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Mediterranean Action Plan**

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

Athens, 7-8 April 2025

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 23rd 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 7 and 8 April 2025 in Athens, Greece.
2. The main objectives of the Meeting are to review the following documents:
 - (i) Development of IMAP Ecological Objectives 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 habitats
 - (iii) Progress update on CI24 and the development of common indicators CI1 and CI2 for pelagic habitats.
 - (iv) Updates to factsheets, data dictionaries, and standards for indicators related to biodiversity (EO1), non-indigenous species (EO2), and fisheries (EO3).
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

Information Document	UNEP/MED WG.606/Inf.2
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4. The Meeting will be opened at 09.00 (UTC+2) on 7 April 2025 by the representative of the host country, 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

Working Documents	UNEP/MED WG.606/1 UNEP/MED WG.606/2
Information Document	UNEP/MED WG.606/Inf.1 UNEP/MED WG.606/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.606/1 and annotated in the present document (UNEP/MED WG.606/2) 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. 7 April 2025: 9.00 – 13.00; 14.30-17.00 Athens time (UTC+2);
- b. 8 April 2025: 9.00 – 13.00 Athens time (UTC+2).

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 13.00 (Athens time, UTC+2) on 8 April 2025 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

Working Documents	UNEP/MED WG.606/3
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15. The Secretariat will present the document UNEP/MED WG.606/3 “*Development of the IMAP Ecological Objective 6 on sea-floor integrity under the Barcelona Convention*”.

16. The Meeting is expected to review the document and agree on its submission to the SPA/RAC Focal Points Meeting (scheduled for May 2025) and the EcAp Coordination Group Meeting (scheduled for September 2025).

3.2. Development of the IMAP Ecological Objective 4 on Marine food webs under the Barcelona Convention

Working Documents	UNEP/MED WG. 606/4
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17. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present the document UNEP/MED WG. 606/4 “*Development of the EcAp Ecological Objective 4 on Marine Food Webs under the Barcelona convention*”.

18. The Meeting will be invited to take note of this update, provide guidance for the further development of EO4, and agree on the proposed common indicators and their submission to the

SPA/RAC Focal Points Meeting (scheduled for May 2025) and the EcAp Coordination Group Meeting (scheduled for September 2025).

Agenda Item 4: IMAP common indicators

4.1. Assessment methodologies: assessment criteria and thresholds for biodiversity common indicators CI1 and CI2

Working Documents	UNEP/MED WG.606/5
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19. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present the document UNEP/MED WG.606/5 “*Assessment methodologies: assessment criteria and thresholds for biodiversity common indicators CI1 and CI2*”.

20. The Meeting is expected to review the document and agree on its submission to the SPA/RAC Focal Points Meeting (scheduled for May 2025) and the EcAp Coordination Group Meeting (scheduled for September 2025).

The Meeting will be invited to take note of this update and provide guidance

4.2. Update on the progress made in developing indicators using phytoplankton and zooplankton for pelagic habitats

Working Documents	UNEP/MED WG.606/6 UNEP/MED WG.548/7 UNEP/MED IG.26/22/ Decision 26/5
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21. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present the document UNEP/MED WG.606/6 “*Update on the progress made in developing indicators using phytoplankton and zooplankton for pelagic habitats*”.

22. The meeting is expected to review the document, provide guidance for the further development of indicators using phytoplankton and zooplankton for pelagic habitats, and agree on the proposed indicators and their submission to the SPA/RAC Focal Points Meeting (scheduled for May 2025) and the EcAp Coordination Group Meeting (scheduled for September 2025).

4.3. Update on the progress made related to Candidate Indicator 24: Trends in the amount of litter ingested by or entangling marine organisms focusing on selected mammals, marine birds, and marine turtles

Working Documents	UNEP/MED WG.606/7
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23. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present the document UNEP/MED WG.606/7 “*Update on the progress made related to Candidate Indicator 24: Trends in the amount of litter ingested by or entangling marine organisms focusing on selected mammals, marine birds, and marine turtles*”.

24. The Meeting is expected to review the document and agree on its submission to the SPA/RAC Focal Points Meeting (scheduled for May 2025) and the EcAp Coordination Group Meeting (scheduled for September 2025).

Agenda item 5: Proposal to revise IMAP on Biodiversity (EO1), Non-Indigenous Species (EO2), and Fisheries (EO3)

5.1. Way forward to update common indicators factsheets related to Biodiversity (EO1) and Non-indigenous Species (EO2)

Working Documents	UNEP/MED WG. 606/8 UNEP/MED WG.606/inf.3 UNEP/MED WG.606/inf.4 UNEP/MED WG.606/inf.5
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25. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present the document UNEP/MED WG.606/8 “*Way forward to update common indicators factsheets related to Biodiversity (EO1) and Non-indigenous Species (EO2)*”.

26. The meeting is expected to take note of the proposed update and provide guidance on the revision of the common indicator factsheets related to Biodiversity (EO1) and Non-Indigenous Species (EO2).

5.2. Way forward to update common indicators factsheets related to Fisheries (EO3)

Working Documents	UNEP/MED WG. 606/9
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27. Under this agenda item, the GFCM Secretariat will present the document UNEP/MED WG.606/9 “*Way forward to update common indicators factsheets related to Fisheries (EO3)*” informing the meeting of GFCM's contribution to the monitoring and assessment of the status of fisheries in the Mediterranean, and the way forward for the Common Indicators CI7, CI8, and CI9.

28. The meeting is expected to take note of the information provided regarding the way forward for Fisheries (EO3) and to provide guidance where relevant.

5.3. Way forward to update of the Data Dictionaries and Data Standards (CI 1, 2 related to Benthic Habitats, CI 3, 4 and 5 related to Marine Mammals, Marine Turtles and Sea Birds, CI 24 related to Marine litter).

