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**Mediterranean
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Barcelona
Convention

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Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Monitoring (CORMON) Coast and Hydrography
Teleconference, 30 September

Report of the Meeting

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UNEP/MAP PAP/RAC
Split, 2025

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Report of the meeting

Introduction

1. The CORMON Coast and Hydrography meeting (Rome, 15-16 July 2025), among other agenda items, discussed the proposal of the climate change-related Common Indicators. Following the thorough discussions, that meeting concluded that more time is needed to study and reflect on their exact titles, GES and targets. The participants agreed to provide to PAP/RAC comments and suggestions on the proposed indicators after consultations with relevant national counterparts, by end October 2025.
2. On 15 September 2025 the 12th Meeting of the EcAp Coordination Group was held where the revision of EcAp policy of UNEP/MAP and the updates of IMAP were the main agenda items. The meeting felt that climate change is an emerging issue very much relevant for the Mediterranean region and that therefore it would be a pity not to have some climate related-indicators included in the IMAP List of common indicators. To this end, and considering the momentum with regard to climate change, the 12th Meeting of the EcAp Coordination Group suggested that the updated IMAP should consider climate change, and agreed to recommend to the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points (Athens, Greece, 16-19 September 2025) **the possibility to receive a proposal from the CORMON Coast and Hydrography meeting (on-line) by the end of September 2025 on climate change-related common indicators**. Namely, the CORMON should address the possibility to activate indicators 7.1.1 and 7.1.2 of EO7 already proposed under Annex I to the draft Decision 27/6 (UNEP/MED WG.632/Inf.2), and the possibility for the inclusion of 1 to 3 indicators under EO8, considering that these indicators are measurable and that the methodology is clear, based on the ongoing discussion held under CORMON Coast and Hydrography.
3. Following this decision PAP/RAC organised an ad-hoc on-line CORMON Coast and Hydrography meeting on 30 September 2025 with the objective as elaborated above.

Attendance

4. The CORMON meeting on Coast and Hydrography was attended by participants from 15 Contracting Parties (CPs) of the Barcelona Convention: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, and the Republic of Türkiye.
5. Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) was present as the organizer, as well as the UNEP/MAP secretariat.
6. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

Opening of the Meeting and Organizational Matters (Agenda Items 1 and 2)

7. The meeting was opened at 10:00 a.m. on 30 September 2025 by Mr. Marko Prem, PAP/RAC Deputy Director and by Ms Tatjana Hema, UNEP/MAP coordinator. Both welcomed the participants and outlined the objectives of the meeting. Ms. Hema referred to the conclusions of the MAP FPs meeting (16–19 September 2025, Athens)

and emphasized the urgency of taking action to address the impacts of climate change in the Mediterranean. She noted that certain climate change-related indicators could be particularly useful and expressed her hope that the meeting would send a positive message aligned with the expectations of the Contracting Parties at COP 24, to be held in Cairo in December 2025.

Rules of Procedure

8. The Meeting agreed that the rules of procedure for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (UNEP/IG 43/6, annex XI), as amended by the Contracting Parties (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.1/5 and UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.3/5), would apply *mutatis mutandis* to their deliberations.

Election of Officers

9. Following rule 20 of the rules of procedure, the Meeting unanimously elected the following Officers:

Chair: Ms Senida Džajić-Rghei (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Vice-chairs: Ms Rosa Balbin (Spain)

Ms Kaouthar Ben Houidi (Tunisia)

Rapporteur: Ms. Milica Rudić (Montenegro)

Adoption of the Agenda

10. The Meeting reviewed and adopted the agenda and its timetable set out in documents UNEP/MED WG.632/1 and UNEP/MED WG.632/2, noting that simultaneous translation in English and French is to be provided during the Meeting. The final adopted agenda is presented in Annex II to this report.

