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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of the MAP Focal Points

Athens, Greece, 10-12 September 2013

Draft Report of the MED POL Focal Points Meeting (Barcelona, 18-21 June 2013)

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Introduction

1. The Meeting of MED POL Focal Points was held in Barcelona (Spain) from 18 to 21 June. The meeting took place at the Art Nouveau Site, Casa Convelescencia, at the kind invitation of the Catalan Waste Agency and Catalan government authorities.

Participation

2. MED POL and CP/RAC Focal points as well as members of the Correspondence Group on GES and target for pollution and litter cluster from the following Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention attended the meeting: Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, European Commission, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey.

3. The following United Nations bodies, specialised agencies and intergovernmental organisations and MAP partners from civil society were represented: ACCOBAMS, DELTARES, HCMR, IAEA, MIO-ECSDE, UfM, University of Perpignan.

4. The UNEP/MAP Secretariat was represented by its Coordinating Unit, MED POL Programme, the MAP Regional Activity Centres for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC) and Blue Plan.

5. The full list of participants is attached as **Annex I** to this report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the joint session of the MED POL and CP/RAC Focal Points meeting

6. The meeting was opened at 14.00 on 18 June 2013 by Mr. Habib El Habr, UNEP/MAP Deputy Coordinator and MED POL OiC, Mr. Marc Guerrero, Director of the Art Nouveau Site at Saint Pau; Mr. Victor Escobar representing the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment of Spain; Mr. Josep Enric Llebot, Environmental and Sustainability Secretary Government of Catalonia, and Mr. Enrique Villamore, CP/RAC Director.

7. Mr. Habib El Habr emphasized the importance of the global environmental and sustainability agenda, and its relevance within Mediterranean priorities, noting several milestones and challenges, such as Rio+20, etc. He referred to UNEP/MAP as a framework for action and collaboration among Mediterranean states and outlined its composition and objectives. Pollution reduction and prevention in the Mediterranean is a high priority on the UNEP/MAP agenda, and MED POL and CP/RAC have provided valuable services for 25 years to contracting parties to implement LBS, Dumping and Hazardous waste Protocols covering policy and technical aspects. He pointed out that this joint MED POL-CP/RAC meeting is also an effort to strengthen synergies among different MAP components at the governance level.

8. Mr. Marc Guerrero i Tarrago, welcomed the focal points and expressed its pleasure that CP/RAC-MED POL Focal Points were holding the meeting together in this building. He gave an overview of the site's history, current renovation project and future mission as a centre of excellence for entities with sustainability and environmental protection as core values.

9. Mr. Victor Escobar, noted the steps taken at an institutional level to reinforce the MAP's work with a view to turning the goals of the organizations into concrete results. He emphasized the importance of this joint meeting as an occasion for contacting parties to exchange views and adopt positions. Expressing support and appreciation for the work of MED POL and CP/RAC. Mr. Escobar encouraged them to continue doing so for implementation of Barcelona Convention protocols.

10. Mr. Josep Enric Llebot, welcomed the participants to the meeting on behalf of the Catalan government, and referred to the Mediterranean region's paradox of necessary economic development and the need to revert the consequences of environmental degradation and pollution, which have put the Mediterranean Action Plan and Barcelona Convention on the front line in environmental struggles and work toward sustainable development. He touched on SCP as a global goal, and a decoupling of human development from degradation and pollution. He emphasized the importance of environmental management including all levels of government: national, sub-national, regional and local entities.

Agenda items 2 and 3:

11. In accordance with rules of procedures for meetings of the Contracting parties of the Barcelona Convention, the meeting elected the following officers

Chair:	Ms. Samira Nateche, Algeria
Vice chairs:	Mr. Jose Luis Buceta, Spain Ms. Nazli Yenal, Turkey Ms. Sabine Ghosn Lebanon
Rapporteur:	Ms. Ivana Bulatovic, Montenegro

12. Following the introduction by the Secretariat of provisional and the annotated agendas presented in documents UNEP/DEPI(MED)WG 379.1 and 2, the meeting adopted the agendas with some modifications related to the timetable. The provisional agenda is presented as Annex II to this report.

Agenda item 4: Report on the progress achieved regarding the implementation of the Programme of work

13. Under this agenda item the meeting addressed the status of implementation of the current biennial programme of work as well as the status of implementation and its gaps regarding the 5 year strategic programme of work of MAP related to pollution control. For this purpose, the Secretariat (MED POL and CP/RAC) introducing document UNEP(DEPI)MED 379/3, Progress report on the implementation of MED POL activities, highlighted the main achievements and deliverables. The participants appreciating the work done by both components acknowledged the special effort made to achieve results in light of financial difficulties as well as the team spirit and synergies achieved in their work.

Agenda item 5: Specific issues

Agenda item 5a: Status of implementation of the technical aspects of the LBS, Dumping and Hazardous waste Protocols

14. The Secretariat introduced document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 379/4, Implementation of the technical aspects of the LBS, Dumping and HW protocols and six regional plans, making an analysis of achievements and gaps with respect to submissions of reports on the implementation of the technical aspects of the three Protocols (LBS, Dumping and HW) and other issues related to reporting, implementation of 6 LBS Regional Plans adopted by COP 17 and 18, etc. Two experts Mr. Jos Van Gils, (Deltares, The Netherlands) and Mr. Ludwig Wolfgang (University of Perpignan, France) made presentations on ELV/EQO correlation model and results achieved with regard to the assessment of nutrient inputs from rivers.

15. Following discussions, the meeting highlighted the need to work on improving the quality of reports and encouraged the Secretariat to further support the Contracting Parties in meeting their reporting obligations including those under the Regional plans. The meeting also reviewed the proposed reporting elements for the implementation of the regional plan on mercury and encouraged further efforts to make it simpler and indicator based. With regards the proposed guidelines developed by CP/RAC and MED POL in accordance with Article V of the Regional plan on mercury, the meeting pointed out that further work was required in order to consider its submission to the MAP Focal Points meeting in September 2013.

Agenda item 5b: Draft Regional plan on Marine Litter Management in the framework of Article 15 of the LBS protocol

16. The Secretariat introduced document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 379/5 Draft Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean; by first presenting its overall structure, principles and objectives as agreed by the Expert Review Meeting held in Barcelona, Spain on 17-18 May 2013.

17. The meeting embarked on a general discussion and agreed to focus the review of each part of the draft Regional Plan and then specifically article by article. Following discussions, the structure of the draft regional plan was confirmed as proposed by the Expert review meeting held in May 2013, to detach from the body of the Regional Plan the three annexes namely a) work plan, b) priority research topics and c) reporting format elements. The agreement was made to attach these three annexes to the draft decision on the adoption by COP of the Regional Plan.

18. The discussions on Part I (General provisions) focused whether there was a need to have the rationale for the regional Plan as an Article or as an introduction to the Regional Plan. Some suggestions were made regarding the scope of the application of the Regional Plan that should not be exactly the same with the LBS protocol, add a definition on the LBS NAPs as well as the definition of marine litter.

19. The representative of Morocco requested to specify the term as 'non-hazardous litter', with the view to protect the personnel handling such waste. Other participants opposed to such a proposal as there was no need to make such a distinction. The Secretariat pointed out that marine litter in spite of its potential origin from plastic or other wastes it can't be categorised as hazardous or non hazardous. It was commented that in most cases when litter was collected from the sea bed there is no way to distinguish and separate its different types so it is practically impossible to apply such a distinction related to hazardous /non-hazardous litter.

20. With regards to part II of the draft Regional Plan on 'Measures', some amendments were submitted by Israel, France and Italy before the meeting. The meeting reviewed the text and generally agreed to take the proposed amendments into account and made the necessary changes. The changes made consisted of better clarifying the process of LBS NAP update; using to the extent possible a uniform approach in terms of describing the commitment to the implementation of measures addressing both marine litter prevention from land and sea based sources; postponing some timetables proposed for some of the measures; adding measures addressing micro plastics; make a better distinction between 'prevention' and 'removal' type of measures.

21. With regards to part III of the draft regional Plan on 'Assessment' the meeting reviewed various suggestions regarding some of the terms used such as state of marine litter, the need to introduce the concept of measuring the impact of marine litter that needed to be more explicit in the text. The focal points also discussed the deadline for submitting the first assessment on the state of marine litter, and finally it was agreed that due to the need to assess the base line to measure the implementation of the regional plan, it should be prepared two years from entry into force of the regional plan on the understanding that this would be based on already existing information and not the new one to be generated following the implementation of ECAP integrated monitoring.

