



**UNITED
NATIONS**

EP

UNEP (DEPI)/MED CC.13/7



**UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

18 August 2017
Original: English

13th Meeting of the Compliance Committee of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

Athens, Greece, 26-27 September 2017

Agenda item 4: Evaluation of National Implementation Reports following Section IV of the Procedures and Mechanisms of Compliance

Synthesis Analysis of the Information Provided in the National Implementation Reports Submitted by Contracting Parties for the Biennium 2014-2015

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Note by the Secretariat

Introduction

1. According to Section IV, paragraph 31 of the Procedures and Mechanisms on Compliance under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the role of the Compliance Committee shall be to consider:

- (a) specific situations of actual or potential non-compliance by individual Parties with the provisions of the Convention and its Protocols;
- (b) at the request of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties, general compliance issues, such as recurrent non-compliance problems, including in relation to reporting, taking into account the reports referred to in Article 26 of the Convention and any other report submitted by the Parties; and
- (c) any other issues as requested by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

2. Under Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention, Contracting Parties are obliged to report on:

- (a) the legal, administrative or other measures taken by them for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, the Protocols and of the recommendations adopted by the meetings of Contracting Parties;
- (b) the effectiveness of the measures referred to in the paragraph above and problems encountered in the implementation of those measures.

3. Within this legal framework for action, national implementation reports are submitted every two years using the reporting format adopted to that end by COP15 Decision IG. 17/3.

4. The Secretariat has prepared the attached synthesis analysis of the information submitted by Contracting Parties in their national implementation reports for the biennium 2014-2015, in complying with their obligation under Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention and related articles of its Protocols.

5. The synthesis analysis has been prepared on the basis of the information contained in the thirteen national implementation reports submitted by Contracting Parties via the online Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS) and other means corresponding to the biennium 2014-2015 as at 17 August 2017. It provides a factual and comprehensive summary of the information submitted per country and legal instrument. The synthesis analysis itself is purely factual, focuses on the legal and policy implementation aspects and describes what has been reported.

Action requested

6. The Compliance Committee is invited to examine the information contained in the attached synthesis analysis and agree upon the relevant recommendations to put forward to COP20.

Synthesis Analysis of the Information Provided in the National Implementation Reports Submitted by Contracting Parties for the Biennium 2014-2015

1. The summary below is organized per each reporting country by legal instrument and relevant thematic parts for compliance assessment purposes, as structured in the Format for the Implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, adopted by COP15 Decision IG. 17/3. There is variation on the content of the summaries as information submitted vary between reporting countries, ranging from general to detailed descriptions.

Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention)

Introduction

2. Part IV Legal Measures. Part IV seeks to determine whether Contracting Parties have established the legal framework to: (1) implement the precautionary principle and the polluter paid principle (Article 4.3.a and b); (2) notification exchange in case of transboundary EIA (Article 4.3.c); (3) promote Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) (Article 4.3.e); (5) monitor the pollution of the marine environment and its coastal areas (Article 12), and (6) ensure public information and participation (Article 15).

3. Part V Policy Measures. Part V seeks to determine whether policy measures have been put in place addressing: (1) domestic strategies for sustainable development, (2) regional strategies adopted in the framework of MAP, (3) Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and physical planning and (4) economic instruments.

Reporting countries

Country: ALBANIA

1976 Barcelona Convention	Ratification: 30.05.90 (Accession)
1995 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 26.07.01

4. Part IV Legal Measures. Domestic legislation (Law on Environment Protection, Law on Environmental Impact Assessment) is reported to be in place to comply with the requirements under Articles 4, (General Obligations), 12 (Monitoring) and 15 (Public Information and Participation) of the Barcelona Convention. As regards the promotion of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) work is in process.

5. Part V Policy Measures. The protection of the marine environment and its coastal areas is reported to be part of the domestic strategy for sustainable development as well as the protection and conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity. No measures reported to integrate the protection of the marine environment from LBS into the domestic strategy for sustainable development or to promote economic instruments to protect the marine environment. Work is underway as regards the use of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) when developing the physical plan of the coastal zone.

Country: ALGERIA

1976 Barcelona Convention	Ratification: 16.02.81 (Accession)
1995 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 09.06.04

6. Part IV Legal Measures. Domestic legislation is reported to be in place: (1) to implement the precautionary principle and the polluter paid principle, (2) to carry out the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as required, (3) to promote Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), and (4) to monitor the pollution of the marine environment and its coastal areas. On public information and participation, this section has been left blank.

7. Part V Policy Measures. The protection of the marine environment and its coastal areas is reported to be part of the domestic strategy for sustainable development. Otherwise, sections of this Part have been left blank.

Country: BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

1976 Barcelona Convention	Ratification: 22.10.94 (Succession)
1995 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: Not yet

8. Part IV Legal Measures. Domestic legislation is reported to be in place to implement Articles 4, (General Obligations), 12 (Monitoring) and 15 (Public Information and Participation) of the Barcelona Convention, exception made of: (1) promotion of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), (2) public access to information related to activities carried out and/or measures taken to implement the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and (3) public participation in the process of authorization of proposed activities likely to cause damage to the marine environment and its coastal areas.

9. Part V Policy Measures. The protection of the marine environment and its coastal areas is reported to be part of the Water Management Strategy, which is part of the Environmental Protection Strategy. The Environmental Protection Fund Law the economic instrument used to promote the protection of the marine environment. Otherwise, no action reported having taken under this Part.

Country: CROATIA

1976 Barcelona Convention	Ratification: 12.06.92 (Succession)
1995 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 03.05.99

10. Part IV Legal Measures. Detailed account is given of the domestic legislation in place to implement Articles 4, (General Obligations), 12 (Monitoring) and 15 (Public Information and Participation) of the Barcelona Convention. In detail: (1) the precautionary and the polluter paid principles are the heart of the Environmental Protection Act, which is the core legal instrument on environmental protection and basis for all the sectoral legislation (e.g. Air Protection Act, Waste Act, Nature Protection Act, Water Act) that regulates the specific issues of the environmental protection, (2) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Assessment Regulations are in place, (3) a Marine and Coastal Management Strategy has been adopted, encompassing policies of marine environment protection (Marine Strategy Framework Directive-MSFD) as well as integrated management of sea and coastal area (Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol), (4) different monitoring programmes are in place, including the UNEP/MAP MED POL Programme for the Assessment and Control of Pollution in the Mediterranean Region, and (4) public participation is regulated by the Regulation on information and participation of the public and public concerned in environmental matters.

11. Part V Policy Measures. It is reported as follows: (1) the protection of the marine environment and its coastal areas is part of the Croatian Strategy for Sustainable Development, (2) the protection of the marine environment from LBS is part of the Croatian Strategy for Sustainable Development. There

are also other strategic documents that include measures related to LBS sources of pollution. Such include Marine and Coastal Management Strategy (under development) and the Water Management Strategy, (3) the protection and conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity is part of the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity and (4) some of the acts that proscribe the establishment of economic instruments include: Water Act, Water Management Financing Act on Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund.

Country: CYPRUS

1976 Barcelona Convention	Ratification: 19.11.79
1995 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 18.07.03

12. Part IV Legal Measures. Work is reported to be ongoing as regards the application of the precautionary principle and the notification and consultation process among parties concerned in case a transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is conducted. The sections on public access to public access to information related to activities carried out and/or measures taken to implement the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and public participation in the process of authorization of proposed activities likely to cause damage to the marine environment and its coastal areas have been left blank. Otherwise, domestic legislation is reported to be in place to implement the requirements under Articles 4, 12 and 15 of the Barcelona Convention.

13. Part V Policy Measures. Work is reported to be underway as regards the use of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) when developing the physical plan of the coastal zone. Otherwise, all policy measures under this Part are reported to be in place.

Country: GREECE

1976 Barcelona Convention	Ratification: 03.01.79
1995 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 10.03.03

14. Part IV Legal Measures. Domestic legislation is reported to be in place to implement Articles 4, (General Obligations), 12 (Monitoring) and 15 (Public Information and Participation) of the Barcelona Convention. Greece notes the enshrinement and recognition of the precautionary principle by the Greek Constitution and the initiative “Open Governance”, under which citizens are informed on legislative initiative and participate in public consultation.

15. Part V Policy Measures. The protection of the marine environment and its coastal areas, including protection from LBS, as well as the protection and conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity is reported having been integrated into the general and specific framework(s) for spatial planning and sustainable development. In addition, Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) is used when developing the physical plan of the coastal zone and economic instrument are used to promote the protection of the marine environment, such as the Programme of Development Interventions for the Real Economy.

Country: ISRAEL

1976 Barcelona Convention	Ratification: 03.03.78
1995 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 29.09.05

16. Part IV Legal Measures. National legislation is reported to be in place to implement the requirements under Articles 4, 12 and 15 of the Barcelona Convention, encompassing a broad variety of environmental laws, regulations and policies. Exception is made of the application of the notification and consultation process among parties concerned in case a transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is conducted. Under these circumstances, Israel relies on relations with neighboring countries. Of particular relevance is the framework in place to ensure public participation and information, regulated among others by the Freedom of Information Law, implying the *inter alia* the distribution to draft laws for consultation among the relevant NGOs and stakeholders in the legislative process.

17. Part V Policy Measures. All policy measures are reported to be in place. In detail: (1) the promotion of marine environment and coastal protection as part of a sustainable development strategy has been taken forward through different legal and policy frameworks (e.g. Protection of the Coastal Environmental Law, and National Outline Plan for the Mediterranean); (2) marine and coastal biodiversity is taken into consideration in planning processes and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) prepared for infrastructure installations, (3) the ICZM methodology is in practice concerning the coastal and marine zones, the Protection of the Coastal Environmental Law being of particular relevance in this area, and (4) the Marine Pollution Prevention Fund is the economic instrument used to promote the protection of the marine environment.

Country: ITALY

1976 Barcelona Convention	Ratification: 03.02.79
1995 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 07.09.99

18. Part IV Legal Measures. Domestic legislation is reported to be in place to implement Articles 4, (General Obligations), 12 (Monitoring) and 15 (Public Information and Participation) of the Barcelona Convention. Legislation in place includes regulations transposing the Aarhus Convention, on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, which is the key instrument to implement Article 15 of the Barcelona Convention. The section on whether the notification and consultation process among parties concerned in case a transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is applied, has been left blank.

19. Part V Policy Measures. The question on whether economic instruments are used to promote the protection of the marine environment is left blank. Otherwise, all policy measures are reported to be in place.

Country: LEBANON

1976 Barcelona Convention	Ratification: 08.11.77 (Accession)
1995 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 22.04.09

20. Part IV Legal Measures. National legislation is reported to be in place to implement the requirements under Articles 4, 12 and 15 of the Barcelona Convention, with the exception of the application of the notification and consultation process among parties concerned in case a transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is conducted, which Lebanon states is not applicable.

21. Part V Policy Measures. Work is reported to be ongoing as regard the use of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) when developing the physical plan of the coastal zone. Otherwise, all policy measures are reported to be in place.

Country: MALTA

1976 Barcelona Convention	Ratification: 30.12.77
1995 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 28.10.99

22. Part IV Legal Measures. Domestic legislation is reported to be in place: (1) to implement the precautionary principle and the polluter paid principle, (2) to carry out the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as required, (3) to promote Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), (4) to monitor the pollution of the marine environment and its coastal areas, and (5) to ensure public information and participation, which is specifically regulated by the Freedom of Access to Information on the Environment.

23. Part V Policy Measures. All policy measures are reported to be in place. In detail: (1) the promotion of marine environment and coastal protection has been integrated into Malta's National Sustainable Development Strategy, (2) marine and coastal protection from LBS, is also integrated into Malta's National Sustainable Development Strategy, as well as, more specifically into the Water Catchment Management Plan under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Programme of Measures under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), (3) marine and coastal biodiversity conservation is part of Malta's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, (4) Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) has been taken on board in the Strategic Plan for Environment and Development, and (5) various economic instruments are in place, including an indirect tax on plastic bags.

Country: MONTENEGRO

1976 Barcelona Convention	Ratification: 19.11.07
1995 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 19.11.07

24. Part IV Legal Measures. Detailed account is given of the domestic legislation reported to be in place to comply with the requirements under Articles 4, (General Obligations), 12 (Monitoring) and 15 (Public Information and Participation) of the Barcelona Convention. Of particular relevance are: (1) the Law on the Environment, which regulates the application of the precautionary and the polluter paid principles. This is complemented by relevant policies and strategic documents such as the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, the Environmental Protection Policy and the Water Management Policy, (2) the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment, (3) the Law ratifying the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol and the National Strategy for Integrated Coastal Zone Management, and (4) the Law ratifying the Aarhus Convention, on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.

25. Part V Policy Measures. No economic instruments for the specified purpose of promoting the protection of the marine environment have been adopted, although developments are expected in that regard with the further development of national legislation (e.g. Law on Eco Fund). Otherwise, all policy measures are reported to be in place, with the integration of the marine environment and coastal protection, including protection from LBS, and the marine and coastal biodiversity conservation into *inter alia* the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, the National Action Plan for reduction of the pollution from land based sources and the National Strategy for Biodiversity.

Country: MOROCCO

1976 Barcelona Convention	Ratification: 15.01.80
1995 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 07.12.04

26. Part IV Legal Measures. Morocco explains in detail the domestic legislation reported to be in place to (1) to implement the precautionary principle and the polluter paid principle, (2) to carry out the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as required, (3) to promote Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), (4) to monitor the pollution of the marine environment and its coastal areas and (5) to ensure public information and participation. The Framework Law on Environment and Sustainable Development is at the core of the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, together *inter alia* with the Law on Coast, the Law on Water and the Decrees on Environmental Impact Assessment. No action reported having been taken to apply the notification and consultation process among parties concerned in case a transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is conducted.

27. Part V Policy Measures. All policy measures are reported to be in place and comprehensive account is given of the legal and policy framework in place to integrate the protection of the marine environment, including protection from LBS, and the conservation of the marine and coastal biodiversity into the relevant frameworks, the National Chart of Environment and Development being the cornerstone of the system, together with sectoral instruments regulating for instance fauna, flora, habitats, water and wastes. Economic instruments are reported to be in place for the protection of the marine environment, in particular under wastes regulations, e.g. ecotaxes.

Country: TURKEY

1976 Barcelona Convention	Ratification: 06.04.81
1995 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 18.09.02

28. Part IV Legal Measures. Work is reported to be underway as regards notification exchange in case of transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), promotion of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and public participation in decision making. Otherwise, the legal framework is claimed to be in place to comply with the requirements under under Articles 4, (General Obligations), 12 (Monitoring) and 15 (Public Information and Participation) of the Barcelona Convention. Concerning monitoring, Turkey highlights that the National Monitoring Programme falls within the framework of MEDPOL Phase IV.

29. Part V Policy Measures. Work is reported to be ongoing to integrate marine environment and coastal protection form LBS into the relevant strategic documents, with the Turkish National Action Plan on LBS under revision. Work is also ongoing to develop an Strategy and Action Plan on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). Otherwise, no policy measures are reported having taken, with the exception of integrating the conservation of the marine and coastal biodiversity into the relevant framework.

EUROPEAN UNION

1976 Barcelona Convention	Ratification: 16.03.78 (Approval)
1995 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 12.11.99

30. EU *acquis* is reported to respond to requirements laid down in the Barcelona Convention.

Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol)

Introduction

31. Part I Legal Measures. Part I seeks to determine whether Contracting Parties have established the legal framework for the protection and conservation of Specially Protected Areas (SPAs), including Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) and those endangered or threatened species of flora and fauna listed in Annexes II and III to the Protocol.

32. Part II Specially Protected Areas (SPAs). Part II seeks to collect information on the list of SPAs designated and the measures adopted for their management, including the development and adoption of a management plan for each SPA, which incorporates the elements listed in Article 7 of the Protocol.

33. Part III Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs). Part III seeks to gather information on the list of SPAMIs designated and the measures adopted for their management, including the development and implementation of a management plan for each SPAMI which includes regulation of dumping and releases of wastes likely to impair the integrity of the SPAMI, monitoring programmes, introduction and reintroduction of species, and activities carried out in the buffer zone.

34. Part IV Protection and Conservation of Species. Part IV seeks to gather information on the protection measures adopted by Contracting Parties to protect those endangered or threatened species listed in the Annexes to the Protocol.

35. Part V Conservation of the Components of Marine and Coastal Diversity. Part V seeks to test whether Contracting Parties have inventoried the components of marine and coastal biodiversity and formulated a national strategy and action plan to protect the components of marine and coastal biodiversity, as requested in Article 3 of the Protocol.

36. Part VI Enforcement Measures. Part VI seeks to collect information on enforcement in order to verify compliance with the Protocol.

37. Part VII Implementation of Regional Action Plans (RAPs). Part VII seeks to collect information on measures put in place for the implementation of biodiversity RAPs adopted by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties, i.e. RAPs on cartilaginous fish, non-indigenous species, bird species, cetaceans, marine vegetation, monk seal and marine turtles.

Reporting countries

Country: ALBANIA

1982 SPA Protocol	Ratification: 30.05.90 (Accession)
1995 SPA and BD Protocol	Ratification: 26.07.01

38. Part I Legal Measures. Through its laws on protected areas (Law No. 8906 of 6 June 2002, as amended in 2008), biodiversity protection (Law No. 9587 of 20 July 2006, as amended in 2014) and wild fauna protection (Law No. 10006 of 23 October 2008), Albania reports to having put in place the framework required under the SPA/BD Protocol to protect areas of particular natural or cultural value by the establishment of SPAs and those endangered or threatened species listed in Annexes II and III to the Protocol.

39. These laws are reported to regulate a number of activities likely to have an impact on SPAs and/or species, as required in Article 6 of the Protocol. These activities are: dumping, passage of ships, offshore exploration and exploitation, taking of species and scientific research. In addition, SPAs are reported to be subject to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and a Red List of Albanian flora

and fauna species was approved in 2007, the list being currently under review. Financial resources, technical capabilities and administrative management are listed as challenges faced in implementing the Protocol.

40. Part II Specially Protected Areas (SPAs). SPAs established within the Protocol's geographical area are listed. The list encompasses four SPAs, established in 1994, 2002, 2005 and 2010. For two out of four, the development of management plans is reported to be ongoing. In more detail, it is reported that planning and management activities address scientific monitoring programmes tracking changes in the state of SPAs; that local communities are involved in the management of SPAs; and that SPAs are managed as a whole, covering both land and marine areas.

41. Within the framework of Law No. 9587 of 20 July 2006 on Biodiversity Protection, as amended in 2014, work is reported to be ongoing concerning the provision of assistance to local inhabitants who might be affected by the establishment of SPAs and the establishment of funding mechanisms for managing and promoting SPAs. Work is also reported to be underway regarding the provision of training for the SPAs technical managers in the frame of donors projects and the incorporation into the National Contingency Plan (NCP) of measures for responding to pollution incidents in SPAs. Reported to be in place: programmes for scientific monitoring, measures for the involvement of local communities in the management of SPAs and institutional arrangements for managing SPAs as a whole. Financial resources and technical capabilities are the key challenges faced when managing SPAs.

