

Memorandum of Cooperation
between
The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
and
The Coordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan

The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Coordinator of the Coordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan,

Recalling decision II/10 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, adopted at its second meeting, relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity, and paragraph 14 of the Jakarta Ministerial Statement on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted at the same meeting,

Recalling further that the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (hereinafter "the Barcelona Convention"), during their tenth ordinary meeting, held in Tunis in 1997, invited its Secretariat to establish cooperative arrangements and links with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Noting that the Jakarta mandate, international and regional bodies responsible for legal instruments, agreements under and programmes addressing activities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, are invited to cooperate with the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in the planning and implementation of programmes affecting marine and coastal biological diversity, so as to reduce any unnecessary duplication or gaps in coverage,

Considering that the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, adopted within the framework of the Barcelona Convention in 1995, entered into force in December 1999,

Recognizing that the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Coordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan, hereafter referred to as "the Secretariat" and "the Coordinating Unit", respectively, wish to promote cooperation in the Mediterranean region on marine and coastal biodiversity conservation and sustainable use,

have agreed as follows:

Article 1

Objective

The objective of the present Memorandum of Cooperation (hereinafter "the Memorandum") is to ensure harmonized implementation, in the Mediterranean region, of the Convention on Biological Diversity and of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean and facilitate the implementation of the programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.

Article 2

Institutional Cooperation

1. The Secretariat and the Coordinating Unit will Coordinate their activities dealing with the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean. The activities of collaboration between the Secretariat and the Coordinating Unit will be carried out in the framework of two-year joint work plans that will be annexed to the present memorandum. The first Work Plan for 2000 – 2001 is annexed hereto.
2. The Coordinating Unit will designate the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) of the Mediterranean Action Plan to act as liaison structure with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the technical and scientific implementation of this Memorandum.

3. The Secretariat and the Coordinating Unit will endeavour to ensure that their respective representatives participate at meetings organized by them and in particular at the meetings of the national focal points for the Specially Protected Areas and the meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
4. The Secretariat and the Coordinating Unit will facilitate, as far as possible, the convening of side - events during meetings held under the auspices of each organization.
5. The Secretariat and the Coordinating Unit will inform their respective national focal points of their co-operative activities, and promote consultation between them, as appropriate.
6. The Secretariat and the Coordinating Unit will report respectively to the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the ordinary meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention on the progress made in the implementation of this Memorandum, including the work plans adopted thereunder.

Article 3

Exchange of Information

1. The Secretariat and the Coordinating Unit will establish procedures for regular exchanges of information and data in areas of common interest.
2. The Secretariat and the Coordinating Unit will work out modalities for exchanging data on biodiversity contained in their databases and the clearing-house mechanism under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and for cooperating in preparing relevant documents.

Article 4

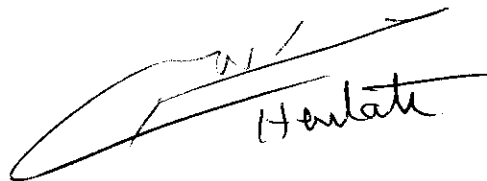
Entry into Force, Review and Termination

1. The present Memorandum will take effect on signature by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Coordinator of the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan.
2. The present Memorandum may be terminated by either party giving one-year notice in writing.
3. The Secretariat and the Coordinating Unit may, by mutual agreement, review and amend this Memorandum, including the work plans adopted thereunder.

Done in Nairobi, this 18 th day of May 2000.



**The Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Convention on
Biological Diversity**



**For The Coordinator
The Coordinating Unit of the
Mediterranean Action Plan**

Annex

Work plan for the period 2000 – 2001

1. Consultation meeting on the harmonization of the implementation of the SPA Protocol and the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean region

Background

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the SPA Protocol of the Barcelona Convention, are complementary instruments with respect to the objectives of conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity. Most Mediterranean countries are actually Parties to both instruments. In those countries, coordination between the focal points of CBD and the SPA Protocol will help to ensure harmonized and synergic implementation of the two instruments. Similarly, coordination among the Secretariats of the two instruments would also be greatly beneficial.

In this context a meeting is proposed between the focal points of the two instruments in the Mediterranean countries and also attended by representatives of relevant organizations and bodies. The meeting would consider the main following topics: (i) coordination, consultation and sharing of information at national level between the focal points of CBD and those of the SPA Protocol when they are different; (ii) guidance for the cooperation between the secretariats; (iii) development of the clearing-house mechanism of the CBD in the Mediterranean at the regional level; and (iv) coordination of the national process for reporting within the framework of the two instruments.