22. One representative expressed concerns regarding the obligation to submit information to the Regional Data Bank by 2016, and that 2018 would be more feasible. Following the explanation by the Secretariat that the establishment of data bank is part of the overall MAP information system that should support the implementation of the ecosystem approach integrated monitoring, it was agreed to keep this timetable as originally proposed 2016.

23. With regards to part IV of the draft regional plan on "Implementation", the meeting reviewed the proposed text and generally agreed on it with minor changes. In this respect it was requested to avoid using a legally binding language regarding the involvement of stakeholders by replacing 'shall' with 'may', to which several participants agreed. With regards the reporting it was pointed out that EU law imposes a 6-year cycle that differs from that mentioned in Article 19, while the Secretariat said that can't be considered outside the MAP reporting system cycle that is biennial and applicable to all the regional Plans adopted so far. The meeting reviewed briefly the three appendices and requested that they were removed from the regional plan and attached to the draft decision.

24. Finally, Focal Points raised the issue of cost effectiveness pointing out that without an estimation of cost of measures implementation it would be hard to adopt the proposed Regional Plan. The Secretariat explained that a preliminary analysis of indicative estimated cost was presented in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.379/Inf.3 based on some information submitted by Israel and France and other examples taken from available experience and literature. It was agreed that for the MAP FP meeting, the Secretariat prepares a much more complete cost estimation analysis.

c) Mid-term evaluation of implementation of SAP/NAPs

25. Mr Mohamad Kayyal and Ms Susanna Casanova presented document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 379/6 on the implementation of SAP MED regional activities as well as technical implementation of NAPs mainly through an analysis of NBB data 2003 and 2008. Mr. Francois Guerber, UfM Secretariat, made a presentation regarding the evaluation of the implementation of the NAPs investment portfolio. It was commented that the first stage of work (gathering data on a remote basis) has been completed and that the second is to

compile a list of the investment projects required to achieve the 2025 SAP targets. The third stage will be to provide advice on hotspots to conclude which may be eliminated.

26. Following discussions concerns were expressed regarding the quality of NBB data used to define pollution trends 2003-2008, therefore further work is still required to be carried out closely with the countries; explanations should be provided when pollution loads increases were observed and every efforts should be made to avoid any overlapping between different studies. It was also confirmed from some countries that the updating of NAPs may be difficult for some EU countries due to complicated administrative processes and the necessity to take into account the synergies with the programs of measures to be developed by 2015 under the framework of the MSFD.

Agenda item 5d: Issue paper on implementing pollution reduction and prevention policies and measures in coherence with ecosystem approach

27. The meeting also discussed an issue paper on the future directions of pollution reduction and prevention in the Mediterranean following the presentation made by the Secretariat of document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.379/7. Ms. Meryrem Cherif from CP/RAC also made a presentation on SCP and ecosystem approach.

28. It was generally agreed by the meeting that the proposals made in the Issue Paper represent a good approach and the MED POL Focal Points requested that the Secretariat's communication with them on such a subject should be kept open for the preparation of the new 4/5-year MED POL programme of work during the next biennium.

29. The Focal Points supported the proposal to undertake the revision of the NAPs during the next biennium. It was pointed out that the EU member states were obliged to prepare programmes of measures to comply with the EU MSFD by 2015. This would create excellent opportunities to harmonise as appropriate both processes. NAPs update (Article 5 of the LBS protocol) and programmes of measures under EU MSFD (Article 15) for Descriptors 5,9,10 and 11 for the EU Member States that are contracting party to the Barcelona Convention/LBS Protocol.

Agenda item 5e: Midterm evaluation of MED POL activities under the MedPartnership project

30. The Secretariat introduced document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.379/8, Mid-term evaluation regarding MED POL executed activities under the MedPartnership Project, pointing out that its intentions were to submit all recommendations made by the Mid-term evaluators to the MedPartnership project committee and asked comments by the floor. There was no objection made. However the Spanish representative noted that the only position to be taken was to avoid additional budgetary repercussions for the activities implemented by CP/RAC and no supplementary funding would be allocated from MTF or Spanish Government.

Agenda item 5f: Draft Risk Assessment Framework for Carbon Sequestration in the Mediterranean

31. Mr. Jose Luis Buceta, from the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment and Ms. Diana Fernandez de la Reguera, from the Cadiz University introduced document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 379/9 pointing out that there are certain specific risks for carbon sub sea bed geological storage in the Mediterranean, including high population density, seismic activity and fragile ecosystems. The representative of France that has

submitted several inputs and comments before the meeting took the floor to provide explanations on changes proposed.

32. Mention was made to some projects implemented in Italy and Malta and it was agreed for those countries to submit further information to the Secretariat on this issue. It was also clarified that risk assessment should be based only on sub-sea bed geological formations and not in the water column. Monitoring on migration in the geological structure is limited and possible leakages into the water column should be properly investigated. If there is an opportunity to allow CO2 storage onshore there is a need to develop clear guidelines.

Agenda item 5g: Cooperation with global and regional partners and initiatives

33. Several global and regional partners made presentation on their work and existing and potential synergies. EEA focused on SEIS project. It was mentioned that there has been low data input in recent years and that data sharing is currently an ad hoc process with no proper agreement on how it should be undertaken. The main challenges presented were that the 'one method fits all' concept is inappropriate and that a more even geographical coverage of data input is required. The recommendations were greater modelling of impacts, shared generation of models and the connecting of modelling activities.

34. IAEA/MESL representative made a presentation on Strengthening Data Quality Assurance was given by MESL, which concluded that data quality assurance services must be updated and improved and proposed more training courses and proficiency tests in the analysis of targeted contaminants. It was also requested that the Secretariat officially informs the countries on the results of quality assurance proficiency tests results of participating national laboratories. The meeting highlighted that although IT resources are being improved, quality first-hand data is very important. The need for countries to provide 100% credible data is essential before opening up the database for the information to be disseminated. In addition it was pointed out the need for proper monitoring of indicators agreed on within ECAP. The current number of 56 indicators is too ambitious; a balance is needed between the number of indicators and costs.

35. The UfM Secretariat representative gave a presentation on UfM work and on project labelling. The H2020 representative made a presentation which mentioned that a number of workshops have been undertaken in the different areas, with more coming up. It highlighted that, with regards the industrial sector, it is focusing on oil, iron and steel, etc. and close cooperation with MED POL and CP RAC was established for this purpose.

36. The PERSEUS project representative gave a presentation on their work in the Mediterranean and Black Sea developing tools for environmental assessment, promoting MSFD principles and enhancing the involvement of policy-makers. It was stressed that the parties present at the meeting should be stakeholders in the project's work.

37. The GPA Coordinator gave a presentation which highlighted GPA PW priorities namely nutrients, marine litter and waste water. With regards to marine litter the priorities were to establish global partnership on marine litter to reduce litter to coastal areas, implement an online Marine Litter platform and improve plastics management. GPA is not focusing so much on trans-boundary litter but rather on tackling the source. Following a questions from the floor, the GPA coordinator stated that GPA doesn't intend to consider enlarging its scope of work beyond Manila Declaration i.e to analyse the impact of desalination on marine environment.

38. On this occasion, some participants expressed concern at some of the conclusions of the SWIM project report, e.g. that brine from desalination has low impact on marine

environment. It was also noted that this report contained some possible errors and vague points. The Secretariat took note of this comment and clarified that this report addresses only the small desalination plants in rural areas. The Secretariat also pointed out that a report for impacts assessment of desalination activities (mega plants) is under elaboration by SWIM project and every effort will be made to associate environmental experts and MED POL FP in this process.

39. The meeting thanked all global and regional organizations and programmes namely UNEP/GPA, UfM, H2020, IAEA, EEA and PERSEUS for attending the MED POL Focal Points meeting to share information on their priorities and contribution to pollution reduction, monitoring and assessment at global and Mediterranean levels and acknowledged the work done.