42. Part III Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs). Section reported to be non- applicable to Albania.

43. Part IV Protection and Conservation of Species. The 2007 Red List of Albanian fauna and flora species is in the process of updating. Bilateral and multilateral agreements are reported to be in place to protect the population of migrant species under the Protocol's area (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals -CMS Convention). In addition, measures are reported to having been adopted concerning ex situ reproduction of protected fauna and flora (Law No. 9587 of 20 July 2006 on Biodiversity Protection). Exceptions to the prohibition prescribed for the protection of the species listed in the Annexes to the Protocol are reported to having been granted only for those cases the Protocol establishes (Law No. 9587 of 20 July 2006 on Biodiversity Protection). Steps are reported to having been taken to deal with the deliberate or accidental introduction of non-indigenous or genetically modified species (Law on Environment Protection of June 2011).

44. Part V Conservation of the Components of Marine and Coastal Diversity. Work is reported to be ongoing to finalize the inventory of the components of marine and coastal biodiversity and the associated national strategy and action plan is in place thanks to GEF-UNDP project on improving coverage of MPAs. The limited availability of financial resources is the main barrier to advance in this area, together with administrative management, technical capabilities and public participation.

45. Part VI Enforcement Measures. Albania reports that no data is available.

46. Part VII Implementation of Regional Action Plans (RAPs). Albania reports on the following:

- (a) Cartilaginous fish: Chondrichthyans are included in the 2007 Red List of Albanian fauna and flora species. Work is in motion regarding fishing and awareness raising activities, through targeted information materials. No action has been taken for the development of programmes of scientific research or the adoption of specific programmes in the context of IPOA-Sharks;
- (b) Non-indigenous species: Legislation is in place to control the introduction of marine species, but no action plan to that end has been adopted. Work is underway to assess the situation regarding the introduction of marine species, monitor and control ballast water discharges into territorial waters and develop training and awareness raising programmes;
- (c) Bird species: Legal protection to bird species has been granted (Law No. 10006, of 23 October 2008 on Wild and Fauna Protection), protected areas for the conservation of bird species listed in the Annex to the Protocol have been established (RAMSAR site designated), and an action

plan has been adopted targeting one species included in the Annexes to the Protocol. Work is in progress on the development of programmes of research;

- (d) Cetaceans: Action plan for the conservation of cetaceans has been developed with the support of ACCOBAMS, and a MPA has been established to protect cetaceans (MAP Karaburun-Sazan National Park). Work is underway as to the development of programmes of research on cetaceans. No network for monitoring cetaceans strandings has been established yet;
- (e) Marine vegetation: All RAP requirements are reported to be met, with the exception of the establishment of an action plan for the conservation of marine vegetation, the drafting of which is reported to be under development;
- (f) Monk Seal: Protection status to the monk seal granted by including it in the 2007 Red List of Albanian fauna and flora species, fishing techniques which can endanger monk seals prohibited by law; awareness raising programmes in place and an action plan for the monk sea and its potential habitats developed. Work is underway for data collection on the monk seal in cooperation with ACCOBAMS. No action has been taken to isolate breeding monk seals from human activities or inventory breeding caves;
- (g) Marine Turtles: Protection status to marine turtles granted by Law No. 10006, of 23 October 2008 on Wild and Fauna Protection. In addition, marine turtles are protected through the establishment of SPAs (Nature Reserve), their nesting beaches inventoried (joint activity with IKBY from Greece), tagging programmes in place (3 turtles have been tagged under a GEF SGP Project), awareness raising programmes developed and an action plan has been adopted in cooperation with MEDASSET. Work is underway to implement measures to reduce incidental catch in marine turtles and create centers to rescue marine turtles.

47. Key challenges reported in implementing the Regional Actions Plans range from financial resources, to technical capabilities, to public participation and administrative management.

Country: ALGERIA

1982 SPA Protocol	Ratification: 16.05.85 (Accession)
1995 SPA and BD Protocol	Ratification: 14.03.2007

48. Part I Legal Measures. Legislation is reported to be in place for the protection of areas of particular natural or cultural value, notably by the establishment of SPAs and the protection of endangered or threatened species of flora and fauna listed in Annexes II and III to the SPA/BD Protocol. Key challenges reported are regulatory framework, financial resources, administrative management and technical capabilities.

49. The legal framework in place encompasses both Laws and Decrees of general (Law No. 2002-02 of 5/02/2002 relative to the Protection and Valorization of Coastal Areas) and sectoral (Law 11-02 of 17/02/2011 relative to Protected Areas in the Context of Sustainable Development, Executive Decree No. 12-235 of 24/05/2012 establishing the List of Protected Non-domesticated Animal Species, Executive Decree No. 12-03 of 04/01/2012 establishing the List of Flora Species) nature.

50. The relevant provisions of these legal instruments are reported to establish a number of protection measures for SPAs as per Article 6 of the SPA/BD Protocol, under which parties are obliged to take protection measures to regulate the following activities in SPAs: dumping, passage and anchoring of ships, offshore exploration and exploitation, taking of species and scientific research. Concerning the management and protection of flora and fauna species, particularly those listed in the Annexes to the SPA/BD Protocol, the legal instruments above-mentioned are reported to provide the required protection as per the SPA/BD Protocol. This includes the taking into consideration in the decision planning process the environmental impact of projects and activities on protected areas, species and their habitats.

51. Part II Specially Protected Areas (SPAs). Three SPAs are reported to having been established in 2016 (Réghaia et L'île, Mazafran and Zemmouri), and the three of them have a management plan adopted. On the management of SPAs, measures are reported to having been adopted to: (1) ensure the involvement of local communities in the process of managing protected areas, (2) deliver the appropriate training for managers and staff of SPAs, (3) incorporate into the National Contingency Plan specific actions to respond to incidents in SPAs. Work is reported to be ongoing as to the development of programmes for the observation and scientific monitoring of changes in protected areas, the establishment of funding mechanisms for managing and promoting SPAs and the setup of institutional arrangements for the management as a whole of each SPA.
52. Part III Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs). It is reported that SPAMIs have been set up and that an implementation plan for each has been developed and implemented.
53. Part IV Protection and Conservation of Species. This Part has been left blank.
54. Part V Conservation of the Components of Marine and Coastal Diversity. The establishment of an inventory of the components of marine and coastal biodiversity is reported to having been done, through the thematic reports on the coastal and marine biodiversity prepared within the framework of the Biodiversity National Strategy. The protection of the components of marine and coastal biodiversity is reported to having been taken through the National Strategy on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, adopted in 2015, and the Biodiversity National Strategy and its Plan of Action adopted in 2016.
55. Part VI Enforcement Measures. This Part has been left blank.
56. Part VII Implementation of Regional Action Plans (RAPs). Algeria reports on the following.
- (a) Cartilaginous fish: This Part has been left blank.
 - (b) Non-indigenous species: Work is reported to be ongoing to adopt legislation controlling the introduction of marine species, to have an assessment of the situation regarding the introduction of marine species and to establish an action plan to control the introduction of non-native marine species. Sections on whether there is a mechanism to monitor and control ballast water discharges into territorial waters and whether training and awareness raising programmes have been developed, have been left blank,
 - (c) Bird species: Legal protection to bird species is reported to having been granted by the Executive Decree No. 12-235 of 24/05/2012 establishing the List of Protected Non-domesticated Animal Species. Programmes of research of one or several species of birds listed in the Annexes to the SPA/BD Protocol are reported to having been conducted by the Universities in collaboration with the management bodies of the protected areas. An action plan targeting one or several species included in the Annexes to the SPA/BD Protocol is reported to be in place for the pink flamingo. No protected areas are reported to having been established for the conservation of bird species listed in the Annexes to the SPA/BD Protocol,
 - (d) Cetaceans: This Part has been left blank.
 - (e) Marine Vegetation: (1) Protection status for vegetation species and formations that are significant to the marine environment, particularly meadows is reported to having been accorded by the Executive Decree No. 12-03 of 04/01/2012 establishing the List of Flora Species, (2) EIA regulations are reported to take into consideration impacts of planned human activities on meadows and other plant formations, (3) studies of scientific research aimed at identifying and mapping marine vegetation formations are reported to having been conducted, through Universities and Research Centres, and (4) awareness and education actions are reported to have been developed. Work is reported to be in progress concerning the development of programmes for mapping. No SPAs are reported to having been established for the protection of the most representative meadows and other plant formations. On the development of training programmes and an action plan for the conservation of marine vegetation, these sections are left blank,

- (f) Monk Seal: Protection status to the monk seal is reported to having been granted and fishing techniques which can endanger monk seals are reported to be prohibited. Work is reported to be ongoing as to the development of an action plan for the monk seal. Neither a list of breeding caves important for monk seals nor data collection on monk seals are reported to be in place. Sections regarding measures to isolate breeding monk seals from human activities, establishment of SPAs to protect monk seals and development of awareness raising programmes have been left blank,
- (g) Marine Turtles: It is reported that marine turtles are protected by law. Otherwise, remaining sections have been left blank.

Country: BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

1982 SPA Protocol	Ratification: 22.10.94 (Succession)
1995 SPA and BD Protocol	Ratification: Not yet

57. Part I Legal Measures. Under nature protection laws, Bosnia and Herzegovina reports to protect areas of natural or cultural value, by notably the establishment of SPAs, and endangered or threatened species of flora and fauna as required by the SPA/BD Protocol.
58. The relevant provisions of these laws are reported to establish a number of protection measures for SPAs as per Article 6 of the Protocol. In particular, under the regime governing hazardous wastes, the dumping of wastes or other matter is prohibited in SPAs. Scientific research in SPAs is regulated, with research projects in SPAs assessed for the purpose of approval by the competent ministries to make sure that they will not have a negative impact on SPAs. All activities involving disturbing, tracking or killing wild fauna are prohibited, as well as the relocation, damage or destruction of their breeding sites or habitats. No regulation is reported to be in place concerning the passage of boats through SPAs or the development of offshore activities in SPAs.
59. On the management and protection of flora and fauna, particularly those listed in Annexes II and III to the Protocol, Bosnia and Herzegovina refers in its report to the Red List for Plant and Animals Species adopted in 2014 by law. It is also made reference to the nature protection laws which include articles defining EIA.
60. Part II Specially Protected Areas (SPAs). Two SPAs (Hutovo Blato and Blidinje) have been established within the Protocol's geographical area but management plans have not been developed yet. However, a set of measures has been adopted for the management of those SPAs.
61. In detail, under nature protection laws, measures are reported having been adopted to provide assistance to local communities affected by the establishment of SPAs, by defining ownership and compensation issues in SPAs. Measures have been also put in place to set up funding mechanisms for managing and protecting SPAs, through e.g. ticket sale and tourist boat routes. Measures are further reported having been adopted to provide training for the managers and staff of the SPAs and managing SPAs in a holistic way, by covering both the land and marine areas. Neither scientific monitoring programmes tracking changes in the state of SPAs nor SPAs focused oriented measures in National Contingency Plans (NCP) are reported to be in place. Work is reported to be ongoing to involve local communities in the management of SPAs.
62. Part III Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs). No SPAMIs reported to have been established.
63. Part IV Protection and Conservation of Species. Bosnia and Herzegovina refers in its report to the Red List for Plant and Animals Species adopted in 2014 by nature protection laws. Within the framework of these laws, exceptions are reported to be granted in accordance with Article 12.6 of the Protocol, under which parties may grant exceptions to the prohibitions prescribed for the protection of the species listed in the Annexes to the Protocol for scientific, educational or management purposes.

Furthermore, specific provisions address the deliberate or intentional introduction of non-native or genetically modified species into the wild. Only the Federal Ministry of Environment can approve the introduction of new species of fauna or flora into the wild. No cooperation agreements have been adopted to protect the population of migrant species under the Protocol's area and measures concerning ex situ reproduction of protected fauna and flora are not in place.

64. Part V Conservation of the Components of Marine and Coastal Diversity. No inventory of the components of marine and coastal biodiversity is reported to having been compiled. No national strategy or action plan to protect the components of marine and coastal biodiversity is reported to having been formulated.
65. Part VI Enforcement Measures. Bosnia and Herzegovina reports that no data is available.
66. Part VII Implementation of Regional Action Plans (RAPs). Bosnia and Herzegovina reports on the following.
- (a) Cartilaginous fish: It is reported to be non- applicable,
 - (b) Non-indigenous species: No measures are reported to having been adopted to implement this regional action plan,
 - (c) Bird species: Legal protection to bird species has been granted, through nature protection laws, and protected areas for the conservation of bird species listed in the Annexes to the Protocol have been established (Natural Park Hutovo Blato). No action is reported to having been taken neither as to the development of programmes of research nor an action plan targeting one or several species included in the Annexes to the Protocol,
 - (d) Cetaceans: It is reported to be non- applicable,
 - (e) Marine vegetation: No measures are reported to having been adopted to implement this regional action plan,
 - (f) Monk Seal: It is reported to be non- applicable,
 - (g) Marine Turtles: It is reported to be non- applicable.

Country: CROATIA

1982 SPA Protocol	Ratification: 12.06.92 (Succession)
1995 SPA and BD Protocol	Ratification: 12.04.02

67. Part I Legal Measures. Detailed account is given of the legal framework in place to protect areas of particular natural or cultural value, notably by the establishment of SPAs, and endangered or threatened species of flora and fauna as required in Article 3 of the SPA/BD Protocol.

68. By the Nature Protection Act (OG 80/2013), marine and coastal areas of particular natural and cultural value are protected by nine protected area management categories ranging from national park to special reserve to nature monument. The management of protected areas is carried out through management plans, which are implemented by the annual programs for the protection, conservation, use and promotion of the protected area, in accordance with the spatial planning documents and other sectoral plans for natural resources management. This adds to the Ordinance on the Protection and Preservation and the Decision on the Protection, Conservation, Improvement and Use of the Protected Area. The protected area system in Croatia by 2015 covers 12.0% of the land and 1.98% of the territorial sea.

69. In addition, in 2013 Croatia set up the Ecological Network Natura 2000, which covers 15.42% of the (coastal sea) territorial and internal marine waters and 36.73 % of land territory. To ensure an effective management for this network, Croatia has secured funding in the national Operational Programme Cohesion and Competiveness for the period 2014-2020.

70. The protection measures adopted in SPAs to regulate the activities listed in Article 6 of the SPA/BD Protocol, i.e. dumping, passage of ships, offshore exploration and exploitation, taking of species and scientific research, are summarized as follows.

71. Concerning dumping, the existing legislative and administrative measures regarding dumping also apply to SPAs. Under the Maritime Code and the Act of Maritime Domain and Seas Ports, a permitting system is established whereby a permit from the responsible authorities for the protection of the environment and construction is required to dispose on the coast or into the sea the allowed materials. Otherwise, it is prohibited to throw, discard or discharge into the sea and on the coast solid, liquid and gaseous substances that pollute marine property, the sea, air or coast. Furthermore, provisions of the Act on Confirmation of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity in the Mediterranean are related to the prohibition of the dumping or discharge of wastes and other substances likely directly or indirectly to impair the integrity of the special protected area.

72. As regards the passage and anchoring of ships in SPAs, existing legislation and administrative measures regarding the sailing of ships also apply to SPAs. Locations for anchoring in SPAs are reported to be subject to permit and regulated by the spatial plan of areas with special features. In addition, work is reported to be ongoing for the adoption, as secondary legislation acts (ordinances), of programmes for the protection and conservation of those SPAs in the category of national or nature park, under which provisions on the navigation regime through these areas will be developed.

73. The development of offshore activities in SPAs is mainly regulated by the Nature Protection Act (OG 80/2013), whereby the regime governing natural resources management varies depending on the protected area management categories. In detail, in national parks the commercial use of natural resources is prohibited. In nature parks, only those commercial activities that do not jeopardize the main characteristics and values of the protected area are permitted. In special nature reserves, activities which could impair the characteristics owing to which the reserves were designated as such are not permitted. In addition, the programmes on governance and management of natural resources in mining, and other industries affecting nature are part of the SPAs spatial planning documents.

74. Scientific research in SPAs is reported to be regulated by the Nature Protection Act (OG 80/2013), under which scientific research is subject to a permit from the Ministry, containing nature protection requirements, the period of its validity and the obligation to report of the results of the research, if of interest for nature protection.

75. The taking of species which originate in SPAs is reported to be comprehensively regulated in the Nature Protection Act (OG 80/2013), which establishes an extensive list of prohibitions, particularly affecting strictly protected species in the wild in their natural range. In detail, under the Nature Protection Act, and concerning strictly protected species in the wild, all forms of deliberate capture or killing, deliberate disturbance, deliberate destruction or taking of eggs, deliberate destruction of, or damage to, or removal of their evolution forms, nests or broods and deterioration or destruction of breeding sites or resting places are prohibited. Also, the keeping, transport, sale or exchange, and offering for sale or exchange of live or dead specimens taken from the wild. As for the permitted extraction of wild species from nature and their use, special regulations in the sphere of hunting, freshwater and marine fisheries, as well as the provisions of individual management plans, ensure the sustainability of such use.

76. Regarding the protection and management of flora and fauna species, particularly those listed in Annexes II and III to the Protocol, the Nature Protection Act (OG 80/2013) together with the Ordinance on Strictly Protected Species (OG No. 144/2013), are reported to provide the framework for the protection of priority species. This framework is complemented by management plans with elaborated conservation measures. Work in this area is currently further developed within the national Operational Programme for Competitiveness and Cohesion (OPCC) for the period 2014-2020, under which one of the objectives is to achieve comprehensive management planning to cover all priority species including preparation of new management plans and their implementation.

77. The impact of projects and activities in SPAs is reported to be addressed by different pieces of legislation, the Ordinance on the Impact Assessment for the Ecological Network (OG no. 146/2014) being of particular importance. The Ecological Network Impact Assessment (ENIA) assesses whether there is likelihood that the implementation of a plan, program or project independently or together with other plans, programs or projects, might have a significant impact on conservation objectives and on the coherence of the territory of the ecological network.

78. Part II Specially Protected Areas (SPAs). The lists of SPAs established for the period ranging from 1974 to 2006 is provided. The list consists of Natura 2000 areas and eight protected areas. Only the Nature Park of Telascica, established in 1988 and the National Park of Kornati, established in 1980, have management plans developed and implemented. Work is reported to be ongoing to develop the outstanding management plans. To this end, funding has been secured through the national Operational Programme for Competitiveness and Cohesion (OPCC) for the period 2014-2020.

79. On the management of SPAs, regarding the development of monitoring programmes to track the status of SPAs, under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), Croatia has developed a systematic monitoring and observing programme for the marine environment, which includes the monitoring of parameters related to biodiversity descriptors. In addition to, work is reported to be ongoing to expand the current national monitoring programme for 75 species and three habitats types of importance for the EU to the species and habitats of the entire territory of Croatia.

80. The involvement of local communities in the process of management areas is reported to be taken forward in the management planning process for SPAs through organized workshops. In addition, through the Ecological Network Impact Assessment (ENIA) procedure, the public is informed at different stages and their participation envisaged during the public consultation phase.

81. As regards the assistance to local inhabitants who may be affected by establishment of SPAs, the Nature Protection Act (OG 80/2013) provides for compensation if due to proclamation of protected areas and new restrictions opportunities for earning income are significantly impaired. Furthermore, in designating protected areas, one of the elements that informs the expert evaluation is the consequences ensuing from the adoption of an act of designation, especially with regard to property rights and business activities.

82. Funding mechanisms for managing and promoting SPAs, range from state budget to ticket sales to tourism activities in SPAs. Through the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund, additional funding is also available for projects, programs and similar activities related to conservation, sustainable use, protection and improvement of the environment and nature.

