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Decision IG.21/3 on the Ecosystems Approach including adopting definitions of Good Environmental Status (GES) and targets

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Decision IG.21/3

on the Ecosystems Approach including adopting definitions of Good Environmental Status (GES) and targets

The 18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties,

Recalling the vision and the goals for the implementation of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities adopted in decision IG. 17/6 of its 15th meeting held in Almeria, Spain (2008) providing for *"A healthy Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems that are productive and biologically diverse for the benefit of present and future generations"* and the seven step road-map for implementing the ecosystem approach by the Barcelona Convention/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) also adopted during that meeting;

Recalling also Decision IG. 20/4 of the 17th Conference of the Parties on the ecosystem approach and *acknowledging* with satisfaction the progress achieved and work carried out in the Mediterranean with respect to the implementation of the ecosystem approach roadmap[1] by the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group and by the working structure established under its guidance, including the Correspondence Groups on Good Environmental Status (GES) and Targets;

Recallıng the Rio+20 document "The Future We Want" Chapter on Oceans and Seas, paragraph 158;

Thanking the Secretariat and all UNEP/MAP components for their efforts to implement Decision 20/4 of COP17 on the ecosystem approach, regardless of their financial and human resources difficulties;

Recognizing the necessity for the Contracting Parties to fully support the implementation of the ecosystem approach roadmap and the need for substantive financial resources to support the process at regional and national levels, based on the Rio principles;

Decides to:

Adopt based on Article 18 of the Barcelona Convention and on the relevant provisions from its related Protocols such as Article 7 and 8 of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities; Article 5 of the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea; Articles 3, 7 and 20 of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, an integrated list of Mediterranean Good Environmental Status and related targets, associated with the Operational Objectives and Indicators agreed at the 17th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as presented in Annex I to the present decision;

Based on Article 18 of the Barcelona Convention ***Welcome*** as a sound basis for the work of the Correspondence Group on Monitoring (COR MON) the process and principles of the

[1] Noting the reservation of Egypt on the Initial Assessment of the Mediterranean Sea and Coastal Areas carried out as step 3 of the roadmap for the application of the Ecosystem Approach.

Integrated Monitoring Programme and the Integrated Assessment Policy and the related Gap Analysis (as presented in Annex II to this decision and in UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.386/Inf.4);

Endorse the process to finalize the next steps of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap, as described through the initial Ecosystem Approach Timeline in Annex III, noting the past unfortunate delays;

Adopt the data sharing principles of the Barcelona Convention/MAP as presented in Annex IV of this decision and ***Encourage*** their further elaboration in the COR MON groups;

Endorse the governance structure established to advance the implementation of EcAp, through the Ecosystem Coordination Group and the Correspondence Groups on Good Environmental Status (GES) and Targets, Economic and Social Analysis (ESA) and Monitoring, as presented in Annex V;

Noting the progress made on the development of the socioeconomic analysis as presented in Annex VI, ***Encourage*** the finalization of the Socioeconomic Analysis, as well as of the guidelines to support national Socio-Economic Analyses, and the continuation of the work through COR ESA;

Encourage all Contracting Parties, International and Regional Organizations and International Financial Institutions and scientific community, to further support the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean, specifically addressing differences in national capacities, based on the Rio principles and that the next steps of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap will require adequate human and financial resources, technical capacity and coordination both at the national and the regional level;

Request the Secretariat to:

1. Review and complete GES definitions and associated targets, during the next biennium, through the respective COR-GEST and COR MON groups and with the overall guidance of the EcAp Coordination Group, on the basis of preparatory work and proposals by Contracting Parties and MAP components, in order to improve and when necessary fill the current gaps in relation to some EOs in the List of GES and Targets. Based on this review[2] the new improved list of indicators and associated targets should be considered for inclusion in the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme at COP19;

2. Prepare in cooperation with MAP components and competent partner organizations, through a participatory process involving Contracting Parties and the scientific community, a Monitoring and Assessment Methodological Guidance for consideration during the first meeting of EcAp CG in 2014 and a draft Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme to be presented at the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties for adoption;

3. Prepare in cooperation with MAP components and building on best practices from other Regional Sea Conventions, on a trial basis, assessment sheets for consideration by the EcAp CG, as tools to provide by 2015 updates to the State of the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment Report (SOER-MED), in line with EcAp agreed Ecological Objectives;

[2] This revision will allow the list to be updated in response to scientific development, new insights, innovation, policy needs, consultations on the monitoring programmes, feasibility and costs.

4. Undertake a gap analysis of existing Barcelona Convention/Protocols measures relating to the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach and based on this analysis, enable the EcAp CG to further reflect on key measures for the implementation of EcAp;

5. Ensure that the data sharing principles of the Barcelona Convention/MAP as presented in Annex IV are implemented through the activities of all Barcelona Convention/MAP components;

6. Ensure the implementation of this decision through the operational activities of Barcelona Convention/MAP and its integration in the next Strategic and 2-year Programme of work;

7. Continue ensuring that Barcelona Convention/MAP Regional Policies, Strategies and Action Plans become coherent with the ecosystem approach;

8. Continue supporting Contracting Parties in their efforts to implement the other steps of the Ecosystem Roadmap according to the agreed timeline and enhance cooperation with partners and stakeholders and other global and regional processes in particular with the EU common MSFD implementation strategy and further investigate options for mobilizing resources for supporting financially the application of ecosystem approach both on regional and national levels, noting the difference in country capacities and the need of trans-boundary cooperation.

Annex I

Integrated list of Mediterranean Good Environmental Status and related targets

Table 1: GES and Targets for the Mediterranean in relation to the specific operational objectives and indicators of the agreed ecological objectives

Operational objective	Indicator	GES	Proposed Targets
1.4 Key coastal and marine habitats are not being lost	1.4.1 Potential/ observed distributional range of certain coastal and marine habitats listed under SPA protocol[3]	The habitat is present in all its natural distributional range.[4]	**State** The ratio Natural / observed distributional range tends to 1 **Pressure** Decrease in the main human causes of the habitat decline
	1.4.2 Distributional pattern of certain coastal and marine habitats listed under SPA protocol	The distributional extent[5] is in line with prevailing physiographic, hydrographic, geographic and climatic conditions.	**State** Decline in habitat extension is reversed and the extension of recovering habitats shows a positive trend.
	1.4.3 Condition of the habitat-defining species and communities	The population size and density of the habitat-defining species, and species composition of the community, are within reference conditions ensuring the long term maintenance of the Habitat[6]	**State** No human induced significant deviation of population abundance and density from reference conditions[7] The species composition shows a positive trends towards reference condition over an increasing proportion of the habitat(for recovering habitats)

[3] The RAC/SPA Rabat meeting of the biodiversity and fisheries cluster of July 2013 proposed that this indicator should refer to natural distributional range instead of potential distributional range.

