



The Black Sea Commission in the World Ocean Assessment' process

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Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention)*

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Commission on the Protection
of the Black Sea Against Pollution



*Convention on the Protection of the **Black Sea** Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention)*



- *was signed **in Bucharest** in April 1992;*
- *ratified by all six Black Sea countries in the beginning of **1994**;*
- *basic objective: to substantiate the general obligation of the Contracting Parties **to prevent, reduce and control the pollution in the Black Sea** in order to protect and preserve the marine environment and to provide legal framework for co-operation and concerted actions to fulfill this obligation.*
- *Only **BG** and **RO** are EU members, thus, the EU **MSFD** is not legally binding for entire region*

Important satellite documents



- 1. Protocol on the Protection of the Black Sea Marine Environment Against Pollution from the Land Based Sources (**LBS Protocol**);*
 - 2. Protocol on the Protection of the Black Sea Marine Environment Against Pollution by **Dumping**;*
 - 3. Protocol on Cooperation in Combating Pollution of the Black Sea Marine Environment by **Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Emergency Situations**;*
 - 4. The Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol (**CBD Protocol**).*
- **Strategic Action Plan (SAP)** on the Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea – adopted in 1996 and amended in 2009.*

Institutional mechanism



- - *Black Sea Commission (BSC)*
- - *Black Sea Commission Permanent Secretariat (BSC PS)*
- - *Advisory Groups (AGs) & Regional Activity Centers (RACs)*

Black Sea Commission



The Commission for the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution

Permanent Secretariat

Advisory Groups

AG ESAS	AG PMA	AG LBS	AG ICZM	AG CBD	AG FOMLR	AG IDE
Environmental Safety Aspects of Shipping (AG ESAS)	Pollution Monitoring and Assessment	Control of Pollution from Land Based Sources	Development of the Common Methodologies for Integrated Coastal Zone Management	Conservation of Biological Diversity	Environmental Aspects of Fisheries and Other Marine Living Resources Management	Information and Data Exchange

Regional Activity Centers

Environmental Safety Aspects of Shipping (AC ESAS), <u>Varna</u> , Bulgaria	Pollution Monitoring and Assessment (AC PMA), <u>Odessa</u> , Ukraine	Control of Pollution from Land Based Sources (AC LBS), <u>Istanbul</u> , Turkey	Development of Common Methodologies for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (AG ICZM), <u>Krasnodar</u> , Russian Federation	Conservation of Biological Diversity (AC CBD), <u>Batumi</u> , Georgia	Environmental Aspects of Fisheries and Other Marine Living Resources Management (AG FOMLR), <u>Constanta</u> , Romania	Information and Data Exchange (AC IDE), Permanent Secretariat, <u>Istanbul</u> , Turkey
						

National Focal Points

Bg, Ge, Ro, Ru, Tr, Ua	Ua, Bg, Ge, Ro, Ru, Tr	Tr, Bg, Ge, Ro, Ru, Ua	Ru, Bg, Ge, Ro, Tr, Ua	Ge, Bg, Ro, Ru, Tr, Ua	Ro, Bg, Ge, Ru, Tr, Ua	Bg, Ge, Ro, Ru, Tr, Ua
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Institutional mechanism cont.



BSC Advisory Groups:

- *ESAS - Advisory Group on the Environmental Safety Aspects of Shipping*
- *PMA - Advisory Group on the Pollution Monitoring and Assessment*
- *LBS - Advisory Group on Control of Pollution from Land Based Sources*
- *ICZM - Advisory Group on the Development of Common Methodologies for Integrated Coastal Zone Management*
- *CBD - Advisory Group on the Conservation of Biological Diversity*
- *FOMLR - Advisory Group on the Environmental Aspects of the Management of Fisheries and other Marine Living Resources.*

BSC Observers and Partners



- **EU** - European Commission, DG Environment
- **GEF/UNDP** - Global Environmental Facility/United Nations Development Programme
- **UNEP** - United Nations Environmental Programme
- **ICPDR** - International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
- **BSEC** - Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation
- **ACCOBAMS** - Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area
- **PSC MoU** - Port State Control MoU
- **BS NGO Network**
- **IMO** - International Maritime Organization
- **OSPAR** - Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
- **UNEP/MAP** - Barcelona Convention (Mediterranean Sea)
- **HELCOM** - Helsinki Commission (Baltic Sea)

- MoUs with **UN GFCM, UNIGE, IAEA** etc.

Regional Process - related documents



- *new text of the Black Sea Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program - **BSIMAP for years 2014-2019** (drafted within EU MSFD Project, main approaches are harmonized, but still based on monitoring parameters in BSIMAP and BS SAP 2009)*
- *First Report on the Implementation of the (amended) BS SAP (2009) - **SAPIR***
- *“State of the Black Sea Environment” Report - **SoE***

Black Sea Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program (BSIMAP) for years 20??-20??