Agenda item 6: Proposed MED POL work plan 2014-2015

40. The Secretariat introduced document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.379/10 on the programme of work. Following several intervention from the MED POL FP it was agreed to highlight most of the proposed activities on priority basis and leave some other subject to funding availability. Funding should be based on supporting on priority basis a) legally binding obligations under the three Protocols, b) outputs related to ecosystem approach implementation; and c) ongoing project activities from the current biennium and commitment already made.

41. In this context, it was highlighted that data quality assurance including specific protocols, should also be considered as a priority. The meeting agreed that most of the activities previously carried out in the framework of MED POL cooperation with WHO should given low priority. A way forward should be sought on CO2 sequestration amendments process and guidelines preparation, necessary planning should be done in the budget partly from MTF and mainly from external funds. Following proposals by H2020 and ACCOBAMS, the meeting also agreed that pollution assessment from the steel industry should be added to the programme of work, while MED POL and ACCOBAMS should collaborate on assessing the impact of litter on marine species.

Agenda item 5h: Progress on the implementation of the ecosystem approach timetable adopted by COP 17, Paris, France, 2012

Agenda item 5i: Proposed ECAP good environmental status and targets for pollution and litter cluster

42. Ms Gyorgyi Gurban ECAP project manager, UNEP MAP, gave a presentation of the Ecosystem approach implementation in the Mediterranean and introduced document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 379.11 on proposed GES and related targets for pollution and marine litter cluster.

43. The need to clarify the difference between baselines and targets was brought up, as this was not thought to be clear. Another point brought up repeatedly was the diverse situation of the Mediterranean, making different baselines for different areas necessary. A range of values was thought appropriate rather than just one figure, and there was also a suggestion to include a depth range. Mention was made repeatedly of the existence of previous work and already-existing values that could be used.

44. The importance of factsheets for indicators was highlighted. With regards to specific indicators, participants pointed out of the availability of good quality data for the eutrophication indicator. With regards to monitoring, it was a discussion of the most

appropriate species for this purpose. It was commented that work is underway developing indicators with cormorants, and that technically-sound methods for measuring entanglement are currently unavailable. The participants requested that mercury be included as a key harmful contaminant using pre-existing data.

45. In addition, it was suggested that work should continue on expert level on the fact sheets. There were several comments regarding the need for further research, greater clarification on the technical level and for this, for the establishment of a technical group of marine experts.

46. Participants agreed to propose to the EcAp Coordination Group, next to the presented table of GES and related targets on pollution and litter (Document WG.379.11) with their agreed changes, also the report of the previous COR-GEST Group meeting on Pollution and Litter.

Agenda item 8: Conclusions and recommendations

47. During this agenda item the meeting reviewed a) draft meeting conclusions; b) the final draft regional plan revised based on discussions held in previous sessions; c) former appendixes I, II and III of the regional Plan and d) the revised programme of work with highlighted priorities (annex VIII)

48. The meeting adopted the above mentioned documentations as amended and presented as annex III, IV, V, VI, VIII to this report.

Agenda item 9: closure of the meeting

49. As there was no other business, the Vice Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 18.00 pm on Friday, 21 June.

ANNEX I
PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Joint session MED POL and CP/RAC Focal points

Tuesday 18 June 2013	(14.00-18.00)	<i>Coffee break 1600-1630</i>
Wednesday 19 June 2013	(09.00-11.00)	<i>Coffee break 1100-1130</i>
Agenda items:	(1, 2, 3, 4, 5 a& b)	

Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting

Agenda item 2. Election of Officers

Agenda item 3. Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work

Agenda item 4. Report on the progress achieved regarding the implementation of the Programme of work

- a) Status of implementation of the 2012-2013
- b) Status of implementation of the five-year programme of work

Agenda item 5. Specific issues

- a) Status of the implementation of the technical aspects of the LBS, Dumping and Hazardous Waste Protocols and the Regional Plans adopted in 2009 and 2013
- b) Draft Regional plan on Marine litter Management in the framework of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol

Separate sessions (MED POL)

Wednesday 19 June 2013:	(1130-1330); (1500-1800):	<i>Coffee break 1100-1130</i>
Agenda items: (5 c & d & e)		<i>Coffee break 1630-1645</i>

Thursday 20 June 2013:	(0930-1330); (1500-1800):	<i>Coffee break 1100-1130</i>
Agenda items: (5 f & g, and 6)		<i>Coffee break 1630-1645</i>

- c) Mid-term evaluation of the implementation of SAP/NAPs,
- d) Issue paper on implementing pollution reduction and prevention policies and measures in coherence with ecosystem approach
- e) Mid-term evaluation of MED POL activities under the MedPartnership project
- f) Draft Risk Assessment Framework for Carbon Sequestration in the Mediterranean
- g) Cooperation with global and regional partners and initiatives

Agenda item 6. Proposed MED POL work plan 2014-2015

Agenda item 7. Other business

Joint session MED POL FP and COR-GEST on Pollution & Litter

Friday 21 June 2013

(09.00-14.00);
(1600-1800):

Agenda items: 5 h & i
Agenda item 8 and 9

Coffee break 1100-1130
Coffee break 1530-1600

Agenda item 5. Specific issues (continuation)

- h) *Recommendations of the EcAp Coordination Group Meeting (24 April, 2013, Athens, Greece)*
- i) *Proposed ECAP GES and targets regarding EOs of the pollution and litter cluster (with initial analysis of the Secretariat on available data and possible baselines).*

Agenda item 8. Conclusions and recommendations

Agenda item 9. Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX II
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX III

Conclusions

MED POL Focal Points Meeting (Barcelona, 18 –21 June 2013)

The MED POL Focal Points Meeting was held in Barcelona (18–21 June 2013) at the kind invitation of the Government of Catalonia, Spain. The meeting was held in joint sessions with the CP/RAC Focal Points meeting on 18 June 2013 and the ECAP Correspondence group on pollution and litter cluster on 21 June 2013.

The meeting addressed all agenda items based on the working documents prepared and supported by a set of information documents. The MED POL Focal Points agreed on the following conclusions as presented below:

Agenda item 4. Report on the progress achieved regarding the implementation of the Programme of work and specific issues

c) Status of implementation of the 2012-2013 and 5 year programme of work

3. The meeting appreciated the work carried out by MED POL and CP/RAC and the progress achieved for implementing the programme of work (bi-annual and 5 years) taking into account the financial and human resources constraints faced during the biennium. It highlighted and appreciated in particular the well established cooperation and synergies among both components (MED POL and CP/RAC) to facilitate the implementation of the Protocols and Regional Plans by the Contracting Parties and encouraged both MAP components to keep it up in the future.

Agenda item 5. Specific Issues

a) Review of the draft Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management containing legally binding measures and timetables in the framework of Art. 15 of the LBS Protocol

1. The Meeting reviewed the draft Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the framework of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol submitted by the Meeting of Experts that was held on 17-18 May 2013 in Barcelona Spain. During the discussion of the draft Regional Plan, participants made comments and suggestions on a number of issues including:

- *the three Appendixes of the Regional plan to be removed and attached as Annexes to the draft decision that will be submitted to COP 18 regarding the adoption of the Regional Plan on the Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean.*
- *Assessment of cost of measures implementation should be given high priority and every effort should be made to submit an indication of costs to the MAP Focal Points meeting in September 2013 together with the draft regional plan for their consideration.*

2. The meeting agreed on a revised version of the Draft Regional Plan as presented in Annex I to this report and recommended its submission to the MAP Focal Points Meeting for their consideration and transmission to COP 18 for adoption.

d) *Status of the implementation of the LBS, Dumping and Hazardous Waste Protocols and the Regional Plans adopted in 2009 and 2013*

4. The meeting supported the analysis made by the Secretariat on the achievements and gaps with respect to submissions of reports on the implementation of the technical aspects of the three Protocols (LBS, Dumping and HW) based on Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention and Article 13 of the LBS Protocol. It highlighted the need to further work on improving the quality of reports and marine pollution monitoring data.

5. The meeting encouraged the Secretariat to further support the contracting parties in meeting their reporting obligations including those under the Regional plans. The meeting reviewed the proposed reporting elements for the implementation of the regional plan on mercury and encouraged further efforts to make it simpler and indicator based. It encouraged the Secretariat to enhance cooperation with the Stockholm convention in order to avoid both overlapping and double reporting related to the Regional plans on the POPs with the Stockholm convention and favour reporting through indicators

6. The meeting advised the Secretariat to follow up on the developments related to the global Convention on Mercury. The meeting agreed that the review of the Regional Plan by 2015 as provided for in its Article 4 could be an opportunity to consider its possible amendments in order to take on board as appropriate the global commitments.

