



**United Nations  
Environment Programme  
Mediterranean Action Plan**

Distr.: Limited  
6-7 June 2024  
Original: English

Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Monitoring (CORMON) Biodiversity and Fisheries

Videoconference, 6-7 June 2024

**Agenda Item 2: Organizational Matters**

**Provisional Annotated Agenda**

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## Provisional Annotated Agenda

### Introduction

1. In accordance with the UNEP/MAP SPA/RAC Programme of Work 2024-2025 adopted by the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Portorož, Slovenia, 5-8 December 2023), the SPA/RAC is organizing the Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Monitoring (CORMON) for Biodiversity and Fisheries, on 6 and 7 June 2024 via videoconference.
2. The main objectives of the Meeting are to review the following documents:
  - (i) Development of IMAP EOs (EO4 on marine food webs and EO6 on sea floor integrity)
  - (ii) Monitoring and assessment elements for the IMAP common indicators (CI1 and CI2) on benthic and pelagic marine habitats
  - (iii) IMAP Revision and preparatory Elements for Biodiversity and NIS
3. The following annotations to the provisional agenda were prepared by the Secretariat to assist the Meeting in its deliberations.

### Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

<b>Information Document</b>	UNEP/MED WG.547/Inf.2
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4. The Meeting will be opened at 08.30 (UTC+1) on 6 June 2024 by the MAP Coordinator and the Director of SPA/RAC.
5. All the SPA/BD Focal Points, and/or Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group members and the relevant partners for the IMAP implementation, as appropriate, have been invited to designate their representatives to the CORMON meeting.
6. The relevant intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations have been invited to designate their representatives to the meeting as observers.
7. SPA/RAC will act as Secretariat of the meeting to present the documents and give assistance in their discussion, as appropriate.

### Agenda Item 2: Organizational Matters

<b>Working Documents</b>	UNEP/MED WG.547/1 UNEP/MED WG.547/2
<b>Information Document</b>	UNEP/MED WG.547/Inf.1 UNEP/MED WG.547/Inf.2

*a) Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Groups on Monitoring (CORMON) for Biodiversity and Fisheries*

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 will apply mutatis mutandis to the present Meeting (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI).

*b) Election of Officers*

9. Subject to Rule 20 of the rules of procedure mentioned at para. 2(a), the Meeting will elect a President, three Vice Presidents and a Rapporteur from among the representatives of the Contracting Parties.

**c) Adoption of the Provisional Agenda**

10. Subject to Rule 14 of the rules of procedure mentioned at para. 2(a), the proposed agenda appearing in document UNEP/MED WG.592/1 and annotated in the present document (UNEP/MED WG.592/2) will be reviewed and proposed for adoption by the Meeting, including the timetable contained at the end of the present document.

**d) Organization of Work**

11. It is expected that the Meeting will address all items of the agenda over one and a half days.

12. Simultaneous interpretation in English and French will be provided during the Meeting. Documentation will be in English and French.

13. It is proposed that sessions are scheduled as follows, subject to adjustments, as necessary:

- a. 6 June 2024: 8.30 – 12.00; 13.30-15.00 Tunis time (UTC+1);
- b. 7 June 2024: 8.30 – 12.15 Tunis time (UTC+1).

14. It is expected that the Meeting will address all items of the agenda during the two days. It is envisaged to close the Meeting at 12.15 (Tunis time, UTC+1) on 7 June 2024 after adopting its Conclusions and Recommendations.

**Agenda Item 3: Development of EcAp Ecological Objectives**

**3.1. Development of the IMAP Ecological Objective 6 on sea-floor integrity under the Barcelona Convention**

<b>Working Documents</b>	UNEP/MED WG.592/3
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15. The secretariat will initiate this agenda item with an introductory presentation on the monitoring of sea-floor integrity, showcasing best practices.

16. The Secretariat will present the document UNEP/MED WG.592/3 “*Development of the IMAP Ecological Objective 6 on sea-floor integrity under the Barcelona Convention*”.

17. The Meeting is expected to review and amend the document and agree on its submission for the EcAp Coordination Group to be held in October 2024 for their consideration.

**3.2. Update regarding the development of the IMAP Ecological Objective 4 on Marine food webs under the Barcelona Convention**

<b>Working Documents</b>	UNEP/MED WG. 592/4 UNEP/MED WG. 592/Inf.3
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18. The secretariat will initiate this agenda item with an introductory presentation on the monitoring of marine food webs, showcasing best practices.

19. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present the document UNEP/MED WG. 592/4 “*Way forward to develop IMAP common indicators for the Ecological Objective 4 on Marine Food Webs under the Barcelona convention*”.