- *The program slowly **outdates**, initially it was supposed to be adopted for **2012-2020** enormous amount of **versions and comments**, double-check compliance with **Regular Process, MSFD requirements**, recent developments, as well as add some **missing information** (such as Marine Litter and Marine Noise guidelines etc.);*
- ***BSC PS: quick revision of latest version**, add some missing information and recirculate the draft BSIMAP to relevant partners for final check, contribution of UNEP will be highly appreciated;*
- *Draft BSIMAP will be **circulated to BSC** for consideration and **adoption during the 30th BSC Regular Meeting** (November, 2014).*
- ***Joint meetings in Istanbul, in October, 2014** back-to-back meetings of **PMA and CBD AGs and EMBLAS Harmonization workshop on Water Quality/GES Classification Methodology** possibly also jointly with experts from ICPDR, in framework of our **BSC-ICPDR Joint Technical Working Group**.*



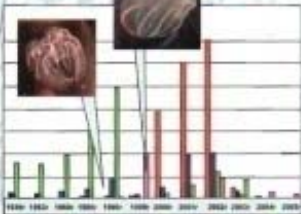
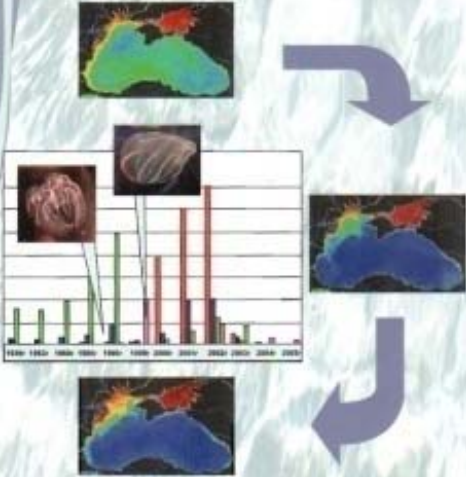
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the Black Sea Against Pollution




State of the Environment of the Black Sea

(2001-2006/7)




Istanbul, Turkey
2008



Implementation of the Strategic Action Plan for the Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea

(2002-2007)

A report by the
Commission on the Protection of
the Black Sea Against Pollution



Istanbul, Turkey
2009

SAPIR and SoE Reports



- Ongoing *negotiations* with relevant organizations;
- BSC PS is still *seeking for assistance* (both financial and expert) to proceed with both reports;
- Reports should be compiled by BSC PS and relevant experts, main results and *recommendations to amend the BS SAP 2009*, incl. draft texts for Ministerial Meeting 2015 (?);
- As Bucharest Convention was elaborated more than 20 years ago, latest version of BS SAP is dated 2009, some *new challenges* as climate change, marine litter, marine noise, green economy, MSFD requirements etc. *were not reflected* – we prepare the necessary *steps for amendments*.

Preparation of the First Implementation Report for the Black Sea Strategic Action Plan (BS SAP 2009) - SAPIR



- *In January, 2014 the request to **appoint the national consultants** was sent by the BC PS;*
- *In the lack of finances to draft the SAPIR and not having received the nominations, the **BSC PS undertook the initiative to draft the SAPIR** for 2009-2014 based on the information provided by the members of the BSC, BSC NFPs, BSC AGs and ACs per country for the period 2009-2014.*

Preparation of the First Implementation Report for the Black Sea Strategic Action Plan (BS SAP 2009) - SAPIR



- *BSC PS prepared and circulated in April, 2014:*
- *Questionnaire to BS countries on the status of implementation of the Strategic Action Plan for the Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea (BS SAP 2009) – to be filled in by relevant authorities of each Contracting Party to the Bucharest Convention by 1st of August, 2014, the latest;*
- *Check-list of indicators of success in line with Annex 4. “Monitoring the SAP: Process, Stress Reduction and Environmental Status Indicators” of the BS SAP (2009) – for easy reference and checks against compliance to reporting parameters and other supporting materials.*

Preparation of the First Implementation Report for the Black Sea Strategic Action Plan (BS SAP 2009) - SAPIR



- *The **Questionnaire** on the status of implementation of the BS SAP 2009 contains a **table** with the following elements:*
- *Reference to BS SAP (Annex 3) – in total 65 targets;*
- *Overall **target**;*
- ***General information** on status of implementation (2009-2014), if applicable on the national level;*
- ***Indicators of success**, if applicable.*

Preparation of the First Implementation Report for the Black Sea Strategic Action Plan (BS SAP 2009) - SAPIR



Check-list of indicators of success (Annex 4 to the BS SAP) contains:

- *Process Indicators in line with EcoQOs (4);*
- *Stress Reduction Indicators in line with EcoQOs (4);*
- *Environmental Status Indicators (9).*

BSC PS will :

- (1) process the data;*
- (2) draft the SAPIR;*
- (3) circulate to BSC for consideration and adoption (30th BSC Regular Meeting, November, 2014).*