7. The meeting generally reviewed the proposed guidelines developed by CP/RAC and MED POL in accordance with Article V of the Regional plan on mercury pointing out that further work is still required in order to consider its submission to the MAP Focal Points meeting in September 2013. Therefore it was agreed that the focal points should submit their inputs in writing to CP/RAC and MED POL by the end of the first week of July at the latest. The Secretariat is to send a revised version to the focal points by 20 July 2013 at the latest for their final clearance.

e) *Status of the implementation of SAP/NAP (Mid-term evaluation)*

8. The meeting acknowledged the effort made to bring this issue to their attention and prepare the preliminary drafts of the NAP county profiles and analysis of the SAP MED targets. However concern was raised on the need for updated and reliable data before drawing any conclusions because the analysis was based on 2003 and 2008 NB data and not checked together with the countries.

9. In this context the meeting agreed that the focal points should provide feedback as appropriate to the Secretariat by the end of the first week of July 2013 at the latest with the view to allow the Secretariat to revise the analysis made. Particular attention was drawn to the need to provide an in-depth analysis on the reasons behind any increase in pollution trends.

10. The meeting appreciated the work carried out by the UfM for the evaluation of the investment portfolio of the NAPs, as an important component of the NAP evaluation. They showed some concern on any potential overlapping and asked the Secretariat to enhance coordination so as to lessen the burden on countries when providing similar technical information to different interlocutors. To this end, there was a general agreement that the Secretariat would be responsible for the coordination, homogenization and centralization of the technical information to be provided and/or reviewed by countries in consultation with MED POL Focal Points.

f) Issue paper on implementing pollution assessment, control and prevention policies in coherence with the ecosystem approach

11. The meeting took note of the Issue Paper prepared by the Secretariat and the proposals made with the view to ensure coherence, and streamline the ECAP to the pollution reduction and prevention policies. It advised the Secretariat to keep the channel of communication with focal points open and establish an ongoing consultation process with the view to enable MED POL to further develop during the next biennium the strategic directions along the proposed lines of the Issue Paper in the framework of the preparation of the new 4/5 year MAP programme of work.

12. There was general agreement on the need to update the NAPs during the next biennium, taking also into account the fact that the EU Member states have the obligation to prepare by 2015 programmes of measures in compliance with the MSFD.

g) Mid-term Evaluation of MED POL activities under the MedPartnership project

13. The meeting took note of the recommendations made by the Mid-term Evaluation of the MedPartnership project and showed its appreciation of the work of the Parties involved and the project. It recommended that the extension or any revision of the project budgeted should not have implications on non-GEF allocations.

h) Draft Risk Assessment Framework for Carbon Sequestration in the Mediterranean

14. The meeting thanked Spain for the very good work carried out in preparing the draft framework assessment, and requested the revision of the draft in order to take into consideration the comments made by the focal points.

15. Pending the legal analysis to be provided by the Coordinating Unit, the meeting agreed in principle, to request on this basis the Secretariat to propose to the MAP Focal Points meeting in September 2013 to consider:

- a) the possibility of opening a process for the possible amendment of the Dumping Protocol during the next biennium, as it is done in other global and regional conventions; as well as
- b) the need to elaborate at the same time draft guidelines to guide such an activity in the Mediterranean.

16. The meeting appreciated the offers made by Israel and Spain to provide technical support and expertise in such work if approved by the MAP Focal Points and the COP. It was also suggested that during this process inter-relation of carbon sequestration with the Offshore Protocol is assessed.

i) Cooperation with global and regional partners and initiatives (GPA, H2020, UfM, EEA, EIB, SWIM, etc)

17. The meeting thanked all global and regional organizations and programmes namely UNEP/GPA, UfM, H2020, AIAE, EEA and PERSEUS for attending the MED POL Focal Points meeting to share information on their priorities and contribution to pollution reduction, monitoring and assessment at global and Mediterranean levels and acknowledged the work done.

18. The meeting appreciated the work of the GPA and the possibilities offered to benefit from the global partnerships established in this context on nutrient, sewage and marine litter as well as to participate in marine litter demonstration projects under the GPA programme of work. The MED POL Focal Points encouraged to benefit from funding opportunities offered to ensure a reinforced Mediterranean presence at the global conference on marine litter and nutrients to be held in October 2013 in Jamaica.

19. The MED POL Focal Points emphasized the need for strengthening data quality assurance in the laboratories of Parties, which are participating in marine pollution monitoring programmes. They underlined the importance of quality assured data and the need to continue and intensify activities relative to strengthening data quality assurance for hazardous substances and eutrophication parameters, through the organisation of Proficiency Tests, Training Courses and the development of Recommended methods for the analysis of contaminants in marine samples.

20. The MED POL Focal points requested the Secretariat to officially inform the MED POL Focal Points of the results and performance of national laboratories in the 2011/2012 Proficiency tests, with the view to further action to improve data quality.

21. On this occasion, the meeting also requested that the established MED POL practice to hold bi-annual meetings on monitoring as agreed in the programme of work should continue, and efforts should be made to hold it as soon as possible with the view to review in-depth issues related to the implementation of the MED POL Monitoring programme.

22. The meeting expressed interest in strengthening the ongoing cooperation and partnership with the EEA on issues of relevance to the MED POL programme of work. The work carried out jointly by the EEA and UNEP/MAP (MED POL and BP) on the SEIS project and H2020 progress evaluation was highly appreciated as a contribution to the implementation of the H2020 Ministerial Cairo Declaration 2006. The Secretariat was advised to put at the disposal the SEIS project the NB 2003 and 2008 data with regards to the list of substances agreed under indicators 5 and 6 of H2020 indicators, following a prior consultation with the MED POL Focal Points of the concerned countries (ENPI countries). Similarly, the meeting welcomed enhanced cooperation and continuous partnership with UfM Secretariat in the future especially regarding support to the implementation of projects with regional impacts.

23. Finally the meeting highlighted the need to enhance efforts and synergies with different regional programmes of relevance with the view to maximize results and ensure efficiency and requested MED POL to lead this coordination effort on issues related to the MED POL mandate and programme of work, and facilitate the involvement of MED POL Focal Points at country level.

Agenda item 6. Proposed Programme of work

24. The meeting reviewed the proposed programme of work 2013-2014 and appreciated the effort made by the Secretariat to propose an ambitious programme based on priorities taking also into account the current limited human resources of MED POL.

25. After the general information provided on potential external financial sources for the implementation of the proposed programme of work, the Focal Points suggested some changes and requested the Secretariat to highlight a number of key outputs based on criteria related to their contribution on supporting the Contracting Parties to comply with legally

binding obligations, implementing ECAP, ongoing and already taken commitments in the framework of different projects. The other activities will be implemented if funds are available.

26. The meeting revised the programme of work with emphasised priorities as presented in Annex II to this report and recommended to the Secretariat to submit it to the MAP FP for their approval. The meeting took note that the Programme of work was presented without budgetary background and therefore requested that necessary resources are made available to ensure the implementation of the activities listed.

Agenda item 5: Proposed GES and Targets for the ecological objectives of the pollution and litter cluster

27. The joint meeting of MED POL FP and ECAP Correspondence Group on pollution and marine litter cluster reviewed the draft GES and targets regarding the ecological objectives of the pollution and litter cluster.

During the discussion participants made the following key recommendations, next to some specific comments, which were included in the draft:

- Work shall continue on the scientific, expert level, taking into account sub-regional specifics of the Mediterranean region, with the aim to further quantify and develop fact sheets for each indicator;
- Future work should also include a feasibility segment by marine experts with the involvement of socio-economic experts.

28. The meeting recommended that while further work as described above is necessary in the next biennium, the proposed GES and targets as revised by the meeting and presented in Annex VI to this report and reported in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG 372/3 are submitted to the MAP Focal Points meeting for its consideration.