[4] The natural distributional range should be defined by COP19.

[5] The distributional extent should be defined by COP19.

[6] Baseline to be determined by COP19.

[7] Reference conditions should be defined by COP19 for the habitats to be considered under EO1.

Operational objective	Indicator	GES	Proposed Targets
1.1 Species distribution is maintained (marine mammals)	1.1.1 Distributional range	Monk Seal: Monk Seal is present along recorded Mediterranean coasts with suitable habitats for the species.	Monk Seal: The distribution of Monk Seal remains stable or expanding and the species is recolonizing areas with suitable habitats. **Pressure/Response:** Human activities[8] having the potential to exclude marine mammals from their natural habitat within their range area or to damage their habitat are regulated and controlled. Conservation measures implemented for the zones of importance for cetaceans Fisheries management measures that strongly mitigate the risk of incidental taking of monk seals and cetaceans during fishing operations are implemented.
1.2 Population size of selected species is maintained (marine mammals)	1.2.1 Population abundance	The species population has abundance levels allowing to qualify to Least Concern Category of IUCN.[9]	**State** Populations recover towards natural levels.
	1.2.2 Population density	Monk Seal: Number of individuals by colony allows to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status[10]	**State** Continual recovery of population density
1.3 Population condition of selected species is maintained (marine mammals)	1.3.1 Population demographic characteristics (e.g. body size or age class structure, sex ratio, fecundity rates, survival/ mortality rates)	Cetaceans: Species populations are in good condition: Low human induced mortality[11], balanced sex ratio and no decline in calf production Monk Seal: Species populations are in good condition: Low human induced mortality, appropriate pupping seasonality, high annual pup production, balanced reproductive rate and sex ratio	**State** Decreasing trends in human induced mortality **Pressure/Response** Cetaceans: Appropriate measure implemented to mitigate incidental catch, prey depletion and other human induced mortality

[8] Seismic surveys, marine noise generating activities, fishing, maritime traffic, etc.

[9] A taxon is Least Concern when it has been evaluated and does not qualify for “Critically Endangered”, “Endangered”, “Vulnerable” or “Near Threatened”.

[10] To be applied at local level and not at national scale.

[11] Baseline data are required by COP19

Operational objective	Indicator	GES	Proposed Targets
			Monk Seal: Appropriate measures implemented to mitigate direct killing and incidental catches and to preclude habitat destruction.
1.1 Species distribution is maintained (birds)	1.1.1 Distributional range	The species continues to occur in all their Mediterranean natural habitat	**State** No significant shrinkage in the population distribution in the Mediterranean in all indicator species, and for colonial-breeding seabirds (i.e., most species in the Mediterranean): New colonies are established and the population is encouraged to spread among several alternative breeding sites[12].

[12] This is recommended by the conservation plans of some taxa (Audouin's G, Lesser-crested T).

Operational objective	Indicator	GES	Proposed Targets
1.2 Population size of selected species is maintained (birds)	1.2.1 Population abundance	The species population has abundance levels allowing to qualify to Least Concern Category of IUCN.[13]	No human induced decrease in population abundance. Population recovers towards natural levels where depleted. The total number of individuals is sparse enough in different spots.
	1.2.2 Population density	Population density allows to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status	**State** Continual recovery or maintenance of population density in enough different spots to allow resilience No decrease in population density in new/ recolonized critical habitat (for recovered populations)
1.3 Population condition of selected species is maintained (birds)	1.3.1 Population demographic characteristics (e.g. body size or age class structure, sex ratio, fecundity rates, survival/ mortality rates)	Species populations are in good conditions: Natural levels of breeding success & acceptable levels of survival of young and adult birds.	Populations of all taxa, particularly those with IUCN threatened status are maintained in long term following the indication of population models. Incidental catch mortality is at negligible levels, particularly for species with IUCN threatened status.
1.1 Species distribution is maintained (reptiles)	1.1.1 Distributional range	The species continues to occur in all its natural range in the Mediterranean , including nesting, mating, feeding and wintering and developmental (where different to those of adults) sites	**State** Turtle distribution is not significantly affected by human activities Turtles continue to nest in all known nesting sites **Pressure/Response** Protection of known nesting, mating, foraging, wintering and developmental turtle sites. Human activities[14] having the potential to exclude marine turtles from their range area are regulated and controlled. The potential impact of climate change is assessed
1.2 Population size of selected	1.2.1 Population abundance	The population size allows to achieve and maintain a	**State** No human induced

[13] A taxon is Least Concern when it has been evaluated and does not qualify for “Critically Endangered”, “Endangered”, “Vulnerable” or “Near Threatened”.

[14] Uncontrolled use of turtle nesting sites, fishing, maritime traffic, etc.

Operational objective	Indicator	GES	Proposed Targets
species is maintained (reptiles)		favourable conservation status taking into account all life stages of the population	decrease in population abundance Population recovers towards natural levels where depleted
1.3 Population condition of selected species is maintained (reptiles)	1.3.1 Population demographic characteristics (e.g. body size or age class structure, sex ratio, fecundity rates, survival/ mortality rates)	Low mortality induced by incidental catch [15], Favourable sex ratio and no decline in hatching rates	**Response** Measures to mitigate incidental catches in turtles implemented
	1.4.2 Distributional pattern of certain coastal and marine habitats listed under SPA protocol	Increasing distribution of nesting sites	The species recovers historical nesting sites
2.1 Invasive non-indigenous species introductions are minimized	2.1.1. Spatial distribution, origin and population status (established vs. vagrant) of non-indigenous species	Introduction and spread of NIS linked to human activities are minimised, in particular for potential IAS	**State** The number of species and abundance of IAS introduced as a result of human activities is reduced. **Pressure/Response** - Improved management of the main human related pathways and vectors of NIS introduction (Mediterranean Strategy for the management of ballast waters, Aquaculture early warning systems, etc.) - Action plans developed to address high risk NIS, should they appear in the Mediterranean.
	2.1.2 Trends in the abundance of introduced species, notably in risk areas	Decreasing abundance of introduced NIS in risk areas	**State** Abundance of NIS introduced by human activities reduced to levels giving no detectable impact
2.2. The impact of non-indigenous particularly	2.2.1 Ecosystem impacts of particularly	No decrease in native species abundance, no decline of habitats and no change in community structure that have	**Pressure/Response** Impacts of NIS reduced to the feasible minimum