Agenda Item 3: Proposal of climate change-related CIs within EO7 and EO8

11. Mr Marko Prem presented the proposed titles, GES definitions and targets of the **EO7 climate change-related indicators**: “Large scale changes in circulation patterns, wave height, temperature, pH, and salinity distribution” (formerly: indicator 7.1.1) and “Long term changes in sea level” (formerly indicator 7.1.2). He underlined that these were not new indicators but have already been adopted however the detailed methodology on how to calculate and report has not yet been developed.
12. Participants acknowledged the importance of monitoring certain hydrographic parameters. However, there was no consensus on which exact parameters to monitor. While some participants asked for major simplification, in terms of monitoring only sea surface temperature and sea level, some asked for monitoring further parameters such as wave direction and wave period, O₂, CO₂, etc. It seems that the meeting would prefer to start with the whole range of parameters and future CORMON meetings, based on availability of data and complexity of the methodology, will decide on priority

parameters. First clear methodologies need to be drafted, taking into consideration existing monitoring obligations of some CPs such as MSFD, so to avoid duplication of reporting efforts and alike.

13. The Meeting concluded that, as it stands at the moment, the GES and targets have no direct link to the indicator. More realistic targets were proposed, such as “improve knowledge on impacts of climate change in the Mediterranean Sea.”
14. Some participants argued that it is not clear from where data would be collected as there are several national as well as international institutions collecting relevant data, several are available from remote sensing sources (satellites). Availability of data seemed to be a problem in some Southern countries therefore a need for preliminary assessment on which hydrographic parameters are already being monitored in all Mediterranean countries, with which method and at which institutions data are stored, was highlighted.
15. Finally, both EO7 climate change-related indicators were endorsed as Candidate Common Indicators (new CCIs 39 and 40), with commitment to be considered as possibly upgraded to Common Indicators in two-years’ time (at COP 25, December 2027), pending increased scientific knowledge, knowledge on data availability, clarified assessment methodologies and related capacity building, towards establishing the exact titles of indicators, GES Definitions and Targets, and respective Guidance Factsheets.
16. Mr Marko Prem then presented the proposed titles, justification for and in particular GES definitions and targets of the **EO8 climate change-related indicators**: “Area of restored degraded coastal wetlands”; “Extent and frequency of coastal flooding”; and “Changes in burnt forest areas” elaborated in the working document UNEP/MED WG.632/3
17. The meeting appreciated the work done on the proposed new climate change related CIs under EO8 Coastal ecosystems and landscapes. For the proposed CI on “wetland restoration”, also the total area of wetlands and those degraded should be considered, to estimate the share of restored area in total wetland and degraded wetland area.
18. For the “coastal flooding” indicator the meeting mentioned that it seems rather complex and that some detail explanation of the term “flooding” is needed – what is the depth, and duration of an event to be considered as “flooding event.”
19. For the indicator on “burnt areas” it was mentioned that it is important to distinguish on how far inland to go to consider such areas. Since the ICZM Protocol defines inland coastal border as the border of the competent coastal unit, we should consider as such, also some more detailed strips (e.g. 300 m, 1 km, 10 km from the coastline) should be potential subjects of future discussions. Also, the attention should be brought up on the effects of fire ashes and debris on marine organisms (connection with Biodiversity and Pollution).
20. Türkiye suggested to examine the feasibility of monitoring these three EO8-related indicators in future CAMP Izmir project in Türkiye, as a pilot area for testing. A couple of participants mentioned that not all of this CIs are applicable on their territories, however they will not be excluded from contributions to their development.
21. Finally, all three EO8 climate change-related indicators were endorsed as Candidate Common Indicators (new CCIs 41, 42 and 43), with commitment to be considered as possibly upgraded to Common Indicators in four-years’ time (at COP 26, December 2029), pending increased scientific knowledge, knowledge on data availability, clarified assessment methodologies and related capacity building, towards establishing the exact titles of indicators, GES Definitions and Targets, and respective Guidance Factsheets.
22. It was agreed that country specificities and applicability should be taken into account. The Meeting also called for an initial assessment on the data availability of EO8-related relevant parameters on Mediterranean scale.

Agenda Item 4: Conclusions and recommendations

23. Following the presentations and discussions of all agenda items, the Meeting agreed on the following conclusions and recommendations:

EO7: The Meeting agrees to designate the two proposed Common Indicators (7.1.1 and 7.1.2) as Candidate Common Indicators (new CCIs 39 and 40), and commits to consider the possible upgrade of these indicators in two-years' time to Common Indicators at COP 25 (December 2027), pending increased scientific knowledge, data availability, clarified assessment methodologies and related capacity building, towards establishing the exact titles of indicators, GES Definitions and Targets, and respective Guidance Factsheets. The Meeting called for an initial *assessment on the data availability of relevant parameters on Mediterranean scale*.