83. As to the provision of training to SPAs managers and staff, education programs for staff of public institutions for protected areas management are reported to having been developed and implemented and there are regular programmes for education and specialisation of supervisory (ranger) service.

84. The incorporation into national contingency plans of measures responding to incidents in SPAs is reported to having been taken forward in the Croatian Contingency Plan for Accidental Marine Pollution and its Implementation Plan, under which protected natural resources are specially taken into consideration when planning and implementing response measures. This is particularly the case for the protected sea areas listed in the Implementation Plan. In those areas the use of dispersants is prohibited. Protected areas in Croatia are managed by public institutions.

85. Part III Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs). Croatia reports that is working on setting up effective management framework before considered proposals for SPAMI List.

86. Part IV Protection and Conservation of Species. The Ordinance on Strictly Protected Species (OG No. 144/13) contains the list of strictly protected taxa. In addition, through the EU Natura 2000 Integration Project, a systematic inventory of biological diversity of those taxonomic groups with the gap in knowledge of their distribution and insufficient data available will be developed. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation to protect and restore the population of migrant species is reported to taking

place within the framework of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention) and associated agreements as well as the MOU on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia.

87. A comprehensive legal framework consisting of domestic and EU legislation is reported to be in place dealing with the deliberate or accidental introduction into the wild of non-native or genetically modified species. This includes the Act on Genetically Modified Organisms, the Ordinance of the Risk Assessment of the Deliberate Release of Genetically Modified Organisms into the Environment (OG No. 136/06), and the Ordinance on the Content and Method of Implementing the Plan of Measures for Removing the Uncontrolled Spread of Genetically Modified Organisms into the Environment (OG No. 05/07). A new Act preventing the introduction and spread of alien and invasive alien species is reported to be in the process of adoption. No measures reported having been adopted on ex-situ reproduction. No exceptions granted under Article 12.6 of the SPA/BD Protocol.

88. Part V Conservation of the Components of Marine and Coastal Diversity. Work is reported to be in process to fill the gap in knowledge on distribution of listed species through the national Operational Programme for Competitiveness and Cohesion (OPCC) for the period 2014-2020. The protection of the components of marine and coastal biodiversity is reported to be addressed by Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity of the Republic of Croatia (OG No.143/08). In addition, background documents for developing action plans for protection cartilaginous fish and red coral (*Corallium rubrum*) have been finalized. Neither ex-situ reproduction measures adopted nor exemptions under Article 12.6 of the SPA/BD Protocol granted.

89. Part VI Enforcement Measures. Data is given as regards the enforcement of Article 6.g of the Protocol on protective measures in SPAs. On that regard, a total of 50 inspections are reported, which led to the detection of 4 non-compliance cases and 4 fines issued. As to the enforcement of Article 11.3 on the protection and conservation of species of fauna, the number of inspections reported is 74, which led to 9 non-compliance cases and 1.500 fines issued. Legal proceedings are under way for Article 6.g and Article 11.3. As to the enforcement of Article 11.5 on the protection and conservation of species of flora, this section has been left blank.

90. Part VII Implementation of Regional Action Plans (RAPs). Croatia reports on the following.

- (a) Cartilaginous fish: Among the 53 chondrichthyan species that are recorded for the Adriatic Sea, 23 of them are strictly protected through the Ordinance on Strictly Protected Species (OG No. 144/13). In addition, within the National Stranding Network for Strictly Protected Marine Species (marine mammals, marine turtles and chondrichthyans), information materials on chondrichthyans have been prepared and distributed among fishermen and the general public. The scientific background document for the development of an action plan for the protection of chondrichthyans has been finalized. Work is needed to train specialists, fisheries technicians and managers in the study and conservation of chondrichthyans. There is also a need for further capacity building in the inspection sector and supervision services in each SPA. Croatia does not have targeted shark fishing. Main challenges in implementing this plan are policy and regulatory framework, financial resources and administrative management,
- (b) Non-indigenous species: Legislation to control the introduction of marine species is in place, encompassing: the Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity of the Republic of Croatia (OG No. 143/08), the Nature Protection Act (OG No.80/13) and the Ordinance on the method of preparing and implementing risk assessment studies with respect to introduction, reintroduction and breeding of wild taxa (OG No.35/08). The assessment of the pressure of non-indigenous species was part of Croatia's Initial Assessment of the State and Pressures of the Marine Environment in the Croatian Part of the Adriatic, under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). In addition, in the same framework of MSFD implementation, Croatia adopted a Monitoring System for the Assessment of the Status of the Adriatic Sea, and invasive alien species are one of the descriptors that should be monitored. The monitoring and control of ballast water discharged

into territorial waters is taken forward through the Ordinance on management and surveillance of ballast water (OG No. 128/12). Training and awareness raising programmes in this field is part of a number of non-indigenous species related projects, such as GLOBALLAST, and part of the awareness raising activities undertaken by the Croatian Agency for the Environment and Nature (CAEN). No action plan to control the introduction of non-native marine species is in place, though a draft Strategy for Ballast Water Management in Croatia has been prepared. Main challenges faced in implementing this regional action plan are financial resources and technical capabilities,

- (c) Bird Species: All Regional Action Plan requirements are met, exception made of the development of an action plan for one or several species listed in the Annexes to the SPA/BD Protocol. In detail: (1) legal protection to bird species has been provided (Ordinance on Strictly Protected Species (OG No. 144/2013) and Ordinance on the conservation objectives and main measures for conservation of birds in the area of the ecological network (OG No. 15/14)), (2) protected areas have been established to conserve bird species listed in the Annexes to the SPA/BD Protocol according to the Nature Protection Act (OG 80/2013), and (3) programmes of research have been undertaken on a number of species listed in the Annexes to the Protocol. The challenges faced in implementing this Regional Action Plan are: financial resources, technical capabilities, and administrative management,
- (d) Cetaceans: Under the Net CET Project (Network for the Conservation of Cetaceans and Sea Turtles in the Adriatic) a Regional (Adriatic) Strategy for Conservation of Cetaceans has been developed. Also in the scope of this project, a draft national action plan has been prepared, which is expected to be adopted within the upcoming period. Several institutions through different projects are conducting scientific research on cetaceans. A long established scientific research programme is the programme conducted by the Blue World Institute of Marine Research and Conservation (BWI) in the scope of the Adriatic Dolphin Project (ADP). This is the longest study on the resident community of bottlenose dolphins in the Mediterranean Sea and in the Adriatic. The systematic monitoring of cetaceans at national level has not been established and implemented yet. However, inventorying activities have been conducted which can serve as basis for future national monitoring programmes within the framework of the EU Habitats Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). On the specific monitoring of stranding cetaceans, in the frame of the National Alerting and Monitoring System for Captured, Dead, Injured and Sick Animals of Strictly Protected Species, a National Stranding Network has been set up, operating 24/7. The data collected through this network is kept by the Croatian Agency for the Environment and Nature (CAEN) in a central database. Protected areas have been created to protect bottlenose dolphins. They enjoy strict protection within the territory of the protected areas according to the Nature Protection Act (OG 80/2013) and there are six Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) for their protection. Challenges faced in implementing this Regional Action Plan are financial resources and technical capabilities,
- (e) Marine Vegetation: All Regional Action Plans requirements are met, i.e. (1) protection status for vegetation species and formations that significant to the marine environment, particularly meadows accorded by different pieces of legislation, (2) EIA regulations take into consideration impacts of planned human activities on meadows; (3) since the formal designation of Natura 2000 network in Croatia, according to available data all of the known representative meadows are within Natura 2000 sites. This adds to the protection already granted through the establishment of MPAs under the Nature Protection Act (OG 80/2013); (4) further mapping of *Posidonia oceanica* planned under the marine seabed habitat mapping project (OPCC 2014-2020), (5) awareness and education actions developed. For example, educational tables highlighting the importance of *Posidonia oceanica* within the project COAST have been prepared, (6) training programmes and workshops are in place for biologist and divers, and (7) the action plan for the conservation of marine vegetation is part of

the national Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity. On challenges reported, these mainly refer to financial resources and technical capabilities;

- (f) **Monk Seal:** Mediterranean monk seal is regionally extinct species in Croatia but due to occasional sightings of individuals in the Croatian part of the Adriatic, it was proclaimed as strictly protected species by the Ordinance on Strictly Protected species (OG No. 144/13). Since it is a strictly protected species, and one of the most vulnerable mammal species in the Mediterranean, the Croatian Agency for the Environment and Nature (CAEN) has prepared a code of conduct and activities designed to protect and improve the Mediterranean monk seal population in the Croatian Adriatic. There is no resident or breeding population of monk seals in Croatia, but research of the appropriate marine caves has been done in the process of preparation of Natura 2000 protected sites. Awareness raising and education campaigns have been developed as part of the national Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity. No specific plan for the protection of the monk seal in place,
- (g) **Marine Turtles:** (1) Marine turtles are protected by law (Ordinance on Strictly Protected Species (OG No. 144/13) and Regulation on Ecological Network (OG No. 124/13, 105/15), (2) work is ongoing to establish measures to reduce its incidental catch under the Operational Programme for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, (3) there are two rescue centers for marine turtles in Croatia in the frame of the Net CET Project (Network for the Conservation of Cetaceans and Sea Turtles in the Adriatic), (4) within the same project, rescued turtles are equipped with GPS/depth/temperature satellite tags, (5) programmes for awareness raising (workshops, sea turtle release events, sea turtle day, meetings with fishermen etc.) are conducted by various bodies under different programmes, and (6) under the Net CET Project (Network for the Conservation of Cetaceans and Sea Turtles in the Adriatic) a Regional (Adriatic) Strategy for Conservation of Cetaceans has been developed. Also in the scope of this project, a draft national action plan has been prepared. On challenges reported, these are policy framework and financial resources.

Country: CYPRUS

1982 SPA Protocol	Ratification: 28.06.88 (Accession)
1995 SPA and BD Protocol	Ratification: 18.07.03

91. **Part I Legal Measures.** It is reported that a legal framework is in place to protect areas of particular natural or cultural value, notably by the establishment of SPAs, and endangered or threatened species of flora and fauna as required in Article 3 of the SPA/BD Protocol. On SPAs, it is reported that the established legal regime regulates those activities likely to have an impact on SPAs and/or species (i.e. dumping, passage of ships, offshore exploration and exploitation, taking of species and scientific research), as required in Article 6 of the Protocol. This is particularly strict in the Lara/Toxeftra Turtle Reserve. On the protection and management of flora and fauna species, particularly those listed in the Annexes to the SPA/BD Protocol, it is reported to be ensured by the domestic legislation transposing the relevant EU Directives.

92. **Part II Specially Protected Areas (SPAs).** The list of SPAs within the Protocol's geographical coverage is provided, encompassing a total of eight SPAs established within the period ranging from 1989 to 2011. Six of these SPAs have been included in the Nature 2000 Network. Management plans have been developed in three SPAs (Lara/Toxeftra Turtle Reserve, Larnaca Salt Lake Complex and Cape Creco), though only in two SPAs (Lara/Toxeftra turtle reserve and Larnaca Salt Lake Complex) have been implemented. For the third SPA (Cape Creco), the management plan is expected to be

implemented by 2017. Work is reported to be ongoing for the development of management plans in three SPAs.

93. On the management of SPAs, in the protected areas of Lara/Toxeftra Turtle Reserve and Polis/Limni/Yialia, monitoring programmes for turtles, Posidonia meadows and Monachus monachus are reported to having been implemented. Training for manager and staff of SPAs is reported to be provided through the SPA/RAC training courses. Measures are reported to having been incorporated into the Oil Contingency Plan to deal with incidents in SPAs. Depending on the site, institutional arrangement are reported to be in place for the management as a whole of each SPAs. Work is reported to be in progress as to the provision of assistance to locals who may be affected by the establishment of SPAs. No measures are reported to having been adopted for the involvement of local communities in the process of managing protected areas or as regards the availability of funding mechanisms for managing and promoting SPAs.

94. Part III Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs). The Lara/Toxeftra Turtle Reserve is in the SPAMI List since 2013. The management plan was implemented in 1989.

95. Part IV Protection and Conservation of Species. Work is reported to be on going as to the establishment of a list of endangered or threatened flora and fauna species. No more information is reported, with the remaining sections of this Part left blank.

96. Part V Conservation of the Components of Marine and Coastal Diversity. Work is reported to be in progress as to the compilation of an inventory of the components of marine and coastal diversity and the formulation of a national strategy and action plan to protect the components of marine and coastal biodiversity. In that regard, monitoring and programmes of measures are developed under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

97. Part VI Enforcement Measures: This Part has been left blank.

98. Part VII Implementation of Regional Action Plans (RAPs). Cyprus reports on the following:

- (a) Cartilaginous fish: It is reported that chondrichthyans have been granted legal protection according to EU Regulations concerning fishing as well as relevant recommendations from the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Specific programmes in the context of IPOA-Sharks are reported to having been developed in the framework of the European Community Action Plan for the Conservation and Management of Sharks. Fishing steps are reported to having been taken. Awareness raising material is reported to having been developed. On the establishment of programmes of scientific research on chondrichthyans, work is reported to be ongoing, with the collection of statistical and biological data under the EU Data Collection Framework. Work is also reported to be in process as regards the development of training programmes for specialists,
- (b) Non-indigenous species: Legislation to control the introduction of marine species is reported to having been adopted. It is also reported that there is an assessment of the situation regarding the introduction of marine species, thought for some species. Regarding the establishment of an action plan to control the introduction of non-native marine species and mitigate their impact, the limited value of mitigation measures is noted. On whether mechanisms have been established to monitor and control ballast water discharged into the territorial waters, this is reported to be non-applicable. No training and awareness raising programmes are reported to having been developed,
- (c) Bird species: (1) legal protection to bird species is reported to having been granted by law, (2) protected areas for the conservation of bird species listed in the Annexes to the SPA/BD Protocol are reported to having been established, (3) programmes of research are reported to having been developed on a number of species of birds and (4) action plans in protected areas such as Larnaca Salt Lake Complex target species included in the Annexes to the SPA/BD Protocol. Main challenges in implementing this plan are financial resources and public participation,

- (d) Cetaceans: A network for the monitoring of cetaceans strandings is reported to be in place. An inventory of stranded cetaceans exists and work is under way for the designation of MPAs to protect cetaceans. It is reported that no action plan for the conservation of cetaceans is in place, though measures have been adopted and implemented in that regard. Main challenges reported are financial resources and administrative management,
- (e) Marine vegetation: It is reported that protection status has been adopted for vegetation species and formations significant for the marine environment, particularly meadows. Also, that EIA regulations take into consideration impacts of planned human activities on meadows and other plant formations significant to the marine environment. MPAs within the Nature 2000 Network are reported to having been established to protect significant meadows and other plant formations. Mapping is reported to having been conducted for *Posidonia oceanica* and Reefs in all Nature 2000 sites as well as the Limassol Bay. No action is reported to having been taken as regards the development of training programmes for specialists in the study and conservation of marine vegetation and awareness raising activities. As to the development of an action plan for the conservation of marine vegetation, this is left blank,
- (f) Monk Seal: It is reported that: (1) monk seals have been granted protection status, (2) fishing techniques which can endanger monk seals are prohibited, (3) SPAs have been created to conserve monk seal populations, (4) a list of breeding caves and other habitats important for the conservation of monk seals exists, (5) data collection programmes on the monk seal are conducted and (6) programmes for awareness raising have been developed. Work is reported to be ongoing to isolate monk seals from human activities. In that regard, breeding was confirmed in 2011 in areas of limited, if any, human disturbance. There is no action plan in place for the conservation of the monk seal, but there are measures to that end in the management plans of established SPAs. The key challenge in implementing this regional action plan is administrative management,
- (g) Marine Turtles: All Regional Action Plan requirements are reported to be met: (1) marine turtles are protected by law, (2) measures to reduce their incidental catch are in place in the nesting season in the protected areas, (3) centres to rescue marine turtles have been established, (4) SPAs have been designated to their conservation, (5) inventories of turtle nesting beaches have been compiled, (6) Cyprus has participated in tagging programmes, (6) awareness raising campaigns have been developed, and (7) an action plan exists for the conservation of marine turtles.

Country: GREECE

1982 SPA Protocol	Ratification: 26.01.87
1995 SPA and BD Protocol	Ratification: Not yet

99. Part I Legal Measures. Legislation is reported to be in place for the protection of areas of particular natural or cultural value by the establishment of SPAs and the protection of endangered or threatened species of flora and fauna listed in Annexes II and III to the SPA/BD Protocol.

100. Within that framework, in line with Article 6 of the Protocol, a number of activities likely to have an impact on SPAs are reported to be regulated. These activities range from dumping, to offshore exploration and exploitation to scientific research and taking of species.

101. As regards the prohibition of dumping in SPAs, work is reported to be in process, though domestic legislation, including legislation transposing the Port Reception Facilities Directive (2000/59/EC), is reported to be in place regulating dumping activities from ships. Extensive examples are provided of the regulation of passage and anchoring of ships in SPAs. Restrictions to passage and

anchoring of ships apply to a number of national parks and take a variety of forms, including speed limits, visitor disembarking and overnight stay limits, prohibition of tankers, prohibition of motor boats or prohibition of floating boats. Concerning the regulation of offshore exploration and exploitation activities in SPAs, it is reported that exploration activities are subject to EIA.

102. Scientific research in SPAs is reported to be subject to a permitting system, under which the national competent authority or authorities, which include the management bodies of the protected areas, determine the duration and conditions of the research permits. Challenges in this area refer to the limited personnel and resources to control the application of the terms and conditions under which permits are issued and the growing number of applications for these permits. The taking of species which originate in SPAs is reported to be regulated by a broad range of instruments (Laws, Ministerial Decisions, Presidential Decrees) transposing into national law relevant international agreements, such as CITES, and EC Directives, regarding trading, hunting and fishing activities. Requirements are tightening up in some national marine parks for the further protection of marine species.

103. Activities other than the ones already addressed and likely to have an adverse impact on SPAs are reported to be also regulated. On that regard, specific pieces of legislation concerning EIA in Natura 2000 sites has been adopted (Law 4014/2011 and subsequent developments in 2014). For these sites, a specific ecological evaluation is needed, thus reinforcing their protection. In addition, in the currently 12 protected areas designated in Greece the development of some human activities is either regulated or prohibited in the act of designation itself. As regards the Nature 2000 Network, human activities are regulated through broader laws, such as laws on spatial planning.

104. The protection and management of flora and fauna species, particularly those listed in the Annexes to the SPA/BD Protocol is reported to be ensured by the domestic legislation transposing the EC Directives on Birds and Habitats, thereby most of the Greek vertebrates species which are listed in the Annexes to the Protocol are protected.

105. Part II Specially Protected Areas (SPAs). The list of SPAs within the Protocol's geographical coverage is provided, encompassing a total of 12 SPAs established within the period ranging from 1962 to 2009. These 12 SPAs cover approximately 278.800 ha of marine waters. In 11 of those SPAs, work is reported to be ongoing as to the development of their management plans. The only management plan in place was implemented in 2001 for the protected area "Etnniko Parko Schinia Marthona" established in 2000. In addition, the Nature 2000 Network includes 225 sites over 691.000 ha of marine waters. A further expansion of the network is planned as regards marine areas.

