



Sub-regional meeting: Adriatic-Ionian cooperation towards MSP

(Zagreb, Croatia, April 10, 2019)

The sub-regional meeting for the Adriatic countries, organised with the support of the Cooperation Agreement between UN Environment and the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS), took place in Zagreb, on April 10, 2019. The meeting aimed at addressing *possible steps towards common approaches for marine spatial planning at sub-regional level, with a focus on the Adriatic*. The meeting initiated discussion among countries of the Adriatic sub-region towards coordinated implementation of MSP, integrating provisions set out in the ICZM Protocol, the MSP Conceptual Framework and EU MSP Directive, promoting, to the fullest possible extent, a transboundary cooperation. The meeting was organized in view to support the UN Environment/MAP work in further developing and implementing its programmatic vision on MSP.

The meeting was attended by the representatives of all the Adriatic countries, as well as of relevant regional institutions (CNR-ISMAR, IOC-UNESCO-LME: Learn project; IUAV, WWF Adria) participating as observers. The List of participants is attached as Annex I. The Agenda of the meeting is available as Annex II.

Meeting Conclusions

- The meeting warmly welcomed the efforts of UN Environment/MAP-PAP/RAC towards the development of a common approach for MSP implementation in the Adriatic and Ionian area and took note of the working document submitted to the meeting as a preliminary background document for further development with support from the countries.
- The meeting highlighted the differences between the Adriatic Ionian countries that should be taken into account in this process (i.e. different pressures; different predominant land uses, etc.), including the different stages of MSP implementation as well as the differences in the competent authorities in charge of MSP implementation in each country. The meeting agreed with the overall structure of the document as presented and decided that the key principles outlined in the current version should be maintained and serve as the main pillars of the document.



- The meeting supported the transmission of the document at a later stage to the EUSAIR Focal Points, stressing however that this should be seen as an informal background document and in no case, at least for the moment, as an official UN Environment/MAP document.
- The meeting supported that a future version of the document should identify and focus on some priority topics/areas with a significant importance for the Adriatic, i.e. marine litter, transport, tourism, etc. The issues/themes that need to be addressed as priority should be raised by countries themselves.
- The meeting requested to further integrate in the document the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and its main principles, as an imperative instrument and operational tool for the integration of the ecosystem approach into MSP implementation. Some countries highlighted that, at the moment, SEA is one the main approaches that addresses the marine part of their respective country.
- The meeting agreed that the document in its next versions could outline some main areas or elements for further work in next biennia, including among others, the continuation of the Secretariat's work related to links with IMAF and MSP.
- The meeting requested to further highlight in the document the crucial role of MAP Barcelona Convention for the implementation of MSP in a transboundary context, as the unique legally binding framework for environmental protection in the Mediterranean.
- The meeting invited PAP/RAC to further elaborate the document based on conclusions/recommendations of this meeting and communicate a new workplan, requesting however some clarification on the role, composition, scope and responsibilities of the expert group planned to be formed.
- The meeting agreed to provide additional written comments by the end of April and requested the circulation of an updated version integrating all the comments by May.
- The meeting agreed to hold the next sub-regional meeting in November 2019 with the view to reviewing a more elaborated version and discussing on potential future steps.



Annex I: List of participants

ALBANIA	Ms Lorela Lazaj Mr Rezart Kapedani
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA	Mr Josip Njavro
CROATIA	Ms Snježana Dominković-Alavanja Ms Vesna Marohnić Kuzmanović
ITALY	Ms Silvia Sartori
MONTENEGRO	Mr Dragan Marković Ms Tamara Marović Ms Viktorija Nikolić Mr Sreten Vukičević
SLOVENIA	Mr Mitja Bricelj Mr Iztok Škerlič
CNR-ISMAR	Mr Giulio Farella
IUAV	Mr Niccolo Bassan
UN Environment MAP	Mr Stavros Antoniadis



PAP/RAC	Ms Lada Jakelić Ms Marina Marković Ms Daria Povh Škugor Mr Ivan Sekovski Ms Željka Škaričić
WWF Adria	Mr Mosor Prvan
Invited experts	Ms Daniela Addis Ms Martina Bocci Mr Emiliano Ramieri Mr Ivica Trumbić



Annex II: Agenda

WEDNESDAY 10 APRIL

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| 14.00 – 14.15 | Introduction to the meeting |
| 14.15 – 14.30 | EUSAIR as a platform for cooperation |
| 14.30 – 14.45 | Pan Adriatic scope – concept towards recommendations for a common approach for sub-regional MSP in the Adriatic |
| 14.45 – 16.00 | Discussion |
| 16.00 – 16.30 | Roadmap towards drafting recommendations for a common approach for sub-regional MSP in the Adriatic |
| | Discussion |
| 16.30 – 16.45 | Wrap up and conclusions |