Strategic Action Plan for the Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea (2009) :



- *provides a **brief overview of the current status** of the Sea (Black Sea Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (BS TDA 2007) and progress of the original BS SAP 1996;*
- ***reorganizes the priorities and actions** therein considering the progress in the region and the current state of the environment;*
- *describes the **policy actions** required to meet the major environmental challenges now facing the Sea, and includes a **series of management targets**;*
- *recognizes the **same environment threats as those identified by the MSFD** (loss/degradation of biodiversity/habitats, contamination by dangerous substances/nutrients and impacts of climate change), however, sets **no environment targets, but only operational** according to four Ecosystem Quality Objectives;*
- ***Gaps:** definition of GES, marine litter, marine noise, climate change, EIA, green economy, blue growth, socio-economic implications etc.*

BS SAP 2009 structure



- *The BS SAP (2009) addresses the main areas of concern, and their causes, through the aims of **4 Ecosystem Quality Objectives**:*
- *EcoQO 1: Preserve commercial marine living resources;*
- *EcoQO 2: Conservation of Black Sea Biodiversity and Habitats;*
- *EcoQO 3: Reduce eutrophication;*
- *EcoQO 4: Ensure Good Water Quality for Human Health, Recreational Use and Aquatic Biota.*

Four Ecosystem Quality Objectives:



- 1. *Preserve commercial marine living resources* through:**
 - *Sustainable use of commercial fish stocks and other marine living resources*
 - *Restore/rehabilitate stocks of commercial marine living resources*

- 2. *Conservation of Black Sea Biodiversity and Habitats* through:**
 - *Reduction of risk of extinction of threatened species*
 - *Conservation of coastal and marine habitats and landscapes*
 - *Reduction and management of human mediated species introductions*

- 3. *Reduce eutrophication* through:**
 - *Reduction of nutrients originating from land-based sources, including atmospheric emissions*

- 4. *Ensure Good Water Quality for Human Health, Recreational Use and Aquatic Biota* through:**
 - *Reduction of pollutants originating from land-based sources, including atmospheric emissions*
 - *Reduction of pollutants originating from shipping activities and offshore installations*

Preparation of the State of the Environment Report for the Black Sea (2007-2012) – SoE Report



- *Despite the existing list of experts, draft templates and time-tables for SoE (MSFD or Regular Process(?)), this **work is being postponed.***
- ***Chapters:***
- *Hydrophysics and hydrogeology;*
- *Hydrochemistry and water pollution;*
- *Marine litter;*
- *Plankton (phyto-, zoo-);*
- *Benthos (phyto-, zoo-);*
- *Fisheries and aquaculture;*
- *Marine mammals;*
- *State of the coast;*
- *Socio-economics.*

Preparation of the State of the Environment Report for the Black Sea (2009-2014) -

SoE Report



- *The BSC PS joined the 14th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (Nairobi, Kenya 1-3rd October 2012) and reported back to the Black Sea Commission on its outcomes;*
- *The 28th BSC Regular Meeting (November, 2012), within the Item 12 of the Meeting Agenda “Implication of Rio+20, UN First Global Integrated Marine Assessment” adopted the following Resolution:*

*Preparation of the State of the Environment
Report for the Black Sea (2009-2014) –
SoE Report*



- *“The Commission takes note of the information presented.*
- *The Commission **supports the Regular Process** for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects, established under the UN General Assembly.”*
- *Resolution was adopted by the Black Sea Commissioners **by consensus.***

Assessments: gaps and challenges



- Existing *differences in legal documents*:
 - - different set of indicators BS SAP, BSIMAP, MSFD, reporting templates etc.;
 - - difference in legal terms (i.e. no definition of GES in the Black Sea basin);
- Some terms were *never introduced in BSC documents*:
 - - cross-cutting nature (marine litter, noise etc.);
 - - new terms (climate change, green economy, blue growth etc.);
 - - lack of manuals, methodologies, guidelines etc. for proper assessment;
- BSIMAP and reports (SoE and BS SAP) *were not adopted*:
 - - amendments to BS SAP 2009 are delayed, Ministerial Meeting postponed;
 - - BG and RO must already report under the MSFD;
 - - consensus on every issue (Article 17 Bucharest Convention), incl. assessment outlines and approaches;
 - - lack of funds;
- Only *2 countries are EU members*, MSFD is not legally binding.

Assessments: gaps and challenges cont.:



- *Deliverables of Projects and initiatives are **not always sustained**, uneven geographical coverage;*
- *Lack of interaction and cooperation with RSCs;*
- *Despite the challenges, the BSC PS believes that the **elaboration of the UNEP' set of core indicators will help to avoid ambiguities and contribute to successful coordination of the World Ocean' Assessments on the regional and global levels.***



Thanks for your kind attention!

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