20. The Meeting will be invited to take note of this update and provide guidance for the EO4 development.

**Agenda Item 4: IMAP common indicators on marine habitats****4.1. Element for the preparation of the assessment methodologies: assessment criteria and thresholds for biodiversity common indicators CI1 and CI2, based on the MedQSR 2023 recommendations.**

<b>Working Documents</b>	UNEP/MED WG.592/5
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21. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present the document UNEP/MED WG.592/5 “*Monitoring and assessment elements for the IMAP common indicators (CI1 and CI2) on benthic habitats*”.

22. The Meeting will be invited to review the document and provide comments and recommendations for the way forward toward a harmonized and effective monitoring and assessment of the benthic habitats in the Mediterranean.

**4.2. Way forward to develop common indicators using phytoplankton and zooplankton for Pelagic Habitats**

<b>Working Documents</b>	UNEP/MED WG.592/6 UNEP/MED IG.26/22/ Decision 26/5
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23. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present the document UNEP/MED WG.592/6 “*Way forward to develop common indicators using phytoplankton and zooplankton for Pelagic Habitats*”.

24. The Meeting will be invited to take note of this update and provide guidance for the development of common indicators using phytoplankton and zooplankton for Pelagic Habitats.

**Agenda item 5: Elements for IMAP Revision related to Biodiversity and Non -Indigenous Species (NIS)**

<b>Working Documents</b>	UNEP/MED WG. 592/7 UNEP/MED IG.26/22/ Decision 26/5
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25. The secretariat will initiate this agenda item with an introductory presentation on the state of the art regarding the available information on GES and the effects of climate change and other cumulative pressures in its determination in the Mediterranean.

26. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present the document UNEP/MED WG.592/7 “*Elements for IMAP Revision related to Biodiversity and Non -Indigenous Species*”.

27. The Meeting will be invited to take note of this update and provide guidance for the update and enhancement of the IMAP regarding Biodiversity and Non -Indigenous Species cluster.

**Agenda Item 6: Any Other Business**

28. Under this agenda item, the meeting will consider any other relevant matter that may be raised by the participants and agreed during the adoption of the agenda.

**Agenda Item 7: Conclusions and Recommendations**

29. Under this Agenda Item, the Meeting will review and adopt draft conclusions and recommendations that will result from the discussions, as prepared by the Rapporteur.

**Agenda Item 8: Closure of the Meeting**

30. The Chair is expected to close the Meeting on Thursday, 7 June 2024, at 12.15.

**PROPOSED TIMETABLE**  
**Tunis time (UTC+1)**

<b>Thursday, 6 June 2024</b>		
8.30 – 8.45	Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting	UNEP/MED WG.592/Inf.2
8.45 – 9.00	Agenda item 2: Organizational Matters	UNEP/MED WG.592/1 UNEP/MED WG.592/2 UNEP/MED WG.592/Inf.2
9.00– 10.15	Agenda item 3.1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing best practices: presentation on sea-floor integrity</li> <li>• Development of the IMAP Ecological Objective 6 on sea-floor integrity under the Barcelona Convention</li> </ul>	UNEP/MED WG. 592/3
10.15 – 10.45	<i>Break</i>	
10.45 – 12.00	Agenda item 3.2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing best practices: presentation on marine food webs.</li> <li>• Update regarding the development of the IMAP Ecological Objective 4 on Marine food webs under the Barcelona Convention</li> </ul>	UNEP/MED WG. 592/4 UNEP/MED WG. 592/Inf.3
12.00 – 13.30	<i>Lunch break</i>	
13.30 – 14.15	Agenda item 4.1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Element for the preparation of the assessment methodologies, Assessment criteria and thresholds for biodiversity common indicators CI1 and CI2, based on the MedQSR 2023 recommendations.</li> </ul>	UNEP/MED WG.592/5
14.15 – 15.00	Agenda item 4.2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Way forward to develop common indicators using phytoplankton and zooplankton for Pelagic Habitat</li> </ul>	UNEP/MED WG.592/6 UNEP/MED IG.26/22/ Decision 26/5
<b>Friday, 7 June 2024</b>		
9.00 – 10:15	Agenda item 5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing best practices: presentation on the state of the art regarding the available information on GES and the effects of climate change and other cumulative pressures in its determination in the Mediterranean</li> <li>• IMAP Revision and preparatory Elements for Biodiversity and NIS</li> </ul>	UNEP/MED WG. 592/7 UNEP/MED WG. 592/Inf.4 UNEP/MED IG.26/22 / Decision 26/3
10.15 – 10.30	Agenda item 6. Any Other Business	
10.30-11.00	<i>Break</i>	
11.00 – 12.15	Agenda item 7. Conclusions and Recommendations	
12.15	Agenda item 8. Closure of the Meeting	