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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of the MAP Focal Points

Athens, Greece, 28 November – 1 December 2011

**Report of the Extraordinary Meeting of PAP/RAC NFPs to discuss the Action
Plan for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol in 2012-2019
(Dubrovnik, 19 October 2011)**

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Implementation of the ICZM Protocol in 2012 – 2019
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Background

1. Following the suggestion made by Italy and Spain at the Joint BP, PAP and INFO RACs National Focal Points Meeting (Nice, 11-13 May 2011) to organise an additional meeting to discuss the proposed Action Plan for the Implementation of the ICZM Protocol in 2012-2019, an extraordinary PAP NFPs meeting was organised in Dubrovnik, on 19 October 2011. In order to maximise the efficiency and reduce the expenses, it was decided to organise this meeting back-to-back with the PEGASO project workshop to discuss the results of the ICZM stock-taking that was scheduled for 18 October 2011, also in Dubrovnik.

The meeting venue and participation

2. The meeting to discuss the Action Plan for the Implementation of the ICZM Protocol was held at the Hilton Imperial Hotel in Dubrovnik, on 19 October 2011. It was attended by the representatives of eleven Contracting Parties (CPs), including: Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Montenegro, Morocco and Slovenia. In addition, the representatives of MAP, PAP/RAC, BP/RAC and the PEGASO project, as well as several invited experts and observers from Montenegro attended the meeting. The full list of participants is attached as Annex I. The Agenda of the meeting is attached as Annex II to this report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

3. Ms Zeljka Skaricic, Director of PAP/RAC, opened the meeting at 9 a.m. welcoming the participants and wishing them successful work and a pleasant stay in Dubrovnik. She reminded the participants that the main objective of the meeting was to finalise the *Action Plan for the Implementation of the ICZM Protocol in 2012-2019* before its submission to MAP NFPs meeting and CoP17.

4. Ms Maria Luisa Silva Mejias, MAP Co-ordinator, welcomed the participants on behalf of MAP. She emphasised that the Action Plan was very ambitious but that it also allowed to define priority actions and to start taking concrete measures for the implementation of the Protocol in an extremely challenging period for the Mediterranean region.

Agenda item 2: Presentation of the revised Draft Action Plan

5. Ms Skaricic briefly presented the revised draft of the Action Plan. She presented its structure focusing on the priority actions clustered in three main objectives: i) support the effective implementation of the ICZM Protocol at the regional, national and local level; ii) strengthen the capacities of the Contracting Parties to implement the Protocol and use in an effective manner the ICZM policies, instruments, tools and processes; and iii) promote the ICZM Protocol and its implementation within the region and globally by developing synergies with relevant Conventions and Agreements. For each of the objectives, the main actions were further defined as well as the outputs related to CPs and MAP components (RACs).

Agenda item 3: General discussion on the structure of the Action Plan

6. In the discussion following the presentation, several changes and amendments were proposed by the participants. The need was stressed for a stronger emphasis on the regional framework in the document, as required by the art. 17 of the ICZM Protocol. Namely, interdependencies and stronger relations between the regional and national strategies should be visible.

7. Some of the participants asked for more elaboration of the outputs in order to be in line with the Protocol articles. In addition, it was proposed that indicators could be placed for each output in order to be able to evaluate them. Related to the specific activities, it was suggested to identify priorities. Some of the priorities could include providing assistance to the countries in implementing the Protocol, governance improvement and development of tools. Also, it might be useful to create guidelines on how to organise the institutional framework in the countries following the requirements of the art. 7.

8. General remarks included recommendations for the Action Plan to be a flexible and usable document that should give a clear idea on how to use the period 2012-2019 in order to make pragmatic changes in behaviour. Also, the document should clearly show that ICZM is a new philosophy of coastal management that can assist countries and not burden them with new requirements and obligations. The Action Plan should demonstrate the links and synergies with the ecosystem approach and in particular the green economy that will be among the key pillars of Rio+20 Conference.

9. Comments related to editing of the text included a request for bullets to be replaced with code numbers.

Agenda item 4: Discussion on individual objectives and actions

10. A further discussion was organised around three main objectives elaborated within the Action Plan.

Objective 1: Support the effective implementation of the Protocol at the regional, national and local level

11. The main proposal was tailored around adding the issue of the regional framework preparation in the Objective 1 as it is one of the key articles of the Protocol. The suggestion was to start from taking paragraphs related to the coasts and coastal management from the MSSD as a first input for the regional framework. This could be a starting point from where the full version of the strategy would be developed. In addition, the regional strategy should be part of the title for the Objective 1.

12. Information on the page 12 of the action 1.2 should be further elaborated with the information on the governance platform developed within the PEGASO project and how that platform can facilitate the work of CPs. Also, activities related to governance should be further developed through initiatives that can stimulate a change of behaviour, preferably through the implementation of pilot projects.

13. The participants asked for stronger links between the textual part of the Action Plan and the table in annex. Also, the goals of the action 1.3 do not match the outputs of the Secretariat.

14. Reflecting on the budget presented in the Action Plan table, questions were raised on the necessity of certain activities, as well as on sources of funding. Giving detailed explanations on some of the specific actions and related budgets, it was elaborated that resources placed in the table are largely external and not fully expected from the CPs. Further comments on the Action Plan table included requirements to additionally elaborate the activities and resources of other RACs and to add outputs and tasks for the CPs in order to know what work is expected from the countries.

15. As for the text editing, comments were largely placed on numbering in the table and its links with PAP's plan of work (PoW). However, it was explained by the Secretariat that the scope of the Action Plan was aligned with the MAP biennium activities, so that numbering in tables was related to MAP's PoW. In order to provide more clarity on the issue raised, it was proposed to add an asterisk with explanation.