[15] Baseline data are required by COP 19

Operational objective	Indicator	GES	Proposed Targets
invasive species on ecosystems is limited	invasive species	been generated by IAS via competition, predation or any other direct or indirect effect.	
	2.2.2[16] Ratio between non-indigenous invasive species and native species in some well-studied taxonomic groups	Stable or decreasing proportion of NIS in the different habitats	**State** To be set upon species choice and their related impact degree of the invasive upon the indigenous ones, taking into account the role of Climate Change in accelerating the establishment of NIS populations.
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** 1. Reference nutrients concentrations according to the local hydrological, chemical and morphological characteristics of the un-impacted marine region[17] 2. Decreasing trend of nutrients concentrations in water column of human impacted areas, statistically defined
			Pressure 1. Reduction of BOD emissions from land based sources 2. Reduction of nutrients emissions from land based sources
	5.1.2. Nutrient ratios (silica, nitrogen and phosphorus) where appropriate	Natural ratios of nutrients are kept	
5.2 Direct effects of nutrient over-enrichment are prevented	5.2.1 Chlorophyll-a concentration in the water column	Natural levels of algal biomass in line with prevailing physiographic, geographic and weather conditions[18]	**State** 1. Chl-a concentrations in high-risk areas below thresholds[19] 2. Decreasing trend in chl-a

[16] Feasibility of this indicator to be addressed by COP19.

[17] Thresholds to be set, subject to decision of Contracting Parties by COP19.

[18] Thresholds to be determined by COP19.

[19] Thresholds to be set in the future, feasibility to be addressed, subject to decision of Contracting Parties by COP19.

Operational objective	Indicator	GES	Proposed Targets
			concentrations in high risk areas affected by human activities
	5.2.2 Water transparency where relevant	Water transparency in line with prevailing physiographic, geographic and climate conditions.	**State** 1. Index of turbidity behind threshold in high risk areas 2. Increasing trend of transparency in areas impacted by human activities
5.3 Indirect effects of nutrient over-enrichment are prevented	5.3.1 Dissolved oxygen near the bottom, i.e. changes due to increased organic matter decomposition, and size of the area concerned[20]	Bottom water fully oxygenated in line with prevailing physiographic, geographic and climate conditions	**State** 1. Dissolved oxygen concentrations in high-risk areas above local threshold[21] 2. Increasing trend in dissolved oxygen concentrations in areas impacted by human activities

[20] Monitoring to be carried out where appropriate.

[21] Thresholds to be set, subject to decision of Contracting Parties by COP19.

Operational objective	Indicator	GES	Proposed Targets
7.1 Impacts to the marine and coastal ecosystem induced by climate variability and/or climate change are minimized	7.1.1 Large scale changes in circulation patterns, temperature, pH, and salinity distribution	Ecosystems are resilient enough to adapt to climate change.	Anthropogenic impacts which may alter ecosystems' adaptive capacity are reduced.
	7.1.2 Long term changes in sea level		
7.2 Alterations due to permanent constructions on the coast and watersheds, marine installations and seafloor anchored structures are minimized	7.2.1 Impact on the circulation caused by the presence of structures	With new structures in place, near shore wave- and current patterns maintain as natural as possible.	Marine and shore based new structures planned, constructed and operated in a way to maintain the natural wave and current pattern as much as possible
	7.2.2 Location and extent of the habitats impacted directly by the alterations and/or the circulation changes induced by them: footprints of impacting structures	Negative impacts due to new structure are minimal with no influence on the larger scale coastal and marine system	Planning of new structures takes into account all possible mitigation measures in order to minimize the impact on coastal and marine ecosystem and its services integrity and cultural/historic assets. Where possible, promote ecosystem health.
7.3 Impacts of alterations due to changes in freshwater flow from watersheds, seawater inundation and coastal freatic intrusion, brine input from desalination plants and seawater intake and outlet are minimized	7.3.3 Changes in key species distribution due to the effects of seawater intake and outlet	Water circulation in coastal and marine habitats, and changes in the levels of salinity and temperature are within thresholds, to maintain natural/ecological processes	Site specific tolerable limits of key species in immediate proximity of seawater intake and outlet structures are considered while planning, constructing and operating such infrastructure

Operational objective	Indicator	GES	Proposed Targets
8.1 The natural dynamic nature of coastlines is respected and coastal areas are in good condition	8.1.1 Areal extent of coastal erosion and coastline instability	Coastal resilience maintained and improved; and coastal uses made adaptable to coastal erosion	Impacts of coastal erosion caused by man made factors anticipated and prevented through coastal erosion management allowing for natural fluctuation of the coast and minimizing coastal erosion risk
	8.1.2 Changes in sediment dynamics along the coastline	Long term sediment dynamics is within natural patterns[22]	Disturbance in sediment inflows reduced through improved Integrated River Basin Management and coastal sand management practices
	8.1.4 Length of coastline subject to physical disturbance due to the influence of manmade structures	Physical disturbance to sandy coastal areas induced by human activities should be minimized	Negative impacts of human activities on sandy coastal areas are minimized through appropriate management measures
9.1 Concentration of priority[23] contaminants is kept within acceptable limits and does not increase	9.1.1 Concentration of key harmful contaminants[24] in biota, sediment or water	Level of pollution is below a determined threshold defined for the area and species	**State** Concentrations of specific contaminants below EACs or below reference concentrations[25] No deterioration trend in contaminants concentrations in sediment and biota from human impacted areas, statistically defined. **Pressure** Reduction of contaminants emissions from land based sources[26]

[22] The feasibility of this GES should be further elaborated by COP19

[23] Priority contaminants as listed under the Barcelona Convention and LBS Protocol.

[24] Use for further work on reference conditions ERL for sediments taking into account specifics of the Mediterranean.

[25] Thresholds to be set by COP19.

[26] Reduction programmes are already in place through the Protocols of the Barcelona Convention and the Marine Litter Regional Strategy.