106. On the management of SPAs, as regards the observation and scientific monitoring of protected areas, within the framework of the EC Habitats Directive, a nationwide project for surveillance and evaluation of conservation status of habitat types and species of community interest was concluded in 2016. This added to the specific monitoring projects for protected areas in place. The involvement of local communities in the process of managing protected areas is reported to be ensured by the participation of representatives of local communities in the management bodies of protected areas. In addition, public consultation is carried out before designating SPAs or rendering the required permits for the development of some projects.

107. Funding mechanisms for managing and promoting SPAs are reported to be available, with the management bodies of protected areas supported by the Community Support Framework and national funds. However, no specific assistance is reported to be provided to locals who may be affected by the establishment of SPAs. Training for manager and staff of SPAs is delivered and institutional arrangement are in place for the management as a whole of each SPAs. No specific measures are reported to having been incorporated into the National Contingency Plan (NCP) referring to incidents in SPAs.

108. Part III Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs). It is reported to be non-applicable.

109. Part IV Protection and Conservation of Species. Lists of protected species are in the Annexes to the domestic legislation transposing relevant EC Directives and ratifying International Agreements,

including the SPA/BD Protocol. This adds to the Red Data Books for vertebrates, invertebrates and plants. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in protecting migrant species is reported to be taken place through a broad variety of Council Regulations (EC) addressing *inter alia* the conservation of migratory species, as well as the implementation of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) recommendations. Measures for ex-situ reproduction of the species listed in Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol are not in place, though for loggerhead turtles and the Mediterranean monk seal there are rehabilitation centers. Exceptions are granted under the terms of Article 12.6 of the SPA/BA Protocol. The deliberate or accidental introduction into the wild of non-native or genetically modified species is regulated by the domestic legislation transposing the relevant Council Regulations (EC) and international frameworks, such as the International and the European Community legislative framework of the Biosafety Protocol.

110. Part V Conservation of the Components of Marine and Coastal Diversity. The inventory of the components of marine and coastal biodiversity forms part of the work developed in inventorying and mapping Natura 2000 sites. The protection of the components of marine and coastal biodiversity is taken forward through the National Biodiversity Strategy 2014-2019 and its First Year Action Plan. Financial resources and administrative management are the main challenges when it comes to the conservation of the components of marine and coastal biodiversity

111. Part VI Enforcement Measures. This part has been left blank.

112. Part VII Implementation of Regional Action Plans (RAPs). Greece reports on the following:

- (a) Cartilaginous fish: Cartilaginous fish in Greek waters are protected under the CITES Convention. Sharks are not target species for Greek fisheries (only as by catches), though Greece has taken steps on fishing via the implementation of the relevant Council Regulations (EC). Since 2002 pelagic shark catches are monitored under the National Fisheries Data Collection Programme. In addition, a number of research institutes are conducting research projects on cartilaginous fish. An identification guide of shark species has been developed regarding species of the Mediterranean. Programmes to train specialists in the study and conservation of chondrichthyans are not in place. No specific action has been taken forward for the implementation of the action plan for the conservation of cartilaginous fish. Main challenges reported are financial resources and administrative management,
- (b) Non-indigenous species: The control of the introduction of marine species is regulated through the domestic legislation transposing relevant Council Regulations (EC). This adds to the ongoing work in developing a national list of invasive species in Greek which includes marine species. Research related to marine invasive species is carried out by a specialised network of Research Centers and Universities. In addition, a database of marine and estuarine species is managed by the Hellenic Network on Alien Invasive Species (ELNAIS). GIS distribution maps of non-indigenous species need to be developed. The IMO Ballast Water Management Convention is being transposed into Greek domestic legislation. Awareness raising materials have been developed for consumers and the fishing sector. No action plan has been established to control the introduction of non-indigenous species. Key challenges faced in implementing this regional action plan are financial resources, administrative management and technical capabilities,
- (c) Bird Species: Bird species listed in Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol are strictly protected at national level since 1985 and their hunting is prohibited. Protected areas have been established for the conservation of bird species listed in Annex II to the Protocol, either as Ramsar sites, National Parks, or Natura 2000 sites. An expansion of the Nature 2000 Network is underway to protect additional bird species listed in Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol. Through LIFE Projects, the Hellenic Ornithological Society and other institutions have developed programmes of research on a number of species listed in Annex II to the Protocol. There is an action plan for the protection of *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, which is listed in Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol. Main challenges reported in implementation are financial resources and administrative management,

- (d) Cetaceans: No action plan for the conservation of cetaceans is reported to having been developed. Scientific research programmes on cetaceans are reported to be conducted mainly by NGOs, Research Institutes and Universities. Greece notes that a challenge in this specific field is that conducting research on cetaceans is particularly expensive. A network for monitoring cetaceans strandings is reported to having been set up. Stranded cetaceans are monitored by the Port Police, which record and keep for each stranding data on *inter alia* the species, the state (alive, dead, wounded), the area of finding, the date and if photos are taken. This adds to the data on strandings also held by local authorities, organizations and institutes. The official data keeper for stranded cetaceans is the Hellenic Ministry of Environment. It is reported that SPAs have been set up to protect cetaceans. In detail, Greece notes that the Nature 2000 Network in Greece includes 22 sites hosting cetaceans of community importance, that four National Parks host important cetacean population and that work is ongoing to expand the 2000 Network to include new areas of importance for cetaceans and mammals. Challenges faced in implementing this Regional Action Plan are reported to be administrative management, and financial resources,
- (e) Marine Vegetation: It is reported that for vegetation species and formations that are significant for the marine environment, particularly meadows, protection status has been adopted. In particular, trawling is prohibited over Posidonia meadows since 2007 by Ministerial Decision. Also by Ministerial Decision the exploitation of coral formations for the period 2011-2015 has been designated. EIA Regulations taking into consideration impacts of planned human activities on meadows are reported to be in place. In detail, there is a specific EIA procedure in the coastal zone where Posidonia meadows occurs. Greece notes however as a challenge in this area that the EIA may not be the most appropriate procedure for all activities likely to have a harmful effect on meadows. In those cases, marine spatial planning or a management plan is needed. It is further reported that MPAs have been created to protect the most representatives' meadows. The Nature 2000 Network includes 80 sites with Posidonia meadows and 82 sites with the habitat type reefs that includes either phaeophyta or coralligenous assemblages. The ongoing expansion of the Nature 2000 Network will include the underwater meadows of Posidonia oceanica. No scientific research aimed at identifying and mapping those marine vegetation formations which are natural monuments is reported to having been conducted. Programmes for the mapping of the main meadows and other plant formations are reported to having been developed. In general, mapping of habitats types within the framework of the Habitat Directive was concluded in 2001. Local projects followed, such as the programme CYCLADES LIFE has as objective mapping in the area of Gyaros Posidonia beds and Coralligenous beds. Awareness and education actions concerning the conservation of marine vegetation are reported to not having been developed. Training programmes for specialist in the conservation of marine vegetation are reported to having been developed. A Regional Workshop on Coralligenous Habitats was conducted in 2012. On whether Greece has an action plan for the conservation of marine vegetation, it is reported that the implementation of the Protocol's respective Action Plan has been limited, however activities with regard to monitoring and conservation have been implemented. To the general challenges of financial resources and administrative management, a specific one is reported: the extended area covered by marine vegetation along the Greek coast line,
- (f) Monk Seal: The monk seals has protection status in Greek since 1981. Fishing techniques that can endangered monk seals are reported to be prohibited. There is a general ban in the country on the use of dynamite as a fishing technique and the use of driftnets was banned in 1993. In addition, there are specific prohibitions in place in monks seals shelters (Natural Park of Alonissos Northen Sporades) and breeding sites (Syros). Measures are reported to have been adopted to isolate monk seals from human activities. In the Natural Park of Alonissos Northen Sporades, which hosts the largest population of monk seals, in the strictly protected area (Island of Piperi) no human activity is allowed within three miles range around the island. Protected areas are reported to having been created to conserve monk seal populations or their habitats, either as part of the Natura 2000 Network or National Parks. The ongoing expansion of the Nature 2000 Network will include new areas of importance for monk seals. Work is reported to be ongoing to finalize the census of the breeding caves and other habitats of monk seals in

Greece. Programmes for the data collection on the monk seals are reported to be in place. In this field NGOs have played a fundamental role within the framework of the National Programme for the Protection of the Mediterranean Monk Seal. To the national programme adds others such as the CYCLADES LIFE Project. Programmes for awareness raising are reported to having been developed. Under the LIFE Project MOFI a National Strategy for the Conservation of the Mediterranean Monk Seal in Greece for the period 2009-2015” was adopted. Main challenges in implementing this plan are reported to be financial resources, and administrative management,

- (g) **Marine Turtles:** Marine turtles are reported to be protected by law. Sea turtles *Caretta caretta*, *Chelonia mydas* and *Dermochelys coriacea* have been accorded protection status in Greece since 1981. Moreover, they are included in the annexes to the EC Habitats Directive. Measures to reduce the incidental catch in marine turtles are reported to having been implemented. In the marine area of the National Marine Part of Zakynthos, fishing regulations are enforced for the protection of the marine turtles. Within the framework of a LIFE Project, ARCHELON (Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece) has contributed significantly to the reduction of losses of individuals of the species from incidental capture. There is a nationwide Sea Turtle Rescue Centre and a Sea Turtle Stranding Network. In addition, two first aid stations have been created supported by a LIFE Project. SPAs are reported to having been established to protect marine turtle populations. Most sites in the country holding an importance for turtle populations have been included in the NATURA 2000 Network. Furthermore, the ongoing expansion of the Nature 2000 Network would include areas of importance for the *Caretta caretta* sea turtle. An inventory of most known turtle nesting beaches has been compiled and nesting trend information is regularly produced by ARCHELON. Tagging programmes are reported to be in place, with different groups participating in them. Programmes for awareness raising, information and training concerning turtle conservation are reported to having been developed by the management bodies of the relevant protected areas and also by ARCHELON and MEDASSET. There is a draft National Plan of Action for the Protection of the Species.

Country: ISRAEL

1982 SPA Protocol	Ratification: 28.10.87
1995 SPA and BD Protocol	Ratification: Not yet Ratification is in its early stages

113. **Part I Legal Measures.** Israel explains in detail the legal regime in place to protect areas of particular natural or cultural value and endangered or threatened species of flora and fauna as required in Article 3 of the SPA/BD Protocol.

114. Regarding the protection, preservation and management of areas of particular natural or cultural value, the National Parks, Nature Reserves, National Sites and Memorial Sites Law of 1998 plays a pivotal role in providing for the protection of coastal and marine areas by the establishment of “nature reserves”, “protected areas” or “national parks”. Within the framework of the 1998 Law, the present list of protected coastal and marine areas includes seven marine reserves, two of which are islet reserves.

115. On the specific measures adopted to protect coastal and marine protected areas, a broad variety of legal instruments are reported to be in place regulating in those areas the following activities listed in Article 6 of the SPA/BD Protocol: dumping, passage of ships, offshore exploration and exploitation, taking of species and scientific research.

116. In detail, within protected areas, including marine reserves, actions that may harm the integrity of the area are reported to be prohibited. This includes dumping (Dumping of Waste Law of 1983) and any discharge likely to harm the integrity of protected areas (Land-Based Sources Law of 1988 and Prevention of Sea Water Pollution by Oil Ordinance of 1980). By the Port Regulations (Safety of Navigation) of 1982, the passage and anchoring of ships in protected areas is reported to be regulated.

In addition, there are specific guidelines in two reserves in that respect. In this context, Israel notes that the passage and anchoring of ships is not very relevant to its marine reserves given their very small size.

117. Offshore activities in protected areas are reported to be regulated by the Planning and Building Law (Environmental Impact Assessment) of 2003 and more specifically through the plans and regulations designed for each marine reserve, which set site-specific conditions for obtaining permits. Scientific research in protected areas is addressed by the National Parks, Nature Reserves, National Sites and Memorial Sites Law of 1998 and the plans and regulations designed specifically for each marine reserve, under which permits are granted on special request by the Israel Nature and Parks Authority (INPA). The taking of species which originate in protected areas is regulated by the Declaration of National Parks and Nature Reserves (Protected Natural Resources), the Wildlife Protection Law of 1955 as amended in 1990 and the National Parks, Nature Reserves, National Sites and Memorial Sites Law of 1998. Special permits are issued by INPA for research purposes. Otherwise, the taking of species is prohibited.

118. Regarding the protection and management of flora and fauna species, particularly those listed in Annexes II and III to the Protocol, it is reported that by law, no activity that might harm animals or plants is carried out in the protected areas. In addition, by the Planning and Building Law (Environmental Impact Assessment) of 2003 and the Wildlife Protection Law of 1955 as amended in 1990, the impact of projects in protected areas are taken into consideration as part of the standard procedure planning in Israel. Furthermore, Israel is currently developing its marine special planning for the Mediterranean Sea addressing the impacts of projects and activities on the marine environment.

119. Part II Specially Protected Areas (SPAs). The list of protected areas established within the Protocol's geographical area is provided. For the 25 protected areas designated, from 1964 to 2008, management plans have been developed. Work to designate a large marine reserve in "Rosh Hanikra" is reported to be in its final stages. The key challenges listed when it comes to the enforcement of management plans are financial resources and administrative management.

120. On the management of protected areas, work is reported to be ongoing as regards the design of observation and scientific monitoring programmes to track the status of protected areas. On this point, Israel states that the biological component is part of the national monitoring plan and that a comprehensive biological survey was carried out in 2015 in the four marine reserves with a rocky bottom encompassing fish, invertebrates and algae. Financial resources is the challenged faced in this field. Work is also underway to articulate further measures for the involvement of local communities in the management of protected areas. Israel says that local communities are engaged through educational programmes and that initiatives are being explored for local communities to be further involved in the management of marine protected areas. On developments regarding the provision of assistance to the locals who may be affected by the establishment of protected areas, work is reported to be continuing with INPA negotiating with local stakeholders who may be affected.

121. Funding mechanisms for managing and promoting protected areas are reported to having been established. In that regard, direct compensation mechanisms for the prevention of harmful activities in protected areas are being explored. Training programmes for SPAs staff and measures in the National Contingency Plan (NCP) to combat pollution incidents, including oil spill incidents in SPAs are reported to be in place. On the institutional arrangements to manage protected areas, they cover both land and marine areas, the INPA being the national competent authority responsible for the management of protected areas.

122. Part III Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs). The Israel Nature and Parks Authority (INPA) is promoting work on the designation of a SPAMI in the "Rosh Hanikra" Nature Reserve. Barriers to advance work towards that direction are financial resources and administrative management, due to the lack of resources in INPA to hire the consultant needed to develop the required management plan.

123. Part IV Measures for the Protection and Conservation of Species. Lists of endangered species of flora and fauna include marine species. By law all species in SPAs are protected. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation is taking place to protect and restore the population of migrant species under the Protocol's area. For instance, cooperation exists with Cyprus concerning sea turtles and Israel has ratified the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS Convention), including several agreements under this Convention. There is an ex-situ reproduction nucleus of green sea turtles and translocation and nest protection measures have been taken to augment populations of soft-shelled turtles in brackish waters. On genetically modified organisms, they are not allowed to be introduced into nature, with work under development to adopt measures to prevent the accidental introduction of such organisms into nature. Work is also ongoing as regards marine invasive species along Israel's shoreline, in particular as regards dredging, which is subject to biological monitoring. No exceptions granted under Article 12.6 of the Protocol during the period under review.

124. Part V Conservation of the Components of Marine and Coastal Diversity. Work is underway to inventory the components of marine and coastal biodiversity with the Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research Center (IOLR) responsible for creating a genetic barcode inventory. The 2010 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is currently under review. Financial resources and administrative management are the two key challenges in dealing with the conservation of marine and coastal diversity.

125. Part VI Enforcement Measures. Data is given as regards the enforcement of Article 6.g of the Protocol on protective measures in SPAs. On that regard, a total of 365 inspections are reported, which led to the detection of 100 non-compliance cases and 42 fines issued by the Israel Natura and Parks Authority (INPA). In all the marine reserves there are on-site enforcement teams inspecting the reserves on a regular basis. As to the enforcement of Article 11.3 and 5 on the protection and conservation of species, the number of inspections is reported to be zero.

126. Part VII Implementation of Regional Action Plans (RAPs). Israel reports on the following:

- (a) Cartilaginous fish: Chondrichthyans have been given a legal status for protection purposes, any cases of illegal fishing of cartilaginous fish are prosecuted, scientific research on chondrichthyans is undergoing in various universities as well as programmes to train specialists in the study and conservation of chondrichthyans and awareness campaigns among fishermen conducted;
- (b) Non-indigenous species: The Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research Center (IOLR) together with academic institutions carry out assessments of the situation regarding the introduction of marine species along Israel's Mediterranean coast. There is a specific programme monitoring jelly fish. Legislation and programs to control the import of non-indigenous marine species into Israel are in place. Work is underway under the IMO Ballast Water Convention to establish a mechanism to monitor and control ballast water discharged into territorial waters, to establish an action plan to control the introduction of non-native marine species through ballast water and developing training and awareness raising programmes in this area;
- (c) Bird species: All Regional Action Plan requirements are reported to be met: (1) legal protection to bird species has been granted (National Parks, Nature Reserves, National Sites and Memorial Sites Law of 1998), (2) protected areas for the conservation of bird species listed in the Annex to the Protocol have been established, (3) several programmes of research have been developed on a number of species of birds and (4) action plans have been adopted targeting species included in the Annexes to the Protocol;
- (d) Cetaceans: Work is reported to be in process for the development of an action plan for the conservation of cetaceans. All marine mammals are fully protected by Israel law and law is enforced. The Israel Natura and Parks Authority (INPA) together with the Israel Marine Mammal Research and Assistance Center (IMMRAC) conduct scientific research and monitor marine mammals. In addition, a procedure has been articulated for reporting on cetaceans

strandings. Work is reported to be ongoing as regards the establishment of a marine reserve to protect cetaceans;

- (e) Marine vegetation: There are neither marine meadows in Israel nor marine vegetation formations that are natural monuments. However, action is reported to having been taken for the conservation of marine vegetation local species by: (1) proposing the inclusion of *Cymodocea nodosa* in the List of Protected Natural Assets in Israel, (2) developing training programmes for specialists in the study and conservation of marine vegetation and (3) the establishment of a gene bank for the collection and preservation of plant species;
- (f) Monk Seal: Protection of monk seals granted under the general protection of marine mammals. In addition, all fishing techniques that can endanger monk seals are prohibited and a list of breeding caves and other habitats of importance for monk seals has been prepared, although there is no steady population of monk seals in Israel. On the establishment of protected areas for monk seals, the Rosh Haniqra Reserve has been identified as a potential habitat and data collection on monk seals is collected through observation. Only two individuals were sighted in recent years;
- (g) Marine Turtles: All Regional Action Plans requirements are met, i.e. (1) marine turtles are protected by law, (2) measures are implemented to reduce their incidental catch, (3) rescue marine centers have been created, (4) the conservation of marine turtle populations and their habitats are taken into account in the management plans for protected areas, (5) inventory of turtle nesting beaches is conducted three months a year, (6) participation in tagging programmes which includes satellite broadcasting, (7) awareness raising and training developed and (8) an action plan has been adopted.

