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Integrated Meetings of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Groups on IMAP Implementation (CORMONs)

Videoconference, 1-3 December 2020

Report of the Meeting of the Integrated Meetings of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Groups on IMAP Implementation (CORMONs)

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Introduction

1. In the framework of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2020-2021, the Integrated Meetings of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Groups on IMAP Implementation (CORMONs) were held via videoconference on 1-3 December 2020, organized by the United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan - Barcelona Convention Secretariat (UNEP/MAP) and the respective MAP Components (INFO/RAC, MED POL, PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu, REMPEC and SPA/RAC).

Participation

2. The following Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention were represented at the Meeting: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, European Union, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, and Turkey.

3. The following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, convention secretariats and intergovernmental organizations were represented as observers: the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), the European Environment Agency (EEA), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP/WCMC).

4. The following non-governmental organizations and other institutions were also represented as observers: the Center for Energy, Environment and Resources (CENER21), the Centre de documentation, de recherche et d'expérimentations sur les pollutions accidentelles des eaux (CEDRE), the École Pratique des Hautes Etudes (EPHE), the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR), the Hydro-Engineering Institute Sarajevo (HEIS), the International Association of Geophysical Contractors, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (MEDASSET), the Network of Marine Protected Areas Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), the Mediterranean Programme Office of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-Med), the University of Siena, and the INDICIT project (Implementation of Indicators of Marine Litter on Sea Turtles and Biota in Regional Sea Conventions and Marine Strategy Framework Directive Areas).

5. The full list of participants is attached as Annex I to the present report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

6. The Meeting was opened on Tuesday 1 December 2020 at 9.00 a.m. by Ms. Tatjana Hema, Deputy Coordinator, UNEP/MAP, Barcelona Convention Secretariat.

7. The UNEP/MAP Deputy Coordinator welcomed the participants on behalf of UNEP/MAP Coordinator, Gaetano Leone, and recalled the main objective of the Meeting, which was to take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the Roadmap for the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report, review technical documents related to key aspects of the implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) in relation to Pollution, Marine Litter and Biodiversity and Fisheries, and explore ways and means to strengthen the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) in the Mediterranean region, with the view to supporting IMAP implementation. She also recalled the importance of the preparation of the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report (MED QSR) as a significant milestone in the implementation of IMAP.

Agenda item 2. Organizational matters
UNEP/MED WG.482/1; UNEP/MED WG.482/2; UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.1

a) Adoption of the Agenda

8. The Meeting adopted its agenda on the basis of the Provisional Agenda and Provisional Annotated Agenda, including the proposed timetable, circulated in documents UNEP/MED WG.482/1 and UNEP/MED WG.482/2, respectively.

9. The agenda is attached as Annex II to the present report.

b) Election of officers

10. The Meeting agreed that the rules of procedure for Meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI) would apply mutatis mutandis to their deliberations.

11. Subject to Rule 20 of the rules of procedure mentioned at para. 2(a), the Meeting unanimously elected the following officers from among the representatives of the Contracting Parties:

Chairperson:	Mr. Sameh Ayoub (Egypt), also Chair of the Joint Parallel Session on Pollution and Marine Litter Ms. Samia Boufares (Tunisia), Chair of the Session on Biodiversity and Fisheries
Vice-chairpersons:	Mrs. Lucía Martínez (Spain), Mr. Emrah Manap (Turkey) Ms. Ines Houarbi Ben Salah (Tunisia) Mr. Moustafa Fouda (Egypt), Vice-chair of the Session on Biodiversity and Fisheries Mr. Francisco Javier Martínez Bedia (Spain), Vice-chair of the Session on Biodiversity and Fisheries
Rapporteur:	Mr. Luke Tabone, Ms. Margherita Muscat (Malta).

12. The discussions were held in line with the agenda. Simultaneous interpretation in English and French was provided during the Meeting.

Agenda item 3. Implementation of the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap
UNEP/MED WG.482/3; UNEP/MED WG.482/4; UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.12

a) State of Play

13. Mr. Stavros Antoniadis, UNEP/MAP Secretariat, presented the document UNEP/MED WG.482/3 “Implementation of the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap”, which provides information on the progress achieved in 2020 in relation to the implementation of the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap, structured around the Roadmap’s main processes and milestones. Through this presentation, the Meeting was also informed on the way forward to 2023 MED QSR, including deadlines of output delivery, as well as a 2023 MED QSR Operational Plan 2020-2023 with concrete activities per Milestone/Output of the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap supported by the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and externally funded Projects.

14. The Meeting welcomed the progress realized to date on the implementation of the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap, and requested the Secretariat to continue this work as indicated in the operational plan presented in Annex I to document UNEP/MED WG.482/3.

15. The Secretariat presented the tables included in Annex II to document UNEP/MED WG.482/3, developed as a tool to monitor the status of implementation of the IMAP at national level, and asked Contracting Parties to contribute to this exercise by completing these tables during the Meeting and, if not possible, by 12 December 2020 at the latest.

16. The Secretariat recalled the formal letter on data reporting sent by the Secretariat on the 2nd of June 2020, regarding the nomination of official National IMAP Users and the uploading in the IMAP Info System of available data by September 2020 and expected new 2020 monitoring data by January 2021. A number of Contracting Parties highlighted the difficulty in complying with these timelines for data uploading/sharing, given the need to follow national calendars with different dates. A question was raised if the outputs of the 2023 MED QSR will support the EU Member States which are Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in meeting the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC) reporting obligations. In response, the UNEP/MAP Deputy Coordinator pointed out that IMAP content includes a smaller number of Common Indicators compared to the MSFD, and that efforts have been focused on maximizing synergies and avoiding duplication to the extent possible. She also clarified that the Contracting Parties that are facing difficulties with regard to monitoring data reporting should inform officially the Secretariat as a response to the said letter, but indicating when this information and data will be provided to or shared with the Secretariat.

17. Several participants raised the attention of the Meeting to the technical difficulties experienced in the process of data upload in the IMAP Info System and asked the Secretariat / INFO/RAC to provide technical assistance to Contracting Parties to facilitate this duty in the form of training webinars and guidance documents and templates, as appropriate. In response, the Secretariat confirmed that it will take the necessary measures to overcome these difficulties.

b) Approach for the Preparation of the 2023 MED QSR

c) Structure of the 2023 MED QSR

18. Mr. Emanuele Bigagli, UNEP/MAP Secretariat presented document UNEP/MED WG.482/4 “Issue Paper for 2023 MED QSR Development Approach and Structure”, which proposes some preliminary elements for the methodological approach, outline, structure and contents of the 2023 MED QSR. The Meeting agreed in general terms on the proposed 2023 MED QSR content, approach, and structure, and requested the Secretariat to further elaborate this proposal, in particular on aspects related to the thematic Clusters and to the integrated GES assessment, for discussion and agreement by the next respective CORMON Meetings.

19. Following the discussion, several participants appreciated the effort made for preparing a realistic proposal of the 2023 MED QSR approach and structure with a view to implementing the relevant COP Decision. A number of comments were made on whether it would be possible to send additional comments after the Meeting. Therefore, the Secretariat stated that it would work to reflect them for review by the next CORMON Meetings. The UNEP/MAP Deputy Coordinator clarified that, after agreement by the CORMONs, the proposal on the timeline, structure and approach of the 2023 MED QSR will be submitted for no objection through online consultation to the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group members.

20. Congratulating the UNEP/MAP Secretariat for the extensive work and detailed documents paving the way for the successful delivery of the 2023 MED QSR, Ms. Célie Le Ravallec, ACCOBAMS recalled the success of the Survey Initiative (ASI; 2018-2019), which allowed to provide the first Mediterranean-scale baseline of distribution and abundance of cetaceans' species, other marine megafauna species, and floating marine litter. In this respect, ACCOBAMS presented their availability to share with UNEP/MAP all relevant data and outcomes of the ASI, and assist in covering important gaps related to Common Indicators 3 and 4, on Species distribution and abundance, and Common Indicator 23 on Marine Litter at sea. She also confirmed their willingness to contribute with their ongoing work and available data to noise-related Common Candidate Indicators 26 and 27. The intervention of ACCOBAMS was welcomed by the participants, and it was highlighted

as a good example to strengthen national capacities in data collection, especially in relation to the needed cooperation among national competent bodies.

21. A Contracting Party commented that the document UNEP/MED WG.482/4 at page 7, Table 2, does not include a high level of detail for Ecological Objective (EO) 1, and suggested that, although the topic is complex and several knowledge and methodological gaps are currently in place, it would be good to ensure at least a qualitative conclusion, using expert judgement, per biodiversity component (i.e., at least mammals, seabirds, fish, pelagic habitats, and benthic habitats).

22. The Meeting conclusions and recommendations regarding the 2023 MED QSR state of play, approach and structure are presented in Annex III to this Report.

Agenda item 4. EU-funded IMAP MPA, EcAp MED III and Marine Litter MED II Projects to boost IMAP implementation

UNEP/MED WG.482/3; UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.3; UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.4; UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.5

23. The UNEP/MAP Deputy Coordinator and Mr. Christos Ioakeimidis, UNEP/MAP Secretariat presented three EU-funded projects: EcAp MED III, IMAP-MPA, and Marine Litter MED II, which are expected to strongly contribute to the implementation of several outputs of the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap.

24. Following the discussions, several representatives stressed the importance of collaboration among all actors and institutions at national level, including the scientific community, in the implementation of these projects. In particular, the added value of the establishment of National IMAP Steering Committees, for ensuring the participation of all actors and supporting coordination and synergies among various relevant activities, including those implemented in different contexts outside the MAP system as appropriate, was highlighted. It was also underlined the need to clearly identify and plan the activities of the three projects presented, so as to avoid the duplication of efforts especially at national level.

25. Following a question by the floor in relation to Online Working Groups (OWGs), the Secretariat clarified that actually the current groups are composed of a restricted number of experts, and that the main purpose of their reestablishment is for providing important scientific feedback and technical support to the IMAP implementation at regional/sub-regional level, in particular on the aspects related to development of methodologies, assessment, scales, integration, protocols and guidelines in line with the approved 2020-2021 Programme of Work. To make these Groups operational as soon as possible, taking into account that the next CORMON Meetings are scheduled for Spring 2021, the UNEP/MAP Deputy Coordinator called for the Contracting Parties to commit their participation and contribution to the OWGs during the present CORMON Meetings. France proposed to co-chair the OWG on Biodiversity. Some representatives stressed that the participation in the OWGs should be on a voluntary basis, given the different capacities across Contracting Parties and the fact that other working groups have been already established for specific purposes.

26. The Meeting conclusions and recommendations regarding the EU-funded IMAP MPA, EcAp MED III and Marine Litter MED II Projects are presented in Annex III to this Report.

Agenda item 5. Parallel CORMON Sessions (Pollution and Marine Litter, and Biodiversity and Fisheries)

(i) Joint Pollution and Marine Litter CORMONs

UNEP/MED WG.482/5; UNEP/MED WG.482/6; UNEP/MED WG.482/7; UNEP/MED WG.482/8; UNEP/MED WG.482/9; UNEP/MED WG.482/10; UNEP/MED WG.482/11; UNEP/MED WG.482/12; UNEP/MED WG.482/13; UNEP/MED WG.482/14; UNEP/MED WG.482/15; UNEP/MED WG.482/16; UNEP/MED WG.482/17; UNEP/MED WG.482/18; UNEP/MED WG.482/19; UNEP/MED WG.482/21; UNEP/MED WG.482/23; UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.14; UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.15

27. The Joint Pollution and Marine Litter CORMONs were opened by Mr. Mohamad Kayyal, UNEP/MAP MED POL Programme Officer. Mr. Kayyal emphasized that these Meetings were expected to contribute to the coordinated efforts of UNEP/MAP and Parties aimed at the successful finalization of the initial phase of the IMAP Pollution Cluster, and at launching a new cycle towards achievement of GES in Mediterranean. In line with the Programme of Work 2020-2021 adopted by COP21, the UNEP/MAP MED POL Programme, with the scientific support of Mediterranean Environmental Science Laboratory of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA/MESL), has prepared the Monitoring Guidelines related to IMAP Common Indicators 13, 14, 17 and 20. Progress has also been achieved in the preparation of the Monitoring Protocols for Floating Microplastics and updated baseline values, as well as the proposal for threshold values for IMAP Common Indicator 22. Regarding IMAP Common Indicator 19, REMPEC contributed by preparing the respective Revised Guidance Fact Sheets.

5.i.a. Marine Litter Session

28. Under this agenda item, Christos Ioakeimidis, UNEP/MAP Secretariat presented Working Documents UNEP/MED WG.482/19 “Monitoring Guidelines/Protocols for Floating Microplastics” and UNEP/MED WG.482/23 “Updated Baseline Values and Proposal for Threshold Values for IMAP Common Indicator 22”.

29. Acknowledging the progress achieved with regards to the preparation of Monitoring Guidelines/Protocols for Floating Microplastics, several participants provided additional technical specifications to be considered by the Secretariat, regarding: the improvement of terminology and of the text related to specific aspects (such as e.g., microplastics size differentiation per length and diameter; clarification on the unit of volume (“m³”) in the part describing the units; further specification and distinction between fibres and filaments; the design of sampling stations and their distance from coastline; and the description of recommended replicates to increase data representativity); the creation of different scenarios for sampling design, including specific details for conducting sampling; and the recommended concentration of hydrogen peroxide.

