

MED POL Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean



ABOUT MED POL

The MED POL programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean is the first operational programme of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP).

Established in 1975, the programme aims to assist Mediterranean countries to implement three major protocols of the Barcelona Convention. Those are namely:

The **Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)**, is the first plan adopted as a Regional Seas Programme under UNEP's umbrella. Adopted in 1975, it involves today 21 countries bordering the Mediterranean as well as the European Union.

Land-based sources Protocol (LBS)

Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources

Adoption: 17 May 1980 (Athens, Greece)

Entry into force: 17 June 1983

The LBS Protocol was amended and recorded as:

Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources

Adoption: 7 March 1996 (Syracuse, Italy)

Entry into force: 11 May 2008

Since 2009, the LBS Protocol was further strengthened by the adoption of a considerable number of legally binding programmes of measures and timetables recognised as Regional Plans in the framework of its article 15. The Regional Plans provide, where appropriate in an integrated manner, for strict measures for priority sectors and major related drivers affecting marine and coastal environment. Some of them, such as the regional plan on mercury, represent the first legal instruments ever developed at the global level. This makes the Mediterranean a pioneer in committing to legally binding measures to phase out mercury and striving towards a litter free region. The regional plans take into account the need for synergies with environmental global conventions such as Stockholm and Basel Conventions as well the global work of UNEP and Regional Seas convention on marine litter and ecosystem approach implementation.

Dumping Protocol

Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft

(adoption: 1976 / entry into force: 1978) and Amendments (adoption: 1995), *fifteen contracting parties have accepted the amendments. Only one additional ratification is needed to have the protocol into force.*

Hazardous Waste Protocol

Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal

Adoption: 1 October 1996 (Izmir, Turkey)

Entry into force: 19 January 2008

WHAT MED POL IS TRYING TO ACHIEVE

MED POL programme is designed to support Contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention to qualify and quantify the marine pollution levels, sources and impacts on their marine and coastal environment, and to undertake coordinated measures and implement national and regional action plans for the control, phase out and eliminate pollution from land based sources and activities, based on the Ecosystem Approach.

MED POL is the first and only long standing programme that fosters regional cooperation for the entire Mediterranean region and its countries.

Major Lines of Action

Pollution Monitoring and Assessment:

This includes:

- Monitoring trends in the level of pollutants and the biological effects of contaminants in the Mediterranean countries.
- Carrying out periodical inventory of pollution sources and loads.

Pollution Control Policies and Measures

Coordinating measures to phase out pollution through action plans, programmes and measures for pollution control implemented by the Governments.

Monitoring on a continuous basis the effectiveness of their implementation

Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

In order to assess the needs of the countries, capacity building programmes have been prepared and equipment and materials were also purchased for a number of countries with the aim of:

- Monitoring inventory of pollutants, assessing marine pollution and the application of related tools
- Supporting countries in the preparation of national strategies
- Supporting countries to take actions on the ground to phase out and eliminate pollution from land-based sources.



While MED POL has a leadership role within the UNEP/MAP framework, the Sustainable Consumption and Production/Regional Activity Centre (SCP/RAC) is leading countries effort in the regional cooperation for the implementation of Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP). The ultimate goal is to abate and phase out land based sources pollution, implement cleaner technologies and promote sustainable production and consumption.

Regional and Global Cooperation

Within the framework of the UNEP/MAP regional cooperation policy, MED POL shares the same common objectives, cooperates with many actors at the regional and global levels and is in constant cooperation with a number of regional and global instruments. Those are:

- The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA)
- The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
- The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
- The London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter

Regional Initiatives and Institutions

- UfM Horizon 2020: UNEP/MAP through its MEDPOL programme co-chairs two sub groups of the H2020 initiative (The Capacity Building and Review and Monitoring
- The European Environment Agency
- Regional networks of NGO and IGO active in the region on pollution control and prevention issues.

Projects and Programmes

This cooperation has generated several collaboration in projects and programmes that support the region to cope with challenges related to pollution reduction and elimination. These include:

- GEF/UNEP/MAP MedPartnership project: along with other partners, MED POL is executing activities under component 2 of the project related to pollution from land-based activities, including persistent organic pollutants: implementation of SAP MED and related NAPs
- UNEP/MAP through MED POL contributed to and provided guidance to UfM team work in their assignment to evaluate the status of implementation of the investment component of the NAPs. Information on available data is continuously exchanged throughout the project's implementation
- Capacity building programme of UfM H2020 initiative 2005-2015

- SEIS project on shared information system in the Mediterranean in collaboration with EEA (under the UfM H2020 initiative)
- Ecosystem Approach project implementation

Contracting Parties

Those are namely: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey and the European Union.