Operational objective	Indicator	GES	Proposed Targets
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	**State** Contaminants effects below threshold[27] Decreasing trend in the operational releases of oil and other contaminants from coastal, maritime and off-shore activities.
9.3 Acute pollution events are prevented and their impacts are minimized	9.3.1 Occurrence, origin (where possible), extent of significant acute pollution events (e.g. slicks from oil, oil products and hazardous substances) and their impact on biota affected by this pollution	Occurrence of acute pollution events are reduced to the minimum.	**Pressure** 1. Decreasing trend in the occurrences of acute pollution events
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[28]	Concentrations of contaminants are within the regulatory limits for consumption by humans	**State** Concentrations of contaminants are within the regulatory limits set by legislation
	9.4.2 Frequency that regulatory levels of contaminants are exceeded	No regulatory levels of contaminants in seafood are exceeded	**State** Decreasing trend in the frequency of cases of seafood samples above regulatory limits for contaminants
9.5 Water quality in bathing waters and other recreational areas does not undermine	9.5.1 Percentage of intestinal enterococci concentration measurements	Concentrations of intestinal enterococci are within established standards	**State** Increasing trend in the percentage of intestinal enterococci concentration measurements within established standards

[27] Thresholds to be set by COP19.

[28] Traceability of the origin of seafood sampled should be ensured.

Operational objective	Indicator	GES	Proposed Targets
human health	within established standards		
10.1 The impacts related to properties and quantities of marine litter in the marine and coastal environment are minimized[29]	10.1.1 Trends in the amount of litter washed ashore and/or deposited on coastlines, including analysis of its composition, spatial distribution and, where possible, source	Number/amount of marine litter items on the coastline do not have negative impacts on human health, marine life and ecosystem services	**State** Decreasing trend in the number of/amount of marine litter (items) deposited on the coast
	10.1.2 Trends in amounts of litter in the water column, including micro-plastics, and on the seafloor	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	**State** Decreasing trend in the number/amount of marine litter items in the water surface and the seafloor
10.2 Impacts of litter on marine life are controlled to the maximum extent practicable	10.2.1 Trends in the amount of litter ingested by or entangling marine organisms, especially mammals, marine birds and turtles[30]		Decreasing trend in the cases of entanglement or/and a decreasing trend in the stomach content of the sentinel species.

Geographical scale and species and habitat reference list to consider for the GES and targets with regard to Ecological Objective 1 (Biodiversity) as agreed by the SPA/RAC Focal Points at their meeting held in Rabat, Morocco, July 2013.

1. Key coastal and marine habitats

Geographical Scale: The assessments should be made at national level and used to compile subregional (and where possible regional) assessments. The subregional assessments shall be compiled for each of the four Mediterranean subregions used for the initial assessment carried out within the framework of the EcAp process.

Habitats to be considered:
Biocoenosis of infralittoral algae (facies with vermetids or trottoir),
Hard beds associated with photophilic algae,
Meadows of the sea grass Posidonia oceanica,

[29] Baseline is needed to be developed in line with the Marine Litter Regional Plan by COP19

[30] Marine mammals, marine birds and turtles included in the regional action plans of the SPA/BD Protocol.

Hard beds associated with Coralligenous biocenosis and semi dark caves,
Biocoenosis of shelf-edge detritic bottoms (facies with *Leptometra phalangium*),
Biocoenosis of deep-sea corals,
Seeps and biocoenosis of bathyal muds (facies with *Isidella elongata*).
Natural monuments listed by the Marine Vegetation Action Plan[31]: Barrier reefs of Posidonia, organogenic surface formations, terraces (platforms with vermitids covered by soft algae) and certain Cystoseira belts.
Upwelling areas, fronts and gyres.

This is an indicative list; the habitats to be considered should be given further consideration (particularly regarding the pelagic habitats) within the framework of the elaboration of the integrated monitoring for each of the four Mediterranean subregions.

2. GES description and targets for Marine Mammals:

Geographical Scale: For cetaceans the assessments should be made at the Mediterranean level and at national level whenever possible. For the Monk seal assessments should be made at national and subregional scale.

Marine mammal Species to be considered (in alphabetical order):

- *Balaenoptera physalus* Fin whale
- *Delphinus delphis* Common dolphin
- *Globicephala melas* Long-finned pilot whale
- *Monachus monachus* Monk Seal
- *Physeter macrocephalus* Sperm whale
- *Stenella coeruleoalba* Striped dolphin
- *Tursiops truncatus* Bottlenose dolphin

3. GES description and targets for Birds:

Geographical Scale: For Birds the assessments should be made at national, subregional and Mediterranean level, and where possible at population level.

Bird species to be considered: (in alphabetical order):
Calonectris diomedea (Scopoli, 1769)
Chroicocephalus genei (Breme, 1839)
Hydrobates pelagicus (Linnaeus, 1758)
Larus audouinii (Payraudeau, 1826)
Phalacrocorax aristotelis (Linnaeus, 1761)
Puffinus mauretanicus (Lowe, PR, 1921)
Puffinus yelkouan (Brünnich, 1764)
Sterna bengalensis (Lesson, 1831)
Sterna nilotica (Gmelin, JF, 1789)
Sterna sandvicensis (Latham, 1878)

[31] The Action Plan for the conservation of marine vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea has been adopted by the Eleventh Ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Malta, 27-30 October 1999).

4. GES description and targets for Reptiles:

Geographical Scale: The assessments should be made at national and Mediterranean scales for nesting activity and at Mediterranean level for the population size and condition.

Turtle species to be considered:
Caretta caretta (Linnaeus, 1758)
Chelonia mydas (Linnaeus, 1758)
Trionyx triunguis (Forskal, 1775)
Dermochelys coriacea (Vandelli, 1761)

Geographical scale and species reference list to consider for the GES and targets with regard to Ecological Objective 2 (Non-indigenous species) as agreed by the SPA/RAC Focal Points at their meeting held in Rabat, Morocco, July 2013.

Geographical scale:
The assessments should be made at subregional scale.

Species to be considered:

Cluster of IAS shall be identified by subregion within the framework of the integrated monitoring.

Note:

Considering the landward limit of the coastal zone covered by the ICZM Protocol, terrestrial habitats/species would need to be considered under the EcAp process. To this end the lists of species in the Annexes to the SPA/BD Protocol and the Reference List of habitats adopted by the Parties should be amended to become further meaningful for the coastal terrestrial habitats/species. This would ensure that the two protocols apply the ecosystem approach in an integrated manner.

Similarly, for the coastal ecosystems and landscapes related to EO8 and in particular for land-use change, landscape types and fragmentation of habitats additional technical and scientific efforts should be made to be able to implement the EcAp in its entire scope as required by the ICZM Protocol in Articles 3, 5 (d), 6 (c), 10, 11 and 18.2.

Priority substances agreed by MEDPOL Focal points at their meeting held in Aix en Provence, France in November 2009.