30. Appreciating the proposal with regard to the updated Baseline Value (BV) and a proposal for Threshold Value (TV) for IMAP Common Indicator 22 (beach marine litter), several participants made specific comments. They also recommended a number of steps to be undertaken by UNEP/MAP MED POL to support this process, taking into account the need to maximize harmonization and synergies with the relevant work under the Technical Group on Marine Litter (TG/ML) under the EU MSFD. These steps may include: the updating of data sets for IMAP Common Indicator 22 for the same consecutive years (i.e., 2016-2019) by the Contracting Parties that wish to do so; the use of the full set (100%) of available information for the calculation of the updated BVs and proposal for TVs for IMAP Common Indicator 22; the retaining of the extreme values during the analysis and discarding any replacement with the mean/median values; the use of the 15th percentile value (instead of the 10th percentile) for the calculation of TV for IMAP Common Indicator 22; and the inclusion of a reference and a proposal for a timeline towards achieving GES for IMAP Common Indicator 22.

31. A number of participants also requested the Secretariat to start the process for data reporting with regard to IMAP Common Indicator 23, which would help the process for updating BVs and proposing TVs.

32. Under this agenda item, ACCOBAMS and the EU-funded INDICIT-II Project made presentations on the “ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative” (ASI), the first aerial large-scale survey in the Mediterranean; and on the Main deliverables of the EU-funded INDICIT-I and -II projects.

33. The Meeting conclusions and recommendations regarding the Marine Litter Session are presented in Annex III to this Report.

5.i.b. Pollution Session

34. Ms. Jelena Knezevic, UNEP/MAP MED POL Monitoring and Assessment Officer, presented the Working Documents WG.482/5-18 on the proposal of the Monitoring Guidelines/Protocols related to IMAP Common Indicators 13, 14, 17 and 20, which were prepared in collaboration with the Marine Environmental Studies Laboratory of the International Atomic Energy Agency (MESL/IAEA). The Secretariat explained that for the first time, these monitoring guidelines present a summary of the best available known practices employed in marine monitoring by bringing integrated comprehensive analytical practices that can be applied in order to ensure the representativeness and accuracy of the analytical results needed for generation of quality assured monitoring data (e.g., UNEP, IAEA, HELCOM, OSPAR and European Commission Joint Research Centre). It was highlighted that the proposed Monitoring Guidelines/Protocols were also built upon the knowledge and practices obtained over 40 years of MED POL. The Monitoring Guidelines/Protocols are not intended to be analytical training manuals, but guidelines for laboratories, which should be tested and modified in order to validate their final results. They can be further used by competent laboratories for developing their lab-specific sampling and sampling processing methodologies.

35. The Meeting reviewed these 14 Working Documents, which have been presented and discussed in four blocks: for Common Indicators 13 and 14 (sampling and sample preservation of seawater); for Common Indicators 17 and 20 (sampling and sample preservation of sediment, marine biota, seawater, and seafood); for Common Indicators 13 and 14 (sample preparation and analysis of seawater for determination of hydrographic physical parameters; hydrographic chemical parameters; concentration of key nutrients in seawater – Nitrogen compounds; concentration of key nutrients in seawater – Phosphorous and Silica compounds; and chlorophyll a in seawater); and for Common Indicators 17 and 20 (sample preparation and analysis of sediment; marine biota; seawater; and seafood).

36. Appreciating the work done by MED POL for preparing for the first-time coherent Monitoring Guidelines for EO5 and EO9 in order to guide technical personnel of IMAP competent laboratories, several participants made several technical comments and requested the Secretariat to take them into consideration:

1. The proposals related to the analysis of eutrophication that will be circulated in a written form regarding documents UNEP/MED WG.482/5; UNEP/MED WG.482/6; UNEP/MED WG.482/7; UNEP/MED WG.482/8; UNEP/MED WG.482/9 and UNEP/MED WG.482/10, including proposals expressed during the Meeting in relation to preparation of the reference stock solution for the analysis, as well as use of the manual method for on board determination of ammonia;
2. The proposals that will be circulated in a written form for all documents including proposals expressed during the Meeting regarding documents UNEP/MED WG.482/14, UNEP/MED WG.482/16 and UNEP/MED WG.482/18, in relation to provision of more details on some methods used in OSPAR;
3. The proposals that will be circulated in a written form including those expressed during the Meeting regarding documents UNEP/MED WG.482/12 and UNEP/MED WG.482/14 in relation to: i) use of TOC normalization if a good correlation exists between the organic

contaminant concentration and TOC; ii) consideration of the low correlation between PAHs concentrations and TOC in coastal sediments in comparison to offshore sediment that has been attributed to their higher heterogeneity; iii) normalization using lipid contents that requires linear correlation between the concentration of contaminant and the lipid content, what is not of relevance for PAHs; iv) non-adequacy of the normalization methodology used in the North Sea in the Mediterranean Sea and the Iberian area;

4. The proposals expressed during the Meeting regarding documents UNEP/MED WG.482/12; UNEP/MED WG.482/14; UNEP/MED WG.482/17 and UNEP/MED WG.482/18 in relation to: i) use of TOC in sediments and the lipid content in biota as a mandatory parameter in order to evaluate the capability of matrix to bind organic contaminants; ii) inclusion of PAHs as the sum of benzo(a)pyrene, benzo(a)anthracene, benzo(b) fluoranthene, and chrysene for foodstuff analysis in line with the Commission Regulation 836/2011 that amended the Regulation 333/2007; iii) use of Fe as a normalizing element; and iv) mandatory reporting on the area of origin i.e. FAO area code of seafood in data reporting formats for CI 20.

37. Several participants addressed specific technical aspects of the monitoring protocols, and requested additional time for submitting their detailed technical proposals after the Meeting (i.e., by 14 December 2020) in order to undertake further consultations with their respective national experts' teams. The Secretariat confirmed that the written comments received by that date will be addressed from UNEP/MAP MED POL in relevant Monitoring Guidelines/Protocols in order to share the final proposals of both English and French documents by 15 February for a period of 2 weeks for the non-objection by the CORMON.

38. Following a request to reorganize the Monitoring Guidelines, including merging the sampling and analysis procedures in order to ensure they are interrelated with the concerned determinant, it was agreed to keep the same structure and content as before. The Secretariat further explained that re-organization of documents would be possible at the stage of preparation of relevant publication after their approval.

39. Considering recommendations related to re-establishment of an OWG for Eutrophication (EO5) and Contaminants (EO9) of the Meeting of CORMON Pollution Monitoring, held on 2-3 April 2019, the Secretariat invited the Parties to express their interest in participating in the OWGs. By encompassing the scientists from around the Mediterranean to work in collaboration with the Secretariat, the OWGs will provide scientific contribution to ongoing work of the Secretariat aimed at preparing and/or upgrading assessment criteria for contaminants, including biological effects and nutrients; preparing the integrated GES assessment methodologies for EO5 and EO9 and proposing integrated scales of assessment for EO1, EO5, EO9 and EO10.

40. Croatia, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey expressed their willingness to participate to the OWG on EO9, whilst Croatia, Egypt, France, Israel, Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey expressed their willingness to participate to the OWG on EO5. They confirmed that the written appointments of respective national scientists for participation in the OWGs on EO5 and EO9 will be provided immediately after the Meeting.

41. The Meeting conclusions and recommendations regarding the Pollution Session are presented in Annex III to this Report.

(ii) Biodiversity and Fisheries CORMONS

UNEP/MED WG.482/20; UNEP/MED WG.482/21; UNEP/MED WG.482/22; UNEP/MED WG.482/25; UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.6; UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.13

5.ii.a. Update of Monitoring Protocols on Benthic Habitats

42. Mr Mehdi Aissi, UNEP/MAP SPA/RAC presented the document UNEP/MED WG.482/20 "Update of Monitoring Protocols on Benthic Habitats" and recalled that the document had been

reviewed at previous CORMON on biodiversity and fisheries (Marseille, France, 12-13 February 2019 and Rome, Italy, 12-13 May 2019), 14th SPA/BD Thematic Focal Points, and the 7th Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group (Athens, Greece, 9 September 2019) meetings. He brought to the attention of the participants the background and context of the elaboration of the monitoring protocols on marine vegetation and coralligenous and other calcareous bioconstructions, taking into account a number of comments highlighted by the Contracting Parties during the above indicated meetings i.e., 7th Meeting of the EcAp Coordination Group.

43. Several participants welcomed the monitoring guidelines, emphasized its quality, and made few proposals and comments, including: i) consider in the document the most updated scientific references to monitor Posidonia; ii) modify the title of the “Guidelines for monitoring coralligenous and other calcareous bioconstructions in Mediterranean” to “ Guideline for monitoring coralligenous and the upper circalittoral zone in the Mediterranean” so that it reflects the exact scope of the proposed monitoring methods; iii) prioritize the most important parameters to take in consideration for monitoring particularly for the countries without an ongoing monitoring programme of benthic habitats, and iv) review the monitoring technique for estimating the blue carbon in light of the recent updates regarding this issue.

44. A participant stated that this extensive document should be considered more as the state of the art of the monitoring methods and techniques for acquiring data on the benthic habitats in the Mediterranean than a monitoring protocol. He highlighted that until now no information was provided concerning the assessment indicator expected to be used for the 2023 MED QSR regarding these habitats. He added that it would be difficult to recommend the biological variables to be measured (and the associated measurement techniques) without information on the expected method to be used to assess the ecological state of the habitats monitored. Furthermore, it was underlined that this very comprehensive document detailing all the available monitoring techniques of the different habitats’ types in the Mediterranean needs to be translated into action. Therefore, the Secretariat was requested to provide proper capacity building and training activities as well as financial and technical support for all these types of benthic habitats to be monitored at national level specially for the eastern and southern Mediterranean countries.

45. The participants agreed to submit written proposals for amendments. Their comments and amendments will be integrated into the final version of the document to be submitted for adoption to the next CORMON Meeting on Biodiversity and Fisheries (April 2021, tbc).

46. To finalize the document before the next CORMON Meeting on Biodiversity and Fisheries (April 2021, tbc), the Meeting welcomed the re-establishment of the Biodiversity Online Working Group for marine habitats in line with the commitment expressed from several Parties to provide support and scientific contribution. The written appointments of the scientists will be provided by several Parties after the Meeting in line with their commitment expressed during the Meeting.

47. The Secretariat (UNEP/MAP SPA/RAC) informed the Meeting about the ongoing preparation of an interpretation manual of the marine habitat types that will complement the present monitoring guidelines and added that several training sessions on the identification and monitoring of marine benthic habitats are scheduled for this biennium.

48. A MAP partner representative informed the Meeting that at the requests of the Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) of the GFCM and in line with the adopted decisions for the management of red coral fisheries (*Corallium rubrum*), a dedicated research programme has been launched in 2020. One of the first objectives as agreed by the CPCs is defining common methodologies to sample red coral colonies.

5.ii.b. Revised Guidance Fact Sheets for IMAP Common Indicator 6

49. Mr. Gabino González, Head of Office of UNEP/MAP REMPEC, presented the revised guidance factsheet for IMAP Common Indicators on non-indigenous species (NIS) contained in Document UNEP/MED WG.482/21 and emphasised that the scope of the guidance factsheet is to provide a common reference to support the implementation and improvement of national monitoring programmes of Contracting Parties in line with the Decision IG.22/7 on the IMAP, adopted by COP 19 (Athens, Greece, February 2016). He recalled the previous meetings during which the document was reviewed (CORMON Meeting on Biodiversity and Fisheries (Madrid, Spain, 28 February- 1 March 2017), 13th SPA/BD Focal Points (Alexandria, Egypt, 9-12 May 2017), 6th Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group, (Athens, Greece, 11 September 2017)). He brought to the attention of the participants the background and context of the elaboration of this update resulted from the “Study on trends and outlook of marine pollution from ships and activities and of maritime traffic and offshore activities in the Mediterranean” and in line with the conclusions and recommendations of the 2017 MED QSR.

50. The participants agreed to submit written proposals for amendments. Their comments and amendments will be integrated into the final version of the document to be submitted for adoption to the next CORMON Meeting on Biodiversity and Fisheries (April 2021, tbc).

51. A number of representatives made some suggestions regarding the reference to the new EU Decision 2017/848/EU, the need to prioritise the NIS according to their impact by using the Environmental Impact Classification of Alien Taxa (EICAT) approach, and the need to consider amending the template of the guidance factsheet to be harmonized with MSFD Guidance document, for facilitating reporting.

52. In response, the UNEP/MAP Deputy Coordinator clarified that the suggestions made will be taken into account immediately. With respect to the Common Indicator fact Sheet template, she responded that this may require longer time as it may affect the template of all IMAP Common Indicator Fact sheets, which has been agreed time ago by the EcAp Coordination Group Meeting for all Common Indicators. This issue will be addressed accordingly and reported in due time.

5.ii.c. IMAP/GES Decision 2017/848/EU Comparative Analysis for Biodiversity

53. Mr. Mehdi Aissi, UNEP/MAP SPA/RAC introduced the document UNEP/MED WG.482/25 (Comparative Analysis undertaken with regard to IMAP and the European Commission GES Decision 2017/848/EU for Biodiversity). The document presented a comparative analysis of the IMAP and the revised GES decision of the EU MSFD, addressed the gaps raised from the 2017 MED QSR and provided a series of recommendations for a possible alignment between the two processes.

54. Several participants commended the document and appreciated the continued efforts made by the Secretariat to align the two processes, wherever possible. They recommended to include, when relevant, the conclusions and recommendations of this work in the MED QSR Roadmap and update this comparative analysis regularly. They highlighted some detailed technical comments that was agreed to provide them to the Secretariat (UNEP/MAP SPA/RAC) in written to be taken into consideration, as appropriate, in the final version of the document that will be submitted to the next CORMON Meeting on Biodiversity and Fisheries (April 2021, tbc).