ANNEX IV

Draft Regional Plan on Marine litter Management in the framework fo Article 15 of the LBS Protocol

Article 1

Rationale for the Regional Plan

Marine litter may have significant implications for the marine and coastal environment at a global level. These impacts are environmental, economic, health and safety and cultural, rooted in our prevailing production and consumption patterns. The problem originates mostly from land-based activities and sea-based activities, as well as lack of governmental financial resources, general lack of understanding of the public's co-responsibility, and the optimisation of the application of legal enforcement systems could limit pollution,

The rationale for the preparation of this Regional Plan is to improve the quality of the marine and coastal environment in accordance with the provisions of the LBS Protocol and to achieve the goals set by the decisions of the 17th meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2012, Decision IG.20/4: "Implementing MAP ecosystem approach roadmap: Mediterranean Ecological and Operational Objectives, Indicators and Timetable for implementing the ecosystem approach roadmap" and Decision IG 20/10: 'Adoption of the Strategic Framework for Marine Litter management', at the considerable lower cost than with the no action scenario.

Article 2

Area and Scope of application

The area to which this Regional Plan applies is the area defined in Art. 3¹ of the LBS Protocol paragraphs (a), (c), and (d). The Regional Plan shall apply to discharges referred to in Article 4 (a)² of the LBS Protocol and any operational discharge from ships, platforms and other man-made structures at sea.

Article 3

Definition of terms

¹ Article 3 of the LBS Protocol: Protocol Area

The area to which this Protocol applies (hereinafter referred to as the "Protocol Area") shall be:

- (a) The Mediterranean Sea Area as defined in article 1 of the Convention;
- (c) Waters on the landward side of the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured and extending, in the case of watercourses, up to the freshwater limit;
- (d) Brackish waters, coastal salt waters including marshes and coastal lagoons, and ground waters communicating with the Mediterranean Sea.

² Article 4 of the LBS Protocol Application

1. This Protocol shall apply: (a) To discharges originating from land-based point and diffuse sources and activities within the territories of the Contracting Parties that may affect directly or indirectly the Mediterranean Sea Area. These discharges shall include those which reach the Mediterranean Area, as defined in article 3(a), (c) and (d) of this Protocol, through coastal disposals, rivers, outfalls, canals, or other watercourses, including ground water flow, or through run-off and disposal under the seabed with access from land;

For the purpose of this Regional Plan:

*Marine litter*³, regardless of the size, means any persistent, manufactured or processed solid material discarded, disposed of or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment.

Litter monitoring means repeated surveys of beaches, sea bed, water column, surface waters and biota to determine litter types and quantities in a representative manner such that information can be compared with baseline data to follow trends.

Barcelona Convention means the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, 1995 hereinafter referred to as the Barcelona Convention.

LBS Protocol means the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities, 1996, hereinafter referred to as the LBS Protocol.

Secretariat means the body referred to in Article 17 of the Barcelona Convention.

LBS National Action Plan means the national action plans containing measures and timetables for their implementation developed by the Contracting Parties in accordance with Article 5 of the LBS Protocol as endorsed by the 14th meeting of the CP with the view to implement the Strategic Action Programme (SAP-MED) to combat land-based sources in the Mediterranean adopted by the Contracting Parties in 1997.

Article 4

Objectives and principles

Objectives

The main objectives of the Regional Plan are to:

- (a) Prevent and reduce to the minimum marine litter pollution in the Mediterranean and its impact on ecosystem services, habitats, species in particular the endangered species, public health and safety;
- (b) Remove to the extent possible already existent marine litter by using environmentally respectful methods;
- (c) Enhance knowledge on marine litter; and
- (d) Achieve that the management of marine litter in the Mediterranean is performed in accordance with accepted international standards and approaches as well as those of relevant regional organizations and as appropriate in harmony with programmes and measures applied in other seas.

Principles

In implementing the Regional Plan, the Contracting Parties shall be guided by the following principles:

- (a) *Integration Principle* by virtue of which marine litter management shall be an integral part of the solid waste management and other relevant strategies;
- (b) *Prevention principle* by virtue of which any marine litter management measure should aim at addressing the prevention of marine litter generation at the source;

³ [This definition doesn't cover the chemical and radioactive contaminants as well as the discharges from military activities]

- (c) *Precautionary principle* by virtue of which where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation;
- (d) *Polluter-pays principle* by virtue of which the costs of pollution prevention, control and reduction measures are to be borne by the polluter, with due regard to the public interest;
- (e) *Ecosystem-based approach* by virtue of which the cumulative effects of marine litter on marine and coastal ecosystem services, habitats and species with other contaminants and substances that are present in the marine environment should be fully taken into account;
- (f) *The principle of public participation and stakeholder involvement*; and
- (g) *Sustainable Consumption and Production principle* by virtue of which current unsustainable patterns of consumption and production must be transformed to sustainable ones that decouple human development from environmental degradation.

Article 5

Preservation of rights

The provisions of this Regional Plan shall be without prejudice to stricter provisions respecting marine litter management measures contained in other existing or future national, regional or international instruments or programmes.

Part II – Measures and operational targets

Article 6

Coherence and integration of measures

The Contracting Parties shall make best effort that the measures provided for in Articles 7 to 10 are implemented, as specified in the respective articles, in a coherent manner to achieve good environmental status and relevant targets on marine litter. Various actors shall be involved in the development and implementation of agreed measures as provided for in the Article 17.

Article 7

Integration of marine litter measures into the LBS National Action Plans (LBS NAPs)

1. The Contracting Parties in accordance with Article 5 of the LBS Protocol shall elaborate and implement, individually or jointly, as appropriate, national and regional action plans and programmes, containing measures and time tables for their implementation. In doing so the Contracting Parties shall consider updating by the year 2015 the LBS NAPs to integrate marine litter in accordance with the provisions of this Regional Plan and other means to perform their obligations. To this aim, the expert working group shall update by 2014 the existing LBS National Action Plan guidelines.

2. The LBS National Action Plan shall include:

- (a) Development and implementation of appropriate policy, legal instruments and institutional arrangements, including adequate solid waste and sewer system management plans, which shall incorporate marine litter prevention and reduction measures;
- (b) Monitoring and assessment programmes for marine litter;
- (c) Measures to prevent and reduce marine litter;
- (d) Programmes of removal and environmentally sound disposal of existing marine litter according to the national legislation about management of this kind of waste; and
- (e) Awareness raising and education programmes.

Article 8

Legal and institutional aspects

1. For the purpose of implementing the Regional Plan, the Contracting Parties shall adopt as appropriate the necessary legislation and/or establish adequate institutional arrangements to ensure efficient marine litter reduction and the prevention of its generation.
2. To this aim the Contracting Parties shall endeavour to ensure:
 - (a) Institutional coordination, where necessary, among the relevant national policy bodies and relevant regional organisations and programmes, in order to promote integration; and
 - (b) Close coordination and collaboration between national regional and local authorities in the field of marine litter management.
3. The Contracting Parties shall give due consideration to the implementation of the relevant related provisions of the Protocols⁴ adopted in the framework of the Barcelona Convention affecting marine litter management to enhance efficiency, synergies and maximise the results.

Article 9

Prevention of marine litter

In conformity with the objectives and principles of the Regional Plan the Contracting Parties shall:

Land-based Sources

⁴ Specifically in the framework of the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea, 2002 (Port reception facilities); Protocol for the Prevention and Elimination of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft or Incineration at Sea, 1995 (waste dumping prohibition); Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, 1995 (Regional Plans to protect endangered species; establishment of SPA and SPAMIs); Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil, 1994 (prohibition of the disposal of garbage from offshore installations); and the Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, 1996.

1. 1. By the year 2025 at latest, to base urban solid waste management on reduction at source, applying the following waste hierarchy as a priority order in waste prevention and management legislation and policy: prevention, preparing for re-use, recycling, other recovery, e.g. energy recovery and environmentally sound disposal.
2. By the year 2019 implement adequate waste reducing/reusing/recycling measures in order to reduce the fraction of plastic packaging waste that goes to landfill or incineration without energy recovery.
3. By the year 2017 explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to:
 - (a) Extended Producer Responsibility strategy by making the producers, manufacturer brand owners and first importers responsible for the entire life-cycle of the product with measures prioritizing the hierarchy of waste management in order to encourage companies to design products with long durability for reuse, recycling and materials reduction in weight and toxicity;
 - (b) Sustainable Procurement Policies contributing to the promotion of the consumption of recycled plastic-made products;
 - (c) Establishment of voluntary agreements with retailers and supermarkets to set an objective of reduction of plastic bags consumption as well as selling dry food or cleaning products in bulk and refill special and reusable containers;
 - (d) Fiscal and economic instruments to promote the reduction of plastic bag consumption;
 - (e) Establishment of [mandatory] Deposits, Return and Restoration System for expandable polystyrene boxes in the fishing sector;
 - (f) Establishment of [mandatory] Deposits, Return and Restoration System for beverage packaging prioritizing when possible their recycling; and
 - (g) Establish procedures and manufacturing methodologies together with plastic industry, in order to minimize the decomposition characteristics of plastic, to reduce micro-plastic.
4. By the year 2020 [2025] take necessary measures to establish as appropriate adequate urban sewer, wastewater treatment plants, and waste management systems to prevent run-off and riverine inputs of litter.

