

The COR ESA met in Sophia Antipolis on 04-05 June 2014, and reviewed the proposal of the Plan Bleu with respect to the approach to undertake Economic and Social Assessment in the Mediterranean Region and agreed as follows:

### Regional Level ESA

#### *Socio-economic Analysis*

- Ask Plan Bleu to finalize the ESA report, taking into consideration the recommendations of the group:
  - Clarification and precision about of the scope of analyzed sectors and definition indicators used is required
  - ESA subregional assessment should be explained and results must fit more precisely with the geographical demarcation of the subregions. Required adjustments should be explicit.
  - Social analysis, reason why this is limited to employment should be explained.
  - Cross sectorial analysis should be added through EO
  - Use of maps should be considered provided that additional funds are available
- Agrees that this regional analysis should be as coherent possible and enable comparison. However the study should highlight national / subregional specificities when relevant and important, especially precisions provided by countries.
- Recommendations regarding Fisheries
  - Sources of data used should be clearly described.
  - Considerations on capacity reduction should mention that plans should save as far as possible artisanal fisheries.
- Aquaculture
  - Differences in the importance of indirect employment between regions should be explained.
- Tourism
  - Definition of “coastal tourism”, should be explained in detail
- Maritime transport
  - Definition of the scope of the marine transport should precise if leisure navigation sector and its environmental impacts are included.
- Offshore Oil and gas
  - Consideration to the distance to coast of operations should be added as far as possible

#### *Cost of degradation*

- From the various experiences presented during the meeting, the COR ESA recognizes no clear evidence on the urgency to assess a regional CoD, although this approach is currently used as decision support in some countries of the south. COR ESA asks Plan Bleu to finalize the scoping study as envisaged by the first COR ESA meeting, including illustrative cases and recommendations for further actions, subject to funding.
- COR ESA insists that CoD should be simple and easy to understand by stakeholders. Moreover CoD assessment is strongly conditioned by limitations regarding knowledge on stressed ecosystems and availability of relevant data. In this context, an approach by degradation themes of the costs seems most adapted to the regional level. It also corresponds to the objective of the EcAp Initial assessment. Themes could be in line with the EcAp EO, on order to cope with regional initiatives (protocols, regional/action plans) for environment improvement and sustainable development.

### National Guidelines

- The COR ESA encourages Plan Bleu to elaborate ESA national guidelines, especially on the basis of the three Regoko Pilot Cases (Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia) and confirms the recommendation issued by the first COR ESA:
  - The guidelines should be general and targeting the non EU Mediterranean states while being coherent with the implementation of MSFD in the Mediterranean;
  - The guidelines should be flexible, designed to be iterative, and should propose options with practical examples taking account of the availability of data;
  - The guidelines should include benchmarks on indicators, where applicable and if data is available;
- From the experiences gained since the last meeting, COR ESA insists on the fact that indicators should be harmonized to facilitate inter country comparisons.

#### Links of COR ESA with Plan Bleu EcAp team

- *Participants agreed to provide to Plan Bleu data available to support the regional assessment, on request, where possible*
- *Plan Bleu should provide countries with data that may facilitate the national studies, where possible*
- *Participants agreed to identify the potential users of the national guidelines to ensure national level ownership and potential implementation*

#### Further actions

- Plan Bleu will finalize the regional report (Socio-economic Analysis and Scoping study on CoD) and will send it for comments in writing in the text for the points mentioned during this meeting.
- Reports will be send for clearing by the next COR EcAp meeting in next October 2014 (doc. ready beginning of September in two languages)
- National guidelines should be finalized for the next CoP in 2015. (doc. ready June 2015 in two languages)

#### COR ESA

- COR-ESA will stay operational till the end of 2014-2015 biennium, until the new EcAp cycle starts.