55. A MAP partner representative stated that the document was very useful to analyse the synergies between the two processes and was particularly relevant to underline the gaps remaining (e.g., thresholds values) to be addressed. She highlighted a missing gap in the key gaps of the first assessment based on IMAP related to the cartilaginous fish species (sharks and rays) that suggested to include it in the list of current gaps and explained that more than 50% of these taxa are endangered according to the Regional Red list of IUCN with already 20 species critically endangered.

56. A MAP partner representative informed the Meeting about several GFCM guidelines elaborated to monitor and protect the vulnerable species including [Monitoring the incidental catch of vulnerable species in Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries: methodology for data collection](#), [Good practice guides for the handling of vulnerable species caught incidentally in Mediterranean fisheries](#) and [Monitoring discards in Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries: methodology for data collection](#). He added that a database on incidental catches of vulnerable species and another one on indicators of vulnerable marine ecosystems are being prepared.

5.ii.d. Draft Data Dictionaries and Data Standards for Common Indicators related to Marine Mammals, Marine Turtles and Sea Birds

57. Mr. Arthur Pasquale, UNEP/MAP INFO/RAC, presented Data Standards and Data Dictionaries as first draft related to Common Indicators 3 and 4, and referred to the specific groups of cetaceans and marine turtles in the framework of the completion of the IMAP CIs in the IMAP Info System. Discussion with Contracting Parties was intended as a preliminary step before the planned bilateral meetings with relevant regional organizations to define the data policy approach to be followed. Data Standards have been elaborated on the basis of IMAP protocols developed by UNEP/MAP SPA/RAC, and are suitable to enlargement and reduction of parameters according to their organization at regional or country level. Comments from Contracting Parties have been collected; they will be taken into account during the next bilateral discussions with ACCOBAMS, and shared with the Online Working Groups on Biodiversity upon their establishment.

5.ii.e. Any Other Matters

58. Referring to the information document UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.6 (“Status of NIS in the Mediterranean and Roadmap for the elaboration of Baseline at national and regional levels”), the Secretariat provided information on the already launched process of the elaboration of the 2019 baseline of NIS introduction in the Mediterranean, which is being developed in synergy with the EU MSFD, and highlighted that the document was elaborated based on a preliminary analysis of data received from the Contracting Parties and provided a roadmap for the elaboration of a baseline at national and regional levels.

59. Several participants welcomed the document and recognized the importance of this work. Commenting on the actions proposed on the roadmap, participants that did not yet submit their national list of NIS, requested the Secretariat to extend the deadline until 31 January 2021.

60. A MAP Partner representative congratulated UNEP/MAP SPA/RAC’s effort to provide this overview and preliminary analysis of the available NIS data, and suggested that if the data reported allows providing information on the establishment success of the species (established, casual, invasive, etc), it could drive the future prioritization of NIS in the IMAP.

61. With respect to the process of the elaboration of the NIS baseline in the Mediterranean, several speakers emphasized the importance of promoting the synergies with the EU MSFD (mainly with the Joint Research Centre (JRC)), relevant regional sea conventions (HELCOM, OSPAR) and international organizations, in order to avoid overlapping and duplication of efforts.

62. UNEP/MAP SPA/RAC introduced the information document UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.13 (“Methodological Approach for mapping the interrelations between Pressures-Impacts and the Status of Marine Ecosystem Components for Biodiversity Cluster”) addressing the methodologies proposed for a GES-integrated assessment based on the Driver-Pressure-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR) approach in order to support the integrated assessment, under IMAP, of the predominant pressures and their impacts on the marine biodiversity. The proposed methodologies aim to assess the interrelations of predominant pressures and impacts on the biodiversity, which reflect on the health/state of the environment, and to support the integrated assessment under IMAP. Indeed, the document explained the interrelation between three concrete approaches, providing detailed elaboration of GRID/Table,

Scoreboard semi-quantitative approach, and the NEAT approach, and proposed a number of recommendations regarding the use of each suggested method.

63. Several participants congratulated the Secretariat on the quality of the document and the importance of its content to elaborate a GES-integrated assessment. Some participants made requests for amendments, which they submitted in writing.

64. The amendments requested were basically about considering in the future other sources of pressures on the biodiversity such as non-indigenous species; aquaculture; climate change; marine litter; Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing; underwater noise; light pollution; coastal infrastructure; offshore fossil-fuel; etc.

65. A MAP partner representative stated that it was an important and comprehensive document and expressed the need for a validation process for the scoring system representing interactions between pressures-impacts and biodiversity, to establish confident intervals and avoid misinterpretation of the results (such as in the case of the energy sector, offshore infrastructures) and when data is not enough to do an analysis.

66. The Meeting recommended to consider this work as a dynamic and living document that should be therefore updated continually as required.

67. The Meeting conclusions and recommendations regarding the Biodiversity and Fisheries Session are presented in Annex III to this Report.

Agenda item 6. IMAP Cross-cutting Issues: Sharing of Best Practices
UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.7; UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.8; UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.13

68. Under this agenda item, UNEP/MAP PAP/RAC made two presentations on sharing of best practices on cross-cutting issues for IMAP implementation.

a) Application of the Methodological Guidance of the Common Regional Framework (CRF) on ICZM for Reaching Good Environmental Status (GES)

69. The first presentation was made by Mr. Marko Prem, Deputy Director of UNEP/MAP PAP/RAC, on the “Application of the Methodological Guidance of the Common Regional Framework (CRF) on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) for Reaching Good Environmental Status (GES)” illustrating the case-study of Slovenia. He brought to the attention of the Meeting the objectives of the ICZM Protocol and presented the Methodological Guidance of CRF for reaching GES. The example from Slovenia showed its great potential for use and in particular for the definition of operational recommendations, i.e., measures, for reaching GES.

70. Several participants welcomed the approach presented and expressed interest to further testing and fine-tuning of this method, highlighting the need to provide assistance in its application. Future projects were mentioned that could contribute to such assistance, such as the new GEF-funded project under the MedProgramme.

b) IMAP Experience from the GEF Adriatic Project and Application of IMAP Indicators in MSP Process

71. The second presentation was made by Ms. Marina Markovic, UNEP/MAP PAP/RAC. She highlighted the important results and initiatives of the GEF Adriatic project, implemented in Albania and Montenegro. She highlighted integration at two levels: at the level of IMAP, primarily in preparing Integrated Monitoring Programmes (as a shift and upgrade from the thematic monitoring prepared individually for different EOs), and at the level of MSP, where inputs from IMAP are being integrated in the MSP preparation process.

72. Several participants appreciated the work done and expressed interest in obtaining more detailed information on the tools used for the implementation of the methods presented.

73. The Meeting conclusions and recommendations regarding the IMAP Cross-Cutting Issues: Sharing of Best Practices are presented in Annex III to this Report.

Agenda item 7. Promoting SPI for IMAP Implementation

UNEP/MED WG.482/24; UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.9; UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.10

74. Mr. Antoine Lafitte, UNEP/MAP Plan Bleu presented the work done in the context of the EU-funded project EcAp MED II to structure, strengthen, and sustain a Science-Policy Interface (SPI) to support IMAP at both regional and local levels. Plan Bleu reminded the Meeting of two main publications drafted:

- a brochure, summarizing cross-cutting and topic-specific knowledge gaps and structuring technical and scientific recommendations for the complete implementation of IMAP per cluster (in 2018); and
- a policy-oriented report, which proposed operational SPI recommendations for future actions to support countries and institutions part of the Barcelona Convention system in the full implementation of IMAP (in 2019).

75. Ms. Jelena Knezevic, UNEP/MAP MED POL Monitoring and Assessment Officer, presented the contribution of IMAP to the United Nations Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. She recalled the Regional Workshop for the Mediterranean held on January 2020 in Venice and the recommendations of UNEP/MAP, and presented the strategic orientations as the first reflections of UNEP/MAP to contribute to the United Nations Decade's Implementation Plan.

76. Several participants took the floor highlighting the importance of SPI for IMAP implementation, and welcomed the approach of the Secretariat to promote IMAP implementation as a central pillar regarding UNEP/MAP strategic orientations to contribute to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. It was also highlighted the need to raise the issue of climate change as central in the SPI process, taking into account the scientific advice provided by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and MAP partners.

77. In thanking the participants for their contribution, the UNEP/MAP Deputy Coordinator confirmed that SPI is already an important priority for MAP in the current UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy, and is considered also an important priority for the new UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy (2022-2027). MAP has already contributed to support a SPI platform for climate change (MedECC), and intends, through the implementation of the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap, to build and further strengthen, together with Partners and the scientific community in the region, a solid SPI framework for IMAP implementation at regional, sub-regional and, if possible, national level. To this aim, she confirmed that the first strategic orientations that were shared with the Meeting today as a potential MAP contribution to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, will be further elaborated for discussions at the next CORMON and EcAP Coordination Group meetings.

78. The Meeting conclusions and recommendations regarding the promotion of SPI for IMAP implementation are presented in Annex III to this Report.

Agenda item 8. Any Other Business

UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.11; UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.14; UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.15

a) Potential elements for IMAP Data Policy

79. Mr. Arthur Pasquale, UNEP/MAP INFO/RAC, presented the WG.482/Inf.11 “Potential Elements for IMAP Data Policy” as an update of what was already agreed in the current year, what needs to be formalized, and the main objectives to be achieved within the conclusion of the ongoing IMAP Call.

80. It was recalled the pending reaction of Contracting Parties after the set deadline, about sharing the on-line survey on Data Policy. UNEP/MAP INFO/RAC encouraged Contracting Parties to show their availability to plan bilateral meetings on data policy. The meeting dates should be proposed by Contracting Parties, taking into account the participations of all the needed actors at country level.

81. During these bilateral meetings, UNEP/MAP INFO/RAC will provide support on the organization of the available data collected by countries, their inclusion in data standards templates, upload, quality check, and all the following steps for the official release.

82. UNEP/MAP INFO/RAC informed the Meeting that the migration of UNEP/MAP MED POL data in the IMAP Info System is close to conclusion, and Data Standards are available for any possible check by Contracting Parties. The Data Standards uploaded by countries during the testing phase are available in the system, waiting for clarification about their possible inclusion in the IMAP Call. The Meeting agreed that IMAP users of each country will be contacted by UNEP/MAP INFO/RAC to have confirmation about their appropriate use. UNEP/MAP INFO/RAC recalled the importance to complete the appointment of IMAP Users, expected for pending Contracting Parties by the end of 2020 at the latest, and the urgency to be informed timely about any obstacle that can slow the IMAP process.

b) Main deliverables of the EU-funded MEDREGION and INDICIT II Projects

83. Ms. Popi Pagkou, HCMR presented the EU-funded project “Support Mediterranean Member States towards the Implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, new GES Decision and programmes of measures and contribute to regional/sub-regional cooperation (MEDREGION)”. The objectives of this 24-months long project, started in February 2019, are to:

- Complete gaps in monitoring data in the Mediterranean region/subregions;
- Support the development and operational implementation of (sub)regional indicators, lists of elements, threshold values, to implement the EU GES Decision, in line with the main gaps identified in the EcAp MED II project and with EU GES Decision requirements;
- Support to the development of effective regional measures, with a special focus on biodiversity.

84. HCMR highlighted how the MEDREGION project contributes to the UNEP/MAP work on the implementation of IMAP and of the Ecosystem Approach. To this respect, participants welcomed the MEDREGION project and underlined the importance and usefulness of its outcomes also to Mediterranean non-EU countries.

85. Ms. Gaëlle Darmon, CEFE/EPHE presented the main outcomes of the projects INDICIT-I and INDICIT-II (“Implementation of Indicators of Marine Litter on Sea Turtles and Biota in Regional Sea Conventions and Marine Strategy Framework Directive Areas”). The aim of these two projects is to support the ongoing work in the context of Regional Sea Conventions (UNEP/MAP, OSPAR, and HELCOM) and of the MSFD to develop standard monitoring of marine litter interactions with fauna, in relation to marine litter ingestion by sea turtles (>1 mm); micro-plastic (<5 mm) ingestion by fish; entanglement of mammals, turtles, and birds by floating litter. The activities of these projects focused on developing standard tools (protocols, tutorials); training and harmonizing networks for standard

data collection; and in analysing data and proposing GES scenarios, according to spatial and temporal scales and minimum sample sizes.

86. Several participants took the floor and welcomed the work currently being performed in the context of the projects presented, as important to provide methodologies upon which the data collection and monitoring activities can be performed to support the IMAP process and the Ecosystem Approach.

Presentation of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative

87. ACCOBAMS presented the results of the ACCOBAMS Survey initiative (ASI), which allowed to establish a baseline framework to assess cetacean's abundance and distribution, as well as collecting data on marine litter, in the whole ACCOBAMS area. ACCOBAMS explained that a new strategy is currently being developed to replicate the ASI, which will be developed in synergy with the IMAP process.

88. The Meeting conclusions and recommendations regarding the potential elements for IMAP data policy, the presentation of the main deliverables of the EU-funded MEDREGION and INDICIT-I and INDICIT-II Projects, and of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative, are presented in Annex III to this Report.

Agenda item 9. Conclusions and Recommendations

89. Under this agenda item, the participants were invited to review the draft conclusions and recommendations. The Meeting approved the conclusions and recommendations as slightly amended by the Meeting, and contained in Annex III to the present report.

Agenda item 10. Closure of the Meeting

90. After the expression of usual courtesies, the Chair declared the Meeting closed at 5.45 p.m. on Thursday, 3 December 2020.