Country: ITALY

1982 SPA Protocol	Ratification: 04.07.85
1995 SPA and BD Protocol	Ratification: 07.09.99

127. Part I Legal Measures. By the law ratifying and implementing the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Law No. 175 of 27 May 1999) and other pieces of legislation of general (e.g. Law n. 87 of 13 February 2006 ratifying the London Convention and its Protocols) and sectoral nature (e.g. Legislative Decree 42/2004 on Cultural Heritage and Landscape Code), a legal framework is reported to having been put in place to protect and manage endangered or threatened flora and fauna species and areas of particular natural or cultural value, notably by the establishment of SPAs, as requested by the SPA/BD Protocol.

128. Regarding the protection of SPAs, the legal instruments dealing in those areas with the activities referred to in Article 6 of the Protocol (i.e. dumping, passage and anchoring of ships, offshore exploration and exploitation, taking of species and scientific research activities) are listed, the Framework Law on Protected Areas (Law n. 394 of 6 December 1991) being the cornerstone instrument regulating these activities.

129. On dumping, according to the Framework Law on Protected Areas, the discharge of any solid or liquid waste is prohibited in MPAs. Sectoral legislation adds to the framework law, by regulating the development of specific human activities in protected areas, e.g. the 1996 Ministerial Decree limits the dumping of dredged materials in protected areas.

130. Concerning offshore exploration and exploitation activities, the 2009 ISPRA Guidelines on monitoring of discharges from offshore oil and gas platforms pay particular attention to offshore activities taking place near SPAs. Furthermore, the parties of the "Pelagos Sanctuary Agreement" have approved a management plan, under which discharges from oil and gas offshore platforms are not authorized in the sanctuary.

131. Scientific research activities are reported to be regulated in all SPAs, including the Pelagos Sanctuary. As regards to the taking of species which originate in SPAs, the Framework Law on Protected Areas prohibits the capture, collection and destruction of animal and plant species and usage of fire arms, explosives and any other destructive means or capture.

132. Regarding the protection and management of flora and fauna species, in particular those listed in the Annexes to the Protocol, the Law n. 874 of 19 December 1975 on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) is the key reference, which is complemented by domestic legislation, under which all species listed in Annexes 2 and 4 of the EC Habitat Directive and Annex 2 to the Protocol are protected by Italian law.

133. The impacts of projects and activities in SPAs is addressed by the Framework Law on Protected Areas and the Legislative Decree 42/2004 on Cultural Heritage and Landscape Code, which sets the general framework complemented by the Presidential Decree n. 357 which transposes the EC Habitat Directive into national legislation. Under this Decree, environmental impact analysis shall be conducted for those activities which could affect the species or habitats present in Sites of Community Interest (SCI).

134. Part II Specially Protected Areas (SPAs). The list of SPAs within the Protocol's geographical coverage is provided, encompassing a total of 30 SPAs established within the period ranging from 1986 to 2012. As required by Italian law, all SPAs have a management plan developed and implemented and most of the areas have a single management body covering both the marine and terrestrial components of the area.

135. On the measures adopted to manage SPAs, observation and scientific monitoring programmes to track the status of protected areas are reported to be in place. On that regard, the database created by the *Consorzio Nazionale Interuniversitario per le Scienze del Mare* (CoNISMA) is an example of the instruments used to track the environmental status of protected areas. The involvement of local communities in the process of managing protected areas is articulated through its participation in the management body of the protected areas. Funding mechanisms for managing and promoting protected areas are reported to be accessible mainly through the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS). As to the provision of assistance to the inhabitants who may be affected by the establishment of protected areas, this is reported to be available, as well as training programmes for SPAs managers and staff. Measures in the National Contingency Plan (NCP) to combat pollution incidents, including oil spill incidents in SPAs are reported to be in place.

136. Part III Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs). There is a total of ten Italian SPAMIs, including the "Pelagos Sanctuary" which is jointly managed by Italy, France and Monaco. All of the SPAMIS have an implementation plan in place and implemented.

137. Part IV Protection and Conservation of Species. Data on endangered or threatened species of flora and fauna and their distribution is reported to be available in the Identification Sheets on Protected Species According to the SPA/BD Protocol, published with the support of the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS). Bilateral and multilateral cooperation is in place to protect and restore the population of migrant species in the area where the Protocol is applied. Cooperation is articulated through the "Pelagos Sanctuary Agreement" as well as ACCOBANS Agreements.

138. The deliberate or accidental introduction into the wild of non-native or genetically modified species is regulated via EU legislation (EU Regulatory Act 1143/2014 on invasive alien species). Furthermore, four LIFE Projects have been launched in the islands of Linosa, Montecristo, Pianosa and Tavolara addressing the introduction of non-native species. Challenges in this area are that impacts derived from biological invasions are underestimated and the limited acceptance of control measures, mainly eradication campaigns. Exceptions are reported to be granted for the species listed both in the Annexes to the Protocol and the EC Habitats Directive. No measures are reported to having been adopted concerning ex-situ reproduction of protected fauna and flora.

139. Part V Conservation of the Components of Marine and Coastal Diversity. The components of the marine and coastal biodiversity has been inventoried. Two Check Lists have been developed with the support of the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS), one on marine species and other on flora and fauna in Italian seas. A national strategy and action plan has been developed to protect the components of the marine and coastal biodiversity, through the National Strategy for Biodiversity, adopted by Italy within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CDB).

140. Part VI Enforcement Measures. Data is provided on the enforcement of Article 6.g of the Protocol on protective measures in SPAs. A total of 12.501 inspections are reported, which led to the detection of 291 non-compliance cases and 302 fines issued. For the current reporting period, 96 administrative seizures and 24 penal seizures are reported. As to the enforcement of Article 11. 3 and 5 on the protection and conservation of species, this part has been left blank.

141. Part VII Implementation of Regional Action Plans (RAPs). Italy reports on the following:

- (a) Cartilaginous fish: Chondrichthyans have been granted legal status for the purposes of their protection. In addition, within the framework of the EU Common Fisheries Policy specific measures banning some fishing practices have been taken to protect pelagic sharks. Furthermore, a draft action plan for the conservation of cartilaginous fish has been prepared, though it has not been formally adopted yet. Programmes of scientific research on chondrichthyans are in place, with national monitoring programmes and aerial surveys conducted, and information material on chondrichthyans has been also developed. No action is reported to have been taken as to the development of programmes to train specialists in the study and conservation of chondrichthyans. The main challenges faced in implementing this regional action plan are financial resources, public participation, and regulatory and policy framework,
- (b) Non-indigenous species: By the Presidential Decree 120/2003 the introduction of alien species into the wild is banned, in order to prevent impacts on species, habitats and Sites of Community Interest (SCI). This adds to the assessment of the situation regarding the introduction of marine species. Work is reported to be underway as regards the establishment of mechanisms to monitor and control ballast water discharged into Italian waters as well as to the development of an action plan to control the introduction of non-native marine species. On that regard, there are specific Guidelines in place. No action is reported to having been adopted concerning training and awareness raising programmes on ballast water management. Challenges reported are financial resources and policy framework,
- (c) Bird species: All Regional Action Plan requirements are met: (1) legal protection to bird species has been provided (Law n. 157 of 11 February 1992 and subsequent amendments), (2) protected areas have been established to conserve bird species listed in the Annexes to the SPA/BD Protocol, (3) programmes of research have been undertaken on a number of species listed in the Annexes to the Protocol, which have resulted in Guidelines for Mitigating the Impact of Power Lines on Birds and (4) action plans have been adopted for the protection of *Larus audouinii* and *Falco eleonora*. The challenges faced in implanting this Regional Action Plan refer to regulatory framework and financial resources,
- (d) Cetaceans: Work is reported to be ongoing as to the development of an action plan for the conservation of cetaceans, though there is a specific action plan for the Pelagos Sanctuary, which was approved in 2004. Scientific research programmes on cetaceans have been set up, with several studies, national monitoring programmes and aerial surveys conducted. Of special relevance are the studies supported by the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) within the framework of the “Pelagos Sanctuary Agreement” and ACCOBANS Agreements. A network for monitoring cetacean strandings is in place, with ISPRA, the Italian Coast Guard, and the the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) and Universities involved in its development. A Mediterranean Sanctuary for Marine Mammals “Pelagos Sanctuary” was created in 1999. Financial resources together with regulatory and

policy framework are the challenges faced in implementing the Regional Action Plan on Cetaceans,

- (e) **Marine Vegetation:** Posidonia meadows habitats are strictly protected by EC Habitat Directive, under which Posidonia meadows fall under the category of Sites of Community Interest (SCI). By the EC Habitat Directive, human activities in Posidonia Sites of Community Interest (SCI) are either prohibited or highly restricted and in the latter, subject to EIA. MPAs have been established to protect Posidonia meadows in Italy and all Italian Posidonia meadows are mapped. Training programmes for specialists in the study and conservation of Posidonia meadows are in place. Work is reported to be ongoing as to the development of an action plan. The key challenge faced in implementing this Regional Action Plan is the policy framework,
- (f) **Monk Seal:** Monk seals have been given protection status by Law n. 157 of 11 February 1992 as amended. In addition, fishing techniques that can endangered monk seals are prohibited, this includes fishing with explosives. SPAs have been created to conserve monk seals, with four Italian protected areas having the status under the EC Habitat Directive of Sites of Community Interest (SCI) for monk seals. There are programmes in place for the collection of data on monk seals. For instance, ISPRA is carried out a monitoring programme in the MPA of Egadi Islands to that end. Awareness raising and training activities concerning monk seal conservation are reported to having been undertaken. No specific action plan has been developed for the conservation of the monk seals and its potential habitats. Challenges in implementing this plan are reported to be public participation, regulatory and policy framework and administrative management,
- (g) **Marine Turtles:** Work is reported to be ongoing as to the development of an action plan for the conservation of marine turtles, though specific Guidelines are in place for the handling and holding of marine turtles for rehabilitation and scientific purposes. Otherwise, action is reported to having been completed addressing the Regional Action Plan requirements, i.e. (1) marine turtles are protected by law, (2) measures to reduce incidental catch in marine turtles are implemented, (3) SPAs have been created to conserve marine turtles, (4) inventory of turtle nesting beaches has been compiled, (5) Italy is participating in tagging programmes and (6) awareness raising programmes has been developed. Main challenges refer to policy and regulatory framework and financial resources.

Country: LEBANON

1982 SPA Protocol	Ratification: 27.12.94 (Accession)
1995 SPA and BD Protocol	Ratification: Not yet

142. **Part I Legal Measures.** The protection, preservation and management of areas of particular natural or cultural value, notably by the establishment of SPAs is reported to be in process. There are two nature reserves (Nature Reserve of Palm Island and Nature Reserve of Tyre Coast) and work is ongoing for designating two coastal and marine sites as SPAs: Ras El Chaqaa and Naqoura.

143. In line with Article 6 of the SPA/BD Protocol, a number of activities likely to have an impact on SPAs and/or species are reported to be regulated. These activities range from dumping, to offshore exploration and exploitation to scientific research and taking of species.

144. As regards dumping, it is reported that according to the Law No. 121 of 9/03/1992 establishing the Palm Islands Nature Reserve (SPA), the dumping and any discharge within a boundary of 500 meters from the SPA is prohibited. The passage and anchoring of ships in the Palm Islands Nature Reserve is regulated by the same Law, under which shipping routes are located three

kilometers away from the Nature Reserve. Under the same law, offshore activities in the Palm Islands Nature Reserve are prohibited, except for research purposes. The same prohibition applies to hunting, grazing or camping. The remaining activities are subject to the development plan governing the Nature Reserve and approved by the Ministry of Environment. Scientific research in the Palm Islands Nature Reserve is subject to a permit, which establishes the conditions of the research based on the research agenda designed for the Nature Reserve. The taking of species which originate in the Palm Islands Nature Reserve is prohibited, exception made for research purposes.

145. Regarding the protection and management of flora and fauna species, particularly those listed in Annexes II and III to the SPA/BD Protocol, reference is made to the Law No. 121 of 9/03/1992 establishing the Palm Islands Nature Reserve and the Law No. 708 of 12/11/1998 establishing the Tyre Coast Nature Reserve, under which it is reported that species included in Annexes II and III to the Protocol are protected in those reserves. The impact of projects and activities in SPAs is reported to be addressed by the EIA Decree 8633 of 7/08/2012 thereby all projects and activities planned in the surroundings of the Nature Reserves should undergo an EIA.

146. Part II Specially Protected Areas (SPAs). There are two Nature Reserves: (1) Palm Island, established in 1992 and its management plan adopted and implemented in 2009, and (2) Tyre Coast, established in 1998 and its management plan adopted and implemented in 2008. Work is reported to be ongoing for designating two coastal and marine sites as SPAs: Ras El Chaqaa and Naqoura. The draft law for the establishment of these SPAs is at its final stages.

147. On the management of SPAs, monitoring programmes to track the status of the Nature Reserve of Palm Island are reported to be in place, with monitoring regularly conducted based on previously set fixed plots. The involvement of local communities in the management of protected areas is reported to be articulated through the committees managing the protected area, which incorporate local authorities and NGOs. In addition, the day-to-day management teams of the protected areas are made up of locals inhabitants. The provision of assistance to the local inhabitants who might be affected by the establishment of protected areas is reported to be addressed by the employment of the locals in the maintenance of the protected areas.

148. Funding mechanisms for the management and protection of protected areas are reported to come from the annual budget of the Ministry of Environment as well as the tourists activities developed in the areas. Training for the technical managers and other qualified staff of protected areas is reported to be in place, with rangers participating in workshops and seminars. The incorporation into the national contingency plans of measures for preventing or responding to incidents in protected areas is reported to having been done through the Guidelines for the management of the marine part of Palm Islands Nature Reserve. Institutional arrangements are also reported to be in place for the management as a whole of the Palm Islands Nature Reserve.

149. Part III Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs). The two Nature Reserves of Palm Island and Tyre Coast are also SPAMIs, and their management plans were adopted in 2009 and 2008 respectively.

150. Part IV Protection and Conservation of Species. No measures are reported to having been adopted under this heading. Lebanon notes that the introduction of non-native or genetically modified species is prohibited in nature reserves. Main challenges are policy framework, financial resources and technical capabilities.

151. Part V Conservation of the Components of Marine and Coastal Diversity. No measures adopted in the current reporting period for either inventorying the components of marine and coastal biodiversity or formulating a national strategy for their protection.

152. Part VI Enforcement Measures. Data is provided on the enforcement of Article 6.g of the Protocol on protective measures in SPAs and Article 11.3 and 5 on the protection and conservation of species of fauna and flora. On SPAs, the enforcement of the law protecting protect areas rests on the Army Marine Chamber, in cooperation with the management team, including rangers patrol, for the

protected areas. A total of 85 non-compliance cases are reported, which led to 16 fines. As regard flora and fauna, the same number of non-compliance cases and fines are reported.

153. Part VII Implementation of Regional Action Plans (RAPs). Lebanon reports on the following:

- (a) Cartilaginous fish: Fishing is reported to be regulated by law controlling marine and coastal fishing. Otherwise, no measures are reported to having been taken to implement the remaining actions of this regional action plan. Challenges listed are financial resources and technical capabilities,
- (b) Non-indigenous species: The establishment of a mechanism to monitor and control ballast water discharged into territorial waters is reported to be in place through the Port State Control under the Directorate General of Transport. Otherwise, no measures are reported to having been taken to implement the remaining actions of this regional action plan. Challenges faced are financial resources, technical capabilities, policy framework and administrative management,
- (c) Bird species: Legal protection to bird species is reported to having been granted by the Law No. 580 of 25/02/2004 on Hunting. Protected areas for the conservation of bird species listed in the Annexes to the SPA/BD Protocol are reported to having been established in the Nature Reserve of Palm Island and the Nature Reserve of Tyre Coast. Research has been conducted on Audouin's Gull (*Larus Audouinii*). No action plan is reported to having been adopted for one or several species listed in the Annexes to the SPA/BD Protocol. Challenges in implementing this regional plan are financial resources and regulatory framework,
- (d) Cetaceans: An action plan for the conservation of cetaceans is reported to having been developed. In addition, a strategy for the conservation of *Tursiops Truncatus* will be prepared. Scientific research programmes on cetaceans are reported to be conducted, this includes a study conducted in 2013 by the National Center for Marine Research on the distribution and abundance of *Tursiops Truncatus* in Lebanese marine waters. The National Center for Marine Research has a monitoring network in some points of the Lebanese coast and in addition, the Lebanese Army records dolphins in the military marine base in Beirut. It is reported that no SPAs have been set up to protect cetaceans. Challenges reported are financial resources and technical capabilities,
- (e) Marine vegetation: Awareness and education actions concerning the conservation of marine vegetation are reported to having been developed in the frame of a MedPan Project in 2012 and 2013 and also by NGOs and Universities. Work is reported to be ongoing on the creation of MPAs to protect marine vegetation with the draft law for the establishment of the MPA Ras El Chaqaa at its final stages. In the current reporting period no mapping activities are reported to having been conducted. Otherwise, no measures are reported to having been taken to implement the remaining actions of this regional action plan. Challenges listed are financial resources, technical capabilities and administrative management,
- (f) Monk Seal: Protection status to the monk seal is reported to having been granted by the Decision No. 125 of 23/09/1999 on Protecting Wales, Monk Seals, Marine turtles and banning their fishing. In addition, the use of dynamite for fishing is strictly prohibited by the law controlling coastal and marine fishing. Lebanon notes in its report that monk seals have been seen randomly and in small numbers since 2000 until present in Beirut and the Nature Reserve of Palm Island. Challenges in implementing this plan are financial resources, and technical capabilities,
- (g) Marine turtles: (1) Marine turtles are protected by Decision No. 125 of 23/09/1999 on Protecting Wales, Monk Seals, Marine turtles and banning their fishing; (2) measures to reduce their incidental catch are reported to be in place. For example in the Nature Reserve of Tyre Coast, the turtle nesting sites are closed and in the Nature Reserve of Palm Island rangers and the Army collaborate when they observe fishermen catching marine turtles, (3) a centre to

rescue marine turtles has been established in the Nature Reserve of Palm Island, (4) in both Nature Reserves of Palm Island and Tyre Coast inventory activities of turtle nesting beaches are conducted, (5) awareness raising campaigns concerning marine turtle conservation are reported to having been developed and (6) it is reported that in the framework of the “Action Plan for the conservation of Mediterranean Marines Turtles, a monitoring protocol was implemented in the Nature Reserve of Tyre Coast. Neither participation in tagging programmes nor establishment of SPAs to protect marine turtles reported during the current reporting period.

Country: MALTA

1982 SPA Protocol	Ratification: 11.01.88
1995 SPA and BD Protocol	Ratification: 28.10.99

154. Part I Legal Measures. Malta provides a very detailed account of the legal and administrative regime implementing the SPA/BD Protocol.

155. The protection, preservation and management of areas of particular natural or cultural value is undertaken through both sectoral regulations, such as the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (Subsidiary Legislation 549.44), and Trees and Woodlands Protection Regulations (Subsidiary Legislation 549.64) and broader regulations such as the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations (Subsidiary Legislation 549.61), the Environment Impact Assessment Regulations (Subsidiary Legislation 549.46) and the Public Participation Regulations (Subsidiary Legislation 549.91).

156. That framework is complemented by specific regulations dealing with each of the activities likely to have an impact on SPAs, as required in Article 6 of the Protocol. These activities are: dumping, passage of ships, offshore exploration and exploitation, taking of species and scientific research.

