

ENRTP STRATEGIC COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

ANNEX 4 – PROGRESS PROJECT REPORT

Reporting Period	January – December 2012
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ENRTP Priority	3.1. Environment	EC Directorate General	DG-ENV
Programme of Work	<p>Through Decision IG.17/6 the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention have committed to progressively apply the Ecosystem Approach to the management of human activities with the goal of effecting real change in the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment.</p> <p>At their 17th Meeting of Contracting Parties (COP 17) held in Paris in February 2012 the Parties mandated MAP through Decision 20/4 on “Implementing the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap” validated the work done on Ecosystem Approach with regard to the 11 ecological objectives, operational objectives and indicators for the Mediterranean which is aligned with the work under the EU MSFD and other related EU legislation, and adopted the timeline for implementing the ecosystem approach until 2019 and established a six-year cyclic review process of its implementation.</p>		
Project’s Title	<p>ECAP MED Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (EA) in the Mediterranean by the Contracting parties in the context of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols.</p>		
Location	Mediterranean Countries		
Total duration	36 months		

Responsible Entity	UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan
UNEP/MEA Project Manager	Atila Uras, Programme Officer, UNEP MAP (a.i. until PM is on board)
EC Project Manager	<p>Michail Papadoyannakis, Policy Officer Mediterranean and Black Sea Unit D2 : Marine Environment and Water Industry</p>

Date of EC Approval:	30 April 2012		
EC Allocation (EUR):	1,616,000 EURO		
Date of Allocation/Transfer:	5 June 2012		
Amount (USD)	2,154.667 USD	Exchange Rate:	0.75
Total Expenditures (USD)	103,407 USD	Total Expenditures (EUR)	77,555 EUR

Project Objective	To support UNEP/MAP to implement the COP decisions regarding the application of ecosystem approach in the Mediterranean in full synergy and coherence with the implementation of the MSFD.
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SUMMARY PROJECT STATUS

Before the kick-off of the EcAP-MED Project, an important milestone of the Ecosystem Approach process in the Mediterranean, the first Meeting of Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) Coordination Group was held in Athens, Greece on 29-30 May 2012. The meeting provided concrete guidance to the process, thus implementation of the Project, and agreed on a Road-map of the implementation of EcAp in the Mediterranean during this biennium; a governance structure; guidelines for the Correspondence Group on GES & Targets; and, the need for piloting the integrated implementation of the EcAp.

The Meeting discussed and agreed on the structures and processes that will support the EcAP CG in achieving the results for which it was established as follows:

- a. *Correspondence Group on GES and Targets:*
 - i. formed of three clusters: (1) Pollution and litter; (2) Biodiversity and Fisheries; and (3) coast and hydrography, each composed of national experts designated by the Contracting Parties, UNEP/MAP partners, relevant projects and the scientific community, and will be coordinated by the UNEP/MAP CU.
 - ii. works to ensure efficient coverage and in-depth discussions and analysis of all EOs.
 - iii. expected outcome is defining the methodology for Mediterranean GES and targets, propose definition of Mediterranean GES & targets corresponding to agreed Ecological Objective and associated Operational Objectives.
- b. *Correspondence Group on Monitoring:*
 - i. follows the similar structure and the process of Correspondence Group on GES and Targets.
 - ii. takes the outcomes of GES and Targets group into consideration.
 - iii. coordinated by MEDPOL in cooperation with all relevant RACs.
 - iv. expected outcome is the methodology to be applied for the preparation of the integrated monitoring programme.
- c. *Correspondence Group on economic and social analysis:*
 - i. composed of national experts designated by the Contracting Parties and invited experts.
 - ii. coordinated by Blue Plan/RAC.
 - iii. further develop a socio economic analysis of marine ecosystems uses, focusing on priority sectors such as fisheries, aquaculture, maritime transport, recreational activities, oil industry and offshore.

Additionally, at national level, the MAP FP will be the member of the EcAp Coordination Group (as decided by COP17). It is proposed that the countries should delegate a representative to each of the proposed Correspondence Group Clusters. Additionally, it is also proposed that, in order to ensure ownership, countries would be asked to assign experts for consultation purposes. It could be an expert per each EO, or country's own decision as relevant.

The implementation of Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean (EcAp-MED) is progressing as planned, with an initial focus on setting targets and defining Good Environmental Status (GES).

COMPONENT A

The term of reference for developing the MAP Policy regarding assessment is drafted. The corresponding activities were scheduled to start during the 8th month of implementation, and there is no deviation from original time schedule.

Initial discussions with possible institutions to support mapping and GIS started towards strengthening the information system for the implementation of the EcAp.

