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UNEP/MED WG.641/2 Rev.1



**Mediterranean
Action Plan**
Barcelona
Convention

09 June 2026
Original: English

Back-to-back Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Groups on Monitoring (CORMON) Biodiversity and Fisheries and Economic and Social Analysis (COR ESA)

Videoconference, 10-11 June 2026

Agenda Item 2: Organizational Matters

Provisional Annotated Agenda

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SPA/RAC
Tunis, 2026

Provisional Annotated Agenda

Introduction

1. In accordance with the UNEP/MAP -SPA/RAC Programme of Work 2026–2027, adopted by the 24th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Cairo, Egypt, 2–5 December 2025), SPA/RAC is organizing the Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Monitoring (CORMON) for Biodiversity and Fisheries, on 10 and 11 June 2026, back-to-back with the COR-ESA Online Working Group meeting focusing on Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) and Cost-Effectiveness Analysis (CEA), on 11 June 2026. Both meetings will be held via videoconference.
2. The main objectives of the Meeting are to review the following documents:
 - (i) The updated Guidance Factsheets for biodiversity Ecological Objectives (EO1) related to benthic habitats, marine birds, sea turtles, and marine mammals (cetaceans and monk seals);
 - (ii) The progress and national experiences related to EO1, EO3, EO4, and Common Indicator 24 (CI24) on Marine Litter (marine turtle ingestion and entanglement), including pelagic habitats, fisheries, and marine food webs; and
 - (iii) **Best Practice Exchange and lessons learned on IMAP Update and Implementation at National Level**
3. The following annotations to the provisional agenda were prepared by the Secretariat to assist the Meeting in its deliberations.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

Information Document	UNEP/MED WG.641/Inf.2 Rev.1
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4. The Meeting will be opened at 08.30 (UTC+1) on 10 June 2026 by the MAP Coordinator and the Director of SPA/RAC.
5. All the SPA/BD Focal Points, and/or Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group members and the relevant partners for the IMAP implementation, as appropriate, have been invited to designate their representatives to the CORMON meeting.
6. The relevant intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations have been invited to designate their representatives to the meeting as observers.
7. SPA/RAC will act as Secretariat of the meeting to present the documents and give assistance in their discussion, as appropriate.

Agenda Item 2: Organizational Matters

Working Documents	UNEP/MED WG.641/1 Rev.1
	UNEP/MED WG.641/2 Rev.1
Information Document	UNEP/MED WG.641/Inf.1 Rev.1
	UNEP/MED WG.641/Inf.2

- a) ***Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Groups on Monitoring (CORMON) for Biodiversity and Fisheries***

8. The Rules of Procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols will apply mutatis mutandis to the present Meeting (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI).

b) Election of Officers

9. Subject to Rule 20 of the rules of procedure mentioned at para. 2(a), the Meeting will elect a President, two Vice Presidents and a Rapporteur from among the representatives of the Contracting Parties.

c) Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

10. Subject to Rule 14 of the rules of procedure mentioned at para. 2(a), the proposed agenda appearing in document UNEP/MED WG.641/1 and annotated in the present document (UNEP/MED WG.641/2 Rev.1) will be reviewed and proposed for adoption by the Meeting, including the timetable contained at the end of the present document.

d) Organization of Work

11. It is expected that the Meeting will address all items of the agenda over one and a half days.

12. Simultaneous interpretation in English and French will be provided during the Meeting. Documentation will be in English and French.

13. It is proposed that sessions are scheduled as follows, subject to adjustments, as necessary:

- a. 10 June 2026: 8.30 – 12.00; 13.30-15.00 Tunis time (UTC+1);
- b. 11 June 2026: 9:00 – 12.15 Tunis time (UTC+1).

14. It is expected that the Meeting will address all items of the agenda during the one and a half days. It is envisaged to close the Meeting at 12.15 (Tunis time, UTC+1) on 11 June 2026 after adopting its Conclusions and Recommendations.

