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Agenda Item 6: Draft Revised Reporting Format for the Implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

Compilation of comments on the Draft Revised Reporting Format for the Implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols from UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan Components

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2017

Compilation of comments on the Draft Revised Reporting Format for the Implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols from UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan Components

Introduction

1. The draft revised Reporting Format for the Implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, as presented in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED CC.12/6, was forwarded to the UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan Components for commenting by the deadline of 20 December 2016.

2. Comments have been received from the Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL), the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC), the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) and the Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC).

3. All comments received are compiled in the table annexed for easy access and overview. They mainly address the following key points:

a) inclusion of a new section dealing with the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean;
b) integration of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Protocol (ICZM) Reporting Format into the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS);
c) further alignment with MENELAS and MEDGIS-MAR to avoid overlapping with REMPEC datasets;
d) further harmonization of monitoring reporting under the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS) with developments under the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment (IMAP);
e) insertion of explanatory footnotes to note that activities to report under the different Regional Action Plans will change on each update of the Regional Action Plan and on the access credentials process to the INFO/RAC BCRS reporting portal by Focal Points.

Comments on the Draft Revised Reporting Format (Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED CC.12/6)				
UN Environment / Mediterranean Action Plan Component	**Table/Article/Question of the Draft Revised Reporting Format**	**Proposed amendment**	**Comment or reasoning**	**Suggestions/ action from the Secretariat**
General Comments				
Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC)		To include a specific section on the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production (Decision IG. 22/5) in the MAP reporting system.	This would be in line with paragraphs 53 and 54 of the Regional Action Plan, which read as follows: *53. Recalling the Decision IG.21/7 approved by the Contracting Parties in their COP of Istanbul in which they acknowledged that the implementation of SCP tools are necessary for the implementation of Article 5.4 of the LBS, Article 9 of the ICZM Protocol and Article 5.2 of the Hazardous Waste Protocol, countries shall report on a biennial basis on the measures adopted to support the above actions, following the reporting obligations referred to by Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention, Article 13.2(d) of the LBS Protocol and Article 31 ICZM Protocol.* *54. The reporting on the Action Plan implementation will build on the existing MAP reporting system under the Barcelona Convention and its protocols. To this effect a specific section on SCP measures will be integrated in the MAP reporting system.*	Two options could be explored to bring SCP/RAC comments forward: (1) cross-cutting approach: since the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production touches on aspects which are of relevance to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, a recommended way forward would be to include specific questions on the implementation of the Regional Action Plan under the Barcelona Convention and each of its Protocols. (2) indicator-based approach: work on the development of Sustainable Consumption and Production indicators is ongoing. In light of it, another option would be to build on that work in making the appropriate arrangements for reporting on the implementation of the Regional Action Plan.
Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)			Need to integrate the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Protocol (ICZM) reporting format into the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS).	Arrangements would be made to integrate the ICZM reporting format into the BCRS to further facilitate reporting
Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC)			To add a small section in the reporting format explaining the access credentials process to the reporting portal by Focal Points.	This could be taken forward in the Explanatory Note associated with the Revised Reporting Format

Prevention and Emergency Protocol				
Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)				
Part I : Legal and Regulatory Measures				
	Table 1, Article 4.1, Questions 1 and 2	To insert "link to relevant part of REMPEC Country Profile and/or" in the text under Status to read: If your answer is "Yes", on a voluntary basis please provide link to relevant part of REMPEC Country Profile and/or title, date of enactment and a summary of the relevant provisions.		Part I would be adjusted to take up REMPEC's comments. In doing so, and to make sure that information is actually provided via the relevant links, text under Status would be reformulated by *inter alia* removing the sentence "on a voluntary basis"
	Table 1, Article 5, Question 4	To insert "link to MENELAS information system or to in the text under Status to read: If your answer is "Yes", on a voluntary basis please provide link to MENELAS information system or to title, date of enactment and a summary of the relevant provisions.	Reference to MENELAS included to avoid duplication, as through MENELAS Contracting Parties report on illicit discharges and surveillance operations.	
	Table 1, Article 7, Questions 22 and 23	To add "link to relevant part of REMPEC Country Profile and/or" to the text under Status to read: If your answer is "Yes", on a voluntary basis please provide link to relevant part of REMPEC Country Profile and/or title, date of enactment and a summary of the relevant provisions.		
Part II: Pollution Preparedness and Response : Operational Measures				
	Table 1, Article 4, Questions 1, 4, 5 and 8	To add "the relevant part of" to the text under Status to read: If your answer is "Yes", on a voluntary basis please provide link to the relevant part of REMPEC Country Profile and/or national datasets for details.		See comment above
	Table 1, Article 4, Question 3	The text under Status should read: If your answer is "Yes" on a voluntary basis please provide link to	In line with outcome of the 11th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC.	