Group I: Substances for which programmes and measures should be prepared for following biennia, the Meeting suggested that the selection would be made at each Contracting Parties Meeting, based on the agreement made in the MED POL Focal Points meeting

• Nutrients (related to EO5)

i. BOD (group of biodegradable substances expressed as BOD) from Industrial sources
ii. BOD (group of biodegradable substances expressed as BOD) from urban wastewater
iii. Total Nitrogen
iv. Total Phosphorus

• Metals and related compounds (related to EO9)
o Chromium
o Cadmium
o Lead
o Mercury
o Organic tin compounds
o Organic mercury compounds
o Organic lead compounds

• Organohalogen compounds (related to EO9):
o Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)
o Polychlorinated dibenzodioxins (PCDDs)
o Polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDFs)

• Total suspended particulates (related to EO9)
• Total Volatile Organic Compounds
• Nitrogen oxides
• NH3
• Sulfur oxide

- Organohalogenated pesticides/biocides (related to EO9):
o Endosulphan *
o Hexachlorocyclohexane *
o Hexachlorobenzene *
- Other organic compounds (related to EO9):
o diethylhexylphthalate (DEHP)
* Substances under review in the framework of Stockholm Convention

Group 2. Substances for which additional scientific information (sources, quantities, impacts, etc.) is needed.

The assessment reports on the status of the marine environment of the Mediterranean and other relevant assessments showed that there is enough scientific evidence of the negative impacts of the group of substances listed below on the marine environment. Nevertheless, data and information on sources, quantity and order of magnitude of releases and other information are still missing. Thus, there is a need to fill the gaps before considering any decision on limitation and reduction of their inputs. This list (not exhaustive) would include the following:

- Phenolic compounds (related to EO9)
- Brominated flame retardants (related to EO9)
- Hydrocarbons (related to EO9):
o Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
o Short Chain Chlorinated Parafins *

Group 3. Emerging substances for which a risk profile and assessment should be completed or initiated
Current marine research programmes have identified the presence of a number of new chemical substances in the marine ecosystem. Their risk is not yet assessed.
The list (not exhaustive) would include the following:
- Pharmaceuticals (related to EO9)
- Potential substances in the framework of Stockholm Convention (related to EO9)

Annex II

Process and principles of the Barcelona Convention/MAP Integrated Monitoring Programme and the Barcelona Convention/MAP Integrated Assessment Policy

A. Overarching principles of the Barcelona Convention/MAP Integrated Monitoring Programme

Adequacy (overarching principle 1)

The Integrated Monitoring Programme should be able to provide all the data needed to assess whether GES has been achieved or maintained, the distance from and progress towards GES, and progress towards achieving environmental targets and should provide the data to calculate/estimate the relevant criteria and indicators adopted in the ECAP process.

Coordination and coherence (overarching principle 2)

The Integrated Monitoring Programme should, as much as possible follow agreed monitoring approaches. Ideally, Contracting Parties would monitor a common regional set of elements, following agreed frequencies, comparable spatial resolution and agreed sampling methods in a coordinated manner. Joint specifications and use of other observation data in the region, such as satellite imagery, also could contribute to coordination. Ultimately, coherent monitoring programmes will facilitate the application of coherent mitigation measures so that measures taken by one Contracting Party would facilitate and not prevent the achievement of GES in other Contracting Parties.

Data architecture and interoperability (overarching principle 3)

A coherent integrated monitoring programme would ideally result in the collection of data for a regional set of common parameters. In order to achieve common datasets and interoperability of data, data sources will need to ensure that they are capable to deliver data using the same interface format. To achieve common data sets and to avoid duplication of work, existing databases and data flows at international or regional level should be taken into account, which already provide a pool of regionally interoperable data.

The concept of adaptive monitoring programme (overarching principle 4)

New or previously unknown pressures, evolution of socioeconomic activities worsening pressures may emerge in marine and coastal areas and/or existing pressures may decrease or be eliminated. The frequency, intensity and the whole of monitoring programmes may need adjustment to better respond to a changing situation. The ECAP implementation follows 6 years cycles but more frequent adjustment of monitoring programmes may be needed.

Consideration of the differences in scientific understanding for each Ecological Objective (overarching principle 5)

It is widely acknowledged that for some ecological objectives the level of scientific knowledge is more developed than for others. E.g. contaminants and eutrophication are already addressed, to some extent, by the existing regulations and some specifications exist on what GES is for these ecological objectives. For some ecological objectives such as noise and coastal ecosystems and landscapes much less knowledge exists and they have not been previously addressed or they have been addressed in a different context. The limited knowledge for some ecological objectives should trigger specific monitoring efforts, starting from investigative monitoring that will be built on the state of the art scientific developments.

The use of risk-based approach and the precautionary principle (overarching principle 6)

Resources are never infinite and are usually very limited. In order to achieve the successful implementation of the EcAp Roadmap in a cost-efficient manner, areas that are under higher pressures and the biota that are known to be more sensitive should be identified, should be monitored more frequently. Furthermore, increased monitoring effort may be needed in areas that are close to the boundary of GES in order to increase confidence in assessment and, consequently, in the decision to take measures.

The precautionary principle requires that measures should be taken even in areas where there is uncertainty if the status is good or less than good. This uncertainty may be due to limited understanding of what GES is for certain areas. The implications of the precautionary principle in monitoring are that these areas of uncertain status may require research.

B. Overarching principles of the Barcelona Convention/MAP Integrated Assessment Policy

Consistency (Overarching Principle 1)

The Integrated Assessment Policy should achieve:

- assessment methodologies and assessment products, including socioeconomic aspects are consistent across the Mediterranean;
- environmental targets and assessment products are mutually compatible;
- monitoring methods are consistent so as to facilitate comparability of monitoring results; *and by doing so*
- relevant trans boundary impacts and trans boundary features are taken into account;
- assessment results become a principal tool for evaluating the status of the marine and coastal environment, the achievement (or not) of the GES and targets agreed, as well as the effectiveness of implementation of the regional plans and other adopted measures.

EcAp as a framework for the Integrated Assessment (Overarching Principle 2)

The designing and establishing of an Integrated Policy of Assessments should be for all of Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP policies and Action Plans, based on the agreed ECAP ecological objectives and respective criteria, indicators and what constitutes Good Environmental Status.

Cyclical assessment (Overarching Principle 3)

The Integrated Policy of Assessments should use a common tentative time frame and assessment products and the identification of synergies to be established between the different policies and Action Plans in order to periodically assess the status of the Mediterranean environment, ensure efficient science-policy interface and meet the relevant ecological objectives and progress in their implementation in a coherent and consistent manner with the EcAp cycle.