Agenda Item 3: Updated Guidance Factsheets for biodiversity (EO1)

3.1. Benthic Habitats (OE 1: Common Indicator 1 – habitat distributional range and Common Indicator 2 – condition of the habitat’s typical species and communities)

Working Documents	UNEP/MED WG.641/3 Rev.1 UNEP/MED WG. 641/inf.3 UNEP/MED WG. 641/inf.4
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15. The Secretariat will present the document UNEP/MED WG.641/3 Rev.1 “Draft updated IMAP Common Indicator 1 and 2 factsheets related to benthic habitats”.

16. The Meeting is expected to review the document and agree on its submission to the SPA/BD Focal Points Meeting (scheduled for May 2027) and the EcAp Coordination Group Meeting (scheduled for September 2027).

3.2. Marine birds (OE 1: Common Indicator 3 – species distributional range, Common Indicator 4 – species population abundance and Common Indicator 5: population demographic characteristics).

Working Documents	UNEP/MED WG. 641/4
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17. The Secretariat will present the document UNEP/MED WG.641/4 “*Draft updated IMAP Common Indicator 3, 4 and 5 factsheets related to marine birds*”.

18. The Meeting is expected to review the document and agree on its submission to the SPA/BD Focal Points Meeting (scheduled for May 2027) and the EcAp Coordination Group Meeting (scheduled for September 2027).

3.3. Reptiles – Sea turtles (OE 1: Common Indicator 3 – species distributional range, Common Indicator 4 – species population abundance, and Common Indicator 5: population demographic characteristics).

Working Documents UNEP/MED WG. 641/5

19. The Secretariat will present the document UNEP/MED WG.641/5 “*Draft updated IMAP Common Indicator 3, 4 and 5 factsheets related to marine turtles*”.

20. The Meeting is expected to review the document and agree on its submission to the SPA/BD Focal Points Meeting (scheduled for May 2027) and the EcAp Coordination Group Meeting (scheduled for September 2027).

3.4. Marine mammals - Cetaceans (OE 1: Common Indicator 3 – Species distributional range, Common Indicator 4 – species population abundance and Common Indicator 5: population demographic characteristics).

Working Documents UNEP/MED WG. 641/6 **Rev.1**

21. The Secretariat and ACCOBAMS Secretariat will present the document UNEP/MED WG.641/6 **Rev.1** “*Draft updated IMAP Common Indicator 3, 4 and 5 factsheets related to cetaceans*”.

22. The Meeting is expected to review the document and agree on its submission to the SPA/BD Focal Points Meeting (scheduled for May 2027) and the EcAp Coordination Group Meeting (scheduled for September 2027).

3.5. Marine mammals - Monk Seal (Common Indicator 3 – species distributional range, Common Indicator 4 – species population abundance and Common Indicator 5: population demographic characteristics)

Working Documents UNEP/MED WG. 641/7
UNEP/MED WG. 641/inf.5

23. The Secretariat will present the document UNEP/MED WG.641/7 “*Draft updated IMAP Common Indicator 3, 4 and 5 factsheets related to monk seals*”.

24. The Meeting is expected to review the document and agree on its submission to the SPA/RAC Focal Points Meeting (scheduled for May 2027) and the EcAp Coordination Group Meeting (scheduled for September 2027).

Agenda Item 4: Ecological Objective 1 (Biodiversity): Monitoring and assessing Pelagic Habitats through Phytoplankton and Zooplankton – Progress and sharing national experience

Working Documents UNEP/MED WG. 641/inf.6

25. This agenda item will be initiated with the sharing of a national experience on the monitoring and assessment of pelagic habitats through phytoplankton and zooplankton.

26. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present the document UNEP/MED WG. 641/inf.6 “Progress update on Ecological Objective 1 (Biodiversity) Based on Phytoplankton and Zooplankton for the Assessment of Good Environmental Status (GES) of Pelagic Habitats”.