157. Dumping of wastes in protected areas are reported to be regulated through the following legislation: (1) Wastes Regulations (Subsidiary Legislation 549.63), (2) Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations (Subsidiary Legislation 549.22) and (3) Deposit of Waste and Rubble (Fees) Regulations (Subsidiary Legislation 549.07). The main challenges when it comes to implementing the prohibition of dumping in protected areas primarily relate to enforcement, though increasing public awareness of the likely negative impacts of dumping in protected areas is also reported as a challenge.

158. Concerning the passage and anchoring of ships in protected areas, this is addressed through the Authority for Transport in Malta Act (Cap. 499), under which shipping activities and maritime transport are regulated. Within this comprehensive framework, it is reported that several restrictions have been put in place in relation to a number of coastal and marine protected areas, or areas targeted for marine protection. An example of this are the restrictions affecting the area around the Island of Filfla. Mooring, berthing, anchoring and other activities connected with underwater diving or sea sport, except for fishing carried out directly from a vessel, are not allowed within an area of one nautical mile radius around the terrestrial Filfla Nature Reserve, except by permission issued from the Authority for Transport in Malta. Challenges faced reported in this field are policy framework, financial resources and technical capabilities.

159. Offshore activities in protected areas are reported to be regulated through an array of legislation, which includes: (1) Environment Protection Act (Cap. 549), (2) Sand Preservation Act (Cap. 127), (3) Filfla Nature Reserve Act (Cap. 323), (4) Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (Cap. 425) and (5) Malta Resources Authority Act (Cap. 423). The key challenge in this area reported is administrative management.

160. As regards the regulation of scientific research in protected areas, the key piece of legislation is the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (Subsidiary Legislation 549.44), thereby the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) is the national competent authority for the promotion of research under the permitting conditions laid down in the Regulations, which also encompasses SPAs. The key challenge in this area is administrative management.

161. The taking of species which originated in SPAs is an activity mainly regulated by: (1) Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (Cap. 425), (2) Trade in Species of Fauna and Flora Regulations (Subsidiary Legislation 549.38), (3) Reptiles Protection Regulations (Subsidiary Legislation 549.02), (4) Marine Mammals Protection Regulations (Subsidiary Legislation 549.35), (5) Conservation of Wild Bird Regulations (Subsidiary Legislation 549.42) and (6) Nature Reserve Regulations.

162. Within that framework, the taking, handling, possession, transport and trade of protected species is reported to be strictly regulated by a permitting system, under which applications are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. As regards non-protected species, the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) is entitled to take measures to ensure that the taking of wild species of flora or fauna is compatible with their being maintained at a favourable conservation status. Administrative management and financial resources are the two challenges reported under this section.

163. Regarding the protection and management of endangered or threatened flora and fauna species, particularly those listed in Annexes II and III to the Protocol, key legislation in place includes the Environment Protection Act (Cap. 549), and the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (Subsidiary Legislation 549.44), under which the regulating regime for protected species is set out. Financial resources and technical capabilities are the challenges faced in this area of work.

164. Closing this Part I on Legal Measures, reference is made to the Environment Impact Assessment Regulation (Subsidiary Legislation 549.46), as the instrument by which to incorporate into the decision making process the possible impacts of projects and activities on SPAs. Main difficulties in this area related to the availability of resources and the fact that coastal areas in Malta suffer from considerable pressure.

165. Part II Specially Protected Areas (SPAs). Malta reports that protected areas have been designated for both the terrestrial and the marine environment through different pieces of legislation. The list of all the protected areas designated under national legislation is available at: <http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/mt/eea/cdda1/>

166. In addition, a number of EU funded projects are underway, the conclusion of which is expected to lead to the expansion of the list of protected areas in Malta. In detail, through the Malta Seabird Life Project it is planned to identify marine Important Bird Areas (IBA) within Maltese territorial waters as part of Malta's Natura 2000 network, and offshore sites as MPAs under international agreements. Under the LIFE MIGRATE Project, three proposed Sites of Community Interest (SCIs) will be under the Habitats Directive in 2016. The LIFE BAHAR project aims at extending existing SCIs and identifying new SCIs for inclusion within the Natura 2000 network. In setting up protected areas the two challenges reported are financial resources and administrative management.

167. In its report, Malta highlights that four SPAs have been set up under the SPA/BD Protocol. In terms of management, three of the sites (islets) are administered by the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA), through the strict provisions of the Filfla Nature Reserve Act (Cap. 323), the Selmunett Islands (St.Paul Islands) Nature Reserve Regulations (Subsidiary Legislation 549.03) and Fungus Rock (il-Ġebbla tal-Ġeneral) Nature Reserve Regulation (Subsidiary Legislation 549.01). The L-Għadira site is accorded protection through different pieces of national legislation and is managed by a NGO. The management plans developed for these SPAs in 2014 are currently in the process of being formally adopted. The key challenge in this area of work is public participation. No SPAs have been set up for the reporting period 2014-2015.

168. On the management of SPAs, Malta's initial assessment report, under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), has provided a baseline assessment of the environmental status of marine waters' ecosystems and the impact of human activities. In addition, further work has been carried out on the development of a monitoring strategy and programme for the marine environment, which includes a fact sheet on seabed habitats.

169. Measures for the involvement of local communities have been taken through universities and other education-related institutes as well as local councils, farmer's and fisher's associations. Furthermore, in developing the management plans of the four SPAs set up under the SPA/BD Protocol, stakeholders for each SPA were largely consulted. These SPAs are not inhabited and are widely accepted by the public.

170. Funding mechanisms for the management and protection of SPAs are reported to be available through different channels. Management agreements have been developed for a number of protected sites in Malta, under which provision of funds is made to cover the expenses incurred as a result of the implementation of measures identified for the protection and conservation of the sites. Funds are available through the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) and the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change (MSDEC). In addition, the management plans developed for the four SPAs set up under the SPA/BD Protocol consider income-generating activities in such areas. Furthermore, the Maltese National Biodiversity Financing Plan (NBFP) includes proposals and recommendations for the mobilization of resources, which also concern the management and conservation of protected areas.

171. The required training for the technical managers and other qualified staff of SPAs is reported to be provided mainly through the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA). Malta notes that more training is required in terms of taxonomy, management and sustainable use of biological resources. The incorporation into the national contingency plans of measures for preventing or responding to incidents in SPAs is articulated through different pieces of legislation, including the National Strategy for Preventing and Mitigating the Impact of Invasive Alien Species (IAS), which holds measures on contingency planning to ensure the rapid eradication of IAS. Institutional arrangements in place for the four SPAs established under the Protocol cover the both the land and maritime part of them.

172. Part III Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs). No areas have been proposed for inclusion on the SPAMI list for the period under review. However the four SPAs established under the Protocol are receiving the necessary attention for inclusion in the SPAMI list.

173. Part IV Protection and Conservation of Species. Work is reported to be ongoing to update the list of endangered or threatened species, which was published in the Red Data Book for the Maltese Islands in 1989. Several studies and surveys have been undertaken in that regard, most of them funded by LIFE EU Projects. However obstacles to progress in this area remain and refer to financial resources, administrative management and technical capabilities. On the establishment of bilateral or multilateral cooperation to protect migrant species in the area where the SPA/BD Protocol applies, Malta is party to a number of regional and global multilateral agreements dealing with species, such as the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS Convention), ACCOBAMS in the Mediterranean region and the Bern Convention.

174. Measures have been adopted to deal with ex situ reproduction. For instance, the Killifish Buzaqq Conservation Project, includes a captive-breeding programme to secure a viable population of the species (*Aphanius fasciatus*), in captivity and the sustainable management of the Natura 2000 sites at Il-Magħluq in Marsaskala. Malta is continuing its work in this area. On the exceptions granted under Article 12.6 of the Protocol, Malta reports a total of 185 permits granted for the reporting period 2014-2015. All of them concern species listed in Annex II to the Protocol and have been dispensed for scientific research and conservation purposes.

175. Steps have been taken to deal with the deliberate or accidental introduction of non-indigenous or genetically modified species. These include *inter alia* the adoption of measures under the National

Strategy for Preventing and Mitigating the Impact of Invasive Alien Species (IAS), the development of eight National Codes of Good Practice which contain a series of recommendations tailored to particular sectors and aimed at preventing the introduction and spread of alien species into the wild, the inventory and monitoring programme of non-native species in Maltese waters developed for the Malta's initial assessment report, under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), and the establishment of measures under the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Malta to prevent the introduction of invasive species. Regarding genetically modified species, specific regulations are in place regulating the introduction of genetically modified species into the environment.

176. A list is provided of those species listed in Annexes II and III to the SPA/BD Protocol which are also covered by the Maltese Environment Protection Act (EPA) (Cap. 549). Nearly all species listed are included in the EPA.

177. Part V Conservation of the Components of Marine and Coastal Diversity. Work is reported to be in progress concerning the compilation of an inventory of the components of marine and coastal diversity and the formulation of a national strategy and action plan for their protection. This is taken forward through the National Strategy for Preventing and Mitigating the Impact of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and an array of EU funded projects, such as the Malta's Second Water Catchment Management Plan.

178. Part VI Enforcement Measures. This Part has been left blank.

179. Part VII Implementation of Regional Action Plans (RAPs). Malta reports on the following:

- (a) Cartilaginous fish: Chondrichthyans have been afforded legal protection through domestic (Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (Subsidiary Legislation 549.44) and EU legislation. Fishing restrictions are strictly regulated through domestic legislation (Environment Protection Act 2016, Cap. 549), EU Regulations, FAO provisions on sharks and General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean recommendations. Scientific research has been carried out in the framework of specific Mediterranean projects (MEDLEM and MEDITS) and the Malta's initial assessment report, under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). Education and public awareness targets the fishing industry. Work is reported to be ongoing as to the development of specific programmes in the context of IPOA-Sharks and training programmes on the conservation of chondrichthyans for specialists. Financial resources is one of the key challenges in implementing this regional plan;
- (b) Non-indigenous species: National legislation for controlling the introduction of non-native species has been enacted through primary and subsidiary legislation as well as a number of strategies and plans, the National Strategy for Preventing and Mitigating the Impact of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) being of particular relevance. This adds to the EU legislation in place. Work is reported to be in progress to assess the situation as regards the introduction of marine species, with studies feeding into the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) initial assessment and the associated monitoring programme for non-native species. Interim arrangements on ballast water monitoring have been taken in anticipation of the entry into force of the IMO Ballast Water Convention. Although an action plan is not in place to control the introduction of non-native marine species, a system is in place to control the import/export of non-indigenous marine species, administered by the CITES Management Authority and the Customs Department. Awareness raising campaigns, including the development of Guidelines developed. Administrative management and financial resources are the main challenges in implementing this regional plan;
- (c) Bird species: All Regional Action Plan requirements are reported to be met: (1) legal protection to bird species has been granted (Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations-Subsidiary Legislation 549.42 and Trade in Species of Fauna and Flora Regulations-Subsidiary Legislation 549.35), (2) terrestrial protected areas for the conservation of bird species listed in the Annexes to the Protocol and breeding in Malta have been established, (3) programmes of research have been developed for the three species listed in the Annexes to the Protocol and breeding in Malta, and also under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) for breeding seabirds

occurring in the Maltese Islands and (4) management plans for protected areas include areas designated as Bird Sanctuaries and SPAs. Main challenges faced in the implementation of this regional plan are financial resources and administrative management;

- (d) **Cetaceans:** The development of an action plan for the conservation of cetaceans is reported to be ongoing under the EU LIFE MIGRATE Project. Work is also underway concerning the establishment of MPAs to protect cetaceans. This is faced with some difficulties, given the lack of data on the occurrence of cetaceans. However, through the EU LIFE MIGRATE Project, three Proposed Sites of Community Interest (pSCIs) will be declared under the Habitats Directive in 2016 due to their importance for turtles. Scientific research programmes and network of monitoring cetaceans strandings have been established. Main challenges in implementing this regional plan are financial resources, administrative management and regulatory framework;
- (e) **Marine vegetation:** All Regional Action Plans requirements are met, i.e. (1) protection status for meadows accorded by law (Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations-Subsidiary Legislation 549.44); (2) EIA regulations take into consideration impacts of planned human activities on meadows; (3) Malta's five marine Sites of Community importance (SCIs) established for the protection of meadows / plant formations; (4) mapping of Posidonia oceanica done and under the Natura 2000 Project LIFE BAHAR, research will be conducted on sandbanks, (5) awareness and education actions developed highlighting the importance of Posidonia oceanica and protected species and more work is scheduled on other marine vegetation under the LIFE BAHAR project, (6) training programmes are in place on Posidonia and taxonomy for national officials, and (7) under the LIFE BAHAR and After-Live Conservation Plan is underway. On challenges reported, these mainly refer to administrative management, public participation and financial resources;
- (f) **Monk Seal:** Protection afforded by domestic and EU legislation; fishing techniques which can endanger monk seals prohibited as per domestic and EU legislation on fishing; data on monk seals available and awareness raising materials for schools developed. Remaining regional action plan requirements are reported to be non- applicable as Malta has no records of the presence of breeding monk seal populations ;
- (g) **Marine Turtles:** (1) Marine turtles are protected by domestic and EU legislation; (2) measures to reduce their incidental catch are in place, this includes a manual for fishermen, which is used in awareness campaigns targeting Maltese fishermen; (3) centres to rescue marine turtles have been established, with beached or incidentally captured turtles transferred to the Malta Centre for Fisheries Science (MCFS) for treatment; (4) designation of SPAs to their conservation in process, as the lack of data on the occurrence of turtles does not make the setting up of SPAs created specifically to conserve marine turtle populations straight-forward, (5) tagging programmes carried out, (6) awareness raising campaigns targeting fishermen developed and (7) action plan adopted under the LIFE MIGRATE Project. Main challenges in implementing this regional action plan are administrative management and financial resources.

Country: MONTENEGRO

1982 SPA Protocol	Ratification: No ratification
1995 SPA and BD Protocol	Ratification: 19.11.07

180. **Part I Legal Measures.** A comprehensive overview of the legal framework in place to protect areas of particular natural or cultural value and endangered or threatened species of flora and fauna as required in Article 3 of the SPA/BD Protocol is provided. The Law no. 54/16 on Nature Protection constitutes the cornerstone of that framework.

181. The protection, preservation and management of areas of particular natural or cultural value, by the establishment of SPAs, is mainly ensured by the Law no. 54/16 on Nature Protection. The Law sets a step-by-step decision making process for the establishment of protected areas, under which the designation of a protected area falls on different national competent authorities (Parliament,

Government or Local Government) depending on the category of its protection. The Law further sets the framework for the management of protected areas. This general framework is complemented by a set of sectoral regulations such as Law No 56/09 on National Parks as amended, Law no. 56/09 on Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture as amended, and Law no. 14/92 on Public Maritime Domain.

182. On the protection measures adopted in SPAs to regulate the activities listed in Article 6 of the SPA/BD Protocol, i.e. dumping, passage of ships, offshore exploration and exploitation, taking of species and scientific research, the following below is reported.

183. Regarding dumping, the Law on the Coastal Zone and the Law on the Sea set both the framework prohibiting dumping activities at the sea of hazardous and noxious substances and other matter from ships. Concerning the passage and anchoring of ships in SPAs, the Law no. 54/16 on Nature Protection provides for protection zones in the protected nature areas, within which, as determined by the Act of Proclamation and Management, a number of activities, including passage and anchoring of ships, are regulated. In addition, the Law no. 20/2011 on the Protection of the Sea against Pollution from Sea-going objects, defines sailing routes in a way to avoid negative impacts on SPAs.

184. As regards offshore exploration and exploitation activities, under the Law no. 54/16 on Nature Protection, activities affecting or likely to affect protected areas require previous authorization from the Environmental Protection Agency, and in some cases are also subject to EIA or SEA. This mechanism enables the Environmental Protection Agency to refuse the necessary authorization in case of activities considered to have harmful effects on protected areas.

185. Scientific research in protected areas is regulated by the Law no. 54/16 on Nature Protection, under which scientific research activities are subject to a permit from the Environmental Protection Agency and positive advice of the Institute of Marine Biology, if the research is going to be undertaken in marine protected areas. More specifically, under the Law on Marine Fishery, scientific research activities for the purpose of hunting and collecting fish and other marine organisms require a permit from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

186. As to the taking of species which originate in SPAs, under the Law no. 54/16 on Nature Protection, there is among others a prohibition to pick, collect and use protected wild species of plants, animals and fungi, the exception to which, the case those species would not become endangered as a result. For non-protected species, the same prohibition applies as long as population levels are not endangered. In addition, for non-protected species there is a Rulebook on the manner and conditions for the collection, use and trade of non-protected wild animals, plants and fungi.

187. The protection and management of endangered or threatened flora and fauna species, particularly those listed in the Annexes to the SPA/BD Protocol, is ensured by the Law no. 54/16 on Nature Protection, under which specific management measures are set for protected wild species of plants, animals and fungi in Montenegro. This Law is also the instrument to incorporate into the decision making process the EIA or SEA of project and activities on SPAs.

188. Part II Specially Protected Areas (SPAs). Work is reported to be in process as to the setting up of new protected areas within the Protocol's geographical coverage. In that regard, under the National Strategy for Integrated Coastal Zone Management and its Action Plan (2015-2030), seven locations suitable for protection have been identified, the collection of detailed data on those locations being a priority activity in order to grant them the status of MPAs. This is expected to occur once the Spatial Planning System and Special Purpose Spatial Plan for the Coastal Zone is approved. In addition, to facilitate this process, the procedure of proclamation of protected areas under the Law no. 54/16 on Nature Protection has been amended. On the requirement under the SPA/BD Protocol of having a management plan for each SPAs, the SPA established so far (Tivatska solila) does not have it. However, for a potential MPA (Katič) a draft management plan is available, within the framework of the bilateral cooperation between Montenegro and Italy.

189. On the management of SPAs, it is reported that within the framework of the MOU between SPA/RAC and the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro, concerning the Project “Mapping of key marine habitats in the Mediterranean and promoting their conservation through the establishment of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI)”, marine habitats in two pilot sites has been mapped.

190. Regarding the involvement of local communities in the management of protected areas and the assistance to local inhabitants who may be affected by the establishment of SPAs, since the process of establishment of MPAs is ongoing and management plans have not been developed yet, a detailed plan of measures covering these two aspects is still to be prepared. Meantime, under the Law no. 54/16 on Nature Protection, the State is obliged to provide a compensation to owners and users of the property right, for the restrictions in the use of protected areas.

191. Funding mechanisms for managing and promoting SPAs are in place through the Law no. 54/16 on Nature Protection, though they focus on traditional revenue generating mechanism and do not include innovative financing opportunities such as payments for ecosystem services, biodiversity offsets and others.

192. Training for SPAs managers and staff has been provided under the capacity building activities developed within the Project “Mapping of key marine habitats in the Mediterranean and promoting their conservation through the establishment of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI)”.

193. In the Montenegro National Contingency Plan for Response to Marine Pollution from Shipping and Offshore Installations adopted in 2011, there is a specific set of measures related to provision of the adequate response to incidents that could cause damage or present a threat to SPAs.