Sea-based Sources

5. In accordance with Article 14 of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol explore and implement to the extent possible by 2017, ways and means to charge reasonable cost for the use of port reception facilities or when applicable, apply No-Special-Fee system. The Contracting Parties shall also take the necessary steps to provide ships using their ports with updated information relevant to the obligation arising from Annex V of MARPOL Convention⁵ and from their legislation applicable in the field.

⁵ International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships.

6. Explore and implement to the extent possible by the year 2017 the “Fishing for Litter” environmentally sound practices, in consultation with the competent international and regional organizations, to facilitate clean up of the floating litter and the seabed from marine litter caught incidentally and/or generated by fishing vessels in their regular activities including derelict fishing gears.
7. Explore and implement to the extent possible by the year 2017 “Gear marking to indicate ownership” concept and ‘reduced ghost catches through the use of environmental neutral upon degradation of nets, pots and traps concept’, in consultation with the competent international and regional organizations in the fishing sector.
8. Apply by the year 2020 the cost effective measures to prevent any marine littering from dredging activities taking into account the relevant guidelines adopted in the framework of Dumping Protocol of the Barcelona Convention.
9. The Contracting Parties shall take the necessary measures by the year 2020 to close to the extent possible the existing illegal dump sites on land [illegal landfills] in the area of the application of the Regional Plan.
10. The Contracting parties shall take enforcement measures to combat illegal dumping in accordance with national legislation including littering on the beach, illegal sewage disposal in the coastal zone and rivers in the area of the application of the Regional Plan.

Article 10

Removing existing marine litter and its environmentally sound disposal⁶

The Contracting Parties shall, where it is environmentally sound and cost effective, remove existing accumulated litter, subject to Environmental Impact Assessment procedure, in particular from specially protected areas and Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) and litter impacting endangered species listed in Annexes II and III of the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol. To this aim the Contracting Parties undertake to explore and implement to the extent possible the following measures by the year 2019:

- (a) Identify in collaboration with relevant stakeholders accumulations/hotspots of marine litter and implement national programmes on their regular removal and sound disposal;
- (b) Implement National Marine Litter Cleanup Campaigns on a regular basis;
- (c) Participate in International Coastal Cleanup Campaigns and Programmes;
- (d) Apply as appropriate Adopt-a-Beach or similar practices and enhance public participation role with regard to marine litter management;
- (e) Apply Fishing for Litter environmentally sound practices, in consultation with the competent international and regional organizations and in partnership with fishermen and ensure adequate collection, sorting, recycling and/or environmentally sound disposal of the fished litter; and

⁶For the implementation of the measures provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article, the Contracting Parties shall [may] take into account the elements presented in the information document “*Background information for some specific measures for management and monitoring of marine litter UNEP(DEPI) MED WG 379 Inf.3*”.

- (f) Charge reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable apply No-Special-Fee system, in consultation with competent international and regional organizations, when using port reception facilities for implementing the measures provided for in Article 10.

Part III – Assessment

Article 11

Assessment of marine litter in the Mediterranean

1. The Contracting Parties shall assess in the framework of ecosystem approach the state of marine litter, the impact of marine litter on the marine and coastal environment and human health as well as the socio-economic aspects of marine litter management based on coordinated and, if possible, common agreed methodologies, national monitoring programmes and surveys.
2. The Secretariat shall prepare the Assessment of marine litter in the Mediterranean every six years using results of the national monitoring programmes and applied measures with the view to address priority issues and major information and data gaps, using all other available relevant regional and international data and where appropriate responses by the Contracting Parties to specific marine litter related questionnaires prepared by the Secretariat.
3. The first Assessment of the state of marine litter in the Mediterranean based on the existing information shall be submitted to the meeting of the Contracting Parties two years after entry into force of the Regional Plan.

Article 12

Mediterranean Marine Litter Monitoring Programme

1. Based on ecosystem approach ecological objectives and integrated monitoring programme, and in synergy with the relevant international and regional guidelines and documents the Contracting Parties, on the basis of the proposals of the Secretariat shall:
 - (a) Prepare by the year [2014] [2015] the Regional Marine Litter Monitoring Programme, as part of the integrated regional monitoring programme;
 - (b) Establish in the year 2016 the Regional Data Bank on Marine Litter; and
 - (c) Establish by the year 2014 Expert Group on Regional Marine Litter Monitoring Programme, in the framework of the Ecosystem Approach implementation.
2. For the purpose of this Regional Plan and in compliance with the monitoring obligations under Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention and Article 8 of the LBS Protocol, the Contracting Parties shall design by the year 2017 National Monitoring Programme on Marine Litter.
3. The National Monitoring Programmes should take into account the need for harmonization and consistency with the integrated regional monitoring programme based on ecosystem approach and consistency with other regional seas.

4. To this aim, the Secretariat shall prepare, in collaboration with the relevant regional organisations, by the year 2014 the Guidelines for the preparation of the National Marine Litter Monitoring Programmes.

Part IV – Support to Implementation

Article 13

Research topics and scientific cooperation

The Contracting Parties agree to cooperate, with support from the Secretariat, with competent international and regional organizations and relevant scientific institutions, on marine litter issues that due to their complexity require further research.

Article 14

Specific guidelines

The Secretariat in cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations, shall prepare specific guidelines taking into account where appropriate existing guidelines, to support and facilitate the implementation of measures provided for in articles 9 and 10 of the Regional Plan. Subject to availability of external funds such guidelines shall be published in different Mediterranean region languages.

Article 15

Technical assistance

For the purpose of facilitating the implementation of the measures and monitoring obligations as provided for in Articles 7 to 10 and 12 of the Regional Plan, technical assistance, transfer of knowhow and technology shall be provided, including capacity building, by the Secretariat to the Contracting Parties in need of assistance.

Article 16

Enhancement of public awareness and education

1. Due to the nature of the marine litter management issue enhancement of public awareness and education is very important component of the marine litter management.
2. To this aim the Contracting Parties shall undertake, where appropriate in synergy with existing initiatives in the field of education for sustainable development and environment and partnership with civil society, public awareness and education activities, with adequate duration and follow up, with regard to marine litter management including activities related to prevention and promotion of sustainable consumption and production.

Article 17

Major groups and stakeholder participation

For the effective implementation of the Regional Plan, the Contracting Parties may encourage appropriate involvement of various stakeholders including local authorities, civil

society, private sector (producers, garbage collection and treatment companies, etc.) and other stakeholders as appropriate:

- (a) Regional, National and local authorities;
- (b) Maritime sector;
- (c) Tourism sector;
- (d) Fisheries and Aquaculture;
- (e) Industry; and
- (f) Civil society.

Article 18

Regional and international cooperation

1. For the purpose of facilitating the implementation of the Regional Plan the Secretariat shall establish institutional cooperation with various relevant regional and global institutions and initiatives.
2. The Contracting Parties shall cooperate directly or with the assistance of the Secretariat or the competent international and regional organizations to address trans-boundary marine litter cases.

Article 19

Reporting

1. In conformity with Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention and Article 13, paragraph 2(d), of the LBS Protocol the Contracting Parties shall report on a biennial basis on the implementation of this Regional Plan, in particular the implementation of the above measures, their effectiveness and difficulties encountered and data resulting from monitoring programme as provided for in Article 12 of this Regional Plan.
2. The Contracting Parties shall review biennially the status of implementation of the Regional Plan upon its entry into force, on the basis of the regional report prepared by the Secretariat.

Part V – Final Provisions

Article 20

Implementation timetable

The Contracting Parties shall implement this Regional Plan, in particular the above measures according to the timetables indicated in the respective Articles of the Regional Plan.

