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Joint Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Marine Litter Monitoring
and ENI SEIS II Assessment of Horizon 2020/National Action Plans of Waste Indicators

Podgorica, Montenegro, 4-5 April 2019

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT

The annex to the present note sets out the conclusions and recommendations of the Joint Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Marine Litter Monitoring and ENI SEIS II Assessment of Horizon 2020/National Action Plans of Waste Indicators, Podgorica, Montenegro, 4-5 April 2019, adopted by the Meeting

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ANNEX

Conclusions and Recommendations

On 4 and 5 April 2019, the Joint Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Marine Litter Monitoring and ENI SEIS II Assessment of Horizon 2020/National Action Plans of Waste Indicators was held at Hotel Hilton in Podgorica, Montenegro at the kind invitation of the Ministry for Sustainable Development and Tourism.

The Meeting highly appreciated the work for the successful organization of this Meeting that has been undertaken by the Secretariat and its Components with regards to marine litter monitoring and the assessment of waste indicators in the framework of ENI SEIS II Horizon 2020/National Action Plans, as well as the support provided by the Ministry for Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro and the European Environment Agency ENI SEIS II Support Mechanism.

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

Agenda item 3: State of Play of IMAP Implementation Related to Marine Litter (EO10) and its further Development

1. The Meeting welcomed the progress achieved in the implementation of marine litter of IMAP Ecological Objective10 (Marine Litter) from both the Contracting Parties and the Secretariat. Since the Meeting of the CorMon Marine Litter in 2017, significant progress has been achieved, especially with regards to IMAP EO10 Common Indicators 22 and 23.
2. The Meeting acknowledged that most monitoring programmes on marine litter in the Mediterranean are aligned with the IMAP requirements, as well as a coherent and coordinated approach is ensured between UN Environment/MAP IMAP, EU MSFD, and other regions (e.g. OSPAR, Black Sea) on marine litter monitoring. The Meeting recommended to further support this approach.
3. The Meeting appreciated the support that is provided by UN Environment/MAP MED POL to the Contracting Parties towards the finalization of the national monitoring programmes on marine litter and requested to further enhance its efforts and assistance towards the finalization of the national monitoring programmes on marine litter.
4. The Meeting appreciated the important work that has been carried out and coordinated by SPA/RAC and MED POL with regards to IMAP EO10 Candidate Indicator 24, in the framework of EU-funded Marine Litter MED project, and other projects and initiatives. In that respect, the Meeting:
 - a. Appreciated the Working Documents UNEP/MED WG.464/5 and UNEP/MED WG.464/6, with regards to “Defining the most representative species for IMAP Candidate Indicator 24” and the “Protocols for monitoring interactions between marine litter and marine turtles (ingestion and entanglement) with a view to harmonize methods of data collection for monitoring and assessment in the Mediterranean.”
 - b. Agreed that the most representative species for monitoring IMAP Candidate Indicator 24 at the present time, based on the existing scientific knowledge, is the common marine turtle species *Caretta caretta*, and requested the Secretariat to further advance the corresponding work; including further work on other species that could be used for the monitoring of IMAP EO10 Candidate Indicator 24.

- c. Expressed a number of concerns with regards to the Working Document UNEP/MED WG.464/5 related to the most representative species for monitoring IMAP Candidate Indicator 24, and requested SPA/RAC and MED POL to further improve it with regards to: i) adequately highlight that other species such as certain fish species, cetaceans and mollusks are not neglected; ii) properly reflect the transboundary aspects that should be considered during the selection of the indicator species and their interrelation with the assessment of Good Environmental Status; and iii) make reference to the need to apply diverse stages of validation of the indicator's species in order to be considered for the application of relevant monitoring programmes.
- d. Welcomed the Working Document UNEP/MED WG.464/6 related to the protocol for monitoring interactions between marine litter and marine turtles (ingestion and entanglement), and congratulated SPA/RAC and MED POL for accommodating the regional specificities and for ensuring cooperation and coordination with other projects and initiatives.
- e. Agreed to submit the Working Document UNEP/MED WG.464/5 to the Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points to be held in May 2019 after reflecting the elements under point (c) and including Document UNEP/MED WG.464/6 as its annex.