194. Closing this Part, Montenegro reports that protected areas which are located in the coastal zone are managed by the legal entity responsible for management of the coastal zone. For the areas outside of borders of the public maritime domain, protected areas could be managed by a public company, a public institution or other legal or natural person which fulfilled the criteria set in the Rulebook on Detailed Conditions that have to be met by the Manager of a Protected Area

195. Part III Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs). No SPAMIs are reported to having been established.

196. Part IV Protection and Conservation of Species. Montenegro reports that as a result of a number of projects aimed at identifying suitable areas for protection in the Montenegrin coastal region a number of valuable species for protection were also identified. Work is ongoing in order to complete the list and status of the species so identified. In addition, 37 endangered species listed in Annex II to the SPA/BD Protocol are protected in Montenegro by national Decision no. 76/06 on putting under protection particular species of flora and fauna.

197. Regarding the protection of migrant species through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, through the Net CET Project (Network for the Conservation of Cetaceans and Sea Turtles in the Adriatic), Montenegro has established multilateral cooperation for the protection of cetaceans and Sea Turtles migratory species.

198. The granting of exceptions in accordance with Article 12.6 of the SPA/BD Protocol is regulated by the Law no. 54/16 on Nature Protection and under the same Law a procedure is prescribed for dealing with the deliberate or accidental introduction into the wild of non-native species. No action is reported to having been taken as regards ex-situ reproduction. Main challenges in protecting species are financial resources, technical capabilities and policy framework.

199. Part V Conservation of the Components of Marine and Coastal Diversity. As a result of various projects, a number of areas and species in the Montenegrin coastal region have been identified suitable for protection. This adds to the project with UNEP “Promoting Protected Areas Management through Integrated Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Protection in Coastal Area of Montenegro”, aimed at screening coastal biodiversity components in order to fulfill the inventory for species and habitats. Furthermore, measures for the protection of components of marine and coastal biodiversity have been

included in the National Strategy for Integrated Coastal Zone Management and its Action Plan (2015-2030), the National Strategy for Sustainable Development and its Action Plan (2030) and the National Biodiversity Strategy and its Action Plan (2016-2020).

200. Part VI Enforcement Measures. As to the enforcement of Article 6.g of the Protocol, under which Contracting Parties are required to take protection measures to regulate or prohibit the taking of species originated in SPAs, Montenegro reports a total of 15 inspections, which have led to the detection of six non-compliance cases and six enforcement measures applied, other than fines.. As to the enforcement of Article 11.3 on the protection and conservation of species, number of inspections, non-compliance cases and enforcement measures applied is reported to be one. As to the enforcement of Article 11.5 on the protection and conservation of species, this section has been left blank.

201. Part VII Implementation of Regional Action Plans (RAPs). Montenegro reports on the following:

- (a) Cartilaginous fish: Chondrichthyans have been granted legal protection and action has been taken on fishing under the Law on Marine Fishery, as cartilaginous fish are part of the bycatch of commercial fisheries. Otherwise, due to lack of capacity and financial resources, no measures are reported to having been taken to: (1) develop specific programmes in the context of IPOA-Sharks, (2) establish programmes of scientific research on chondrichthyans, though the Institute for Marine Biology, in cooperation with other Adriatic marine institutes, has started a program for the development of a the Check List of Chondrichties species in the Adriatic Sea, (3) develop training programmes for specialists or awareness raising material,
- (b) Non-indigenous species: The Law no. 54/16 on Nature Protection regulates the introduction of marine species, which is subject to approval of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) on the basis of a risk assessment. Work is reported to be ongoing on the establishment of a mechanism to monitor and control ballast water discharged into territorial waters. In that regard, Montenegro participates in the regional IMO/GEF/REMPEC project GloBallast Partnership and as an observer in the Ballast Water Subcommittee of the Trilateral Commission for the Adriatic. Montenegro notes that its legal framework needs to incorporate the provisions of the IMO Ballast Water Convention and that technical capabilities need to be developed in that regard. As to the establishment of an action plan to control the introduction of non-native marine species, an Action plan for *Caluerpa racemosa* is in place within the framework of SP/BIO Programme for Montenegro. It is further reported that due to the lack of financial resources and capacities, an assessment of the situation regarding the introduction of marine species has not been prepared, though some data is available as a result of the project "Action Plan concerning Alien Species and Species Introductions in the Mediterranean Sea". The same challenges have prevented Montenegro from developing an overall training and awareness-raising programme on the management of ballast water, though specific awareness-raising materials have been developed for *Caluerpa racemose*,
- (c) Bird species: Legal protection to bird species has been granted (Law no. 54/16 on Nature Protection), (2) protected areas for the conservation of bird species listed in the Annexes to the SPA/BD Protocol have been established. Birds are strictly protected in nature reserves, the National Park of "Skadar Lake" being of particular relevance, as it is the habitat of more than 270 bird species, (3) an Action Plan for Dalmatian Pelicans/*Pelicans crispus* is in place and (4) programmes of research have been developed for one or several species listed in the Annexes to the Protocol within the National Monitoring Programme of the State of the Biodiversity in Montenegro. This adds to the projects developed by NGOs and the National Park "Skadar Lake". Main challenges in implementing this Regional Action Plan are financial resources, and technical capabilities,
- (d) Cetaceans: Under the Net CET Project (Network for the Conservation of Cetaceans and Sea Turtles in the Adriatic), strategies for the conservation of cetaceans in the Adriatic Sea for the period 2016-2015 were developed; scientific research conducted on Adriatic cetaceans and sea

turtles conservation populations, hot-spots and major threats; and a network for monitoring cetaceans strandings was set up. Due to the lack of resources these activities were not expanded or taken forward on a regular basis. In Montenegro, no nesting places of cetaceans populations have been found,

- (e) **Marine Vegetation:** Protection status for vegetation species at national level is granted by Decision no. 76/06 on putting under protection particular species of flora and fauna. By the Law no. 54/16 on Nature Protection and the Law no. 80/05 on EIA, the legal framework is in place to ensure that an impact analysis of human activities on the biodiversity is taken into consideration in the decision making process. Work is reported to be ongoing through different projects (e.g. CAMP and MEDKEY habitat) to identify potential MPAs to protect the most representatives meadows and other plant formations that are significant for the marine environment. As a result, seven potential sites have been identified. In addition, the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism has just initiated realization of two projects in cooperation with UNEP with the aim to support the establishment of a network of marine protected areas. Work is also ongoing as regards the mapping of the main meadows and other plant formations that are significant to the marine environment. Of special relevance in this area is the work under the Project “Start up of Katič” MPA in Montenegro and the Project “Mapping of key marine habitats in the Mediterranean and promoting their conservation through the establishment of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance” (SPAMI). Broad awareness raising programmes have been conducted concerning the conservation of marine vegetation. However, due to the lack of capacities and financial resources no systematic training programs for specialists have been developed. An Action Plan for *Posidonia oceanica* and halophyte vegetation is in place, though it needs to be updated,
- (f) **Monk Seal:** By the Decision no. 76/06 on putting under protection particular species of flora and fauna, monk seals are reported to be protected. In addition, by Law on Marine Fishery the usage of dynamite, chemical and other substances that can endanger fishes and marine fauna is prohibited. Monk seals are reported to not having been observed in Montenegro for many years, though a few potential breeding caves have been identified and mapped. Financial resources and capabilities are the main challenges faced in implementing this regional action plan,
- (g) **Marine Turtles:** Marine Turtles are protected by the Decision no. 76/06 on putting under protection particular species of flora and fauna. In addition, programmes for awareness raising and training concerning marine turtle conservation have been developed within the Net CET Project (Network for the Conservation of Cetaceans and Sea Turtles in the Adriatic). Research under the Net CET Project showed that sea turtles appear occasionally (migratory route) in Montenegro but do not use any site as a breeding or nesting area. There is a Strategy for conservation of marine turtles in the Adriatic Sea for the period 2016–2025. Otherwise, due to the limited financial resources and capabilities, no specific measures are reported to be in place to reduce incidental catch in marine turtles, rescue or tagging marine turtles.

Country: MOROCCO

1982 SPA Protocol	Ratification: 22.06.90
1995 SPA and BD Protocol	Ratification: 24.04.09

202. **Part I Legal Measures.** Morocco explains in detail its legal regime to protect areas of particular natural or cultural value and endangered or threatened species of flora and fauna as required in Article 3 of the SPA/BD Protocol.

203. Different pieces of legislation of general (Law No. 81-12 on the Coastal Zone) and sectoral nature (Law No. 29-05 on the Protection and Trade of Wild Flora and Fauna Species and Law No. 22-07 on Protected Areas) are reported to be in place regarding the protection, preservation and management of areas of particular natural or cultural value, notably by the establishment of SPAs. More in detail, the Law on the Coastal Zone is reported to be of particular relevance, enabling the competent national authority to adopt in some coastal areas specific measures for the protection of ecosystems, natural sites, historic or archeological sites, and species of flora and fauna.

204. That framework is complemented by the MOU between Morocco and Spain to protect the Intercontinental Mediterranean Biosphere Reserve, adopted within the Man and Biosphere UNESCO Programme. Furthermore, three of the four Sites of Biological and ecological Interest (SBEI) set up in Morocco are also reported to be RAMSAR Sites. To the four SBEIs adds the National Park Al Hoceima. Morocco notes that in protecting SPAs further coordination is needed between the authorities involved in their protection.

205. On the protection measures adopted in SPAs to regulate the activities listed in Article 6 of the SPA/BD Protocol, i.e. dumping, passage of ships, offshore exploration and exploitation, taking of species and scientific research, the following below is reported.

206. As regards the prohibition of dumping in SPAs, under the Law No. 22-07 on Protected Areas, the abandon of any object or liquid or solid detritus is prohibited in SPAs. In addition, any pollution by toxic or dangerous products to soil, water resources, flora or fauna is prohibited. Under the Law No. 81-12 on the Coastal Zone, any discharge causing coastal pollution is prohibited. The competent national authority is however enable to authorize the dumping of liquid wastes which do not go beyond the established specific limit values.

207. On whether regulation is in place concerning the passage and anchoring of ships in SPAs, this section has been left blank. Concerning the development of offshore activities in SPAs, by the Law No. 22-07 on Protected Areas, all activities likely to harm the natural environment, the conservation of fauna and flora, or alter the function and the elements of the ecosystem of the protected area are prohibited or restricted.

208. Scientific research in SPAs is reported to be regulated. By Law No. 81-12 on the Coastal Zone, coastal scientific research is encouraged through the support of scientific research programmes aimed at further developing knowledge regarding integrated coastal management zone, and the development of scientific studies on the sustainable development of the coastal zone. It is noted the limited monitoring and assessment.

209. The taking of species which originate in SPAs is reported to be regulated by the Law No. 29-05 on the Protection and Trade of Wild Flora and Fauna Species, the Law No. 22-07 on Protected Areas and the Law No. 81-12 on the Coastal Zone. The control trade in specimen of species is addressed by the Law No. 29-05 and activities such as hunting, fishing, harvesting and capturing of flora and fauna species are regulated by the Law No. 22-07. It is noted that the legal framework in place does not cover all species.

210. Regarding the protection and management of flora and fauna species, particularly those listed in Annexes II and III to the Protocol, reference is made to the Executive Decisions on Hunting and the Protocol SPA/BD incorporated into national law. The impact of projects and activities in SPAs is reported to be addressed by different pieces of legislation, including the Ordinance on Public Consultation.

211. Part II Specially Protected Areas (SPAs). The list of SPAs established in Morocco consists of four Sites of Biological and ecological Interest (SBEI), which were set up in 2006, and the National Park Al Hoceima, which was set up in 2004. The Elaboration and implementation of management plans is reported to be under development in the National Park Al Hoceima. In addition, for two SBEI, within the projects MedMPAnet and Med Keyhabitats, the development of a management plan has been addressed.

212. On the management of SPAs, regarding the development of monitoring programmes to track the status of SPAs, it is reported that there is no regular monitoring. Challenges faced are financial resources and technical capabilities. Measures for the involvement of local communities in the management of protected areas, are reported to having been adopted. Reference is made to the Law No. 22-07 on Protected Areas, under which a participatory approach is applied. Through the Programme of Microprojects on Ecodevelopment, assistance is reported to be provided to local inhabitants who might be affected by the establishment of SPAs.

213. Funding mechanisms for managing and promoting SPAs are reported to be available through the State budget and bilateral cooperation. Measures are reported having been taken for the provision of training for the SPAs technical managers, though it is noted that there is a need to reinforce the training as regards the marine part of SPAs. The adoption of measures in National Contingency Plans (NCP) to combat pollution incidents in SPA is reported to having been taken forward through different pieces of legislation, including the one establishing the National Urgency Plan. The Law No. 22-07 on Protected Areas, is reported to provide for measures for the management as a whole of each SPA.

214. Part III Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs). It is reported that for the SPAMI National Park Al Hoceima the revision of the management plan is under development as required by the Law No. 22-07 on Protected Areas.

215. Part IV Protection and Conservation of Species. Morocco reports that for the purpose of CITES the Law No. 29-05 on the Protection and Trade of Wild Flora and Fauna Species includes a list of endangered or threatened species. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation to protect and restore the population of migrant species is reported to be undertaken through the relevant international agreements. As regards the formulation of plans addressing ex-situ reproduction, Morocco refers to the Law No. 29-05 on the Protection and Trade of Wild Flora and Fauna Species. On exceptions granted under Article 12.6 of the SPA/BD Protocol, it is reported that they are granted for scientific purposes. Steps are reported to having been taken to deal with the deliberate or accidental introduction of non-indigenous or genetically modified species by the Law No. 29-05 on the Protection and Trade of Wild Flora and Fauna Species. Challenges in protecting and conserving species are financial resources, technical capabilities, and regulatory framework.

216. Part V Conservation of the Components of Marine and Coastal Diversity. Measures are reported to having been implemented to compile an inventory of the components of marine and coastal biodiversity. Also for the formulation of a national strategy and action plan for their protection. This has been taken forward through the Strategy for the development of MPAs for the purpose of fishing and the Network of MPAs. For the National Park of Al Hoceima there is a specific National Strategy. Key challenges in this field of work are financial resources, technical capabilities and administrative management.

217. Part VI Enforcement Measures. Reference is made to the Law No. 29-05 on the Protection and Trade of Wild Flora and Fauna Species and the Law No. 22-07 on Protected Areas which establish the legal framework for enforcement.

218. Part VII Implementation of Regional Action Plans (RAPs). Morocco reports on the following:

- (a) Cartilaginous fish: It is reported that: (1) chondrichthyans have been granted legal protection by Decisions and Regulations dated 2012, (2) specific programmes in the context of IPOA-Sharks have been developed. A National Strategy “Halieutis” was adopted in 2009 together with specific action plans for small pelagic species and cephalopods, (3) steps have been taken on fishing, (4) programmes of scientific research on chondrichthyans have been developed, and (5) awareness raising material has been prepared. On the development of training programmes for specialists, this section is left blank. Main challenges in implementing this regional action plan are financial resources, technical capabilities, administrative management and public resources,
- (b) Non-indigenous species: (1) Legislation to control the introduction of marine species is reported to be in place by law regulating the authorisation for the introduction of species, (2)

to monitor and control ballast water discharged into territorial waters a mechanisms is reported to having been established by the law ratifying the IMO Ballast Water Convention, (3) no action is reported to having been taken as to the conduction of an assessment of the situation regarding the introduction of marine species, (4) no action plan to control the introduction of non-native marine species is reported to having been developed, and (5) on whether awareness raising programmes on ballast water management has been developed, this section is left blank. Challenges in implementing this regional action plan are financial resources and technical capabilities,

- (c) Bird species: Legal protection to bird species is reported to having been granted by the Law No. 29-05 on the Protection and Trade of Wild Flora and Fauna Species and hunting laws. Protected areas for those species included in the Annexes to the SPA/BD Protocol are reported to having been established. This adds to a number of sites designated to protect those species, though these sites do not have the status of protected areas. Programmes of research on those species included in Annexes to the SPA/BD Protocol are reported to having been undertaken. On the development of action plans for one or several species listed in the SPA/BD Protocol, it is reported that protected species are monitored on a regular basis, in particular the osprey. Challenges faced in implementing this plan refer to administrative management, technical capabilities, regulatory framework and financial resources,
- (d) Cetaceans: The development of an action plan for the conservation of cetaceans is reported to be under development. However, a broad array of measures for the conservation of cetaceans are reported to be in place, through a variety of instruments including domestic laws, the National Strategy for the Conservation of Biodiversity and international agreements, such as ACCOBAMS. Measures refer *inter alia* to the release of cetaceans caught as by-catch, SPAs, and reduction of pollution. Studies and scientific research programmes on cetaceans are reported to being in place, with a number of projects, led by the National Institute on Fishing Research, being actually conducted within the framework of ACCOBAMS. A network for monitoring cetaceans strandings is reported to be in place. The National Institute on Fishing Research forms part of that network together with local authorities, Army Corps and other national authorities. It is reported that MPAs have been created to protect one or several species of cetaceans. The SPAMI National Park Al Hoceima includes cetaceans. Challenges in implementing this plan are reported to be: technical capabilities, regulatory framework and financial resources,
- (e) Marine vegetation: It is reported that EIA regulations in place take into consideration the impacts of planned human activities on meadows and other plan formations which are significant for the marine environment. It is further reported that awareness raising activities have been developed concerning the conservation of marine vegetation and that the development of training programmes for specialists has been taken forward through universities. Otherwise, no action is reported to having been taken on the other regional action plan requirements. Main challenges in implementing this plan are technical capabilities, policy and regulatory framework, financial resources and public participation,
- (f) Monk Seal: (1) Monks seas are reported to having been granted protection status by law. Monk seals are classified protected species by domestic legislation. They are included in Annex I to the CITES Convention, and as such regulated by the the Law No. 29-05 on the Protection and Trade of Wild Flora and Fauna Species. This adds to the Decrees concerning the temporary fishing prohibition of monk seals and other marine species and mammals, (2) fishing techniques which can endanger monk seals are reported to be prohibited by law (Law No. 3187 on Maritime Fishing and Decrees of 1993 and 1999 establishing a marine reserve prohibiting fishing in a delimited area of the Atlantic coast). It is noted that monk seas caught as bycatch is a challenge to overcome as well as juveniles mortality, (3) measures are reported to having been taken to isolate monk seals from any human activity. This includes the

measures taken under the above-mentioned Decrees of 1993 and 1999 and within the framework of the Action Plan for the Conservation of the Monk Seal. This has led to an increase in the monk seals population from 100 in 1998 to 250 in 2014 and the detection of new breeding areas, (4) SPAs are reported to having been created to conserve monk seas populations (National Park of Al Hoceima and the marine reserve established by the Decrees of 1993 and 1999), (5) inventories of breeding caves and other habitats important for the conservation of monk seals are reported to having been carried out, with the identification of breeding caves in Cap Blanc (Atlantic coast), (6) data collection programmes on the monk seal are reported to having been undertaken, within the framework of the Action Plan for the Conservation of the Monk Seal. Monk seal and their offspring are monitoring by cameras placed in the breeding caves, sensors or by observers along the coast, (7) programmes for awareness raising are reported to having been developed, and (8) an Action Plan for the Conservation of the Monk Seal in the West Atlantic Coast is reported to be in place within the framework of the Bonn Convention. The Plan brings together Morocco, Spain, Portugal and Mauritania. Main challenges reported are financial resources, technical capabilities, public participation and administrative management,

- (g) Marine Turtles: Marine turtles are reported to be protected via the relevant international agreements ratified by Morocco. Tagging programmes and awareness raising are also reported to having been developed. Otherwise, no action is reported to having been taken as regards the other regional action plan requirements. Main challenges reported deal with financial resources, technical capabilities and public participation.