Article 21

Entry into force

The present Regional Plan will enter into force and become binding on the 180 day following the day of notification by the Secretariat in accordance with Article 15, paragraph 3 and 4 of the LBS Protocol.

Article 22

Enforcement of measures

The Contracting Parties shall take the necessary actions to enforce the measures in accordance with their national regulations.

ANNEX V

Work Plan with timetable for the implementation of relevant Articles of the Marine Litter Regional Plan

	Article	Task	Timetable	Lead Authority	Verification indicator	Cost⁷	Potential financial source
PART II - MEASURES AND OPERATIONAL TARGETS							
1.	Art. 7 - Integration of marine litter measures into the LBS National Action Plans (LBS NAPs)	Update the existing LBS National Action Plan guidelines	2014	MED POL, in consultation with regional and international organizations	Guidelines sent to Contracting Parties		Secretariat
2.		Update the existing LBS National Action Plans to integrate marine litter in accordance with the provisions of the Regional Plan	2015	Contracting Party, in consultation with MED POL	Updated LBS National Action Plan sent to the Secretariat		Contracting Party
3.		Development of reporting format	2014	MED POL, in consultation with regional and international organizations	Reporting format sent to countries		Secretariat
4.		National reports on the implementation of the Regional Plan	Every 2 years, together with the report for the implementation of the LBS Protocol	Contracting Party	Report sent to Secretariat		Contracting Party
5.		Art. 9 – Prevention of	To base urban solid waste management on reduction at source, applying the following waste	2025	Contracting Party, in cooperation with the CP/RAC and	Report sent to Secretariat	

⁷ Costs will be estimated at the later stage of the development of the Regional Plan since for number of activities inputs are needed from Contracting Parties.

	marine litter	hierarchy as a priority order in waste prevention and management legislation and policy: prevention, preparing for re-use, recycling, other recovery, e.g. energy recovery and environmentally sound disposal.		MED POL			
6.		Implement adequate waste reducing/reusing/ recycling measures in order to reduce the fraction of plastic packaging waste that goes to landfill or incineration without energy recovery.	2019	Contracting Party, in cooperation with CP/RAC	Report sent to Secretariat		Contracting Party
7.		Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to Extended Producer Responsibility strategy by making the producers, manufacturer brand owners and first importers responsible for the entire life-cycle of the product with measures prioritizing the hierarchy of waste management in order to encourage companies to design products with long durability for reuse, recycling and materials reduction in weight and toxicity	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with CP/RAC	Report sent to Secretariat		Contracting Party
8.		Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to Sustainable Procurement Policies contributing to the promotion of the consumption of recycled plastic-made products	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with CP/RAC	Report sent to Secretariat		Contracting Party
9.		Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to establishment of voluntary agreements with retailers and supermarkets to set an	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with CP/RAC	Report sent to Secretariat		Contracting Party

		objective of reduction of plastic bags consumption as well as selling dry food or cleaning products in bulk and refill special and reusable containers					
10		Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to fiscal and economic instruments to promote the reduction of plastic bag consumption	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with CP/RAC	Report sent to Secretariat		Contracting Party
11		Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to establishment of [mandatory] Deposits, Return and Restoration System for expandable polystyrene boxes in the fishing sector	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with CP/RAC	Report sent to Secretariat		Contracting Party
12		Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to establishment of [mandatory] Deposits, Return and Restoration System for beverage packaging prioritizing when possible their recycling	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with CP/RAC	Report sent to Secretariat		Contracting Party
13		Explore and implement to the extent possible prevention measures related to establishment of procedures and manufacturing methodologies together with plastic industry, in order to minimize the decomposition characteristics of plastic, to reduce microplastic	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with CP/RAC	Report sent to Secretariat		Contracting Party
14		Take necessary measures to establish as appropriate adequate urban sewer, wastewater treatment plants, and waste management systems to prevent run-off and riverine inputs of litter	2020 [2025]	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MED POL	Report sent to Secretariat		Contracting Party

15		In accordance with Article 14 of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol explore and implement to the extent possible ways and means to charge reasonable cost for the use of port reception facilities or when applicable, apply No-Special-Fee system and take the necessary steps to provide ships using their ports with updated information relevant to the obligation arising from Annex V of MARPOL Convention and from their legislation applicable in the field	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with REMPEC	Report sent to Secretariat		Contracting Party
16		Explore and implement to the extent possible the “Fishing for Litter” environmentally sound practices, in consultation with the competent international and regional organizations, to facilitate clean up of the floating litter and the seabed from marine litter caught incidentally and/or generated by fishing vessels in their regular activities including derelict fishing gears	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MED POL	Report sent to Secretariat		Contracting Party
17		Explore and implement to the extent possible “Gear marking to indicate ownership” concept and “reduced ghost catches through the use of environmentally neutral upon degradation of nets, pots and traps concept”, in consultation with the competent international and regional organizations in the fishing sector	2017	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MED POL	Report sent to Secretariat		Contracting Party
18		Apply the cost effective measures to prevent any marine littering from dredging activities taking into	2020	Contracting Party, in cooperation with	Report sent to Secretariat		Contracting Party

		account the relevant guidelines adopted in the framework of Dumping Protocol of the Barcelona Convention		MED POL			
19		Take the necessary measures to close to the extent possible the existing illegal dump sites on land [illegal landfills] in the area of the application of the Regional Plan	2020	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MED POL	Report sent to Secretariat		Contracting Party
20		Take enforcement measures to combat illegal dumping in accordance with national legislation including littering on the beach, illegal sewage disposal in the coastal zone and rivers in the area of the application of the Regional Plan		Contracting Party, in cooperation with MED POL	Report sent to Secretariat		Contracting Party
21	Art. 10 – Removing existing marine litter and its environmentally sound disposal	Where it is environmentally sound and cost effective, remove existing accumulated litter, subject to EIA procedure, in particular from specially protected areas and Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) and litter impacting endangered species listed in Annexes II and III of the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol	2019	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MED POL and SPA/RAC	Report sent to Secretariat		Contracting Party
22		Explore and implement to the extent possible the identification in collaboration with relevant stakeholders accumulations / hotspots of marine litter and implementation of national programmes on their regular removal and sound disposal	2019	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MED POL	Report sent to Secretariat		Contracting Party
23		Explore and implement to the extent possible the implementation of the	2019	Contracting Party, in cooperation with	Report sent to Secretariat		Contracting Party

		National Marine Litter Cleanup Campaigns on a regular basis		MED POL			
24		Explore and implement to the extent possible the participation in International Coastal Cleanup Campaigns and Programmes	2019	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MED POL	Report sent to Secretariat		Contracting Party
25		Explore and implement to the extent possible the application as appropriate Adopt-a-Beach or similar practices and enhance public participation role with regard to marine litter management	2019	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MED POL	Report sent to Secretariat		Contracting Party
26		Explore and implement to the extent possible the application of the Fishing for Litter practices, in consultation with the competent international and regional organizations and in partnership with fishermen and ensure adequate collection, sorting and/or environmentally sound disposal of the fished litter	2019	Contracting Party, in cooperation with MED POL	Report sent to Secretariat		Contracting Party
27		Explore and implement to the extent possible charging reasonable costs for the use of port reception facilities or, when applicable application of No-Special-Fee system, in consultation with competent international and regional organizations when using port reception facilities for implementing the measures provided for in Article 10.	2019	Contracting Party, in cooperation with REMPEC	Report sent to Secretariat		Contracting Party
PART III – ASSESSMENT							
28	Art. 11 – Assessment of marine litter in	Assessment of marine litter in the Mediterranean	Every six years, first report 2 years after	MED POL	Report issued		Secretariat