Objective 2: Strengthen the capacities of Contracting Parties to implement the Protocol and use in an effective manner the ICZM policies, instruments, tools and processes

16. There were no major objections on the text of the Action Plan; all the comments were made on the complementary table, mainly in relation to requiring further explanations on the presented funds and the need of related outputs. Also, some of the comments were made on the structure of the activities, and suggestions were made for their restructuring in order that they follow the time logic.

Objective 3: Promote the ICZM Protocol and its implementation within the region, and promote it globally by developing synergies with relevant Conventions and Agreements

17. The participants congratulated the Secretariat and the CPs for the adoption of the Protocol that is a unique international legal document. At the same time, they highlighted the need for a stronger Protocol promotion worldwide, in particular at the upcoming global events, such as the Rio+20 UN conference on sustainable development. They stressed that the activities and achievement of the MAP should become more visible. In addition, the ICZM Protocol is and should be promoted as a tool for development and better life, a tool that can solve problems on a regional level, in particular conflicts on transboundary level, a tool for planning future development and not a tool for bureaucrats. It was stressed that the EU Commission should be reminded that MAP has a tool to develop a regional strategy for the Mediterranean, first after the Baltic. Finally, it was suggested to replace “Coast Day” by “Mediterranean Coast Day”.

18. Mr. Marko Prem, PAP/RAC Deputy Director, presented some of the new funding opportunities for MAP, including the application for the ENPI and FEEM. Reflecting on that presentation, the participants supported the proposed approach in allocating further funding but at the same time asked for addressing the business sector in making them partners in promoting a sustainable development practice on the coasts. In particular, this could be done in the fields such as transportation, marine highways, fishery, agriculture, etc. as a demonstration of a more concrete use of ICZM.

19. In terms of structure of the text and table, the point was made that the table was more detailed than the text itself; with that regard, more explanations of the table are needed in the main document. The Italian representative offered to send a proposal for a new table template.

Reflections on other parts of the Action Plan document

20. Some minor changes were proposed for the remaining chapters of the document. These include, among others, that “Horizon 2020” is not mentioned under the Union for the Mediterranean in the part 4 of the document. Also, in the part 5, under national level, the word “critical” should be deleted (bullet 3); subheadings “national level” and “regional level” are not necessary as they include the local level as well. In the part 7, the title of the Objective 1 and numbering should be changed. Mentioning the indicators in the part 8 and linking them to the requirements of the article 18 of the Protocol were recommended.

Agenda item 5: Conclusions and recommendations

21. In the conclusive session of the meeting, the following main recommendations were summarised for approval by the participants:

- Add a reference to the Regional Framework to the title of the Objective 1.
- Make clear links to the Regional Framework in the outputs of the Objective 1. These should include identifying articles of the MSSD related to the coastal zone, compiling and presenting them as a first outline of the Regional Framework.

- Under 1.2, outputs and activities related to the change of behavior should be added, e.g. through pilot activities, targeting and involving the key actors on the coastline. Particular emphasis should be placed on business sector as well.
- Page 12, explain the links with PEGASO and how the ICZM governance platform will be useful for the CPs.
- Add references to the Protocol articles in outputs.
- Links with other regional documents, in particular MSSD, should be emphasized even stronger, elaborating that the ratification of the Protocol and implementation of the Action Plan are actually the continuation of steps already taken within the MSSD. Related to that, add activities to promote the Protocol in the international arena (including the forthcoming global events) showing what we have already achieved and how we plan to move forward (Rio+20).
- Clearer links between the table and the textual part of the Action Plan (code references) should be made. The table should be a summary of the text.
- Change the bullets in the text with code numbers. Also, explain code references in the table (add footnotes).

22. Taking into consideration the points raised during the discussion that followed the approval of the above recommendations, some additional conclusions could be formulated:

- The meeting participants will send concrete written proposals on elements they wish to change in the text;
- Coast Day will be changed to the Mediterranean Coast Day;
- Part 4 will have a paragraph on “Horizon 2020” within the EU paragraph;
- Part 5 will not have bullet titles “at the National level” and “at the Regional level”;
- Part 7 will have the regional framework in the title of the Objective 1;
- A reference to indicators will be done in the part 7;
- The Italian representative will send an Action Plan table template.

Agenda item 6: Closure of the meeting

23. Ms Skaricic thanked all the participants for attending the meeting and particularly for taking part in the fruitful discussion. She also thanked the interpreters for their excellent work done.

24. The meeting was closed on 19 October 2011 at 4 p.m.

Annex I: List of Participants / Annexe I: Liste des participants

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Annex II: Agenda of the meeting

9:00 – 9:30	Opening of the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– <i>Objectives and agenda of the meeting (Z. Skaricic)</i>– <i>Context of and introduction to the Action Plan (M.L. Silva Mejias).</i>
9:30 – 10:00	Presentation of the revised Draft Action Plan (Z. Skaricic).
10:00 – 10:30	General discussion on the structure of the Action Plan.
11:00 – 13:00	Discussion on individual objectives and actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– <i>Objective 1: Support the effective implementation of the Protocol at regional, national and local levels</i>– <i>Objective 2: Strengthen the capacities of CPs to implement the Protocol and use in an effective manner the ICZM policies, instruments, tools and processes</i>
14:30 – 15:30	Discussion on individual objectives and actions (cont.): <ul style="list-style-type: none">– <i>Objective 3: Promote the ICZM Protocol and its implementation within the region, and promote it globally by developing synergies with relevant Conventions and Agreements</i>
16:00 – 17:00	Conclusions and recommendations.
17:00	Closure of the meeting.