Annex I
List of Participants

List of Participants

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Annex II
Agenda of the Meeting

Agenda of the Meeting

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

Agenda Item 2: Organizational Matters

Agenda Item 3: Implementation of the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap

- a. State of Play
- b. Approach for the Preparation of the 2023 MED QSR
- c. Structure of the 2023 MED QSR

Agenda item 4: EU-funded IMAP MPA, EcAp MED III and Marine Litter MED II Projects to Boost IMAP Implementation

Agenda item 5: Parallel CORMON Sessions (Pollution and Marine Litter, and Biodiversity and Fisheries)

5.A. Joint Pollution and Marine Litter CORMONs	5.B. Biodiversity and Fisheries CORMON
5.A.i Updated Baseline Values and Proposal for Threshold Values for IMAP Common Indicator 22 5.A.ii. Monitoring Protocols for Floating Microplastics 5.A.iii. Development of Litter Impact Indicators and GES Proposals under EU-funded INDICIT II Project 5.A.iv. Monitoring Guidelines/Protocols related to IMAP Common Indicators 13 and 14 5.A.v. Monitoring Guidelines/Protocols related to IMAP Common Indicator 17 5.A.vi. Monitoring Guidelines/Protocols related to IMAP Common Indicators 20 5.A.vii. Revised Guidance Fact Sheets for IMAP Common Indicator 19 5.A.viii. Other Matters a. Outcomes of EU-funded MedRegion Project	5.B.i. Update of Monitoring Protocols on Benthic Habitats 5.B.ii. Revised Guidance Fact Sheets for IMAP Common Indicator 6 5.B.iii. IMAP/GES Decision 2017/848/EU Comparative Analysis for Biodiversity 5.B.iv. Draft Data Dictionaries and Data Standards for Common Indicators related to Marine Mammals, Marine Turtles and Sea Birds 5.B.v. Other Matters a. NIS Baseline Assessment b. Assessing Interrelations of Pressures-Impacts for Biodiversity

Agenda Item 6: IMAP Cross-cutting Issues: Sharing of Best Practices

- a. Application of the Methodological Guidance of the Common Regional Framework (CRF) on ICZM for Reaching Good Environmental Status (GES)

- b. IMAP Experience from the GEF Adriatic Project and Application of IMAP Indicators in MSP Process

Agenda Item 7: Promoting SPI for IMAP Implementation

- a. Follow-up on SPI Recommendations from EU-funded EcAp MED II Project
- b. IMAP and UN Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

Agenda Item 8: Any Other Business

- a. Potential elements for IMAP Data Policy
- b. Main deliverables of the EU-funded MEDREGION and INDICIT II Projects

Agenda Item 9: Conclusions and Recommendations

Agenda Item 10: Closure of the Meeting

Annex III
Conclusions and Recommendations English and French

Conclusions and Recommendations

Introduction

1. In the framework of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2020-2021, the Integrated Meetings of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Groups on IMAP Implementation (CORMONs) were held via videoconference on 1-3 December 2020, organized by the United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan - Barcelona Convention Secretariat (UNEP/MAP), and the respective MAP Components (MED POL, SPA/RAC, PAP/RAC, INFO/RAC, and Plan Bleu).

Participation

2. The following Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention were represented at the Meeting: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, European Union, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, and Turkey.
3. The following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, convention secretariats and intergovernmental organizations were represented as observers: the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), the European Environment Agency (EEA), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP/WCMC).
4. The following non-governmental organizations and other institutions were also represented as observers: the Center for Energy, Environment and Resources (CENER21), the École Pratique des Hautes Etudes (EPHE), the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR), the Hydro-Engineering Institute Sarajevo (HEIS), the Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles (MEDASSET), the Network of Marine Protected Areas Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), the University of Siena, the Mediterranean Programme Office of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-Med), and the INDICIT project (Implementation of Indicators of Marine Litter on Sea Turtles and Biota in Regional Sea Conventions and Marine Strategy Framework Directive Areas).
5. Following the review and discussions of all agenda items, the Integrated Meetings of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Groups on IMAP Implementation (CORMONs), held via videoconference on 1-3 December 2020, agreed on the following conclusions and recommendations:

Agenda item 3: 2023 MED QSR State of Play, Approach and Structure

6. The Meeting welcomed with appreciation the progress realized to date on the implementation of the 2023 MED QSR Roadmap, and requested the Secretariat to continue this work in line with the operational plan presented in Annex I to document UNEP/MED WG.482/3.
7. The Meeting agreed to complete during the Meeting and, if not possible, by 12 December 2020 at the latest, the tables presented in Annex II to document UNEP/MED WG.482/3, attached to the present conclusions and recommendations, by all Contracting Parties, in order to use them at national and regional levels as monitoring tools for the implementation of the IMAP.
8. Recalling the formal letter on data reporting sent by the Secretariat on the 2nd of June 2020, attached to the present conclusions and recommendations, regarding the nomination of official

National IMAP Users and the uploading in the IMAP Info System of available data by September 2020 and expected new 2020 monitoring data by January 2021, the Meeting highlighted the need to respect the indicated timelines by all Contracting Parties. In case Contracting Parties are facing difficulties in complying with these timelines for data uploading/sharing, they should inform officially the Secretariat as a response to the said letter, indicating when this information and data will be provided or shared.

9. The Meeting requested the Secretariat / INFO/RAC to undertake training webinars and to prepare guidance documents and templates, as appropriate, in view of enhancing Contracting Parties' capacities and supporting them in the submission of data to the IMAP Info System, as indicated in the conclusion number 8.
10. The Meeting agreed in general terms on the proposed 2023 MED QSR content, approach, and structure presented in document UNEP/MED WG.482/4, and requested the Secretariat to further elaborate this proposal, in particular on aspects related to the thematic Clusters and to the integrated GES assessment, for discussion and agreement by the next respective CORMON Meetings.
11. Any additional comments on the timeline for the submission of data and preparation of the 2023 MED QSR, as well as on the proposed structure, content and approach of the 2023 MED QSR, as appropriate, should be provided to the Secretariat by mid December 2020. Based on the comments received, the Secretariat will prepare a revised version for review by the next CORMON Meetings. After agreement by the CORMONs, the proposal on the timeline, structure and approach of the 2023 MED QSR will be submitted for no objection through online consultation to the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group members.
12. The Meeting agreed that the 2023 MED QSR assessment will be based, to the extent possible, on data and information coming from IMAP implementation at national/sub-regional level, as well as other appropriate sources. Assessments for specific Common Indicators and thematic assessments will be undertaken as appropriate geographic scales, according to a regionally common methodology. The scope of the 2023 MED QSR should include all mandatory Common Indicators monitored and reported by Contracting Parties and, where possible, information/update will also be provided for a number of Candidate Common Indicators as part of relevant chapters/sections based on available data.

Agenda item 4: EU-funded IMAP MPA, EcAp MED III and Marine Litter MED II Projects to boost IMAP implementation

13. The Meeting welcomed the launch of the EU-funded EcAp MED III, IMAP-MPA, and Marine Litter MED II projects, and their proposed actions to boost IMAP implementation and 2023 MED QSR delivery. The Meeting stressed again the importance of collaboration among all actors and institutions at national level, including the scientific community, and reaffirmed project eligible Contracting Parties' commitment for the successful execution of these projects.
14. The Meeting highlighted the added value of the establishment of National IMAP Steering Committees, in ensuring the participation of all actors and supporting coordination and synergies among various relevant activities, including those implemented in different contexts outside the MAP system where appropriate.
15. The Meeting stressed that Online Working Groups, actually composed of a restricted number of experts, are re-established for providing important scientific feedback and technical support to the IMAP implementation at regional/sub-regional level, in particular on the aspects related to development of methodologies, assessment, scales, integration, protocols and guidelines in line with the approved 2020-2021 Programme of Work, taking into account the need to ensure

in these groups a balanced representation of the Contracting Parties. To make these Groups operational as soon as possible, taking into account that the next CORMON Meetings are scheduled for Spring 2021, the Secretariat called for the Contracting Parties to commit their participation and contribution to the Online Working Groups during the present CORMON Meetings.

Agenda item 5: Parallel CORMON Sessions (Pollution and Marine Litter, and Biodiversity and Fisheries)

(i) Joint Pollution and Marine Litter CORMONs

(Marine Litter Session)

16. The Meeting reviewed and endorsed Working Documents UNEP/MED WG.482/19 “Monitoring Guidelines/Protocols for Floating Microplastics” and UNEP/MED WG.482/23 “Updated Baseline Values and Proposal for Threshold Values for IMA Common Indicator 22”, for submission to the Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points foreseen in May 2021.
17. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to amend UNEP/MED WG.482/19 and UNEP/MED WG.482/23 by addressing agreed technical proposals, including the alignment as appropriate with the ongoing process for defining threshold values for marine litter by EU-MSFD JRC/TGML, to be described in the Report of the Meeting. The amended documents will be shared by the Secretariat in early February 2021, both in English and French, for a period of 2 weeks for the non-objection by the CORMON on the suggested changes in order to submit them to the Meeting of MED POL Focal Points.
18. The Meeting called for UNEP/MAP and its MED POL Programme to:
 - a. re-launch a request for reporting of data for IMA Common Indicator 23 (i.e., seafloor and floating marine litter) to enable the commencement of the relevant work for updating Baseline Values (BVs) and proposing Threshold Values (TVs). Data on floating marine litter from the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative is available and could be used for that purpose.
 - b. take into account the existing information and scientific literature, including information and data collected in the framework of projects (e.g., INDICIT-I and II, MEDSEALITTER, PlasticBusters MPA etc.) and from Countries (e.g., Italy), for updating the Baseline Values (BVs) and proposing Threshold Values (TVs) for IMA Candidate Indicator 24 (i.e., entanglement and ingestion on marine turtles).
19. The Meeting welcomed the re-establishment of the Online Working Group (OWG) for Marine Litter (EO10) in line with the commitment expressed from several Parties to provide scientific contribution to ongoing work of the Secretariat aimed at amending the guidelines for monitoring floating microplastics. The written appointments of the scientists will be provided by several Parties immediately after the Meeting in line with their commitment expressed during the Meeting.

(Pollution Session)

The Monitoring Guidelines/Protocols for IMA Common Indicators 13, 14, 17 and 20

20. The Meeting acknowledged the progress made by the Secretariat towards strengthening the substantial knowledge for the implementation of the standardized and harmonized marine environment monitoring practices in order to ensure the representativeness and accuracy of the

analytical results related to IMAP Pollution Cluster, as well as the comparability between national monitoring programmes.

21. The Meeting reviewed and agreed on the monitoring methodologies and practices elaborated for sampling; sample preservation and transportation; as well as sample preparation and analysis for IMAP Common Indicators 13, 14, 17 and 20, by supporting submission of the following Meeting documents to the Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points foreseen in May 2021:
 - c. UNEP/MED WG.482/5, UNEP/MED WG.482/11, UNEP/MED WG.482/13, UNEP/MED WG.482/15 and UNEP/MED WG.482/17 related to the Monitoring Guidelines/Protocols for sampling and sample preservation;
 - d. UNEP/MED WG.482/6, UNEP/MED WG.482/7, UNEP/MED WG.482/8, UNEP/MED WG.482/9, UNEP/MED WG.482/10, UNEP/MED WG.482/12, UNEP/MED WG.482/14, UNEP/MED WG.482/16 and UNEP/MED WG.482/18 related to the Monitoring Guidelines/Protocols for Sample Preparation and Analysis.
22. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to amend the Monitoring Guidelines/Protocols by addressing agreed technical proposals to be described in the Report of the Meeting in line with agreement to proceed with their submission to the Meeting of MEDPOL Focal Points. Requested amendments need to include technical written suggestions that will be provided by several Contracting Parties up to 10 days after the Meeting. The amended documents will be shared by the Secretariat in early February 2021, both in English and French, for a period of 2 weeks for the non-objection by the CORMON on the suggested changes in order to submit them to the Meeting of MEDPOL Focal Points.
23. The Meeting recommended the Monitoring Guidelines/Protocols prepared for IMAP Common Indicators 13, 14, 17 and 20 for further use of the technical personnel working in national IMAP competent laboratories in order to move forward the implementation of standardized and harmonized IMAP monitoring practices.
24. The Meeting welcomed the re-establishment of the Online Working Groups (OWG) for Eutrophication (EO5) and Contaminants (EO9) in line with the commitment expressed from several Parties to provide scientific contribution to ongoing work of the Secretariat aimed at preparing/upgrading assessment criteria for contaminants, including biological effects and nutrients; preparing the integrated GES assessment methodologies for Ecological Objectives 5 and 9 and proposing integrated scales of assessment for Ecological Objectives 1, 5, 9 and 10. The written appointments of the scientists will be provided by several Parties immediately after the Meeting in line with their commitment expressed during the Meeting.

(ii) Biodiversity and Fisheries CORMONS

Document UNEP/MED WG.482/20 “Update of Monitoring Protocols on Benthic Habitats” (presented for discussion and endorsement by SPA/RAC):

25. The Meeting commended the document UNEP/MED WG.482/20 “Update of Monitoring Protocols on Benthic Habitats”, and underlined that it should be considered as a state of the art of the monitoring methods. In this respect, it was recalled that the relevant IMAP Common Indicator Guidance Factsheets have the fundamental objective of proposing harmonized monitoring techniques.
26. The Meeting recommended to review the title of the “Guidelines for monitoring coralligenous and other calcareous bioconstructions in Mediterranean” so that it reflects the exact scope of the proposed monitoring methods, that focus on the “Mediterranean upper circalittoral zone”.