27. The Meeting will be invited to exchange views and share national experiences and approaches toward a harmonized and effective monitoring and assessment of pelagic habitats in the Mediterranean.

Agenda Item 5: Ecological Objective 3 (Fisheries): Status of progress and technical updates

Working Documents	UNEP/MED WG. 641/inf.7 UNEP/MED WG. 641/inf.8 UNEP/MED WG. 641/inf.9
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28. Under this agenda item, the GFCM Secretariat will present the document UNEP/MED WG.641/Inf.7 “The State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries 2025” (SoMFi 2025), including a brief overview of key findings relevant to Ecological Objective 3 (Fisheries) and an update on the EO3 guidance factsheet, currently under revision.

29. The Secretariat will present outputs from the FishEBM Med Project related to Ecological Objective 3 (Fisheries), namely the documents UNEP/MED WG.641/Inf.8 “Interlinkages among IMAP indicators for achieving GES in the Mediterranean, including the role of fisheries” and UNEP/MED WG.641/Inf.9 “Comparative analysis of the GFCM and IMAP reporting frameworks on commercial fisheries and incidentally caught vulnerable species in the Mediterranean”

30. The Meeting will be invited to take note of the information presented regarding Fisheries (EO3), and to provide comments, as appropriate.

Agenda Item 6: Ecological Objective 4 (Marine Food Webs): Defining GES and Targets – Progress and sharing national approaches to Marine Food Web Monitoring and Assessment

Working Documents	UNEP/MED WG. 641/inf.10
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31. This agenda item will be initiated with the sharing of a national experience on the monitoring and assessment of marine food webs.

32. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present the document UNEP/MED WG. 641/inf.10 “Progress Update on the Development of Good Environmental Status (GES) Definitions and Targets for the Common Indicator under Ecological Objective 4 (Marine Food Webs)”.

33. The Meeting will be invited to exchange views and share national experiences and approaches toward a harmonized and effective monitoring and assessment of marine food webs in the Mediterranean Sea.

Agenda Item 7: Common Indicator 24 (EO10 Marine Litter): Progress and sharing national experience on CI 24 monitoring and assessment - Marine turtles Ingestion and Entanglement

34. This agenda item will be initiated with the sharing of a national experience on the monitoring and assessment of marine turtle ingestion and entanglement related to Common Indicator 24 (EO10 Marine Litter).

Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present the document UNEP/MED WG. 641/inf.11 Update on the progress made related to Common Indicator 24 : Trends in the amount of litter ingested by marine organisms and in the number of individuals entangled in marine litter.

35. The Meeting will be invited to exchange views and share national experiences and approaches toward a harmonized and effective monitoring and assessment of marine turtle ingestion and entanglement in the Mediterranean.

Agenda Item 8: Best Practice Exchange and lessons learned on IMAP Update and Implementation at National Level: Country Experiences from the EcAp MED PLUS Project

36. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will introduce the EcAp MED PLUS project, an EU-funded initiative supporting Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach and the update of IMAP at national level, including through project-supported national activities.

37. The session will provide an opportunity for beneficiary countries of the EcAp MED PLUS project to share national experiences, progress achieved, challenges encountered and lessons learned in the implementation and update of IMAP, with particular attention to marine biodiversity monitoring and assessment. All Contracting Parties will also be invited to contribute to the exchange, as relevant, by sharing related experiences and reflections from their national contexts.

38. The Meeting will be invited to exchange views on best practices, practical approaches and opportunities for further cooperation, with a view to strengthening national IMAP implementation, enhancing coherence with the regional framework, and supporting knowledge exchange among Contracting Parties.

Agenda Item 9: Any Other Business

39. Under this agenda item, the meeting will consider any other relevant matter that may be raised by the participants and agreed during the adoption of the agenda.

Agenda Item 10: Conclusions and Recommendations

40. Under this Agenda Item, the Meeting will review and adopt draft conclusions and recommendations that will result from the discussions, as prepared by the Rapporteur.

