

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introduction

At their Thirteenth Ordinary Meeting (Catania, November 2003), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention invited the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) to convene in 2005 the Seventh Meeting of National Focal Points for SPAs. This Meeting is being organised in Seville from 31 May to 3 June 2005, thanks to the kind invitation and to the logistics support made by the Spanish Ministry of Environment and the Regional Government of Andalusia.

The following annotations to the provisional agenda have been prepared by the Secretariat to help the Meeting in its discussions.

Agenda item 1 - Opening of the Meeting

The Meeting will be opened on Tuesday 31 May 2005 at 9.30 a.m. by the representatives of the host country, the local authorities, the Coordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan, and the RAC/SPA. All the National Focal Points for SPAs of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) have been invited to attend or to designate their representative(s) to the Meeting. The international and/or non-governmental organisations concerned have also been requested to appoint representatives to the Meeting with observer status.

Agenda item 2 - Rules of Procedure

The internal rules adopted for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6, Appendix XI) will apply *mutatis mutandis* to the present Meeting.

Agenda item 3 - Election of Officers

The Meeting will elect from among the representatives of the Contracting Parties a chairperson, two vice-chairpersons and a rapporteur.

Agenda item 4 - Adoption of the Agenda and organisation of work

The Provisional Agenda proposed by the Secretariat, distributed as UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.268/1, and annotated in the present document, will be proposed for adoption by the Meeting. The Meeting will be invited to examine and adopt the timetable proposed at the end of the present document.

The Meeting's working languages will be English and French. Simultaneous interpreting will be available, in English, French and Spanish, for all plenary sessions.

Agenda item 5 - Country Reports on the application of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean

With the aim of making the best possible use of available time at their meetings, the National Focal Points for SPAs agreed at their Fifth Meeting (Valencia, April 2001) that, starting from the Sixth Meeting of NFPs for SPAs, instead of making speeches to report on the activities undertaken by their countries in implementing the SPA Protocol, delegates shall submit to the Secretariat written reports according to an agreed format. In this context, the reports received in time by RAC/SPA were compiled in the working document "Status of the implementation of the SPA Protocol" (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.268/3).

The Secretariat will briefly introduce the document and the floor will be given to the delegations wishing to make comments on the state of implementation of the SPA Protocol or to provide supplementary or updated information. The contents of the working document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.268/3 will be annexed to the report of the Meeting.

Agenda item 6 - Implementation of the Action plans adopted within MAP

Referring to the relevant sections of the document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.268/4, the Secretariat will briefly report on the implementation of the following action plans:

1. Action Plan for the Management of the Mediterranean Monk Seal
2. Action Plan for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine Turtles
3. Action Plan for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea
4. Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea
5. Action Plan for the Conservation of Cartilaginous Fishes (Chondrichthyans) in the Mediterranean Sea
6. Action Plan for the Conservation of Bird Species listed in Annex II to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean
7. Action Plan concerning Species Introductions and Invasive Species in the Mediterranean Sea.

The Meeting will be invited to (i) give its opinion on the activities undertaken, (ii) review the recommendations proposed by the Secretariat and (iii) give guidance for future RAC/SPA activities related to the above action plans.

Under this Agenda item, the Secretariat will propose that a small working group will be formed in order to draft, during the Meeting, a note for the attention of the Contracting Parties, giving the point of view of the Meeting of National Focal Points for SPAs on the Monk Seal situation in the Mediterranean and on the actions considered necessary to compensate for the species decline.

The Secretariat will draw the attention of the Meeting to the following working documents:

1. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.268/5 that presents the collaboration between the ACCOBAMS Agreement and the RAC/SPA

2. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.268/6 that presents the evaluation of the implementation of the Action plan for the conservation of marine vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea.

Under this Agenda item, a presentation on the MEDACES database, developed thanks to the support of the Spanish Environment Ministry, will be made.

Agenda item 7 - Development of marine and coastal protected areas

Under this Agenda item, the Secretariat, referring to the relevant sections of the document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.268/4, will present the activities that RAC/SPA has been carrying out to promote the setting up and management of marine and coastal protected areas.