The Term of Reference for socio-economic assessment to complement the Initial Integrated Assessment of the Mediterranean, with the aim to further develop the study on socio-economic assessment on ecosystem services was prepared by Plan Bleu Regional Activity Center (PB/RAC). Due to delays in internal procedures regarding the signing of the Project Cooperation Agreement, the activities of PB/RAC started as of December 2012.

The first meeting of the Correspondence Group on ESA will take place on 11-12 April 2013 in Sophia-Antipolis, France. In this meeting, it is expected to discuss existing methodologies and approaches to conduct both the economic and social assessment of coastal and marine activities in the Mediterranean Sea as well as the evaluation of the costs of degradation; and to consider current available sources of information and socioeconomic data, as well as existing gaps, to agree on an road map to achieve the expected outcomes. The mandate of this Group will also be discussed and approved.

COMPONENT B

The Pollution and Litter Cluster of the EcAp Correspondence Group on GES and Targets met in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina on 29-30 October 2012. It was followed by meetings of the Biodiversity and Fisheries Cluster in Rome (Italy) on 7-8 February 2013 and the Coast and Hydrography Cluster on 12-13 March 2013 in Ankara (Turkey). The Secretariat prepared two documents per each Cluster meeting, one being "Existing targets of relevance for the Mediterranean Sea regarding [corresponding cluster]" and the other "Approaches for definition of Good Environmental Status and setting targets for the following Ecological Objectives (EO) in the framework of the Ecosystem Approach: [corresponding cluster]". GES and targets were proposed for each of the indicators that exist under each EO, and were discussed one by one by the participants of the meetings. The discussions were facilitated by the thematic consultant and experts from relevant UNEP/MAP components.

Initial lists of GES and targets for all EOs, which are fully covered under three defined clusters, were set on state and pressure at a regional and sub-regional scale, as appropriate. GES state targets were defined as trends to improve (environmental) quality in risk areas and maintain the status' in non-impacted areas, taking into consideration relevant baselines, where the data exists. The first consolidated report of the outcomes of the three clusters will be submitted to EcAp Coordination Group (CG) in their meeting on 24 April 2013. Further steps towards preparation of final draft of GES and targets to be submitted to COP 18 will also be discussed during the EcAp CG Meeting.

The options for the pilot site is being assessed (Adriatic Sea and Montenegro Coast are two options that are being considered). It is envisaged to test the developed targets during COR-GEST process following the approval of the Contracting Parties in COP18 (December, Turkey). The pilot implementation will start in 2014.

COMPONENT C

The process regarding the integrated monitoring programme for the Mediterranean to fulfil data needs to assess progress towards achievement of EcAp targets will follow the initial outcomes of the COR-GEST meetings. The preparations are taking place and the activity will start in the second half of 2013.

The needs assessment for capacity building and technical assistance to countries based on the needs for drafting national monitoring programmes is planned to start in 2014.

COMPONENT D

The activities related to drafting an action plan for the implementation of Offshore Protocol were delayed due to administrative issues. The modality of the agreement with IMO (REMPEC) was negotiated and recently resolved (January 2013). The initial roadmap for action plan preparation discussed and the first month of the activities to start is envisaged as May 2013.

The process of establishing joint SPAMIs in open seas, including the deep seas by using the ecosystem approach is being undertaken by SPA/RAC. Even though several preparatory works has been carried out by SPA/RAC, the project cooperation agreement regarding SPA/RAC activities was signed in November 2012 and consequently the calendar of SPA/RAC activities has been updated according to the receipt of funds on December 2012. The calendar is revised accordingly.

COMPONENT E

The first meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group was held before the official start of the Project on 29-30 May 2012 in Athens. The outcome of the Meeting is explained at the beginning of this section. The second meeting of the Group will be held on 24 April 2013. The progress on implementation of EcAp in the Mediterranean will be explained, the initial outcomes of the Correspondence Group on GES and targets will be shared and the EcAP Roadmap for 2013 and the new Biennium will be discussed in the Meeting.

Currently, the project is managed by substantive officer of the Coordinating Unit. The Project Manager (PM) recruitment process is finalized and the PM will be on-board by mid-April 2013.

CHALLENGES, MANAGEMENT ACTIONS, RISK MITIGATION PLAN:

In the process of GES and targets definition, limited availability and quality of baseline data creates a constraint. The Secretariat and the Contracting Parties will further collaborate to determine possible baseline values applicable to the agreed GES and targets for which there are available data within existing monitoring programmes. For the agreed GES and targets for which baselines cannot be set due to limitations or unavailability of data, relevant parameters will be included in the integrated monitoring programme of MAP which will be developed in line with Decision IG.20/4 adopted by COP17. Pressure related GES and targets will be based on the existing pressure targets adopted by the Parties in the framework of SAP MED and relevant Regional Plans. UNEP/MAP shall continue close cooperation with relevant EU MSFD working groups, with the view to ensure synergies in the definition of GES and targets, and share the Mediterranean experience in European fora.