	the Mediterranean		entry into force of the Regional Plan				
29	Art. 12 – Mediterranean Marine Litter Monitoring Programme	Establishment of an Expert Group on Regional Marine Litter Monitoring Programme	2014	MED POL	Expert Group established		Secretariat
30		Guidelines for the preparation of the National Marine Litter Monitoring Programmes, in collaboration with the relevant international and regional organizations	2014	MED POL, in consultation with regional and international organizations	Guidelines prepared		Secretariat
31		Preparation of the Regional Marine Litter Monitoring Programme, as part of the integrated regional monitoring programme	2014 [2015]	MED POL, in consultation with regional and international organizations	Regional Marine Litter Monitoring Programme prepared		Secretariat
32		For the purpose of the Regional Plan and in compliance with the monitoring obligations under Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention and Article 8 of the LBS Protocol design National Monitoring Programme on Marine Litter	2017	Contracting Party, in consultation with MED POL	Implementation started		Contracting Party
33		Report, in accordance with Article 13 of the LBS Protocol, on the implementation of the National Marine Litter Monitoring Programme	Biennially	Contracting Party	Report sent to the Secretariat		Contracting Party
34		Establishment of the Regional Data Bank on Marine Litter	2016	MED POL, in consultation with regional and international organizations	Data Bank established		Secretariat
PART IV - SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENTATION							
35	Art. 13 – Research topics and	Assistance for scientific cooperation	As appropriate	MED POL, CP/RAC, REMPEC,	Assistance provided		Secretariat

	scientific cooperation			SPA/RAC, in consultation with regional and international organizations			
36	Art. 14 – Specific guidelines	Preparation of specific guidelines for measures listed in Articles 9 and 10 of the Regional Plan	2015 – 2017	MED POL, CP/RAC, REMPEC, SPA/RAC, in consultation with regional and international organizations	Guidelines published		Secretariat
37	Art. 15 - Technical assistance	Technical assistance, including capacity building provided	As appropriate	MED POL, CP/RAC, REMPEC, SPA/RAC, in consultation with regional and international organizations	Report sent to Secretariat		Secretariat
38	Art. 16 – Enhancement of public awareness and education	Undertaking, where appropriate in synergy with existing initiatives in the field of education for sustainable development and in partnership with civil society, public awareness and education activities with adequate duration and follow up, with regard to marine litter management including activities related to prevention and promotion of sustainable consumption and production	As appropriate	Contracting Party, in consultation with MED POL	Report sent to Secretariat		Contracting Party
39	Art. 17 – Major groups and stakeholder participation	Ensure appropriate involvement of various stakeholders including local authorities, civil society, private sector and other stakeholders as	As appropriate	Contracting Party, in consultation with MED POL	Report sent to Secretariat		Contracting Party

		appropriate to implement the measures provided for in the Regional Plan and other measures					
40	Art. 18 – Regional and international cooperation	Establishment of institutional cooperation with various relevant regional and global institutions and initiatives	As appropriate	MED POL in cooperation with , CP/RAC, REMPEC AND SPA/RAC	Report on the implementation of the Regional Plan		Secretariat
41		Direct cooperation of Contracting Parties, with assistance of the MED POL or competent international and regional organizations, to address trans-boundary marine litter cases	As appropriate	Contracting Parties with assistance of the MED POL	Report sent to Secretariat		Contracting Parties
42	Art. 19 – Reporting	National biennial reports on the implementation of the Regional Plan	Biennially	Contracting Party, in consultation with MED POL	Report issued		Contracting Party
43		Regional report on the implementation of the Regional Plan	Biennially	MED POL, CP/RAC, REMPEC, SPA/RAC, in consultation with regional and international organizations	Report issued		Secretariat
44		Review the status of the implementation of the Regional Plan	Biennially	MED POL, CP/RAC, REMPEC, SPA/RAC, in consultation with regional and international organizations	Report issued		Secretariat

ANNEX VI

Potential research topics

Development and implementation of assessment and monitoring, as well as implementation of measures in the framework of this Regional Plan shall require scientific cooperation among parties involved. Due to complexity of marine litter management there are quite a number of topics that require further research. In the list below are presented some of the potential research topics:

SOURCES, DISTRIBUTION AND COMPOSITION

- Identification (size, type, possible impact) and evaluation of accumulation areas (closed bays, gyres, canyons, and specific deep sea zones) and sources of litter, including maritime transport (how, why and by whom litter is disposed of from shipping and the types of ships involved), industrial, agricultural and urban activities, rivers and diffuse inputs. Develop GIS and mapping systems to locate these.
- Evaluation of the quantity and localization of lost fishing gears.

DEGRADATION

- Evaluation of rates of degradation of different types of litter (plastics, degradable materials, bio plastics, etc.) and related leachability of pollutants.
- Support research on new materials (total degradation in the environment).

MICROLITTER

- Identification of main sources (industrial pellets and personal hygiene products related micro litter particles).
- Define harm for micro litter to establish potential physical and chemical impacts on wildlife, marine living resources and the food chain.
- Define adequate indicators for the Mediterranean to assess the micro litter problem and its effects

MODELLING

- Development of comprehensive modelling tools for the evaluation and identification of sources and fate of litter in the marine environment (including the identification of the accumulation areas and/or impacted by accidental inputs, and estimating residence time).

IMPACTS/EFFECTS

- Effects (lethal or sub lethal) under different environmental conditions of entanglement in particular threatened and protected species.
- Understanding how litter ingested by marine organisms, in particular threatened and protected species, affects their physiological condition and chemical burdens, reduce survival and reproductive performance and ultimately affect their populations or communities.
- Evaluation of the potential loss of fish stocks due to abandoned / lost fishing gears.
- Development of impact indicators (aesthetic impact, effects on fauna, flora and human health).
- Evaluation of the risk for transportation of invasive species.

COSTS

- Evaluation of direct costs and loss of income to tourism and fishery (incomes and stock losses, including protected/endangered species).

- Evaluation of costs due to clogging of rivers, coastal power plant cooling systems and/or wastewater purification systems.
- Effectiveness of market based instruments related to marine litter.
- Development of common methodologies to evaluate the costs of removal (collection and elimination of marine litter).

EDUCATION / SENSIBILISATION

- Evaluate the effectiveness of programs of education and sensibilisation on beach cleanliness.

MONITORING

- Support the rationalisation of monitoring (common and comparable monitoring approaches, standards/baselines, inter-calibration, data management system and analysis / quality insurance).
- Develop an ecological Quality Objective (ECOQ) for ingestion of litter in indicator species suitable for monitoring (sea turtles).
- Facilitate the harmonization of monitoring protocols for Baltic Sea, Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and NE Atlantic.
- Develop monitoring and prevention systems for massive and accidental inputs of litter in the marine environment.

SOCIAL

- Development of common methodologies to collect social and economic data.
- Assessment of socially acceptable levels of marine litter to the public and industry.
- Development of an indicator for the aesthetic impact of litter.

MEASURES

- Develop tools to assess the effectiveness of measures intended to reduce the amount of marine litter.
- Identification of accumulation areas of importance.
- Ranking of the ports to be equipped in priority with port reception facilities taking into consideration the Mediterranean maritime traffic.
- Share the collection and elimination of trans-boundary marine litter, including the intervention in case of critical situation.

LAW/ INSTITUTIONNAL

- Compare and harmonize national Mediterranean systems (jurisdictional measures and institutional structures) with other conventions to support management schemes dedicated to marine litter.

ANNEX VII

Elements for National Biennial Reports

The Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean is requesting Contracting Parties to report biennially on:

- *Implementation of the measures; and*
- *Implementation of the National Marine Litter Monitoring Programme.*

Report on the Implementation of the measures

The Secretariat shall prepare by the end of 2014 Guidelines on the structure, content and reporting of the National Action Plan on Marine Litter, as well as a set of indicators. Main elements of national reports shall be:

- *Policy, legal instruments and institutional arrangements including the National Action Plan;*
- *National and local measures to prevent and reduce generation of marine litter;*
- *Programmes of removal and disposal of existing marine litter;*
- *National marine litter monitoring programmes (summary report);*
- *Enhancement of public awareness and education;*
- *Stakeholder participation;*
- *Assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation of the measures; and*
- *Difficulties in the implementation of measures encountered.*

Report on the Implementation of the National Marine Litter Monitoring Programme

The Secretariat shall prepare by the end of 2014 Guidelines for the preparation of the National Marine Litter Monitoring Programme. Main elements of national reports shall be:

- Structure and content of the monitoring programme;
- Survey and monitoring locations, stations, parameters, indicators, frequency, etc.;
- Responsible institution and participating institutions;
- Beach litter assessment results;
- Benthic litter assessment results;
- Floating litter assessment results;
- Effectiveness in the implementation of the National Marine Litter Monitoring Programme; and
- Difficulties in the implementation of the National Monitoring Programme.