The Meeting will be informed about the proposal made by two Contracting Parties to include sites in the SPAMI List. The delegations of the relevant Contracting Parties are expected to introduce the proposed sites, referring to the presentation reports contained in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.268/7. The Meeting will be invited to decide whether each proposal complies with the provisions of Annex I to the SPA Protocol "Common criteria for the choice of protected marine and coastal areas that could be included in the SPAMI List".

The Secretariat will introduce document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.268/8 ("Proposal of a procedure for evaluation of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance - SPAMIs"). The Meeting will be invited to consider the document with a view to submitting it to the Contracting Parties for adoption.

Agenda item 8 - Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (SAP BIO) in the Mediterranean Region

The Secretariat will inform the Meeting about the activities undertaken within the framework of the SAP BIO Programme, referring to the relevant section of document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.268/4. The participants will be invited to propose pertinent terms of operation for the implementation of the SAP BIO.

Agenda item 9 - Other activities

The Secretariat will inform the Meeting about RAC/SPA activities that are not covered by the previous Agenda items with reference to the relevant sections of document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.268/4. Delegates will be invited to give their opinion on these activities and to make recommendations for future activities in the relevant fields.

The Meeting is expected to consider the following dossiers:

- Common Criteria for the choice of species that could be included in or excluded from Annexes II and III to the SPA Protocol (doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.268/9)
- Proposal of a work programme on the Coralligenous in the Mediterranean (doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.268/10)
- Proposal of a work programme on the sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity features in the Mediterranean (doc. UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.268/11)

Agenda item 10 - Elements for a strategy of RAC/SPA

On the basis of information document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.268/Inf.15, Delegates will be invited to give their opinion on the elements for a strategy of RAC/SPA that concerns activities to be carried out in the forthcoming years, following upon the recommendations of the Centre evaluation report of 2003 and taking into account of new regional and global contexts.

Agenda item 11 - Programme and budget for the next biennium (2006-2007)

The Secretariat will introduce RAC/SPA's programme of activities and the budget suggested for 2006-2007, with reference to the relevant section of document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.268/4. The Meeting will be requested to examine the suggested programme-budget and give guidance concerning budgetary priorities.

Agenda item 12 - Any other matters

Possible other issues relevant to the subject of the Meeting, which might be brought to the attention of the Meeting by participants or by the Secretariat, will be discussed under this Agenda item.

Agenda item 13 - Adoption of the Report of the Meeting

A draft report of the Meeting will be submitted to participants for adoption.

Agenda item 14 - Closure of the Meeting

The Meeting is expected to be closed on Friday 3 June 2005 at 5.00 p.m.

PROPOSED TIMETABLE

Tuesday 31 May 2005	Wednesday 1 June 2005	Thursday 2 June 2005	Friday 3 June 2005
<u>Morning Session</u> 9.30 – 12.30 Agenda items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Coffee Break 10.30 – 11.00	<u>Morning Session</u> 9.00 – 12.30 Agenda items 7 and 8 Coffee Break 10.30 – 11.00	<u>Morning Session</u> 9.00 – 12.30 Agenda items 10 and 11 Coffee Break 10.30 – 11.00	<u>Morning Session</u> Free, preparation of the Meeting report by the Secretariat
<u>Afternoon Session</u> 14.30 – 17.00 Agenda item 6 Coffee Break 16.00 – 16.15	<u>Afternoon Session</u> 14.30 – 17.00 Agenda items 8 (continuation) and 9 Coffee Break 16.00 – 16.15	<u>Afternoon Session</u> 14.30 – 17.00 Agenda items 11 (continuation) and 12 Coffee Break 16.00 – 16.15	<u>Afternoon Session</u> 14.30 – 17.00 Agenda items 13 and 14
17.00 – 18.30 Side Events*	17.00 – 18.30 Side Events*	17.00 – 18.30 Side Events*	

* Planned side events:

- The IUCN experience in the evaluation of classified sites: Ramsar and UNESCO World Heritage (IUCN Mediterranean Cooperation Centre)
- The MedPAN project, Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Managers Network (2005-2007), and the Directory of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (WWF France)
- The Dynamic Atlas on the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Protected Areas, MedGIS (RAC/SPA Consultant)