The administrative delays in finalization of the cooperation agreements with the implementing partners which result in slight deviations and delays in starting of the activities are addressed in the revised work plan which is reported in Annex 2.

OUTCOME SUMMARY

The status of activities that were carried out under Outputs A, B and E versus the indicators listed in the Project document is summarized in the below table:

Project Outputs:	Indicators of carried out activities	Status
A) An integrated assessment policy adopted & Socio-economic assessment continued on Ecosystem services and development of a common understanding amongst PC	Establishment of an Ad hoc working group for socio economic assessment to strengthen common comprehension and appropriation by CP	COR ESA established and first meeting is taking place in France on 12-13 April 2013
B) Scientifically sound methodology for the definition of GES and targets identified for the ecosystems approach indicators through a process of consultation, with a pilot case of successfully tested EcAp indicators	Full ownership by Contracting Parties of the scientific and technical level work on GES and targets achieved	The participation performance of the Contracting Parties were COR-GEST Cluster 1 – 14 Contracting Parties COR-GEST Cluster 2 – 17 Contracting Parties COR-GEST Cluster 3 – 13 Contracting Parties
E) UNEP MAP Secretariat strengthened to be able to meet the requirements for effective programming and coordination throughout the process with regard to the implementation of the ecosystem approach.	Project coordination arrangements and coordinator in place Efficiently operating EcAp Coordination Group	The project coordinator contract is signed and the person will be on board as of mid-April 2013. EcAp Coordination Group met once in May 2012 and the second meeting will take place on 24 April 2013.

OUTPUT PERFORMANCE

The majority of the planned activities have been progressing well, catching up with the original schedule for many of them while the starting up of the project was delayed for some months due to the longer time required to make necessary implementation arrangements with implementing partners than originally anticipated.

Details of progress achieved under each Project Output are attached in Annex 1.

RESOURCES AND BUDGET

Expenditures incurred during 2012 total to EUR 77,555 which is 14.3% of the planned 2012 budget and 4.8% of the overall budget. Due to the longer time required to make necessary implementation arrangements with and to recruit the Project Manager; the expenditures were less than originally anticipated.

An additional €100 000 was allocated to EcAp-MED Project on Marine Litter Management at the ENRTP PSC meeting (7 Nov 2012) and included in the financial contribution made by DG ENV to their ENRTP SCA in 2012. According to the correspondences with EC Project Manager, the final confirmation of this component will follow the submission of this progress report and its approval by EU. If confirmed, this component will contribute to enhance assessment of marine litter sources and impacts in the Mediterranean; to ensure the marine litter mainstreamed in integrated monitoring programme in the context of EcAp; to enhance public and decision makers awareness and commitments on marine litter issue; and to ensure necessary synergies and linkages of marine litter management policies in the Mediterranean with ecosystem approach ecological objectives, GES and targets.

The corresponding budget and the workplan of the Marine Litter component will be submitted in the next reporting period.

WORK PLAN FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD:

The revised workplan is attached as Annex 2.

As the administrative processes are finalized, the full fledge implementation will start in the upcoming reporting period:

- Outputs A1 and A2 will start;
- Outputs B1 and B2 will continue;
- Output C2 will be start;
- Outputs D1 and D2 will have a comprehensive schedule; and,
- Output E1 will continue.

Upon approval by EU Project Manager, the Marine Litter component will be added as D3 and will start in the upcoming reporting period.

The estimated expenditure level can also be seen in the Financial Report. In Annex 3.

VISIBILITY:

In all the Correspondence Group Meetings, the reference was given that the activity is funded by the EU.

FINAL REMARKS:

The Correspondence Group process ensured satisfactory stakeholder participation and level of engagement in substantive discussions during the Cluster meetings. In addition to the countries, NGOs and IGOs, as well as relevant project and individual experts provided input to the process.

Two EU FP7 Projects – PERSEUS and PEGASO were actively involved. OSPAR processes were presented in EcAp Coordination Group and COR GEST meetings. ACCOBAMS and GFCM provided substantive contributions and helped aligning the outcomes to such regional initiatives.

It is expected that the technical and financial delivery of the Project will be higher in the upcoming reporting period.

ANNEXES:

Annex 1 – Output Performance Table

Annex 2 – Revised Work Plan

Annex 3 – Financial Report

UNEP/MEA Project Manager: ATILA URAS

Signature:  _____

Date of Submission: 26 March 2013