Agenda Item 11: Closure of the Meeting

41. The Chair is expected to close the Meeting on Thursday, 11 June 2026, at 12.15.

PROPOSED TIMETABLE
Tunis time (UTC+1)

Wednesday, 10 June 2026		
8.30 – 8.45	Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting	UNEP/MED WG.641/Inf.2
8.45 – 9.00	Agenda item 2: Organizational Matters	UNEP/MED WG.641/1 Rev.1 UNEP/MED WG.641/2 Rev.1 UNEP/MED WG.641/Inf.2 Rev.1
9.00– 10.30	<p>Agenda Item 3: Updated Guidance Factsheets for biodiversity (EO1):</p> <p>3.1. Benthic Habitats (OE 1: Common Indicator 1 – habitat distributional range and Common Indicator 2 – condition of the habitat’s typical species and communities)</p> <p>3.2. Marine birds (OE 1: Common Indicator 3 – species distributional range, Common Indicator 4 – species population abundance and Common Indicator 5: population demographic characteristics).</p> <p>3.3. Reptiles – Sea turtles (OE 1: Common Indicator 3 – species distributional range, Common Indicator 4 – species population abundance, and Common Indicator 5: population demographic characteristics).</p>	<p>UNEP/MED WG.641/3 Rev.1 UNEP/MED WG. 641/inf.3 UNEP/MED WG. 641/inf.4</p> <p>UNEP/MED WG.641/4</p> <p>UNEP/MED WG.641/5</p>
10.30 – 11.00	<i>Break</i>	
11.00 – 12.00	<p>Agenda Item 3: Updated Guidance Factsheets for biodiversity (EO1):</p> <p>3.4. Marine mammals - Cetaceans (OE 1: Common Indicator 3 – Species distributional range, Common Indicator 4 – species population abundance and Common Indicator 5: population demographic characteristics)</p> <p>3.5. Marine mammals - Monk Seal (Common Indicator 3 – species distributional range, Common Indicator 4 – species population abundance and Common Indicator 5: population demographic characteristics)</p>	<p>UNEP/MED WG.641/6 Rev.1</p> <p>UNEP/MED WG. 641/7 UNEP/MED WG. 641/inf.5</p>
12.00 – 13.30	<i>Lunch break</i>	
13.30 – 14.00	Agenda Item 4: Ecological Objective 1 (Biodiversity): Monitoring and assessing Pelagic Habitats through Phytoplankton and Zooplankton – Progress and sharing national experience	UNEP/MED WG. 641/inf.6

14.00 – 14.30	Agenda Item 5: Ecological Objective 3 : Status of progress and technical updates	UNEP/MED WG. 641/inf.7 UNEP/MED WG. 641/inf.8 UNEP/MED WG. 641/inf.9
14.30 - 15.00	Agenda Item 6: Ecological Objective 4 (Marine Food Webs): Defining GES and Targets – Progress and sharing national approaches to Marine Food Web Monitoring and Assessment	UNEP/MED WG. 641/inf.10
Thursday, 11 June 2026		
9.00 – 9:30	Agenda Item 7: Common Indicator 24 (EO10 Marine Litter): Progress and sharing national experience on CI 24 monitoring and assessment - Marine turtles Ingestion and Entanglement	UNEP/MED WG. 641/inf.11
9:30 – 10:15	Agenda Item 8: Best Practice Exchange and lessons learned on IMAP Update and Implementation at National Level	
10.15 – 10.30	Agenda item 9. Any Other Business	
<i>10.30-11.00</i>	<i>Break</i>	
11.00 – 12.15	Agenda item 10. Conclusions and Recommendations	
12.15	Agenda item 11. Closure of the Meeting	
<i>12.15 – 13.30</i>	<i>Lunch break</i>	
13:30 – 16:10	COR-ESA Online Working Group Meeting focusing on Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) and Cost-Effectiveness Analysis (CEA)	