National Action Plans (NAPs)

In 2003-2005, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention elaborated 21 National Action Plans (NAP). They describe the policy and actions on the ground that each country intends to undertake to reduce pollution; The NAPs have two major components: a) the policy/technical framework and b) NAP investment portfolio; they also incorporate mechanisms for information exchange, technology transfer and promotion of cleaner technology, public participation and sustainable financing. The categories of targeted substances cover activities carried out within the urban environment or as part of activities related to industrial development. Measures included legal, institutional and technical targets and investments to be accomplished by 2010 and 2015.

Strategic Action Plans (SAP MED)

The Strategic Action Plan to address pollution from land-based activities in the Mediterranean (SAP MED) was prepared and adopted by the Contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention in 1997. It is the basis for the implementation of the Land-Based Sources Protocol. The SAP consists of 33 targets covering the sectors of urban environment, industrial development and physical alterations and destruction of habitats. Substances targeted in the SAP include toxic, persistent and liable to bioaccumulate, heavy metals, organohalogens, radioactive substances, nutrients and suspended solids, and hazardous wastes. Targets and activities are of national or regional, and of legal, institutional or technical nature.

The SAP MED contains measures and timetables for the implementation of the 1996 LBS Protocol. It covers all measures to prevent, abate, combat and eliminate, to the fullest possible extent, pollution of the Mediterranean Sea caused by discharges from rivers, coastal establishments or outfalls, or emanating from any other land-based sources and activities.



Mid Term Evaluation of SAP/NAP

Based on Article 13 of the LBS Protocol, the Contracting parties to the Barcelona convention approved in their 17th Ordinary meeting, the evaluation of the SAP MED/NAP implementation as a key output for the 2012-2013 biennium of UNEP/MAP-MEDPOL.

The main objective of the SAP/NAP evaluation is to enhance the sustainability of the SAP MED/NAP implementation in light of ecosystem approach and the full achievement of SAP and regional plans targets.

The major deliverables of the policy/legal/technical NAP implementation component undertaken by UNEP/MAP MED POL, will provide information on the regional status of implementation of SAP-MED/NAPs. The achievement of SAP MED regional targets as well as a set of policy recommendations on ways and means to streamline the following components in the update process of SAP MED/NAP:

- the ecosystem approach implementation (goal, vision, ecological objectives, GES and targets , monitoring and programme of measures)
- the obligations under the legally binding measures adopted by the Contracting parties in the framework of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol
- the use of market-based and economic instruments to control pollution
- emerging issues and global/regional agendas of Mediterranean relevance.

The SAP MED/NAP implementation status report includes country profiles and fact sheets highlighting major achievements at national levels, and information on the status of:

- policy /legal/regulatory framework to support SAP/NAP implementation
- pollution loads (national budget) for groups of pollutants
- pollutant loads data per sector/subsector/region/sub region/national/sub-national levels, reported by the contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention and Land Based Sources and Activities (LBS) Protocol in 2003 and 2008, or identified in the annual PRTR reports where available and relevant other published data and information.

New policy development

The contracting parties have entered in a new phase of NAP implementation, through updating them for the period 2016-2025. Following CoP 18 mandate, the updated NAPs will be submitted and endorsed by COP 19 of the Barcelona Convention as an important national policy tool bridging LBS protocol requirements and ecosystem approach with the view to achieve good environmental status with regards to the Mediterranean pollution and litter related ecological objectives. The updated NAPs are expected to play an instrumental role in supporting the Mediterranean countries to achieve the objectives of the H2020 Initiative.

List of Regional Plans/Programmes of Measures and Timetables

Substances targeted in the SAP MED include toxic, persistent and liable to bioaccumulate, heavy metals, organohalogens, radioactive substances, nutrients and suspended solids, and hazardous wastes. Targets and activities are of national or regional, and of legal, institutional or technical nature.

During their 15th ordinary meeting, and in compliance with article 15 of the LBS Protocol, Contracting parties of The Barcelona Convention, adopted a decision on the "Implementation of NAPs and the preparation of legally binding measures and timetables" and the following regional plans were approved:

- Elimination of Aldrin, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Endrin, Heptachlor, Mirex and Toxaphene
- Phasing out of DDT
- Reduction of BOD5 from urban waste water
- Reduction of inputs of Mercury
- Reduction of BOD5 in the food sector
- Phasing out of Hexabromodiphenyl ether, Heptabromodiphenyl ether, Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and Pentabromodiphenyl ether
- Phasing out of Lindane and Endosulfan
- Phasing out of Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and Perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride
- Elimination of Alpha hexachlorocyclohexane, Beta hexachlorocyclohexane, Chlordecone, Hexabromobiphenyl, Pentachlorobenzene



For further Information, contact

UNEP/MAP – MED POL Programme

Address: Vas. Konstantinou 48, Athens 11635, Greece

Tel: +302107273100

Fax: +302107253196

www.unepmap.org