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Background

MSPglobal is a new joint initiative launched on 11 and 12 February 2019 by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) and the European Commission to develop new international guidelines on Maritime Spatial Planning.

The following document contains information on the last developments of the initiative.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

I. WP1: Joint EC/IOC Guidance on cross-border MSP

Establishment of the International Expert Group on MSP:

Respecting geographical and gender balance, eight experts were chosen to be the core of the Group of Experts, while 20 other experts were selected as thematic experts to support the core group during the preparation of the international guidance on MSP.

The composition is as follows:

- Joseph Kofi Ansong, Ghana
- Ingela Isaksson, Sweden
- Fátima Lopes Alves, Portugal
- Michele Quesada-Silva, Brazil
- Joanna Smith, Canada
- Juan Luis Suárez-de Vivero, Spain
- Riku Varjopuro, Finland
- Zhiwei Zhang, China

Study of existing and emerging cross-border and transboundary MSP:

A number of transboundary MSP initiatives/projects have been identified and the related documents compiled to support the work of the Expert Group. The European MSP Platform (EU MSP Platform) and the GEF IW:LEARN were the main source of information. In the European Union, 43 projects were identified, although after analysing their objectives, 31 were considered more relevant to MSPglobal.

The project coordinators of all initiatives were identified and will be contacted to provide information about:

- Transboundary issues
- Project outputs
- Main findings
- Main challenges
- Suggested next steps (that could be covered by MSPglobal, for example)
- List of stakeholders engaged

II. WP2: Pilot project in the West Mediterranean sea-basin

Regional training course on MSP for sustainable blue growth:

In April 2019, a training course was jointly developed with UNEP PAP/RAC, in Zagreb (Croatia) for representatives of Ministries of Environment of Mediterranean countries. The training also included representatives from Mediterranean countries not covered by the MSPglobal pilot case study. It was organised to familiarise participants with basic tools, methods and concepts for MSP implementation. It aimed to support the establishment of a common basis and understanding across the Mediterranean region regarding implementation of MSP within the MAP Barcelona Convention system and share best practices and lessons learnt from MSP implementation in the region and beyond. The participants also exchanged experiences on existing national frameworks and encouraged processes to move forward better integration of policies at different levels. The MSPChallenge Game was used as an opportunity to increase awareness and stimulate dialogue and interaction amongst countries.

III. WP3: Pilot project in the Southeast Pacific region

Technical report on current conditions and compatibility of maritime uses of the coastal and marine environment of the Gulf of Guayaquil:

The activity started with a review of the existing data repositories available in Ecuador and Peru on current conditions of coastal and marine ecosystems.

Catalogue-inventory of national and regional policies in force, review and analysis of the policies and information requirements and lessons learnt in the context of coastal and marine management and planning:

The identification of national policies has started in Ecuador and Peru and will continue with the other countries of the Southeast Pacific. A final draft covering the regional catalogue will be available in October 2019.

Regional training courses on MSP for sustainable blue growth:

Training courses were jointly organised with national authorities in Lima (Peru) in June 2019, Panama City (Panama) in September 2019 and Cartagena de Indias (Colombia) in October 2019 for representatives of ministries in charge of the planning and management of marine resources. A training in Guayaquil (Ecuador) will take place at the end of October 2019 as well. Participants were provided with basic tools, methods and concepts for MSP implementation before putting this theoretical knowledge into practice with the MSPChallenge Game.

IV. WP4: Participation, communication and dissemination

Communication and Dissemination Plan:

The MSPglobal Communication and Dissemination Plan was elaborated to set a unified tone and direction so that all activities, tools and materials work in harmony to create a shared vision for the MSPglobal Initiative, raise awareness of the project and its results and maximise the impact of communication efforts. It covers the following aspects: key messages (what), target audiences (who), channels (how) and activities (when).

Strategy for Public Participation:

The Strategy for Public Participation (SPP) was developed and structured in three parts: i) identification of stakeholders; ii) engagement activities; and iii) monitoring and evaluating the participation. Mapping stakeholders is a continuous task and different methods have been used for it. Six types of engagement activities were highlighted in the context of the project: expert meetings; stakeholder meetings; institutional workshops; training courses; conferences; and ocean literacy.

Regional stakeholders' events:

Stakeholder meetings were conducted in January 2019 and June 2019 in the cross-border area of the Gulf of Guayaquil to better understand maritime activities, drivers for MSP, cross-border issues and to map key stakeholder platforms that could be engaged during the mapping exercise that will be done for the WP3.

Database of the main national and regional socio-economic stakeholders:

Stakeholders have been asked to fill a StakeForm – developed on Google Forms in English, French and Spanish – where they can identify their main topics of expertise and the potential role they can have in a MSP process, as well as in the MSPglobal. The survey is available in:

- EN: <https://forms.gle/rPGx1TNzfoW453Kw7>
- FR: <https://forms.gle/kSLY4EmwqgFt72ys6>
- ES: <https://forms.gle/wSYRbCqeJkcafNk87>



To date, over 100 stakeholders have completed the StakeForm. The data provided by these stakeholders is used to fill the MSPglobal Stakeholder Database and will be the basis to define their participation and role in the engagement activities.

Project website:

The website is operative in English, French and Spanish to connect and improve communication with stakeholders in their native languages; the Arabic version is under development.

Promotional materials:

The 1st MSPglobal brochure was developed in English, French and Spanish, and it has been disseminated since the Opening Conference. It includes a brief explanation of all project work packages, the social media accounts and the link to the StakeForm:

- EN: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000366731/PDF/366731eng.pdf.multi>
- FR: https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000366731_fre/PDF/366731fre.pdf.multi
- ES: https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000366731_spa/PDF/366731spa.pdf.multi

Promotional materials for events (roll-ups, foam boards) or stationary (mug, cotton bag, notebooks) were produced in English, French, Spanish and multilingual versions to be disseminated and displayed during MSPglobal activities or those in which the project was invited by partner institutions to take part in. Additionally, two sets of visuals are under development: infographics to highlight the project's main achievements over its first 12 months, as well as flyers presenting the main themes of the initiative (Marine Spatial Planning, Blue Economy, etc.) and the pilot projects, among others.

V. Joint Roadmap to accelerate MSP processes worldwide

Together, the European Commission and IOC organised the first edition of the International MSPforum in Brussels (Belgium) in May 2018. 150 planners from all across the globe gathered together to discuss issues related to planning at sea and brainstormed ahead of the internationally accepted guidelines for marine/maritime spatial planning. The second edition took place in March 2019 on the island of La Réunion (France) and the third edition in Vigo (Spain) in May 2019. The next MSPforum will take place in Riga (Latvia) in November 2019.

Trainings and seminars have been jointly organised by the IOC and European Commission in the context of the Joint Roadmap in Marrakech (Morocco), Nairobi (Kenya), Hanoi (Viet Nam), Turkmenbashi (Turkmenistan), Zagreb (Croatia) and Buenos Aires (Argentina). Dedicated sessions on MSP and blue economy were also organised during the European Maritime Day in Lisbon (Portugal) in May 2019. The Government of the Netherlands, the Government Offices of Sweden, the Government of Turkmenistan, the Government of Argentina, the Government of Viet Nam, PAP/RAC, the Permanent Commission of the Southeast Pacific and the Global Environmental Facility provided support to the Joint Roadmap.