27. The Meeting reviewed the document and agreed to provide the secretariat (SPA/RAC) with written comments, to be considered as appropriate, before the closure of the Integrated CORMONs Meetings, i.e., 3 December 2020. These comments concerned the various sections on seagrass meadows, coralligenous reefs and rhodolith habitats. It was proposed to enrich the document with references to the most updated monitoring techniques and to review the methodological approaches for estimating Blue Carbon, in line with the IMAP decision (Decision IG.22/7).
28. The Meeting requested the secretariat to consider the possibility of providing proper capacity-building and training activities, as well as simplified operational documents, on the monitoring protocols, in addition to the technical and financial support provided, especially for Eastern and Southern Mediterranean countries.

The part of the document UNEP/MED WG.482/21 “Revised Guidance Fact Sheets for IMAP Common Indicators 6 and 19”, related to Common Indicator 6 (*presented for discussion and endorsement by REMPEC*):

29. The Meeting welcomed the part of the document UNEP/MED WG.482/21 “Revised Guidance Fact Sheets for IMAP Common Indicators 6 and 19”, related to Common Indicator 6. It agreed to provide the secretariat (REMPEC and SPA/RAC) with written comments, to be considered as appropriate, before the closure of the Integrated CORMONs Meetings, i.e., 3 December 2020.
30. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to assess the possibility of enhancing the content of Common Indicator 6 Fact Sheet with the latest development under the EU MSFD, as appropriate, and make the necessary adjustments which are in line with IMAP, for the consideration of the next CORMON Meeting. For changes beyond IMAP, if any, the mandate will be requested at the next Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group (EcAp CG) and included in the next biennium Programme of Work as appropriate.
31. The Meeting drew the attention of the Secretariat to consider possible changes to template of the Common Indicator factsheets. To this aim a reflection will be undertaken by the Secretariat for consideration at the next CORMON Meetings.

Document UNEP/MED WG.482/22 “Data Dictionaries and Data Standards for the Common Indicators 3, 4 and 5 related to Marine Mammals, Marine Turtles and Sea Birds (Draft)” (*presented for discussion and endorsement by INFO/RAC*):

32. The Meeting welcomed the document UNEP/MED WG.482/22 “Data Dictionaries and Data Standards for the Common Indicators 3, 4 and 5 related to Marine Mammals, Marine Turtles and Sea Birds (Draft)”. It agreed to provide the secretariat (INFO/RAC and SPA/RAC) with written comments to be considered as appropriate, before the closure of the Integrated CORMONs Meetings, i.e., 3 December 2020.
33. The Meeting encouraged continued work to be undertaken by INFO/RAC to cover the agreed IMAP common indicators related to all groups of species.
34. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to encourage regional and sub-regional cooperation with relevant partners and promote the exchange of best practices on data collection and processing.

Document UNEP/MED WG.482/25 “Comparative Analysis undertaken with regard to IMAP and the European Commission GES Decision 2017/848/EU for Biodiversity” (presented for discussion and endorsement by SPA/RAC):

35. The Meeting welcomed the document UNEP/MED WG.482/25 “Comparative Analysis undertaken with regard to IMAP and the European Commission GES Decision 2017/848/EU for Biodiversity”. It agreed to provide the secretariat (SPA/RAC) with written comments to be considered as appropriate, before the closure of the Integrated CORMONs Meetings, i.e., 3 December 2020.
36. The Meeting recommended to translate the conclusions and recommendations of the comparative analysis into actions to be included in the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report (MED QSR) Roadmap, in line with IMAP and respective COP Decision.
37. The Meeting recommended to update this comparative analysis regularly.

Document UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.6 “Status of NIS in the Mediterranean and Roadmap for the elaboration of Baseline at national and regional levels” (presented for information by SPA/RAC):

38. The Meeting welcomed the document UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.6 “Status of NIS in the Mediterranean and Roadmap for the elaboration of Baseline at national and regional levels”. It agreed to provide the secretariat (SPA/RAC) with written comments to be considered as appropriate, before the closure of the Integrated CORMONs Meetings, i.e., 3 December 2020.
39. The Contracting Parties, that didn’t yet submit their national list on non-indigenous species, agreed to do so, and requested the secretariat to extend the deadline until 31 January 2021.
40. The Meeting highlighted the need to consider synergies with the EU MSFD (mainly with the Joint Research Centre (JRC)), relevant regional sea conventions and international organizations, in order to avoid overlapping of efforts and duplication of reporting.

UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.13 “Methodological Approach for mapping the interrelations between Pressures-Impacts and the Status of Marine Ecosystem Components for Biodiversity Cluster” (presented for information by SPA/RAC):

41. The Meeting commended the document WG.482/Inf.13 “Methodological Approach for mapping the interrelations between Pressures-Impacts and the Status of Marine Ecosystem Components for Biodiversity Cluster”. It agreed to provide the secretariat (SPA/RAC) with written comments to be considered as appropriate, before the closure of the Integrated CORMONs Meetings, i.e., 3 December 2020.
42. The Meeting recommended to ensure synergy with other regional and EU processes and initiatives, including relevant projects, and with other regional sea conventions (e.g., OSPAR) for the development of Common Indicators.
43. The Meeting recommended to consider in the future other pressures, i.e., non-indigenous species; aquaculture; climate change; marine litter; Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing; underwater noise; light pollution; coastal infrastructure; offshore fossil-fuel; etc.
44. The Meeting highlighted the need for a robust validation process for the scoring system representing interactions between pressures-impacts and biodiversity, to provide confidence for the results and when data is not enough to do an analysis.

Recommendation on the reactivation of the Online Working Group on Biodiversity:

45. The Meeting agreed to reactivate the Online Working Group on Biodiversity. France offered assistance for this online working group, including co-chairing besides SPA/RAC or any other volunteer Contracting Party, as needed. The current aim is to organize intersessional thematic Meetings in order to help revising the documents to be discussed at the next CORMON Biodiversity and Fisheries Meetings (e.g., Monitoring protocols on benthic habitats; Data Dictionaries and Data Standards for the mammals and turtles Common Indicators 3, 4 and 5; and Non-indigenous species Common Indicator 6 guidance factsheet). The Contracting Parties are encouraged to nominate relevant thematic experts to be part of each thematic Meeting of this Online Working Group and communicate names and contacts to SPA/RAC. The proposition and use of a dedicated technical platform and the biennial Terms of Reference for this online Working Group on Biodiversity will be drafted, discussed and agreed at next CORMON and EcAp Meetings, to be forwarded then to the members of this group.

Agenda Item 6: IMAP Cross-cutting Issues: Sharing of Best Practices

46. The Meeting welcomed the information documents on IMAP Cross-cutting issues (UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.7 and UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.8) and the presentations made by PAP/RAC on best practices of integration for achieving GES by applying ICZM/MSP, in particular the Methodological Framework of the Common Regional Framework (CRF) for the implementation of ICZM Protocol, the Integrated Monitoring Programme prepared in the frame of GEF Adriatic and the importance of monitoring data from all Ecological Objectives for the preparation of MSP.
47. The Meeting expressed interest in obtaining more detailed information on the tools used for the implementation of the methods presented, as well as on their appropriateness for different geographical scales and environmental situation around the Mediterranean.
48. The Meeting also expressed interest in further testing and fine-tuning the CRF method for the needs of IMAP implementation, highlighting the need for assistance to the Contracting Parties volunteering in this exercise.

Agenda item 7: Promoting SPI for IMAP Implementation

49. The Meeting welcomed the ongoing work of the Secretariat and MAP components to promote SPI for IMAP implementation, recommending innovative and out-of-the-box approaches, and pointed out the need to build and strengthen partnerships for science-based management of the Mediterranean Sea and coast.
50. To this aim, the Meeting recommended that efforts of the Secretariat, MAP components and Contracting Parties should focus to ensure that:
 - a) IMAP implementation is the basis for the harmonized assessment of the marine and coastal environment in the Mediterranean;
 - b) priority needs and actions of UNEP/MAP in the framework of the implementation of the United Nations Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) Implementation Plan in Mediterranean are set to ensure the effective implementation and respond to the needs for the further development of IMAP, in synergy with other relevant initiatives, in particular with the work under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).
51. The Meeting also encouraged the Secretariat to better link the IMAP-SPI work to IPBES, WISE-Marine and other relevant platforms as appropriate, to strengthen interdisciplinary approaches and expand its collaboration with scientific networks and institutions at regional

and national level. To this aim, the Secretariat should prepare a more concrete proposal on how to maximise the effectiveness of the existing networks such as CORMON and/or online groups, as well as other networks operating at global and regional level and collaboration with Partners, for consideration by the next Meeting of the CORMONs.

Agenda Item 8: Any Other Business

a. Potential elements for IMAP Data Policy

52. The Meeting endorses the proposed *modus operandi* and agreed on the definition of an IMAP Data Policy, giving priority to providing existing information about available monitoring data through the ad hoc survey and bilateral Meetings, mobilising the appropriate network of institutions able to actively contribute to the process.

Conclusions et recommandations

Introduction

1. Dans le cadre du programme de travail 2020-2021 du PNUE/PAM, les réunions intégrées des groupes de correspondance sur la mise en œuvre de l'approche écosystémique (CORMON) se sont tenues par vidéoconférence du 1er au 3 décembre 2020, organisées par le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement / Plan d'action pour la Méditerranée - Secrétariat de la Convention de Barcelone (PNUE/PAM) et les composantes respectives du PAM (MED POL, CAR/ASP, CAR/PAP, INFO/RAC et Plan Bleu).

Participation

2. Les parties contractantes suivantes de la Convention de Barcelone étaient représentées à la réunion : Albanie, Algérie, Bosnie-Herzégovine, Croatie, Chypre, Égypte, Espagne, , France, Grèce, Israël, Italie, Liban, Libye, Malte, Maroc, Monténégro, Slovénie, Tunisie, Turquie et l'Union européenne.
3. Les organismes des Nations unies, les agences spécialisées, les secrétariats de conventions et les organisations intergouvernementales suivants étaient représentés en tant qu'observateurs : [l'Accord sur la conservation des cétacés de la mer Noire, de la Méditerranée et de la zone Atlantique adjacente (ACCOBAMS), l'Agence Européenne pour l'Environnement, la Commission générale des pêches pour la Méditerranée (CGPM), l'Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique (AIEA), l'Union internationale pour la conservation de la nature (UICN) et le Centre mondial de surveillance de la conservation du Programme des Nations unies pour l'environnement (PNUE/WCMC).
4. Les organisations non gouvernementales et autres institutions suivantes étaient également représentées en tant qu'observateurs : le Centre pour l'énergie, l'environnement et les ressources (CENER21), l'École pratique des hautes études (EPHE), le Centre hellénique de recherche marine (HCMR), l'Institut d'hydro-ingénierie de Sarajevo (HEIS), l'Association méditerranéenne pour la sauvegarde des tortues de mer (MEDASSET), le Réseau des gestionnaires d'aires marines protégées en Méditerranée (MedPAN), l'Université de Sienne, le Bureau du programme méditerranéen du Fonds mondial pour la nature (WWF-Med), et le projet INDICIT (Mise en œuvre d'indicateurs de déchets marins sur les tortues marines et les biotes dans les conventions sur les mers régionales et les zones de la directive-cadre "Stratégie pour le milieu marin").
5. Suite à l'examen et aux discussions de tous les points de l'ordre du jour, les réunions intégrées des groupes de correspondance sur la mise en œuvre de l'approche écosystémique (CORMONs), qui se sont tenues par vidéoconférence du 1er au 3 décembre 2020, ont convenu des conclusions et recommandations suivantes :

Point 3 de l'ordre du jour : 2023 MED QSR État des lieux, approche et structure

6. La réunion a accueilli avec satisfaction les progrès réalisés à ce jour dans la mise en œuvre de la feuille de route 2023 du MED QSR, et a demandé au Secrétariat de poursuivre ce travail conformément au plan opérationnel présenté à l'annexe I du document UNEP/MED WG.482/3.
7. La Réunion a convenu de compléter pendant la Réunion et, si ce n'est pas possible, au plus tard le 12 décembre 2020, les tableaux présentés à l'Annexe II du document UNEP/MED WG.482/3, annexés aux présentes conclusions et recommandations, par toutes les Parties contractantes, afin de les utiliser aux niveaux national et régional comme outils de suivi de la mise en œuvre du PAMI.