Working Documents	UNEP/MED WG. 606/10
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29. Under this agenda item, INFO RAC will present the document UNEP/MED WG.606/10 “*Way forward to update of the Data Dictionaries and Data Standards (CI 1, 2 related to Benthic Habitats, CI 3, 4 and 5 related to Marine Mammals, Marine Turtles and Sea Birds, CI 24 related to Marine litter)*”.

30. The meeting is expected to take note of the proposed update and provide guidance on the revision of the Data Dictionaries and Data Standards.

Agenda Item 6: Main elements and outline for the revision of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap and IMAP

Working Documents	UNEP/MED WG.606/inf.6 UNEP/MED WG.606/inf.7
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31. Under this agenda item, the CU will present the document UNEP/MED WG.606/inf.6 “*Revised Ecosystem Approach Roadmap: Main Elements, Process and Timeline*” and the document UNEP/MED WG.606/inf.7 “*Revised Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme: Main Elements and Outline*”.

32. The meeting is expected to take note of the elements of the revised Ecosystem Approach Roadmap and IMAP and provide relevant comments and guidance to the Secretariat on the way forward.

Agenda Item 7: Information on the EcAp related projects (SEMPA, EcAp Med PLUS, GEF Fish EBM Med, Marine litter Med II & PLUS).

Working Documents	UNEP/MED WG.606/inf.8 UNEP/MED WG.606/inf.9 UNEP/MED WG.606/inf.10 UNEP/MED WG.606/inf.11
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33. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present the document UNEP/MED WG. 606/inf.8 “*Information note on the project “Bolstering Mediterranean biodiversity and MCPAs for nature (SEMPA project - IMAP component)”*”, the document UNEP/MED WG. 606/inf.9 “*Information note on the project “Supporting the Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties in implementing ecosystem approach to achieve GES” (EcAp MED PLUS project)*”, the document UNEP/MED WG. 606/inf.10 “*Information note on the project “Fisheries and Ecosystem-Based Management for the Blue Economy of the Mediterranean” (GEF-FishEBM Med project)*” and the document UNEP/MED WG. 606/inf.11 “*Information note on the project “Marine Litter Med II & PLUS”*”.

34. The meeting is expected to take note of the ongoing project related to the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach and IMAP and to provide recommendations for further activities in this regard.

Agenda Item 6: Any Other Business

35. 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

36. 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

37. The Chair is expected to close the Meeting on Tuesday, 8 April 2025, at 13.00.

PROPOSED TIMETABLE
Athens time (UTC+2)

Thursday, 7 April 2025		
9.00 – 9.30	Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting	UNEP/MED WG.606/Inf.2
9.30 – 9.45	Agenda item 2: Organizational Matters	UNEP/MED WG.606/1 UNEP/MED WG.606/2 UNEP/MED WG.606/Inf.2
9.45 – 10.30	Agenda item 3.1: Development of the IMAP Ecological Objective 6 on sea-floor integrity under the Barcelona Convention	UNEP/MED WG. 606/3
10.30 – 11.15	Agenda item 3.2: Development of the IMAP Ecological Objective 4 on Marine food webs under the Barcelona Convention	UNEP/MED WG. 606/4
11.15 – 11.30	<i>Break</i>	
11.30 – 12.15	Agenda item 4.1: Assessment methodologies, Assessment criteria and thresholds for biodiversity common indicators CII and CI2	UNEP/MED WG. 606/5
12.15 – 13.00	Agenda item 4.2: Way forward to develop common indicators using phytoplankton and zooplankton for Pelagic Habitat	UNEP/MED WG.606/6 UNEP/MED WG.548/7 UNEP/MEDIG.26/22/ Decision 26/5
13.00 – 14.30	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14.30 – 15.00	Agenda item 4.3: Update on the progress made related to Candidate Indicator 24: Trends in the amount of litter ingested by or entangling marine organisms focusing on selected mammals, marine birds, and marine turtles	UNEP/MED WG.606/7
15.00 – 15.30	Agenda Item 5.1. Way forward to update common indicators factsheets related to Biodiversity (EO1) and Non-indigenous Species (EO2)	UNEP/MED WG. 606/8 UNEP/MED WG.606/inf.3 UNEP/MED WG.606/inf.4 UNEP/MED WG.606/inf.5
15.30– 16.00	Agenda Item 5.2. Way forward to update common indicators factsheets related to fisheries (EO3)	UNEP/MED WG.606/9
16.00-16.15	<i>Break</i>	
16:15-17:00	Agenda Item 5.3. Way forward to update of the Data Dictionaries and Data Standards (CI 1, 2 related to Benthic Habitats, CI 3, 4 and 5 related to Marine Mammals, Marine Turtles and Sea Birds, CCI 24 related to Marine litter)	UNEP/MED WG.606/10
Friday, 8 April 2025		
9.00 – 9:45	Agenda item 6: Main elements and outline for the revision of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap and IMAP	UNEP/MED WG.606/inf.6 UNEP/MED WG.606/inf.7
9:45 – 10:45	Information on the EcAp related projects (SEMPA, EcAp Med PLUS, GEF Fish EBM Med, Marine litter Med II &PLUS)	UNEP/MED WG.606/inf.8 UNEP/MED WG.606/inf.9 UNEP/MED WG.606/inf.10 UNEP/MED WG.606/inf.11
10.45 – 11.30	Agenda item 6. Any Other Business	
11:30 - 12.00	<i>Break</i>	
12.00 – 13.00	Agenda item 7. Conclusions and Recommendations	
13.00	Agenda item 8. Closure of the Meeting	