Co-operation of Contracting Parties (Overarching Principle 4)

For the well-functioning of the a regional level Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme, it would be necessary to have trans-boundary and sub-regional cooperations established between the countries, both in order to ensure cost-efficiency and adequacy of

data-collection and assessment. This might require joint cooperation arrangements for sub-regional assessments as need to be, including the development of scientific assessment and quality assurance tools and setting out the necessary details of cooperation between Contracting Parties on (monitoring and) assessment requirements.

C. Process for achieving a MAP Integrated Monitoring Programme and Assessment Programme by 2015

Following the EcAp Roadmap Contracting Parties have committed to achieve good environmental status by 2020, which will require ways to measure the status of the Mediterranean waters in a qualitative manner.

In order to do so other Regional Seas are carrying out periodic Quality Status Reports, building on an integrated monitoring and assessment activities.

The following outlined process and timeline (included in an integrated manner in the updated EcAp timeline) thus aims the achievement of an Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme by COP19 in 2015 and the development of a Quality Status Report (QSR), covering all agreed Ecological Objectives by 2023. The QSR will be developed in close consultation with the Contracting Parties and the scientific community, using the existing governance structure.

Building on the achievements of the 2011 Integrated Assessment Report, ongoing monitoring and assessment work in Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP, as well as on the common set of GES and targets for the 11 Environmental objectives, on the ongoing socio-economic work, next to the principles described above, in points A-B, the achievement of the overall aims need to be gradual, with the following major steps:

1- Biennium 2014-2015: Essential Technical Groundwork

- Biennium 2014-2015 is dedicated for the essential technical groundwork, such as the development of Monitoring and Assessment Guidelines (methodological, technical issues, scope, feasibility, quality control, cost-effectiveness, common indicators) with the full involvement of national experts and the scientific community and all Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP components;

- Regarding monitoring, it needs to be noted, that initial assessment of country capacities will be key for the later 2016-2017 initial implementation and this activity should already start as well in 2014-2015;

- Both regarding assessment and monitoring it needs to be noted that data availability differs greatly in relation to the different EOs;

- For monitoring a practical way to address this issue is the differentiation between monitoring activities to start with (investigative, i.e. more data gathering or operational) in 2016, with also enabling adaptation of the programme after the initial phase;

- For the integrated assessment, assessment fact sheets provide an opportunity to assess data on a biannual basis in relation to specific EOs (starting 2013-2015), with focusing on EOs, where data is mature enough, with the overall aim to cover all EOs by 2021 on a biannual basis (fact sheets covering new EOs, where data has not been available before and updating fact sheets, which cover areas where new data, developments makes this necessary), with the overall aim to be able to produce the QSR by the 3rd EcAp cycle in 2023;

- The Barcelona Convention/MAP data management system needs to be strengthened in order for functioning Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme.

2- Biennium 2016-2017: Start of new EcAp cycle and implementation

- From 2016 onwards, as the new EcAp cycle starts, both the implementation of measures and integrated monitoring and assessment starts (with the next biannual assessment fact sheets being prepared as well by 2017);

- The integrated monitoring and assessment programme is to run on a 2 year initial basis in order to assess the effectiveness of the programmes, perform further gap analysis and establish needs for adaptation;

- The Conference of the Parties will address co-operation and coordination needs to cover gaps still existing.

3. Biennium 2018-2019: Continue implementation, address gaps

- In the biennium 2018-2019 there will be a need for further evaluation activities, addressing gaps, together with continued implementation and capacity building;

- By the latter part of 2018 some initial data will be available, which would provide information able to feed into further Assessment Sheets (developments and updates);

- COP 21 (in 2019) will be in the position to assess the achievements of the initial monitoring and agree on adaptation needs as well as specific cycle for the next phase of the Integrated Monitoring (and assessment) Programme.

4. Biennium 2020-2021

- In the Biennium 2020-2021,the key task will be to evaluate the state of achievement of GES in the Mediterranean region (noting overall aim of achieving GES in the region by 2020);

- By COP22 (in 2021) Assessment Fact Sheets should be covering all agreed Ecological Objectives, serving as a good base for the preparation of the Quality Status Report by 2023.

CYCLES IN AN INTEGRATED MANNER:

2016-2021: Second Ecosystem Approach(EcAp) cycle under the Barcelona Convention.

2016-2021: First EcAp monitoring cycle in the Mediterranean (with 2016-2019 initial cycle, after which possible adaptation).

2015-2017-2019-2021: Assessment Fact Sheets (updating the first Initial Assessment), by 2021- all EOs covered by Fact Sheets and with 2nd State of Environment Report in 2017.

2023: First Mediterranean Quality Status Report, after which following 6 year cycle (to be determined by parties).

MSFD TIMELINE KEY STEPS:

2014-2015: Monitoring Programme finalised for implementation (2014), progress report on marine protected areas (2014); assessment report on monitoring programmes (2015), programme of measures established (end of 2015);

2016-2017: Entry into operation programmes of measures (2017), draft review of initial assessment, set of characteristics of GES and comprehensive set of environmental targets and associated indicators for public consultation;

2018-2019: Brief Interim Progress Report within 3 years of each programme of measures;

2020-2021: Achieving GES (2020), assessing it and new cycle (possible review of MSFD key elements).

Please see for further details on the timeline of this process Table 1 of Annex III of this decision.

Annex III

Timeline to implement the next steps of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap

Table 1. EcApTimeline for 2014-2017

Activity	Details	Time
Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme	Agreement on principles and process of an Integrated Monitoring Programme and of an Integrated Assessment Policy;	by COP 18
	Additional, integrated COR GEST meetings, to give recommendations on EO specific monitoring and assessment needs, next to further necessary specifications in relation to targets/common indicators;	By April 2014
	Coordination and consultation within MAP system and with other regional bodies, based on which Secretariat to prepare draft Monitoring and Assessment Methodological Guidance (to be discussed in Correspondence Groups on Monitoring)	By April 2014
	Organization of Correspondence Group on Monitoring (COR MON) meetings (Three Clusters), to address methodology, scope, assessment follow-up and related technical details.	First round of consultations May-June 2014, second round Sept-December 2014, third round February-May 2015
	Monitoring and assessment country capacities are assessed by the Secretariat	2015-2017
	Secretariat prepares Fact Sheets on specific EOs, issues, to update the Integrated Assessment Report	April 2015
	Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme to be discussed by EcAp Cor Group	May/June 2015
	Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme agreed on Updated Integrated Assessment Report endorsed	COP19
	New EcAp Cycle starts	
	Integrated Monitoring starts in an initial phase (cycle: 2016-2022, initial phase until 2019)	January 2016
	Secretariat prepares draft Second State of Environment Report draft based on Fact Sheet updates and discusses it, together with other assessment related matters, in COR-MON Groups	By Feb 2017
	Public Consultation of the Second State of Environment Report	Feb-May 2017
	EcAp CorGroup to discuss the Second State of Environment Report and outcomes of public consultation	May-July 2017