8. Rappelant la lettre officielle sur la communication des données envoyée par le Secrétariat le 2^e juin 2020, annexée aux présentes conclusions et recommandations, concernant la nomination des utilisateurs nationaux officiels du PIMA et le téléchargement dans le système d'information du PIMA des données disponibles d'ici septembre 2020 et des nouvelles données de surveillance attendues pour 2020 d'ici janvier 2021, la réunion a souligné la nécessité de respecter les délais indiqués par toutes les parties contractantes. Si les parties contractantes rencontrent des difficultés à respecter ces délais pour le téléchargement et le partage des données, elles doivent en informer officiellement le secrétariat en réponse à ladite lettre, en indiquant quand ces informations et données seront fournies ou partagées.
9. La Réunion a demandé au Secrétariat / INFO/RAC d'entreprendre des webinaires de formation et de préparer des documents d'orientation et des modèles, le cas échéant, en vue de renforcer les capacités des Parties contractantes et de les soutenir dans la soumission de données au système d'information IMAP, comme indiqué dans la conclusion numéro 8.
10. La réunion a approuvé en termes généraux le contenu, l'approche et la structure du QRS MED 2023 proposé dans le document UNEP/MED WG.482/4, et a demandé au Secrétariat de développer davantage cette proposition, en particulier sur les aspects liés aux groupes thématiques et à l'évaluation intégrée du GES, pour discussion et accord lors des prochaines réunions CORMON respectives.
11. Toute observation supplémentaire sur le calendrier de soumission des données et de préparation du QSR du MED 2023, ainsi que sur la structure, le contenu et l'approche proposés pour le QSR du MED 2023, le cas échéant, doit être communiquée au Secrétariat jusqu'à mi-décembre 2020. Sur la base des commentaires reçus, le Secrétariat préparera une version révisée qui sera examinée lors des prochaines réunions CORMON. Après accord des CORMONS, la proposition relative au calendrier, à la structure et à l'approche du QSR MED 2023 sera soumise pour avis aux membres du groupe de coordination de l'approche écosystémique par le biais d'une consultation en ligne.
12. La réunion a convenu que l'évaluation du 2023 MED QSR sera basée, dans la mesure du possible, sur des données et informations provenant de la mise en œuvre de l'IMAP au niveau national / sous-régional, ainsi que sur d'autres sources appropriées. Des évaluations pour des indicateurs communs spécifiques et des évaluations thématiques seront entreprises à des échelles géographiques appropriées, selon une méthodologie régionale commune. Le champ d'application du QSR 2023 du MED devrait inclure tous les indicateurs communs obligatoires suivis et communiqués par les parties contractantes et, dans la mesure du possible, des informations/mises à jour seront également fournies pour un certain nombre d'indicateurs communs candidats dans le cadre des chapitres/sections pertinents, sur la base des données disponibles.

Point 4 de l'ordre du jour : Projets IMAP MPA, EcAp MED III et Marine Litter MED II financés par l'UE pour stimuler la mise en œuvre de l'IMAP

13. La réunion a salué le lancement des projets EcAp MED III, IMAp-MPA et Marine Litter MED II, financés par l'UE, et les actions qu'ils proposent pour stimuler la mise en œuvre de l'IMAP et la réalisation du QSR MED 2023. La réunion a souligné à nouveau l'importance de la collaboration entre tous les acteurs et institutions au niveau national, y compris la communauté scientifique, et a réaffirmé l'engagement des parties contractantes éligibles pour la bonne exécution de ces projets.
14. La réunion a souligné la valeur ajoutée de l'établissement de comités directeurs nationaux du PAMI, en assurant la participation de tous les acteurs et en soutenant la coordination et les

synergies entre diverses activités pertinentes, y compris celles mises en œuvre dans différents contextes en dehors du système du PAM, le cas échéant.

15. La réunion a souligné que des groupes de travail en ligne, actuellement composés d'un nombre restreint d'experts, sont rétablis pour fournir un important retour d'information scientifique et un soutien technique à la mise en œuvre de l'IMAP au niveau régional/sous-régional, en particulier sur les aspects liés au développement de méthodologies, à l'évaluation, aux échelles, à l'intégration, aux protocoles et aux lignes directrices conformément au programme de travail 2020-2021 approuvé, en tenant compte de la nécessité d'assurer dans ces groupes une représentation équilibrée des parties contractantes. Pour rendre ces groupes opérationnels le plus rapidement possible, compte tenu du fait que les prochaines réunions CORMON sont prévues pour le printemps 2021, le Secrétariat a demandé aux parties contractantes de s'engager à participer et à contribuer aux groupes de travail en ligne pendant les présentes réunions CORMON.

Point 5 de l'ordre du jour : Sessions CORMON parallèles (Pollution et déchets marins, et Biodiversité et pêche)

(iii) CORMONs conjoints Pollution et déchets marins

(Session sur les déchets marins)

16. La réunion a examiné et approuvé les documents de travail UNEP/MED WG.482/19 « Lignes directrices/Protocoles de surveillance des microplastiques flottants » et UNEP/MED WG.482/23 « Valeurs de référence actualisées et proposition de valeurs seuils pour l'indicateur commun IMAP 22 », pour soumission à la réunion des points focaux MED POL prévue en mai 2021.
17. La réunion a demandé au Secrétariat de modifier les documents UNEP/MED WG.482/19 et UNEP/MED WG.482/23 en abordant les propositions techniques convenues, dont l'alignement, le cas échéant, sur le processus en cours de définition des valeurs seuils pour les déchets marins par le TGML EU-MSFD, qui sera décrit dans le rapport de la réunion. Les documents modifiés seront partagés par le Secrétariat début février 2021, en anglais et en français, au cours d'une période de 2 semaines pour la non-objection du CorMon sur les changements suggérés, afin de les soumettre à la réunion des points focaux MEDPOL.
18. La réunion a demandé au PNUE/PAM et à son programme MED POL de :
- a. relancer une demande de reporting des données pour l'indicateur commun 23 de l'IMAP (déchets reposant sur les fonds marins et déchets marins flottants) afin de permettre le lancement des travaux appropriés pour la mise à jour des valeurs de référence (BV) et la proposition de valeurs seuils (TV). Des données sur les déchets marins flottants provenant de l'initiative d'enquête ACCOBAMS sont disponibles et pourraient être utilisées à cette fin.
 - b. tenir compte des informations et de la littérature scientifique existantes, dont les informations et les données recueillies dans le cadre des projets (p. ex. INDICIT-I et II, MEDSEALITTER, PlasticBusters MPA, etc.) et auprès des pays (p. ex. l'Italie), pour mettre à jour les valeurs de référence (BV) et proposer des valeurs seuils (TV) pour l'indicateur 24 de l'IMAP (enchevêtrement et ingestion des tortues marines).
19. La réunion a salué le rétablissement du Groupe de travail en ligne (OWG) pour les déchets marins (EO10), conformément à l'engagement exprimé par plusieurs Parties de fournir une contribution scientifique aux travaux du Secrétariat en cours visant à modifier les lignes directrices pour la surveillance des microplastiques flottants. Les nominations écrites des

scientifiques seront fournies par plusieurs Parties immédiatement après la réunion, conformément à leur engagement exprimé pendant la réunion.

(Session sur la pollution)

Les lignes directrices/protocoles de suivi pour les indicateurs communs 13, 14, 17 et 20 de l'IMAP

20. La réunion a reconnu les progrès réalisés par le Secrétariat en vue de renforcer les connaissances substantielles pour la mise en œuvre des pratiques normalisées et harmonisées de surveillance du milieu marin afin d'assurer la représentativité et l'exactitude des résultats analytiques liés au Groupe sectoriel de l'IMAP sur la pollution, ainsi que la comparabilité entre les programmes de surveillance nationaux.
21. La réunion a examiné et approuvé les méthodes et pratiques de surveillance élaborées pour l'échantillonnage, la conservation et le transport des échantillons, ainsi que la préparation et l'analyse des échantillons pour les indicateurs communs 13, 14, 17 et 20 de l'IMAP, en soutenant la soumission des documents de réunion suivants à la réunion des points focaux MED POL prévue en mai 2021 :
 - a) UNEP/MED WG. 463/5, UNEP/MED WG. 463/11, UNEP/MED WG. 463/13, UNEP/MED WG. 463/15 and UNEP/MED WG. 463/17 relatif aux Lignes directrices/Protocoles de contrôle concernant le prélèvement et la conservation des échantillons ;
 - b) UNEP/MED WG. 463/6, UNEP/MED WG. 463/7, UNEP/MED WG. 463/8, UNEP/MED WG. 463/9, UNEP/MED WG. 463/10, UNEP/MED WG. 463/12, UNEP/MED WG. 463/14, UNEP/MED WG. 463/16 et UNEP/MED WG. 463/18 relatif aux Lignes directrices/Protocoles de contrôle concernant la préparation et l'analyse des échantillons.
22. La réunion a demandé au Secrétariat de modifier les Lignes directrices/Protocoles de surveillance en abordant les propositions techniques convenues qui seront décrites dans le rapport de la réunion, conformément à l'accord de procéder à leur soumission à la réunion des Points focaux MEDPOL. Les amendements demandés doivent inclure des suggestions techniques écrites qui seront fournies par plusieurs Parties contractantes jusqu'à 10 jours après la réunion. Les documents modifiés seront partagés par le Secrétariat début février 2021, en anglais et en français, au cours d'une période de 2 semaines pour la non-objection du CorMon sur les changements suggérés, afin de les soumettre à la réunion des points focaux MEDPOL.
23. La réunion a recommandé que les Lignes directrices/Protocoles de surveillance préparés pour les indicateurs communs 13, 14, 17 et 20 de l'IMAP soient utilisés par le personnel technique travaillant dans les laboratoires nationaux compétents de l'IMAP afin de faire progresser la mise en œuvre de pratiques de surveillance normalisées et harmonisées de l'IMAP.
24. La réunion a salué le rétablissement des Groupes de travail en ligne (OWG) pour l'eutrophisation (EO5) et les contaminants (EO9) conformément à l'engagement exprimé par plusieurs Parties de fournir une contribution scientifique aux travaux du Secrétariat en cours visant à préparer/mettre à jour les critères d'évaluation des contaminants, dont les effets biologiques et les nutriments, à préparer les méthodologies d'évaluation intégrée du GES pour les objectifs écologiques 5 et 9, et à proposer des échelles d'évaluation intégrées pour les objectifs écologiques 1, 5, 9 et 10. Les nominations écrites des scientifiques seront fournies par plusieurs Parties immédiatement après la réunion, conformément à leur engagement exprimé pendant la réunion.

(iv) CORMON Biodiversité et Pêche

Document UNEP/MED WG.482/20 "Mise à jour des protocoles de surveillance des habitats benthiques" (présenté pour discussion et approbation par le SPA/RAC) :

25. La réunion a salué le document UNEP/MED WG.482/20 "Mise à jour des protocoles de surveillance des habitats benthiques", et a souligné qu'il devrait être considéré comme un état de l'art des méthodes de surveillance. À cet égard, il a été rappelé que les fiches descriptives des indicateurs communs pertinents de l'IMAP ont pour objectif fondamental de proposer des techniques de surveillance harmonisées.
26. La réunion a recommandé de revoir le titre des "Lignes directrices pour la surveillance des bioconstructions coralligènes et autres bioconstructions calcaires en Méditerranée" afin qu'il reflète la portée exacte des méthodes de surveillance proposées, qui ciblent la "zone circo-littorale supérieure de la Méditerranée".
27. La réunion a examiné le document et a convenu de fournir au secrétariat (SPA/RAC) des observations écrites, à prendre en considération le cas échéant, avant la clôture des Réunions intégrées des Groupes de Correspondance de l'Approche Écosystémique sur la mise en œuvre de l'IMAP (CORMON), c'est-à-dire le 3 décembre 2020. Ces commentaires concernaient les différentes sections sur les herbiers marins, les récifs coralligènes et les habitats à rhodolithes. Il a été proposé d'enrichir le document avec des références aux techniques de surveillance les plus récentes et de revoir les approches méthodologiques pour l'estimation du carbone bleu, conformément à la décision de l'IMAP (Décision IG.22/7).
28. La réunion a demandé au secrétariat d'envisager la possibilité de fournir des activités appropriées de renforcement des capacités et de formation, ainsi que des documents opérationnels simplifiés, sur les protocoles de surveillance, en plus du soutien technique et financier fourni, en particulier pour les pays de l'Est et du Sud de la Méditerranée.

La partie du document UNEP/MED WG.482/21 "Fiches descriptives d'orientation révisées des indicateurs communs 6 et 19 de l'IMAP", relative à l'Indicateur Commun 6 (présentée pour discussion et approbation par le REMPEC) :

29. La réunion a salué la partie du document UNEP/MED WG.482/21 "Fiches descriptives d'orientation révisées des indicateurs communs 6 et 19 de l'IMAP", relative à l'indicateur commun 6. Elle est convenue de fournir au secrétariat (REMPEC et SPA/RAC) des commentaires écrits, qui seront pris en considération le cas échéant avant la clôture des Réunions intégrées des CORMON, c'est-à-dire le 3 décembre 2020.
30. La réunion a demandé au secrétariat d'évaluer la possibilité d'améliorer le contenu de la fiche d'information sur l'indicateur commun 6 en y intégrant les derniers développements dans le cadre de la DCSMM de l'UE, le cas échéant, et de procéder aux ajustements nécessaires qui sont conformes à l'IMAP, pour examen lors de la prochaine réunion CORMON. Pour les modifications allant au-delà de l'IMAP, le mandat sera demandé lors de la prochaine réunion du Groupe de coordination de l'Approche écosystémique (EcAp CG) et inclus dans le programme de travail du prochain exercice biennal, le cas échéant.
31. La réunion a attiré l'attention du secrétariat sur la nécessité d'envisager d'éventuelles modifications du modèle des fiches descriptives des indicateurs communs. À cette fin, une réflexion sera entreprise par le Secrétariat pour examen lors des prochaines réunions CORMON.

Document UNEP/MED WG.482/22 "Dictionnaires des Données et Normes des Données pour les Indicateurs Communs 3, 4 et 5 faisant référence aux Mammifères Marins, aux Tortues Marines et aux Oiseaux Marins (Projet)" (présenté pour discussion et approbation par l'INFO/RAC) :

32. La réunion a favorablement accueilli le document UNEP/MED WG.482/22 "Dictionnaires des Données et Normes des Données pour les Indicateurs Communs 3, 4 et 5 faisant référence aux Mammifères Marins, aux Tortues Marines et aux Oiseaux Marins (Projet)". Il a été convenu de fournir au secrétariat (INFO/RAC et SPA/RAC) des commentaires écrits qui seront pris en compte comme il convient, avant la clôture des Réunions intégrées des CORMONS, c'est-à-dire le 3 décembre 2020.
33. La réunion a encouragé la poursuite des travaux entrepris par le RAC/Info pour couvrir les indicateurs communs de l'IMAP convenus concernant tous les groupes d'espèces.
34. La réunion a demandé au secrétariat d'encourager la coopération régionale et sous-régionale avec les partenaires concernés et de promouvoir l'échange des meilleures pratiques en matière de collecte et de traitement des données.

