



United Nations Environment Programme



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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of MEDPOL experts
Marine Pollution Indicators to assess ecosystem stress
(Biological Quality Elements)

Athens, 12 October 2009

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

Provisional Annotated Agenda

Introduction

The main objective of the meeting of the MEDPOL experts is to review the progress made on the development of Marine Pollution Indicators (MPIs) for assessing the biological quality of the coastal marine environment and discuss the results of the intercalibration exercises undertaken in the framework of MED-GIG of the Water Framework Directive (EU). A Strategy for the development of Mediterranean MPIs was discussed at the MED POL Focal Points (FP) meeting held in San Gemini in 2003 (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.231/17) and Fact Sheets were prepared for ecological, chemical and biomarkers MPIs, which were presented at the Meeting of MED POL National Coordinators held in Malta in 2005 (UNEP(DEC)/MED/WG.264/Inf.14). Furthermore, in 2007 a Report was prepared to assess the state of application of MPIs in the Mediterranean region on a country base (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.321/Inf.7).

The European Commission is developing criteria to assess the ecological and chemical status of coastal and transitional water bodies according to its Water Framework Directive. The values for the Biological Quality Elements (BQEs) for the different quality classes (high, good, moderate) are under comparison in the EU Mediterranean Member States in the framework of the MED-GIG intercalibration exercises, which are under development. The BQEs set for coastal and transitional water bodies are:

- a) The composition, abundance and biomass of phytoplankton
- b) The composition and abundance of other aquatic flora (macrophytes and angiosperms)
- c) The composition and abundance of benthic invertebrate fauna
- d) The composition and abundance of fish fauna (only in transitional waters)

Scope and purpose of the meeting

Considering the need of UNEP/MAP to develop a harmonized core set of ecological indicators for the quality of the marine environment to be used for the assessment of the state of the Mediterranean coastal marine environment, the present meeting aims to review the progress made in the framework of MED GIG Phase I and suggest an harmonized approach taking into account that the EU-Mediterranean countries are moving towards a comparable methodology to assess the quality of the environment in their transitional and coastal waters

The following annotations to the proposed provisional agenda for the present meeting were prepared by the Secretariat to assist the meeting in its deliberations.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

The meeting will be opened at 9.30 a.m. on 12 October 2009 by Mr. F.S, Civili, MEDPOL Coordinator.

Agenda Item 2: Organizational matters

a) Election of officers

The meeting will elect one moderator to facilitate the discussions while the Secretariat will take notes for the preparation of draft conclusions and recommendations (see Agenda item 5).

b) Adoption of the agenda

The proposed annotated agenda and time table appearing in this document will be proposed for adoption by the meeting.

c) Organization of work

The Meeting may wish to decide to meet from 09.30 h. to 13.00 h and from 14.30 h to 18.00 h, subject to adjustments as necessary.

The Meeting will be conducted in English only.

Agenda item 3: State of the art intercalibration MED-GIG exercise Phase I

Under this agenda item, a presentation will be made on the state of the art intercalibration MED-GIG exercise Phase I, focusing on where we stand, what has been achieved so far and where more work is needed. Also the need of using indicators for the new Marine Strategy Directive will be highlighted, comparing what already exists and what is in development within the Mediterranean region.

Agenda item 4: Presentation of BQE-Metrics and recommendations for the Mediterranean eco-region

Under this agenda item, presentations will be made on the results of the intercalibration exercises in the framework of MED GIG Phase I, for four indicators (Biological Quality Elements):

- a) Phytoplankton/Chlorophyll-a classification methods: intercalibration results and recommendations for the Mediterranean ecoregion
- b) Macroalgae classification methods: intercalibration results and recommendations for the Mediterranean ecoregion
- c) Angiosperms classification methods: intercalibration results and recommendations for the Mediterranean ecoregion
- d) Macroinvertebrates classification methods: intercalibration results and recommendations for the Mediterranean ecoregion

After each presentation the participants will discuss the results of the intercalibration and provide opinions on the potential application of these indicators in the Mediterranean region.

Agenda item 5: Conclusions and Recommendations

The Meeting will examine, discuss, amend as necessary and approve a list of decisions and recommendations that the Secretariat will prepare as a result of the discussions held during the Meeting.

Agenda item 6: Closure of the Meeting

The Moderator will close the Meeting at 18.00 hours on Monday 12 October 2009.

ANNEX I
TIMETABLE

09.00 - 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 10.00	Agenda item 1 and 2
10.00 - 10.30	Agenda item 3
10:30 – 11.00	Coffee break
11:00 - 13:00	Agenda item 4 (a, b, c and d)
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch break
14:30 - 16.30	Agenda item 5
16.30 – 16.45	Coffee break
16.45 – 17.45	Agenda item 5 (continued)
17.45 – 18.00	Agenda item 6