Activity	Details	Time
	Endorsement of the Second State of Environment Report (and possibly recommendations adopted for MED QSR 2023)	By Sept 2017 COP20
Economic and Social Analysis	Regional Scale Analysis Guidelines for National Analysis Correspondence Group on Economic and Social Analysis (COR ESA)	Draft December 2013, final July 2014 Draft December 2013, Final by July 2014 April 2013, October 2013 (online), May 2014
The development of Good Environmental Status and Targets	Approves Integrated List of GES and targets Additional Integrated COR GEST Meetings, to give recommendations on monitoring and assessment needs to COR MONs in relation to the different EOs/GES (address specific requirements regarding scope, interlinkages of targets/indicators, based on data-availability investigative or operational monitoring needs, as well as environmental assessment criteria, background/reference conditions, threshold values, along with more elaboration of GES)	By COP18 (December 2013) By April 2014
Developing and reviewing relevant measures for implementation of EcAp	Secretariat's gap analysis on existing measures and specific analysis by Plan Bleu on socioeconomic impacts of possible measure, in order to develop an "a la carte" menu of additional possible measures and transboundary cooperation options on further implementation of EcAp in the Mediterranean region and in its sub-regions EcAp Cor Group to discuss the Secretariat's Analysis and agree on a flexible, initial list of possible additional measures, building on current ones (Framework for the Programmes of Measures) Agreement on a Menu a la Carte for future EcAp Programmes of Measures *Next EcAp cycle starts* Secretariat capacity-building activities on implementation of measures, as well as facilitating trans-boundary cooperation Secretariat to prepare report on initial implementation of the EcAp programmes of measures/work of the Framework of Programmes of Measures EcAp CorGroup to review implementation efforts, gaps in EcAp programmes of measures Agreement on Programmes of Measures for further EcAp implementation	By February 2015 By May/June 2015 COP19 *2016* 2016-2017 By July 2017 By Sept 2017 COP20

Public Awareness-raising	Secretariat to prepare guidance on public awareness raising/communication strategy for EcAp Public consultation of Second State of Environment Report EcAp Cor Group to review public awareness raising process/communication strategy	By December 2016 May-July 2017 By Sept 2017
Pilot implementation for testing the indicators and targets	Identification of site Initiation of the process, inception meeting, defining workplan, implementation.	In 2014-2015 Biennium

Annex IV

Data-sharing principles of the Barcelona Convention/MAP

Background

Data sharing is an indispensable mean to achieve better policies in areas such as environment and other public-interest priorities. By improving data sharing and the subsequent continuous availability of that information, researchers and policy-makers can react with timely and well-informed decision-making to national, regional or global issues of governmental and societal concern.

It is important to follow the major global and regional trends with regard to the establishment of environmental information systems based on data sharing principles, taking into account relevant existing systems, such as those developed and operated by UNEP, GEO/GEOSS and EC/EEA, as appropriate.

In 2005, the 15th CP meeting addressed in details the need for establishing a coherent overall Barcelona Convention/MAP information system as a tool to support decision making at regional and national levels, promote access to information and public participation in accordance with Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention.

Since 2005, substantive progress had been achieved with regard to creation of information system infrastructures for several Barcelona Convention/MAP components, a process that is under continuous development and strengthening. The need for establishing a policy to manage information and knowledge generated within MAP was already subject of discussion with parties in the case of the MEDPOL information system and Barcelona Convention/MAP reporting system.

The establishment of a shared Barcelona Convention/MAP information system data-sharing principles on the basis of which it should operate, including its interaction with the MAP Components information system as well as a Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP data/information sharing policy are also key for the application of the Ecosystem Approach **(EcAp**) and will need to be further specified, in light of the technical needs of the future Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Barcelona Convention.

Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP Data-Sharing Principles

The following principles about the handling of data at Barcelona Convention/MAP aim to ensure that data are handled in a consistent and transparent manner, as follows**:**

1. **the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS):**
    - Information should be managed as close as possible to its source;
    - Information should be collected once, and shared with others for many purposes;
    - Information should be readily available to public authorities and enable them to easily fulfill their legal reporting obligations;
    - Information should be readily accessible to end-users, primarily public authorities at all levels from local to regional, to enable them to assess in a timely fashion the state of the environment and the effectiveness of their policies, and to design new policy;
    - Information should also be accessible to enable end-users, both public authorities and citizens, to make comparisons at the appropriate geographical scale (e.g. countries, cities, catchments areas) and to participate meaningfully in the development and implementation of environmental policy;

- Information should be fully available to the general public, after due consideration of the appropriate level of aggregation and subject to appropriate confidentiality constraints, and at national level in the relevant national language(s); and;
- Information sharing and processing should be supported through common, free open source software tools.

2. **the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), which has defined the following Data Sharing Principles:**
   - there will be full and open exchange of data, metadata and products shared within GEOSS, recognizing relevant international instruments and national policies and legislation;
   - all shared data, metadata and products will be made available with minimum time delay and at minimum cost;
   - all shared data, metadata and products being free of charge or no more than cost of reproduction will be encouraged for research and education.