Document UNEP/MED WG.482/25 "Analyse comparative concernant l'IMAP et la décision BEE 2017/848/UE de la Commission européenne pour la biodiversité" (présenté pour discussion et approbation par le SPA/RAC) :

35. La réunion a accueilli favorablement le document UNEP/MED WG.482/25 "Analyse comparative concernant l'IMAP et la décision BEE 2017/848/UE de la Commission européenne pour la biodiversité". Elle a convenu de fournir au secrétariat (SPA/RAC) des commentaires écrits qui seront pris en compte comme il se doit, avant la clôture des Réunions intégrées des CORMONS, c'est-à-dire le 3 décembre 2020.
36. La réunion a recommandé de traduire les conclusions et recommandations de l'analyse comparative en actions à inclure dans la feuille de route du rapport sur la qualité de la Méditerranée (MED QSR) de 2023, conformément au IMAP et à la décision correspondante de la CdP.
37. La réunion a recommandé de mettre à jour régulièrement cette analyse comparative.

Document UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.6 "État des espèces non indigènes en Méditerranée et la feuille de route pour l'élaboration de référentiel aux niveaux national et régional" (présenté pour information par le SPA/RAC) :

38. La réunion a accueilli favorablement le document UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.6 "État des espèces non indigènes en Méditerranée et la feuille de route pour l'élaboration de référentiel aux niveaux national et régional". Elle est convenue de fournir au secrétariat (SPA/RAC) des commentaires écrits qui seront pris en compte le cas échéant, avant la clôture des réunions intégrées des CORMONS, c'est-à-dire le 3 décembre 2020.
39. Les Parties contractantes qui n'ont pas encore soumis leur liste nationale d'espèces non-indigènes ont accepté de le faire et ont demandé au Secrétariat de prolonger le délai jusqu'au 31 janvier 2021.
40. La réunion a souligné la nécessité d'envisager des synergies avec la DCSMM de l'UE (notamment avec le Centre commun de recherche (JRC)), les conventions des mers régionales pertinentes et les organisations internationales, afin d'éviter les chevauchements d'efforts et les doubles emplois dans la présentation des rapports.

Document UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.13 "Approche méthodologique pour cartographier les interrelations entre les pressions, les impacts et l'état des composantes des écosystèmes marins pour la biodiversité" (présenté pour information par le SPA/RAC) :

41. La réunion a félicité le document WG.482/Inf.13 "Approche méthodologique pour cartographier les interrelations entre pressions-impacts et état des composantes des écosystèmes marins pour le cluster de la biodiversité". Il est convenu de fournir au secrétariat (SPA/RAC) des observations écrites à prendre en considération le cas échéant, avant la clôture des réunions CORMON intégrées, c'est-à-dire le 3 décembre 2020.
42. La réunion a recommandé d'assurer une synergie avec d'autres processus et initiatives régionales et Européennes, y compris les projets pertinents, et avec d'autres conventions de mers régionales (par exemple OSPAR) pour l'élaboration d'indicateurs communs.
43. La réunion a recommandé de tenir compte d'autres pressions, dans le futur, à savoir les espèces non-indigènes ; aquaculture ; changement climatique ; déchets marins ; Pêche illégale, non-déclarée et non-réglémentée (pêche INN) ; bruit sous-marin ; pollution lumineuse ; infrastructures côtières ; combustibles fossiles en mer ; etc.
44. La réunion a souligné la nécessité d'un processus de validation robuste du système de notation représentant les interactions entre pressions-impacts et biodiversité, afin de donner confiance aux résultats et lorsque les données ne sont pas suffisantes pour faire une analyse.

Recommandation sur la réactivation du Groupe de travail en ligne sur la Biodiversité :

45. La réunion a convenu de réactiver le Groupe de travail en ligne sur la biodiversité. La France a offert son assistance pour ce groupe de travail en ligne, y compris la coprésidence en plus du CAR/ASP ou de toute autre Partie contractante volontaire, selon le besoin. Le but actuel est d'organiser des réunions thématiques intersessions afin de contribuer à la révision des documents à débattre lors des prochaines réunions CORMON sur la biodiversité et la pêche (ex : Protocoles de surveillance des habitats benthiques ; Dictionnaires des Données et Normes des Données pour les Indicateurs Communs 3, 4 et 5 relatifs aux mammifères et aux tortues ; et la fiche descriptive de l'Indicateur Commun 6 relatif aux Espèces non-indigènes). Les Parties contractantes sont encouragées à désigner des experts thématiques pertinents pour faire partie de chaque Groupe thématique de travail en ligne, et de communiquer les noms et les contacts au CAR/ASP. La proposition et l'utilisation d'une plateforme technique spécifique et les Termes de Référence biennaux sur ce Groupe de travail en ligne relatif à la Biodiversité seront rédigés, discutés et convenus lors des prochaines réunions CORMON et de l'Approche Écosystémique, afin d'être transmis en suite aux membres de ce groupe.

Point 6 de l'ordre du jour : Questions transversales de l'IMAP : Partage des meilleures pratiques

46. La réunion a accueilli favorablement les documents d'information sur les questions transversales de l'IMAP (UNEP/MED WG.482/Inf.7 et UNEP/MED WG.482/ Inf.8) et les présentations faites par le CAR/PAP sur les meilleures pratiques d'intégration pour l'atteinte du BEE en appliquant la GIZC/PSM, en particulier le cadre méthodologique du Cadre régional commun (CRC) pour la mise en œuvre du Protocole GIZC, le Programme de surveillance intégré préparé dans le cadre du FEM Adriatique et l'importance des données de surveillance de tous les OEs pour la préparation de PSM.
47. La réunion a exprimé son intérêt pour obtenir des informations plus détaillées sur les outils utilisés pour la mise en œuvre des méthodes présentées, ainsi que sur leur adéquation aux différentes échelles géographiques et à la situation environnementale autour de la Méditerranée.

48. La réunion a également exprimé son intérêt pour de nouveaux tests et affinements de la méthode CRC pour les besoins de la mise en œuvre de l'IMAP, soulignant le besoin d'assistance aux Parties contractantes qui se portent volontaires pour cet exercice.

Point 7 de l'ordre du jour : Promouvoir l'interface science-politique (ISP) pour la mise en œuvre de l'IMAP

49. 1. La réunion s'est félicitée du travail en cours du Secrétariat et des composantes du PAM pour promouvoir l'ISP pour la mise en œuvre de l'IMAP, recommandant des approches novatrices et prêtes à l'emploi, et a souligné la nécessité de créer et de renforcer des partenariats pour une gestion de la mer Méditerranée et des côtes basée sur la science.
50. 2. À cette fin, la réunion a recommandé que les efforts du Secrétariat, des composantes du PAM et des Parties contractantes se concentrent pour garantir que :
- a) La mise en œuvre de l'IMAP soit la base de l'évaluation harmonisée de l'environnement marin et côtier en Méditerranée ;
 - b) les besoins prioritaires et les actions du PNUE / PAM dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre du Plan de mise en œuvre de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour les sciences océaniques au service du développement durable (2021-2030) en Méditerranée soient définis pour assurer la mise en œuvre effective et répondre aux besoins de la poursuite du développement de l'IMAP, en synergie avec d'autres initiatives pertinentes, en particulier avec les travaux menés dans le cadre de la directive-cadre sur la stratégie marine de l'UE (MSFD)
51. La réunion a également encouragé le Secrétariat à mieux relier les travaux de l'IMAP-SPI à l'IPBES, à WISE-Marine et à d'autres plates-formes pertinentes, le cas échéant, afin de renforcer les approches interdisciplinaires et d'élargir sa collaboration avec les réseaux et institutions scientifiques aux niveaux régional et national. À cet effet, le Secrétariat devrait préparer une proposition plus concrète sur la manière de maximiser l'efficacité des réseaux existants tels que les CORMONs et/ou les groupes en ligne, ainsi que d'autres réseaux opérant aux niveaux mondial et régional et en collaboration avec ses partenaires, pour examen par la prochaine réunion des CORMON.

Point 8 de l'ordre du jour : Autres questions

- a. Éléments potentiels pour la politique des données IMAP
52. La réunion a approuvé le modus operandi proposé et a convenue de la définition d'une politique de données de l'IMAP, donnant la priorité à la fourniture des informations existantes sur les données de surveillance disponibles par le biais de l'enquête ad hoc et des réunions bilatérales, en mobilisant le réseau approprié d'institutions capables de contribuer activement à ce processus.

Appendix 1

**Letter on the Reporting of data generated under national IMAP implementation as provided for
by COP Decisions IG.22/7 and IG.23/6 English and French**



**Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinating Unit
Barcelona Convention Secretariat**



Reference: GL/TH/DM/EcApTF

2 June 2020

Subject: Reporting of data generated under national IMAP implementation as provided for by COP Decisions IG.22/7 and IG.23/6

Dear EcAp Coordination Group Members,

I am very pleased to inform you that the IMAP Pilot Info System developed by INFO/RAC in close collaboration with MED POL, SPA/RAC and PAP/RAC under the direction of CORMONs in the framework of EU-funded EcAp MED II Project and UNEP/MAP Programme of Work was successfully concluded following a participatory testing process by a considerable number of Contracting Parties. The **IMAP Pilot Info System**, online since the **1st of July 2019** can be accessed directly at <http://imappilot.info-rac.org>.

I am also pleased to inform you that your feedback during the initial trial phase of the IMAP Pilot Info System has been of utmost importance and has enabled detecting and sorting out arising issues. This exercise has been also an asset for the first elaboration of a technical guide document to better support IMAP Users.

The IMAP Info System is able to collect data for 12 modules related to 11 selected IMAP Common Indicators, respectively CI 1, 2, 6, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22 and 23. For your convenience, their Data Standards (DS) and Data Dictionaries (DD), as approved by CORMONs and EcAp Coordination Group meetings in 2019, can be easily downloaded from the Standards section and are available both in English and French. More background information is available on the INFO/RAC website at <http://www.info-rac.org/en/infomap-system/imap-pilot-platform>.

COP Decisions IG.22/7 and IG.23/6 provide for *'the Contracting Parties to regularly report quality-assured data deriving from the implementation of the updated integrated national monitoring and assessment programmes'*.

In accordance with these Decisions, I would like to invite and encourage all Contracting Parties to start uploading and sharing their monitoring data which conform with the approved Guidance Factsheets, DD and DS for the above-listed group of Common Indicators.

This includes both new monitoring data generated in 2020, as well as available monitoring data collected prior to 2020, if compatible with the respective DD and DS. More details on data to be reported and their timeline for each IMAP cluster is provided in the Table enclosed to this Letter.

I would like to bring to your attention the urgency of uploading all available and compatible data as indicated above, as soon as possible, preferably **by September 2020 at the latest**. Expected new 2020 monitoring data are to be uploaded no later than 31 January 2021.

Please note that prior to their upload, data must be systematically validated. All data reported during the testing phase must be controlled and validated by the originating Contracting Party, and officially confirmed



**Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinating Unit
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in order to be considered eligible for inclusion as part of mandatory reporting, otherwise they will not be included in the IMAP Pilot Info System.

To support the Contracting Parties in this process, INFO/RAC has developed a **Technical Guide** as an additional useful tool complementing the **User Guide** already developed for the testing phase. Both guides can be downloaded at <http://imappilot.info-rac.org>.

Furthermore, INFO/RAC and the respective MAP Components help desk accounts established during the testing phase remain active to provide full support to the Contracting Parties:

- imap@info-rac.org for any problem relating to access, data standards download and upload, any difficulty that users can encounter during the process, including clarifications and advice of the type of content requested by the system;
- pollmlitter_imap@info-rac.org to provide clarifications and advice related to scientific aspects of the information requested by the system for Pollution and Marine Litter;
- bio_imap@info-rac.org to provide clarifications and advice related to scientific aspects of the information requested by the system for Biodiversity and Non-Indigenous Species;
- coasthydro_imap@info-rac.org to provide clarifications and advice related to scientific aspects of the information requested by the system for Coast and Hydrography.

Finally, I would like to bring to your attention the need to nominate official IMAP Users in your Office. They will be responsible to upload, validate and officially release monitoring data related to IMAP Common Indicators, in line with the following three data management levels:

Level I - Upload: users uploading the monitoring data file and performing the compliance quality check - the system will generate an error file if the monitoring data file is NOT compliant with Data Standards and Data Dictionaries.

Level II - Validation: users performing the process of quality control of monitoring data – the system doesn't generate any automatic output. Users have to click on the Validation button to confirm that all controls related to the content have been successfully passed.

Level III - Official release: Users officially releasing monitoring data at country level (Focal Points) as a final step. Users have to click on the Release button to confirm the official release.

While nominating official IMAP Users, Contracting Parties must ensure that these three levels of data management are covered. Kindly note that MAP Component/Thematic National Focal Points will be given access to the IMAP Pilot Info System to identify pending data flows that need to be reported.

The nominations for each cluster should be sent to INFO/RAC (arthur.pasquale@info-rac.org) with a copy to the Coordinating Unit (daria.mokhnacheva@un.org) and the respective MAP components: Pollution and Marine Litter cluster (jelena.knezevic@un.org); Biodiversity and NIS cluster (mehdi.aissi@spa-rac.org); Coast and Hydrography cluster (marko.prem@paprac.org); as soon as possible and no later than **30 June 2020**.