5. The Meeting appreciated the work undertaken by the Secretariat to update/revise the IMAP list for beach marine litter and further highlighted the importance of coordinated efforts at different levels, to ensure consistency among the different lists of marine litter items applied in the region, as well as in other regions.

6. The Meeting agreed to the main change proposed by the Secretariat with regard to item G27, and requested to refine the present IMAP list of beach marine litter items. To that end, the Meeting recommended to MED POL and MIO-ECSDE to work together as to finalize the revised list by 26 April 2019. The Contracting Parties are invited to submit to MED POL their proposals for the revised list by 18 April 2019 at the latest.

7. The Meeting appreciated the Working Document UNEP/MED WG.464/Inf.4 about the preliminary elements for monitoring floating microplastics and requested the Secretariat to further elaborate this document and to submit it to the next Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Marine Litter Monitoring.

Agenda item 4: Data Standards and Data Dictionaries for IMAP Common Indicators on Marine Litter

8. The Meeting acknowledged the developments achieved with regards to the preparation of Data Standards and Data Dictionaries (DSs and DDs) for IMAP EO10 Common Indicators 22 and 23, and recommended their submission to the Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points to be held in May 2019.

9. With the aim of finalizing the Working Document UNEP/MED WG.464/4 related to the DSs and DDs for IMAP EO10 to obtain the approval of the Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points, the Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to share any comments they have with INFO/RAC and MED POL by 10 April 2019 at the latest.

10. In order to ensure finalization of the IMAP (Pilot) Info-System, the Meeting recommended to the Secretariat and INFO/RAC the realization of the following steps:

- a) Upload finalized DSs and DDs to IMAP (Pilot) Info System whilst providing the consequent changes to the data base structure;
- b) Ensure IMAP (Pilot) Info-System is enabled to receive in 2020 new datasets related to IMAP Common Indicators 22 and 23;

- c) Inform the Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points on the document related to MAP “Data Management Policy” developed by INFO/RAC and submitted for consideration of INFO RAC Focal Points;
- d) Prepare by the end of next biennium (2020-2021) DSs and DDs for other IMAP Common Indicators related to Pollution cluster; and
- e) Request the Secretariat in consultations with MED POL Focal Points to designate national experts that would actively contribute to the finalization of DSs and DDs for other IMAP Common Indicators related to Pollution cluster.

Agenda item 5: Assessment of H2020/NAP indicators on waste management including marine litter

11. The meeting appreciated the close collaboration between the Secretariat and European Environment Agency (EEA) and the contribution of Horizon 2020 Initiative to MAP Barcelona Convention Programme Framework and Policies, specifically towards the efforts in reducing marine litter.

12. The meeting welcomed the opportunity to review Horizon 2020/National Action Plans Indicators and the framing of the Horizon 2020 thematic assessment on waste, strengthening the link between marine litter and land-based sources.

13. The meeting acknowledged that the following data flows: IMAP, BCRS, NBB/PRTR, MED POL within the InfoMAP Platform, are relevant for H2020/NAP indicators. These data flows will be harvested by InfoRAC in order to pre-fill data formats and GIS layers with the aim to facilitate the efforts of the Contracting Parties in submitting and completing the required information.

14. The meeting requested the Secretariat and EEA to consider the following in the scope of the Horizon 2020 waste thematic assessment:

- a) Inclusion of maritime sources of marine litter;
- b) Transboundary elements such as rivers;
- c) Need to better identify sources of marine litter and increase monitoring capacity through a coordinated regional approach;
- d) The importance of quantifying the impacts associated with waste and marine litter on the marine environment;
- e) Importance of better understanding the littering behavior within society and to increase public awareness;
- f) Seasonal flows of waste linked to tourism and riverine discharges (including flood plains); and
- g) Addressing issues specific to countries and inclusion of illustrating case-studies.