		REMPEC Country Profile MEDGIS-MAR[1] and/or national datasets for details.	The meeting endorsed MEDGIS-MAR and agreed that REMPEC Country Profile sections on Risks Assessment and Resources should be integrated in MEDGIS-MAR. The reference should therefore be to MEDGIS-MAR not to REMPEC Country Profile.	
Part III: Pollution incidents				
	Table III		Table III on Pollution Incidents might duplicate MEDGIS-MAR / MENELAS information systems under REMPEC.	Table III would be re-structured to avoid duplication. This includes the possibility of populating the table by inserting the relevant links to MEDGIS-MAR and/or MENELAS
LBS Protocol				
Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL)				
Part II: Administrative Measures: Authorizations for Discharges Granted and Pollutant Releases				
	Table III		Column "Pollutant Group" might need to be revisited in light of latest developments under Annex I to the LBS Protocol.	Doubled check to be carried out by the Secretariat on pollutants grouping
Part V: Monitoring				
	Table VI	To insert achievement of Good Environmental Status (GES) in 2nd column. The heading should read: Monitoring Requirements/Good Environmental Status (GES).		Table VI would be simplified to further facilitate reporting. In doing so, the current level of detail which entails having specific sections for each of the indicators under the Ecological Objectives (EOs) will be revisited. Clear references will be included to the relevant LBS Protocol provisions and IMAP Decision
	Table VI, Question 1	To add at the end the following line: or steps to revise national monitoring programmes in line with IMAP.		
	Table VI, Questions 2, 3 and 4	Deletion suggested.	No need to have a section for each of the Ecological Objectives (EOs), as there are sections for each of the indicators under the EOs.	
	Table VI, Question 2.1.	To add at the end of the paragraph: Concentrations of nutrients in the euphotic layer are in line with	Rather than the indicator, the GES or the target should be included as per Decision IG 21/9. As	

[1] Mediterranean Integrated Geographical Information System on Marine Pollution Risk Assessment and Response (MEDGIS-MAR)

		prevailing physiographic, geographic and climate conditions	regards indicators, it could not be answered "Yes" or "No" to an indicator.	
	Table VI, Question 2.2	To insert at the end of the paragraph: GES: Natural levels of algal biomass in line with prevailing physiographic, geographic and weather conditions18.		
	Table VI, Question 3.2	To insert at the end of the paragraph: GES: Level of pollution is below a determined threshold defined for the area and species.		
	Table VI, Question 3.3	To add at the end of the paragraph: Occurrence of acute pollution events are reduced to the minimum.		
	Table VI, Question 3.4	To add at the end of the paragraph: GES: Concentrations of contaminants are within the regulatory limits for consumption by humans.		
	Table VI, Question 3.5	To insert at the end of the paragraph: GES: Concentrations of intestinal enterococci are within established standards.		
	Table VI, Question 4.1	To add at the end of the paragraph: GES: Number/amount of marine litter items on the coastline do not have negative impacts on human health, marine life and ecosystem services.		
	Table VI, Question 4.2	To insert at the end of the paragraph: GES: Number/amount of marine litter items in the water surface and the seafloor do not have negative impacts on human health, marine life, ecosystem services and do not create risk to navigation.		

Protocol for the Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity				
Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC)				
Part III: Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs)				
	Table VI	-To add a new column to the table on "Surface" -To amend the third column on the left as follows: "Date of establishment ~~creation~~ "		Tables would be modified accordingly
	Table VII	-To delete the column on "Surface" -To amend the third column on the left as follows: "Implementation of protection measures ~~management plans. Regulation of~~" -Last subheading under the third column on the left should be amended as follows: "Activities in the ~~buffer~~ zone surrounding the area"		
Part IV: Endangered and Threatened Species				
	Table IX	Second column on the right to be amended to read: "Introduction of species or genetically modified species"		Table would be revised accordingly
Part V: Monitoring				
			To harmonise monitoring reporting under BCRS and IMAP. SPA/RAC and the other MAP components are working on the development of a reporting template for the national monitoring programme during the first phase of the implementation of the IMAP.	As with the monitoring section under the LBS Protocol, Part V would be simplified to further facilitate reporting. In doing so, the same approach would be taken, in order to avoid unnecessary level of detail, given IMAP developments, and make clearer references to the provisions of the SPA and BD Protocol and IMAP Decision.
Part VI: Enforcement Measures				
	Table XI	Third column on the left to be amended to read: "Number of non-compliance cases: (To be pre-filled in by SPA/RAC whenever cases in the country are reported to the Centre)".		Proposed insertion is not recommended An alternative to explore could be to facilitate the submission of information via the relevant SPA/RAC links.

Part VII: Implementation of Regional Action Plans (RAPs)				
			To add a mention to the fact that the list of activities to report under the different RAPs will change on each update of the RAPs timetables.	This could be done by inserting an explanatory note, where practical and appropriate