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IMAP Users appointed during the testing phase will be reconfirmed, if no new nominated representatives are confirmed by the above deadline.

I look forward to starting together this important phase of IMAP implementation and data reporting which constitute a crucial step towards delivering the next Mediterranean Quality Status Report based on quality assured data, in line with the Contracting Parties' expectations and ambitions.

Thank you for your contribution,

Yours sincerely,

Gaetano Leone
Coordinator

To: EcAp CG members/MAP National Focal Points
cc: MAP Component/Thematic National Focal Points



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Barcelona Convention Secretariat



United Nations
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Table: Detailed information on data to be reported for each IMAP Cluster

Pollution and Marine Litter Cluster	All pending data related to eutrophication, contaminants and marine litter that were not annually reported in the period from 2016 to 2019 need to be reported in the IMAP Pilot Info System by the end of July 2020. New 2020 monitoring data related to IMAP CIs 13, 14, 17, 21, 22 and 23 should be reported as soon as they are available, but no later than by the end of January 2021. Contracting Parties are also encouraged to report pending monitoring data relating to the period prior to 2016. Monitoring data that were collected before 2019 and not timely reported in line with previous MED POL Meta Data Templates may be easily reported into the IMAP Pilot Info System in available information standards based on approved DDs and DSs for IMAP Common Indicators 13, 14, 17, 21, 22 and 23. The testing phase of the IMAP Pilot Info System confirmed the compatibility of IMAP Pilot Info System DDs and DSs with previously used MED POL Meta Data Templates, which has already resulted in the successful transmission of data stored in the MED POL Info System into the IMAP Pilot Info System, as well as with transmission of all data directly reported to MED POL after 2012. Therefore, monitoring data for Pollution and Marine Litter already transmitted through the MED POL Info System or sent to MED POL do not have to be uploaded again in the IMAP Pilot Info System.
Biodiversity and Fisheries Cluster	New data on Common Indicators related to Biodiversity (E01) and Non-Indigenous Species (E02) should be reported as soon as they are available to ensure a minimum of one set of data from the national IMAP implemented in 2020-2021. Available data monitored prior to 2020 should be reported as soon as possible and no later than by the end of January 2021, if compatible with the IMAP Pilot Info System. The information standard to report data will be based on DDs and DSs for IMAP Common Indicators 1, 2 and 6. DDs and DSs related to Common Indicators 3, 4 and 5 will be finalized during the second phase of IMAP (2020-2023).
Coast and Hydrography Cluster	New data for Common Indicators 15 and 16 needs to be submitted in the IMAP Pilot Info System as soon as available. Available data monitored prior to 2020 should be reported as soon as possible and no later than by the end of January 2021, if compatible with the IMAP Pilot Info System.



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Référence : GL/TH/DM/EcApTF

17 Juin 2020

Objet : Communication des données générées dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre des programmes de surveillance et d'évaluation intégrées (IMAP) au niveau national conformément aux Décisions de la CdP IG.22/7 et IG.23/6

Chers membres du Groupe de Coordination de l'Approche Écosystémique (EcAp),

J'ai le plaisir de vous informer que le Système d'information pilote de l'IMAP, développé par le CAR/INFO en étroite collaboration avec MED POL, CAR/ASP et CAR/PAP sous la direction des Groupes de correspondance de l'approche écosystémique respectifs (CORMONs) dans le cadre du projet EcAp MED II financé par l'UE et du programme de travail de PNUE/PAM, a été conclu avec succès à la suite d'un processus de test participatif impliquant un nombre considérable de Parties contractantes. Le **Système d'information pilote de l'IMAP**, en ligne depuis le **1er juillet 2019**, est accessible directement depuis ce lien : <http://imappilot.info-rac.org>.

J'ai également le plaisir de vous informer que vos commentaires élaborés au cours de la phase initiale de test du Système d'information pilote de l'IMAP ont été d'une importance absolue et ont permis de détecter et de résoudre les problèmes identifiés. Cet exercice a également été un atout pour la première élaboration d'un guide technique pour mieux accompagner les utilisateurs du système.

Le Système d'information de l'IMAP est capable de collecter les données pour 12 modules liés aux 11 indicateurs communs (IC) de l'IMAP suivants : IC 1, 2, 6, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22 et 23. Pour votre commodité, leurs normes de données (ND) et dictionnaires de données (DD), tels qu'approuvés par les réunions des CORMONs et du Groupe de Coordination de l'EcAp en 2019, peuvent être facilement téléchargés à partir de la section « Standards » et sont disponibles en anglais et en français. De plus amples informations sont disponibles sur le site web du CAR/INFO : <http://www.info-rac.org/en/infomap-system/imap-pilot-platform>.

Les Décisions IG.22/7 et IG.23/6 de la CdP prévoient que les Parties Contractantes doivent régulièrement rapporter des données de qualité assurée découlant de la mise en œuvre des programmes nationaux de surveillance et d'évaluation intégrées.

Conformément à ces Décisions, je tiens à inviter et encourager toutes les Parties Contractantes à commencer le téléchargement et le partage de leurs données de surveillance qui sont conformes aux fiches descriptives d'orientation, aux DD et aux ND approuvés pour les indicateurs communs susmentionnés.

Cela comprend à la fois les nouvelles données de surveillance générées en 2020, ainsi que les données de surveillance disponibles collectées avant 2020, si elles sont compatibles avec les DD et ND respectifs. De plus amples détails sur les données à rapporter et leur calendrier pour chaque composante de l'IMAP sont fournis dans le tableau joint à la présente lettre.

Je tiens à attirer votre attention sur l'urgence d'introduire toutes les données disponibles et compatibles comme indiqué ci-dessus, dès que possible, de préférence **d'ici septembre 2020 au plus tard**. Les nouvelles données de surveillance prévues pour 2020 doivent être introduites au plus tard le 31 janvier 2021.



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Veuillez noter qu'avant leur introduction dans le Système d'information pilote de l'IMAP, les données doivent être systématiquement validées. Toutes les données rapportées pendant la phase de test doivent être contrôlées et validées par la Partie contractante d'origine et officiellement confirmées afin d'être considérées admissibles à l'inclusion dans le cadre de rapportage obligatoire, sinon ils ne seront pas inclus dans le Système d'information pilote de l'IMAP.

Pour soutenir les Parties Contractantes dans ce processus, CAR/INFO a développé un **Guide technique** comme outil supplémentaire utile complétant le **Guide de l'utilisateur** déjà développé pour la phase de test. Les deux guides sont disponibles depuis le lien suivant : <http://imappilot.info-rac.org>.

En outre, CAR/INFO et les comptes d'assistance respectifs des composantes du PAM établis au cours de la phase de test restent actifs pour fournir un soutien complet aux Parties contractantes :

- imap@info-rac.org pour tout problème d'accès, de téléchargement de normes des données, toute difficulté que les utilisateurs puissent rencontrer au cours du processus, y compris des clarifications et des orientations du type de contenu demandé par le système ;
- pollmlitter_imap@info-rac.org pour fournir des clarifications et des orientations liées aux aspects scientifiques des informations demandées par le système concernant la pollution et les déchets marins ;
- bio_imap@info-rac.org pour fournir des clarifications et des orientations concernant les aspects scientifiques des informations demandées par le système pour la biodiversité et les espèces non indigènes ;
- coasthydro_imap@info-rac.org pour fournir des clarifications et des orientations liées aux aspects scientifiques des informations demandées par le système concernant la côte et l'hydrographie.

Enfin, je tiens à attirer votre attention sur la nécessité de désigner des utilisateurs officiels de l'IMAP dans votre bureau. Ils seront chargés de télécharger, valider et publier officiellement les données de surveillance liées aux indicateurs communs de l'IMAP, conformément aux trois niveaux de gestion des données suivants :

Niveau I – Téléchargement : les utilisateurs introduisent le fichier de données de surveillance dans le Système d'information pilote de l'IMAP et effectuent le contrôle de qualité de conformité – le système générera un fichier d'erreur si le fichier de données de surveillance n'est PAS conforme aux Normes de données et aux Dictionnaires de données.

Niveau II – Validation : les utilisateurs effectuent le processus de contrôle de la qualité des données de surveillance - le système ne génère pas une sortie automatique. Les utilisateurs doivent cliquer sur le bouton de validation pour confirmer que tous les contrôles liés au contenu ont été réalisés avec succès.

Niveau III - Publication officielle : effectuée par les utilisateurs officiellement responsables de la publication des données de surveillance au niveau national (les Points focaux) en tant qu'étape finale. Les utilisateurs doivent cliquer sur le bouton Publication pour confirmer la publication officielle.

Lors de la désignation des utilisateurs officiels de l'IMAP, les Parties contractantes doivent veiller à ce que ces trois niveaux de gestion des données soient couverts. Veuillez noter que les composantes du PAM/les



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Points focaux nationaux thématiques auront accès au Système d'information pilote de l'IMAP pour identifier les flux de données en attente qui doivent être rapportés.

Les désignations des utilisateurs officiels pour chaque groupe de l'IMAP doivent être envoyées à CAR/INFO (arthur.pasquale@info-rac.org) avec copie à l'Unité de Coordination (daria.mokhnacheva@un.org) et les composantes respectives du PAM pour les groupes de l'IMAP : Pollution et Déchets marins (jelena.knezevic@un.org); Biodiversité et Espèces non indigènes (mehdi.aissi@spa-rac.org); Côte et Hydrographie (marko.prem@paprac.org) ; dès que possible et **au plus tard le 30 juin 2020**.

Les utilisateurs de l'IMAP désignés au cours de la phase de test seront reconfirmés si aucun nouveau représentant n'est désigné au-delà du délai indiqué ci-dessus.

Je me réjouis de commencer ensemble cette phase importante de la mise en œuvre de l'IMAP et de rapportage des données qui constitue une étape importante vers l'élaboration du prochain Rapport sur la qualité de la Méditerranée basé sur des données à qualité assurée, conformément aux attentes et aux ambitions des Parties contractantes.

Nous vous remercions de votre contribution,

Meilleures salutations,

Gaetano Leone
Coordonnateur

À : Membres du Groupe de Coordination de l'EcAp / Points focaux du PAM

Cc : Points focaux du MED POL, CAR/ASP et CAR/PAP



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Tableau : Informations détaillées sur les données à rapporter pour chaque groupe thématique de l'IMAP

Pollution et déchets marins	Toutes les données en attente relatives à l'eutrophisation, aux contaminants et aux déchets marins qui n'ont pas été rapportées chaque année entre 2016 et 2019 doivent être rapportées dans le Système d'information pilote de l'IMAP d'ici la fin de juillet 2020. Les nouvelles données de surveillance de 2020 liées aux IC de l'IMAP 13, 14, 17, 21, 22 et 23 devraient être rapportées dès qu'elles sont disponibles, et au plus tard avant la fin de janvier 2021. Les Parties contractantes sont également encouragées à rapporter les données de surveillance en attente relatives à la période préalable à 2016. Les données de surveillance collectées avant 2019 et non rapportées en temps opportun conformément aux précédents modèles de métadonnées du MED POL peuvent être facilement rapportées dans le Système d'information pilote de l'IMAP suivant les normes d'information disponibles sur la base des DD et ND approuvés pour les indicateurs communs de l'IMAP 13, 14, 17, 21, 22 et 23. La phase de test du Système d'information pilote de l'IMAP a confirmé la compatibilité des DD et ND du Système d'information pilote de l'IMAP avec les modèles de métadonnées du MED POL précédemment utilisés, ce qui a déjà permis la migration réussie des données stockées dans le Système d'information du MED POL vers le Système d'information pilote de l'IMAP, ainsi que la transmission de toutes les données directement rapportées au MED POL après 2012. Par conséquent, les données de surveillance de la pollution et des déchets marins déjà transmises via le système d'information du MED POL ou envoyées au MED POL ne doivent pas être introduites à nouveau dans le Système d'information pilote de l'IMAP.
Biodiversité et espèces non indigènes	Les nouvelles données sur les indicateurs communs liés à la biodiversité (OE1) et aux espèces non indigènes (OE2) devraient être rapportées dès qu'elles sont disponibles pour



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	garantir au moins un ensemble de données issu de l'IMAP national mis en œuvre en 2020-2021. Les données de surveillance disponibles avant 2020 devraient être rapportées dès que possible et au plus tard fin janvier 2021, si elles sont compatibles avec le Système d'information pilote de l'IMAP. La norme d'information pour rapporter les données sera basée sur les DD et les ND pour les indicateurs communs de l'IMAP 1, 2 et 6. Les DD et ND liés aux indicateurs communs 3, 4 et 5 seront finalisés au cours de la deuxième phase de l'IMAP (2020-2023).
Côte et hydrographie	Les nouvelles données pour les indicateurs communs 15 et 16 doivent être rapportées dans le Système d'information pilote de l'IMAP dès qu'elles sont disponibles. Les données de surveillance disponibles avant 2020 devraient être rapportées dès que possible et au plus tard fin janvier 2021, si elles sont compatibles avec le Système d'information pilote de l'IMAP.

Appendix 2
Status of IMAP implementation per Common Indicator and per Contracting Party

TABLE 1

National IMAP	National IMAP in place and operational
IMAP users	National IMAP users officially nominated

	Yes
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Partial

 **No**[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

TABLE 2

Up to 2019 data	Up to 2019 Data submitted/validated in the IMAP Info System
2020 data	New 2020 data collected for submission in the IMAP Info System by January 2021

☐ Yes

Partial

No

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

