecosystem Approach initiative.

Composition

The Correspondence Group on Economic and Social Analysis will be composed of national experts designated by the Contracting Parties through Plan Bleu/RAC Focal Points, in coordination with the MAP Focal Points, representatives of UNEP/MAP Secretariat and partners, Regional Activity Centers (PAR/RAC, SPA/RAC, REMPEC, INFO/RAC and CP/RAC) as well as international experts selected for their experience in similar initiatives or for their scientific expertise. This group, as well as the actions and activities to be undertaken, will be coordinated by Plan Bleu /RAC.

Key activities of the ESA Correspondence Group

1. Adopt the Terms of Reference of the Correspondence Group on ESA.
2. Consider the Terms of Reference for "Economic and Social Analysis" for the implementation of EcAp in the Mediterranean stating the work to be carried out by Plan Bleu (context, objectives, results, activities, synergies with other related works and work plan) Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.380/3 dated 06 April 2013.
3. Discuss and agree on the methodologies proposed by Plan Bleu/RAC to adapt and conduct the Economic and social assessment at the Regional, Sub-Regional and National scales.

4. Discuss on the applicability of the cost of degradation study to the Mediterranean case in view of already developed methodologies.
5. Review and approve the consolidated documents prepared by Plan Bleu/RAC for the Correspondence Group Meetings.
6. Develop recommendations regarding implementation of ESA at Regional, Sub-Regional and National scales.

Operations of the COR ESA

1. COR-ESA meeting(s) will be facilitated by Plan Bleu /RAC supported by external experts when necessary.
2. UNEP MAP Secretariat should facilitate the communication of COR ESA Group with the EcAp Coordination Group.
3. The number of COR-ESA meetings will be decided upon the level of achievement of expected results of the meeting(s). It is recommended to have at least one meeting before the 18th Meeting of the COP (December 2013).
4. The rules of procedures for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols will be applied for the organization of the COR-ESA Meetings.
5. Subject to availability of funds, the COR ESA Group will stay operational until the end of the 2014-2015 biennium, until the beginning of the new EcAp cycle

Additional considerations

1. The COR ESA Group will work to ensure efficient coverage, in-depth discussions and common understanding of the objectives and the nature of the economic and social analysis.
2. The Group will review and validate the work to be done under the responsibility of Plan Bleu/RAC regarding ESA within the framework and the roadmap defined by the EcAp Coordination Group, in particular for the 2012-2013 biennium:
 - i. A report on the economic and social analysis at the regional and sub-regional level of main human activities using Mediterranean Sea and its coastal zone: fisheries, aquaculture, maritime transport, tourism and recreational activities, offshore oil and gas extraction, including the consideration of the costs of degradation.
 - ii. Guidelines for developing ESA at the national level adapted to Mediterranean non-EU countries.
3. COR ESA Group should provide UNEP/MAP with guidance and information to perform ESA bearing in mind the EcAp vision.
 - i. Specifically, the Report on the economic and social analysis at regional and sub-regional scale will complete on socioeconomic aspects the Initial Integrated Assessment of the Mediterranean Sea and Coastal Areas carried out as part of Step 3 of the road map for the application of the Ecosystem Approach, going further than the work achieved by Plan Bleu/RAC on the assessment of the benefits provided by the Marine and Coastal Ecosystems. It will be also an input, in terms of socioeconomic context and arguments, for the development of the following steps of the EcAp road map, and in particular Step 7, regarding the development/revision of regulations and programmes of measures aiming at maintaining or achieving GES.
 - ii. The Common Guidelines for ESA at national level will serve to foster ESA in Mediterranean non-EU countries, regarding the uses their national waters and the cost of degradation in view of the development of programmes of measures and policies, and thus fostering ownership and reinforcing the implementation of the EcAp Step 7 at national level.
4. COR ESA Group should consider that Parties that are EU Member States might have already produced the ESA for their national waters under the MSFD. The work should be carried out in coherence with EU MSFD.

5. COR ESA Group should consider possible methodologies to assess the cost of degradation within the MAP region. For this purpose, initiatives implemented under other regional conventions as well as approaches from Member States having already conducted the cost of degradation analysis should be examined.
6. COR ESA should consider that the implementation of EcAp process is iterative. Analysis of the socioeconomic activities using the coastal and marine environment should be linked to the Mediterranean Ecological Objectives (EOs) already adopted under the EcAp implementation roadmap. When needed, cooperation and work between COR-ESA Group and other Correspondence Groups (GES and Targets, and Monitoring) should be facilitated by UNEP/MAP in the framework of the EcAp Coordination Group.
7. COR ESA Group should provide recommendations concerning the level of detail requested for the preparation of the economic and social assessment and the cost of degradation. The Group should be realistic about the data availability to undertake the analysis and will take into consideration the various constraints facing this work in terms of delay and resource limitations.
8. COR ESA Group should provide recommendations in relation to the potential gap between available data and those required to address the assessments at various scales.