Objective

Promote integration and consistency of the implementation of the SPA Protocol and the CBD (the Jakarta Mandate in particular) in the Mediterranean region, at national and regional levels.

Activity

Organize a consultative meeting of national focal points of CBD and Barcelona Convention/SPA Protocol, as well as relevant organizations and bodies to identify ways and means to harmonize the implementation of the SPA Protocol and the CBD (the Jakarta Mandate in particular) in the Mediterranean region, at the national and regional levels.

Expected output

Report of the meeting including some recommendations on ways and means to harmonize the implementation of the SPA Protocol and Jakarta Mandate in the Mediterranean region for possible submission to the Conference of the Parties to the CBD and the Barcelona Convention and dissemination through the CBD clearing-house mechanism (CHM) and other appropriate mechanisms.

Ways and means

- The Coordinating Unit, in collaboration with the Secretariat, will seek financial support from Mediterranean countries and prepare the necessary agreement with the country that will host the meeting in March – April 2001; and
- The provisional agenda of the meeting will be jointly elaborated before August 2000.

2. Regional guidelines for the mitigation of impacts of alien species

Background

During their tenth ordinary meeting, held in Tunis in November, 1997, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention invited the Regional Activity Centre (RAC)/SPA to prepare guidelines for dealing with the issues of introduction and reintroduction of marine alien species in the Mediterranean. The first draft on the subject will be submitted to the next meeting of the national focal points for SPA. It should be noted that pursuant to the decision IV/1 of the Conference of the Parties, the fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), in January-February 2000, recommended to the CBD COP draft guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien invasive species, which may be further elaborated for consideration at the sixth meeting of SBSTTA.

Objectives

- Ensure consistency in the use of terminology for alien invasive species, and harmony in the measures proposed to mitigate the impact of alien species; and
- Promote exchange of data and dissemination of information on alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats and species.

Activities

- The CBD Secretariat and RAC/SPA will exchange relevant information compiled from the national reports and other pertinent documents;
- RAC/SPA will develop the guidelines for the Mediterranean region taking into account the guiding principles prepared by SBSTTA 5 to be considered by COP at its fifth meeting;
- The guidelines to be developed by RAC/SPA will be disseminated through CHM, as part of regional case-studies, by the Secretariat of the CBD.

Expected outputs

- An agreed set of terms on alien invasive species;
- Consistency between regional guidelines for measures proposed to mitigate the impact of alien invasive species and the proposed CBD guiding principles; and
- Mechanisms for exchange at regional and global levels of information on alien invasive species that threaten ecosystems, habitats and species.

Ways and means

The CBD Secretariat and RAC/SPA will establish regular contacts and consultations on the subject, and link their webpages.

3. Development of indicators of biological diversity

Background

The Secretariat of CBD, in response to decision IV/1 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, is developing a set of biodiversity indicators which would serve as a tool for the assessment of the status and trends of biodiversity and for its adequate management.

Pursuant to the request of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, expressed during their Tenth Ordinary Meeting, the RAC/SPA, drew up a preliminary report on indicators of marine and coastal biodiversity. A global work programme, developed within the framework of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, led to the identification of a core set of 130 indicators, few of which are, however, directly relevant to biodiversity.

Objective:

Stimulate further development of indicators of biological diversity within the framework of the CBD and the Mediterranean Action Plan.

Activities:

- Elaborate a case study on biodiversity indicators in the Mediterranean region; and
- Explore the possibility of organizing, in June 2001, a Mediterranean workshop on the indicators of biological diversity.

Expected output:

Mediterranean case study and relevant information on indicators of biological diversity.

Ways and means:

- The case study will be carried out by a consultant to be appointed by RAC/SPA; and
- The Co-ordinating Unit and the Secretariat will undertake investigation to identify possibilities of external funding for the workshop.

4. Promotion of ecosystem approach

Background:

The Conference of the Parties to the CBD decided that the ecosystem approach is the primary framework for action under the Convention. Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention also considered the same approach in the new SPA Protocol and in the Action Plans they adopted for the conservation of endangered species.

Objective:

Promote the application of the ecosystem approach in the Mediterranean.

Activity:

Prepare training manuals and organize a training workshop to be attended by representatives of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention as well as representatives of relevant organizations and bodies.

Expected outputs:

- Report of the training workshop;
- A better understanding and enhanced use of the ecosystem approach in the region; and
- A guide on how to use ecosystem approach in the region mainly based on the needs and experience in the region.

Ways and means:

RAC/SPA will be responsible for the practical organization of the workshop (including the coverage of the expenses); it will receive scientific support from the CBD Secretariat.