EO8: The Meeting agrees to consider the three new Common Indicators under EO8 as Candidate Common Indicators (new CCIs 41, 42 and 43). The meeting commits to consider the possible upgrade of these indicators in four-years' time to Common Indicators at COP 26 (December 2029), pending increased scientific knowledge, data availability, clarified assessment methodologies, training and capacity building through testing and pilot projects, towards establishing the exact titles of indicators, GES Definitions and Targets, and respective Guidance Factsheets. Country specificities and applicability should be taken into account. The Meeting also called for an initial assessment on the data availability of EO8-related relevant parameters on Mediterranean scale.

The details, in particular those related to the indicators' titles, GES definitions, Targets, and Guidance factsheets, for all Candidate Common Indicators under EO7 and EO8 will be discussed at the future CORMON meetings on coast and hydrography.

Agenda Item 5: Closure of the meeting

24. The meeting was closed at 14.00 of 30 September 2025.

Annex I List of participants**REPRESENTATIVES OF CONTRACTNG PARTIES**

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	Ms. Senida Džajić-Rghei Hydro-Engineering Institute, Sarajevo, B&H
CROATIA	Ms Sunčana Habrun Institute for Spatial Development, Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction and State Assets Zagreb, Croatia Ms Snježana Dominiković-Alavanja Ministry of Environment and Green Transition, Zagreb, Croatia
CYPRUS	Ms. Evangelia Ntatsi Department of Fisheries and Marine Research Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Cyprus
EGYPT	Ms. Heba Shrawy Head OF ICZM Central Department General manager for Environmental Economy MAP Coordinator/ WAVES focal point Ministry of Environment Cairo – Egypt Mr Sameh Ayoub MEDPOL Focal Point
FRANCE	Mr. Olivier Brivois Department for Risk Prevention BRGM French Geological Survey
GREECE	Mr. Kapsimalis Vasilios Research Director Department of Marine Geology and Geophysics Institute of Oceanography Hellenic Centre for Marine Research

ISRAEL	Ms. Maayan Haim Marine Environment Protection Division Israel Ministry of Environmental Protection
ITALY	Ms. Iolanda Lisi Researcher Ms. Valeria Pesarino Technologist National Centre for Characterization and Coastal Protection, Marine Climatology and Operational Oceanography. Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA), Rome, Italy
MALTA	Ms. Andrea Carolina Perez Pardo Mr Franck Lauwers Environment and Resources Authority, Malta
MONTENEGRO	Ms. Milica Rudić Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development, Podgorica, Montenegro
MOROCCO	Ms Naoual Zoubair Head of the Marine Pollution Control Service Department of Sustainable Development Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development Ms Nassira Rheyati Head of International Cooperation Division Cooperation, Partnerships and Communication Directorate Sustainable Development Department Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development
SLOVENIA	Mr Rok Szocka Mandac Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia
SPAIN	Ms Rosa Balbín-Chamorro Instituto Español de Oceanografía, Centro Oceanográfico de Baleares

TUNISIA	Ms. Kaouther Ben Houidi Observatoire du Littoral à l'APAL
TÜRKİYE	Ms. Özge ÖZ Ms Sevil Öksüz Mr. Emrah Söylemez Ms Hacer Selamoğlu Çağlayan Ministry of Environment Urbanization and Climate Change
OTHER	
PAP/RAC	Mr. Marko Prem , Deputy Director Mr. Ivan Sekovski , Programme Officer UN Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan, Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity http://www.paprac.orgCentre (PAP/RAC)
UNEP/MAP	Ms Tatiana Hema UNEP/MAP coordinator Mr Christos Ioakeimidis UNEP/MAP QSR Progeamme Officer

Annex II Meeting agenda

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

Agenda Item 2: Organizational Matters

Agenda Item 3: Proposal of climate change-related CIs within EO7 and EO8

Agenda Item 4: Conclusions and Recommendations

Agenda Item 5: Closure of the Meeting