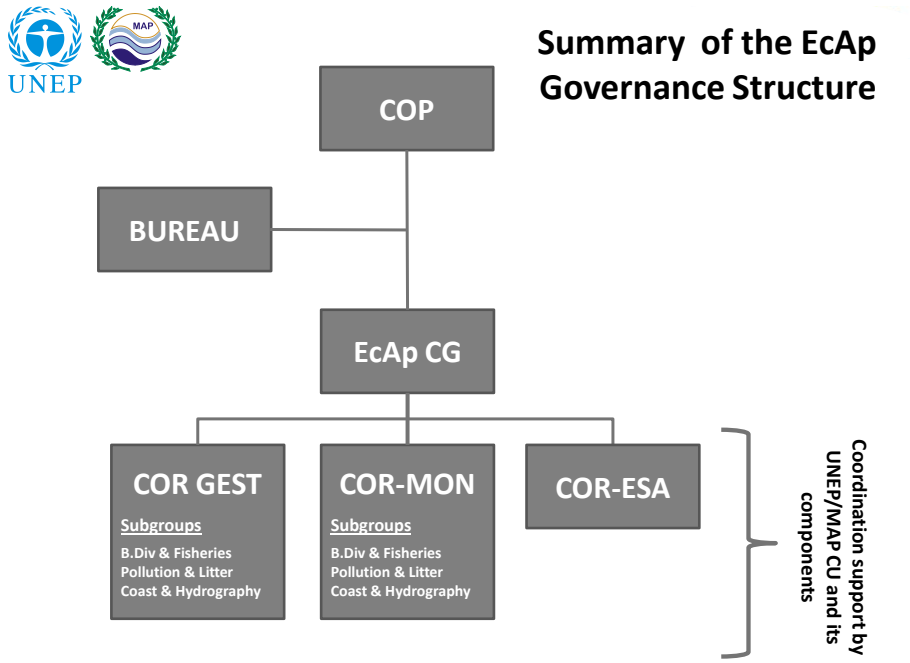
3. **The Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES), which establishes a full, open and free data policy.**

With noting, that the objectives of these data principles are to support, promote and enable the EcAp implementation process:

a) full, and open access to all kinds of data, metadata and services;
b) where possible, recognizing and respecting the national policies and legislation and the variety of licensing and intellectual property;
c) to share data, metadata and services available with minimum time delay and free of charge or no more than cost of reproduction;
d) the use, re-use and re-combination of data from different sources in different frameworks and media than those for which they were originally commissioned;
e) the protection of the integrity, transparency, and traceability in environmental data, analysis and forecasts;
f) the implementation of SEIS, GMES and GEOSS data sharing principles.

Annex V

EcAp Governance Structure



The established governance structure of the Ecosystem Approach (**EcAp**), in accordance with IG.20/4 is as follows:

The EcAp Coordination Group (**EcAp CG**) consisting of MAP Focal Points integrates and gives guidance to the work under the Barcelona Convention:

a) On the delivery of the ecosystem approach, making sure that all elements for its implementation are taken into account, weighting of priorities and resource implications; and

b) Coordinating Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP's facilitation role, in support of Contracting Parties in their implementation of EcAp.

Three Correspondence Groups are formed in the process of application of EcAp in the Mediterranean and to support EcAP Coordination Group:

1. The Correspondence Group on GES and Targets (**COR GEST**) composed of national experts designated by the Contracting Parties, and coordinated by the Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP components and the Coordinating Unit, works to ensure efficient coverage and in-depth discussions and analysis of all Ecological Objectives (**EO**s) in 3 clusters: 1) Pollution and litter (EOs 5, 9, 10 and 11); 2) Biodiversity and Fisheries (EOs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6); and 3) Coast and Hydrography (EOs 7 and 8).

2. The Correspondence Group on Monitoring (**COR MON**) composed of national experts designated by the Contracting Parties, and coordinated by Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP Coordinating Unit and MED POL, working to ensure efficient coverage and in-depth discussions and analysis regarding integrated monitoring and assessment, with reference to the outcomes of CORGEST, in 3 clusters mirroring the COR GEST working arrangements.

3. The Correspondence Group on Economic and Social Analysis (**COR ESA**) is composed of national experts designated by the Contracting Parties and invited experts, and coordinated by Barcelona Convention/UNEP-MAP Coordinating Unit and BP/RAC. It develops a socio economic analysis of marine ecosystems uses, focusing on priority sectors such as fisheries, aquaculture, maritime transport, recreational activities, and oil industry and offshore.

Annex VI

Socio-Economic Work Programme for the next biennium

Plan Bleu/RAC has contributed to the Initial Integrated Assessment of the Mediterranean Sea, by a section on "The economic value of sustainable benefits rendered by the Mediterranean marine ecosystems". This exploratory study proposes a first initial value of sustainable services rendered by the Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems for human well-being, while clarifying the exercise limitations.

Through an economic and social assessment (**ESA**) Contracting Parties are enabled to establish a common understanding and standards with regard to the analysis to be undertaken in link with the following steps of the EcAp's roadmap, e.g. consideration of socioeconomic effects of chosen targets; cost effectiveness analysis of measures, economic incentives to support Good Environmental Status (GES) and exceptions where costs are disproportionate.

Specific Objectives of the ESA work are:

- Prepare an economic and social analysis at regional and sub-regional scale of selected human activities using the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal zone, including the costs of degradation for human wealth in the absence of the implementation of the relevant actions plans and programmes of measures aiming to achieve or maintain GES (as indicated in the EcAp Roadmap, step 7).

- Develop Guidance document and Pilot cases for national ESA adapted to interested Mediterranean countries providing support for their own analysis.

Besides these operational objectives, the ESA work also includes coordination and facilitation of the work of the COR ESA Group.

It has to be noted, that the achievement or the maintenance of GES will require the development of relevant action plans and programmes at regional and national levels. Most of the measures to be enforced in order to achieve or maintain GES in national waters should be decided at the national level, what requires convincing national policy makers about the potential socioeconomic impacts and benefits of these measures, in terms of socioeconomic assessment of the uses of the coastal and marine ecosystems and cost of degradation at regional and national scale.

Beyond the regional ESA carried out within this action, it is important to encourage the Contracting Parties to perform their national ESA, in order to contribute at national level to the implementation of the EcAp overarching goal.

1. Timeline of the on-going and planned ESA work

Month/ Events	09/2012	04/2013	07/2013	10/2013	12/2013	05/2014	07/2014
Actions	Start date				18th COP		End Date
Regional scale analysis	Study start		Progress Report to be submitted to EcAp CG		Provisional report by COP 18		Final Report submitted to CP 19
Guidelines for National analysis		Start	Progress Report to be submitted to EcAp CG		Provisional report by COP 18		Final Report submitted to COP 19
COR ESA		COR ESA First meeting		Intermediate consultation before 18th COP		COR ESA Intermediate Meeting	COR ESA continuation submitted to COP19c
Related Work Pilot case ESA (In the framework of the ReGoKo project)			Selection of consultants	Start of the Pilot cases; Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon		End of the Pilot case	Final reports on Pilot cases submitted to COP 19

2. Next steps

The next steps of the Economic and social analysis actions within EcAp beyond the activities provided by the timeline above would concern:

- Updating of socioeconomic analysis in form of Factsheets and preparation of the SOER 2017 for the next cycle.

- Assessment of the socioeconomic impacts of the coordinated programmes of measures.