Country: TURKEY

1982 SPA Protocol	Ratification: 06.11.86 (Accession)
1995 SPA and BD Protocol	Ratification: 18.09.02

219. Part I Legal Measures. Legislation is reported to be in place for the protection of areas of particular natural or cultural value by the establishment of SPAs and the protection of endangered or threatened species of flora and fauna listed in Annexes II and III to the SPA/BD Protocol. The legal framework in place encompasses both Laws and Decrees having the force of Law.

220. Within that framework, in line with Article 6 of the Protocol, a number of activities likely to have an impact on SPAs and/or species are reported to be regulated. These activities range from dumping, to offshore exploration and exploitation to scientific research and taking of species. As regards the regulation of the passage and anchoring of ships in SPAs, challenges faced are reported to be the regulatory framework and the administrative management. These challenges add to the more specific ones reported about the limited availability of data on SPAs species and the need of more scientific data for some species listed in Annexes II and III to the Protocol. In addition, in compliance with Article 17 of the Protocol, the impact of projects in protected areas are reported to be taken into consideration in the planning process leading to decisions on projects and activities that could have an impact on protected areas, species and their habitats.

221. Part II Specially Protected Areas (SPAs). Turkey reports having set up protected areas within the Protocol's geographical coverage. For the current reporting period, the list of SPAs includes the Saros Bay SPA, though the sections on the details concerning the area, ranging from date of creation to management plan implementation date have been left blank. On the elaboration and implementation of management plans for each SPA, Turkey reports having developed management plans for Foça SPA and Kaş-Kekova SPA.

222. Planning and management activities in SPAs reported cover scientific monitoring programmes tracking changes in the state of SPAs, through annual protection and monitoring projects, and funding mechanisms for managing and promoting SPAs. The sections regarding the involvement of local

communities in the management of SPAs, the provision of assistance to the local communities which may be affected by the establishment of SPAs, the development of training programmes for SPAs managers and staff and the adoption of measures in National Contingency Plans (NCP) to combat pollution incidents in SPAs have been left blank. Institutional arrangements for eh management as a whole of each SPAs are reported to be in place.

223. Part III Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs). The setting up of SPAMIs is reported to be in process and the key challenge faced in doing so is the policy framework and the inadequacy of the legal status for marine protection activities.

224. Part IV Protection and Conservation of Species. Turkey reports having drawn up a list of endangered or threatened species and taken steps taken to deal with the deliberate or accidental introduction of non-indigenous or genetically modified species. This includes the establishment of an Invasive Alien Species (IAS) database under the National Biodiversity Database (The Noah's Arc). To protect and restore the population of migrant species under the Protocol's area, work is underway to set the scope of scientific and administrative collaboration with riparian states. As regards the formulation of plans addressing ex-situ reproduction, Turkey notes in its report than in-situ conservation is preferred over ex-situ. On exceptions granted under Article 12.6 of the Protocol, the entry reported is not applicable.

225. Part V Conservation of the Components of Marine and Coastal Diversity. An inventory for most of the protected areas, including marine and coastal areas is in place since 2002 and updated since then, as required. In addition National Action Plans have been adopted on Monk Seals and Marine Turtles. They are currently being revised.

226. Part VI Enforcement Measures. As to the enforcement of Article 6.g of the Protocol, under which Contracting Parties are required to take protection measures to regulate or prohibit the taking of species originated in SPAs, Turkey reports a total of 95 inspections, which have led to the detection of 57 non-compliance cases and the issuance of 11 fines. As to the enforcement of the provisions of Article 11.3 and 11.5 on the protection and conservation of species, this section has been left blank.

227. Part VII Implementation of Regional Action Plans (RAPs). Turkey reports on the following:

- (a) Cartilaginous fish: Some species of chondrichthyans have been given legal status for the purpose of protection; conservation and specific programmes in the context of IPOA-sharks have been developed, (i.e. Marine Turtles and Mediterranean Monk Seal Projects) and steps have been taken on fishing. No fishing zones have been declared in Gökova and Datça-Bozburun SEPA's. Work is reported to be underway as regards the development of scientific research and training programmes on chondrichthyans as well as awareness raising materials to stakeholders. Challenges faced in implementing this plan are administrative management, public participation and technical capabilities,
- (b) Non-indigenous species: The situation regarding the introduction of marine species is reported to be assessed. There is a national database on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) under the National Biodiversity Database (The Noah's Arc). Turkey notes that the main pathway for the introduction of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) into the Mediterranean Sea is the Suez Canal and that Turkey has experienced a significant increase in the density of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) along its coast. Work is reported to be underway as regards: (1) the adoption of legislation to control the introduction of marine species, with a draft law on the management and control of ballast water discharged in Turkish national waters, (2) the establishment of a mechanism to monitor and control ballast water discharged into territorial waters, and (3) the development of awareness raising programmes on ballast water management. No action plan to control the introduction of non-native marine species has been developed. Key challenges faced in implementing this plan refer to administrative management, public participation and technical capabilities and regulatory framework,
- (c) Bird species: Legal protection to bird species granted with bird species mainly protected by hunting laws; protected areas for those species included in the Annexes to the Protocol established, with all wetlands protected via the relevant regulations, and programmes of research

on those species undertaken, i.e. during biodiversity assesment studies many bird species living in the coastal wetland habitats were evaluated. Work on the development of action plans is reported to be ongoing, administrative managment being a challlenge in that regard,

- (d) Cetaceans: No specific action plan for the conservation of cetaceans has been developed. Work is reported to be in progress as regards: (1) the development of research programmes, which involve the relevant Ministries and Universities, and (2) the establishment of MPAs for the protection of cetaceans. On activities for the monitoring of cetaceans strandings, though there is no network established in that regard, there are agents to that end. Main challenges faced to implement this regional action plan are policy framework, administrative management and technical capabilities,
- (e) Marine vegetation: (1) Posidonia meadows are protected by laws concerning water products, (2) EIA regulations take into consideration impacts of planed human activities on meadows and (3) mapping of Posidonia meadows has been undertaken within the RAC/SPA Med-Posidonia Project in coordination with the Turkish Ministry of Forestry and National Parks, the results of which were used in awareness raising activities. Work is reported to be in process as regards the establishment of protected areas to protect significant meadows and other plant formations. On the development of training programmes for specialists in the study and conservation of marine vegetation, no action has been taken. The same status is reported concerning the establishment of an action plan for the conservation of marine vegetation. Administrative management and technical capabilities are listed as the key challenges faced in implementing this regional action plan,
- (f) Monk Seal: (1) Monks seas have been granted protection status by law, (2) fishing techniques which can endanger monk seals are prohibited by law, (3) SPAs created to conserve monk seas populations, indeed most of the protected sites are also habitats of monk seals, (4) inventories of breeding caves and other habitats important for the conservation of monk seals carried out in the Mersin-Erdemli and Antalya-Gazipaşa, (5) data collection programmes on the monk seal undertaken, with the National Monk Seal Committee meeting regularly to that end, (6) programmes for awareness raising developed and (7) the Ministry of Forest and Water Affairs has developed an Action Plan for the protection of Monk Seals in the provinces of Muğla and Mersin. The key challenged reported in implementing this plan refers to administrative management, as monk seals live in both marine and coastal zones,
- (g) Marine Turtles: All Regional Action Plan requirements are reported to be met: (1) marine turtles are protected by law, (2) measures to reduce their incidental catch are in place, (3) centres to rescue marine turtles have been established, (4) SPAs have been designated to their conservation, with 21 marine turtle nesting sites protected by law, (5) inventories of turtle nesting beaches have been compiled, as a result of a joint effort by the relevant ministries, universities and NGOs, (6) a metal tagging programme is ongoing, (6) awareness raising campaigns developed, in particular during the nesting season and (7) an action plan adopted for the conservation of marine turtles. Administrative management and technical capabilities are the challenges faced in implementing this regional action plan.

EUROPEAN UNION

1982 SPA Protocol	Ratification: 30.06.84 (Approval)
1995 SPA and BD Protocol	Ratification: 12.11.99

228. EC Directives and Regulations are reported to be in place for the protection of areas of particular natural or cultural value and the protection of endangered or threatened species of flora and fauna. The legal framework in place encompasses a broad array of Directives and Regulations including, the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (Directive 2008/56/EC), the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC), the Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 concerning management measures for the sustainable exploitation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean Sea, and the Council Regulation (EC) No 302/2009 of 6 April 2009 concerning a multiannual recovery plan for

bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean. In addition, several species actions plans have been developed for birds through the LIFE EuroSAP Project.

229. On the implementation of regional actions plans adopted under the SPA/BD Protocol, the following is reported: (1) Cartilaginous fish: Community Action Plan for Sharks is in place since 2009 and specific action has been taken under a variety of legal instruments to address fishing, scientific research and training of specialist and fisheries technicians, (2) Non-indigenous species: EU and EMSA are active involved in the preparation of guidelines to control the introduction of marine species, (3) Bird species: In 2012 a communication was published on a EU Plan of Action for reducing incidental catches of seabirds in fish gears and there are Special Protection Areas (SPA) under the Birds Directive, (3) Cetaceans: There are Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) under the Habitats Directive, (4) Marine vegetation: Reference is made to EU legislation (Habitats Directive) prohibiting fishing with certain nets above seagrass bed of *Posidonia oceanica* or other marine phanerogams, coralligenous habitats and maerl beds. There are Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) under the Habitats Directive, (5) Monk Seal: The EU has been providing support to the Hellenic Society for Monk Seals (MoM) and to the implementation of actions set out in the Greek national strategy for the monk seal through LIFE funding and interventions such as at General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and (6) Marine Turtles: Marine Turtles are protected under the Habitats Directive.

Protocol for the Prevention and Elimination of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft or Incineration at Sea (Dumping Protocol)

Introduction

230. Part I Legal Measures. Part I seeks to determine whether the required permitting system has been put in place through legal measures. Reporting on national implementing legislation would allow to identify Contracting Parties whose legislation provide them with the authority to: (1) prohibit dumping in violation of the Protocol (Article 4); (2) prohibit incineration at sea (Article 7); (3) apply the Protocol to ships and aircrafts (Article 11), and (4) issue instructions to maritime inspections ships and aircrafts to report on illegal dumping (Article 12).

231. Part II Allocation of Resources. Part II seeks to determine whether the required permit-system: (1) includes the designation or establishment of a competent authority or authorities responsible for the issuance of permits (Article 5); and (2) enables the designated competent authority or authorities responsible for the issuance of permits to inventory current sea disposal operations (Article 10). Part II further seeks to determine whether monitoring programmes have been established to monitor the conditions of the sea for the purpose of the Protocol.

232. Part V Implementation of the Guidelines. Part V seeks to gather information on the implementation of the Guidelines adopted under the Dumping Protocol by the meeting of the Contracting Parties. This includes information on decision making procedure for issuing a permit (compliance monitoring) and establishment of monitoring programmes (field monitoring).

Reporting countries

Country: ALBANIA

1976 Dumping Protocol	Ratification: 30.05.90 (Accession)
1995 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 26.07.01

233. Part I Legal Measures. In its national report, Albania states that legislation has been adopted: (1) prohibiting the dumping of wastes or other matter, with the exception of those listed in Article 4.2

of the Protocol, (2) establishing a permit system for the disposal of those wastes or other matter listed in Article 4.2. The permit system includes the designation of a competent authority or authorities responsible for the issuance of permits and is in line with the criteria set forth in the Annex to the Protocol and the related Guidelines adopted by the Meeting of Contracting Parties, and (3) prohibiting incineration at sea.

234. Albania further states that legislation is in process to apply the Dumping Protocol to its ships and aircraft, those loading in its territory, and those engaged in dumping in areas under its national jurisdiction, as required in Article 11 of the Protocol. Legislation is also in process for its maritime inspections ships and aircrafts to report to its authorities on illegal dumping, as per Article 12 of the Dumping Protocol.

235. No information is provided to the question whether the notification procedures under the Guidelines for the dumping of platforms and other man-made structures at sea, 2003; and the Guidelines for the dumping of inert uncontaminated geological materials, 2005 are followed. On difficulties/challenges faced in implementing the Dumping Protocol, technical capabilities and regulatory framework are pointed out.

236. Part II Allocation of Resources. In its national report Albania refers to domestic Law no. 10448 of 14.07. 2011 on Environmental Permits, under which the national competent authority is authorised to issue permits in accordance with Article 5 of the Dumping Protocol and enabled to inventory current sea disposal operations. Under the same piece of legislation, it is reported that appropriate field monitoring programmes have been put in place.

237. Part V Implementation of the Guidelines. This Part has been left blank.

Country: ALGERIA

1976 Dumping Protocol	Ratification: 16.03.81 (Accession)
1995 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: Not yet

238. Guidelines adopted under the Dumping Protocol are reported to be implemented.

Country: BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

1976 Dumping Protocol	Ratification: 22.10.94 (Succession)
1995 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: No yet

239. Part I Legal Measures. Bosnia and Herzegovina states that legislation has not been adopted to put in place the required permitted system under the Dumping Protocol. No legal measures have been approved to either prohibiting dumping in violation of the Protocol (Articles 4 to 9), prohibiting incineration at sea (Article 7) or ensuring the application and enforcement of the Protocol (Article 11). However, details are given of the legislation in place for the reporting of vessels and aircraft observed dumping in contravention of the Protocol (Article 12). As regards completion with the notification procedures set in the 2003 and 2005 Guidelines on platforms and other man-made structures and inert uncontaminated geological materials respectively, no legislation has been adopted to that end. Difficulties and challenges highlighted are the lack of a coordinated and harmonized environmental policy and strategy at state level, the insufficient administrative capacity in this filed and the very limited availability of financial resources

240. Part II Allocation of Resources. Bosnia and Herzegovina affirms that in the absence of an appropriate legislative framework regulating the issuance of dumping permits for those wastes or other

matter listed in Article 4.2 of the Protocol, no permits have been issued. In addition, no allocation of resources has been made for field monitoring for the purpose of the Dumping Protocol.

241. Part V Implementation of the Guidelines. This Part has been left blank.

Country: CROATIA

1976 Dumping Protocol	Ratification: 12.06.92 (Succession)
1995 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 03.05.99

242. Part I Legal Measures. Detailed reference is given of the legal framework put in place to implement the Dumping Protocol. Croatia has included in its broader laws, such as the environment act or the maritime code, provisions that regulate dumping and incineration activities at sea in accordance with the Dumping Protocol, including its Articles 11 and 12. Of particular relevance is the Regulation on the Protection of the Marine Environment in Protected Ecological and Fishery Zones (OG 47/08), under which it is prohibited to discard into the sea, incinerate at the sea and storage in the seabed and the subsoil wastes and other matter from vessels or aircraft in contravention to the provisions of the London Dumping Convention and its Protocol and the 1995 Dumping Protocol to the Barcelona Convention.

243. Under its domestic legal framework Croatia states that dumping of wastes and other matter at sea is prohibited and that only in exceptional cases dumping sites are identified and dumping permits are issued on a case-by-case basis. An exceptional case reported is the authorized dumping under the Croatian Maritime Code and Port Authorities Act of the iron ship “VIS” previous completion of the required study on environmental protection under the Croatian Environmental Protection Act (OG 80/13) and the Sustainable Waste Management Act (OG 94/13). Incineration at sea is also prohibited. Specific provisions have been enacted prohibiting PCBs and PCTS incineration at sea.

244. No specific measures are reported to have been adopted to put in place the notification procedures under the Guidelines for the dumping of platforms and other man-made structures at sea, 2003; and the Guidelines for the dumping of inert uncontaminated geological materials, 2005. On the main challenges faced in implementing the Dumping Protocol, Croatia lists limited financial, human and technical resources and lack of horizontal cooperation among stakeholders.

245. Part II Allocation of Resources. Croatia states that institutional structures are in place for the implementation of the Dumping Protocol. This means a national competent authority or authorities responsible for the issuance of permits and the keeping records as required. The Croatian Ministry for Environmental Protection and Construction together with the Croatian Ministry for the Sea play that role. No monitoring programmes are reported to having been established to monitor the conditions of the sea for the purpose of the Dumping Protocol.

246. Part V Implementation of the Guidelines. This Part has been left blank.

Country: CYPRUS

1976 Dumping Protocol	Ratification: 19.11.79
1995 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 18.07.03

247. Part I Legal Measures. Reference is given to the three pieces of legislation (Law 51/1979, Law 20/2001 and Law 35/2007) putting in place the required permit-system under the Dumping Protocol. Within that framework: (1) the dumping of waste or other matter is prohibited, with the exception of those listed in Article 4.2 of the Protocol, which are subject to a prior special permit,

issued by the national competent authority or authorities in compliance with the Protocol and related Guidelines, (2) incineration at sea is prohibited, (3) the provisions of the Protocol apply to its vessels and aircraft, and those engaged in dumping in areas under its national jurisdiction and (4) notification procedures as provided for in the Guidelines on the dumping of platforms and other man-made structures (2003) and inert uncontaminated geological materials (2005) are implemented. No information is however provided on whether Cyprus has established administrative mechanisms for its maritime inspections ships and aircrafts to report to its authorities on illegal dumping. Challenges faced in implementing the Protocol are reported to be: administrative management, financial resources and technical capabilities.

248. Part II Allocation of Resources. Cyprus responds affirmatively to the questions whether (1) institutional structures have been established to implement the Protocol, so that a competent authority has been designated to issue the permits and keeps records of them, and (2) a monitoring programme has been set up to monitor sea disposal operations under the Protocol.

249. Part V Implementation of the Guidelines. This Part has been left blank.

Country: GREECE

1976 Dumping Protocol	Ratification: 03.01.79
1995 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: Not yet.

250. The section of the Format for the Implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols concerning the Dumping Protocol has been left blank.

Country: ISRAEL

1976 Dumping Protocol	Ratification: 01.03.84
1995 Amendments	Ratification: Not yet Current legislation that would enable ratification of the 1995 Protocol is under review.

251. Part I Legal Measures. In its national report, Israel notes that the 1976 Dumping Protocol is still in force, although Israel adheres to various of the provisions of the 1995 Dumping Protocol. Legal and regulatory measures implementing the 1976 Dumping Protocol are reported to be in place since 1983 (Dumping of Waste Law) and 1984 (Dumping of Waste Regulations) respectively. Under that legal framework: (1) the disposal of dredged material, fish waste, platforms and inert uncontaminated geological materials is subject to a prior special permit issued by the national competent authority in compliance with the Protocol and related Guidelines, (2) incineration at sea is prohibited, (3) illegal dumping reported and (4) the provisions of the Protocol apply to its vessels and aircraft, those loading in its territory, and those engaged in dumping in areas under its national jurisdiction.

252. In more detail on the issuance of permits, Israel points out that at present dumping permits are granted only for dredged material and that an inter-ministerial permits committee is responsible for the issuance of permits for placement of artificial reefs in accordance with the Dumping Protocol and the Regional Seas Programme Guidance on the Placement of Artificial Reefs, 2010, which also covers vessels. Legislation is in process to comply with the notification procedures set in the Guidelines on platforms and other man-made structures (2003) and the Guidelines on inert uncontaminated geological materials (2005) adopted within the framework of the Dumping Protocol. Furthermore, in general, notification procedures are required from the dumper as part of the process of obtaining a permit. Difficulties and challenges reported refer to the regulatory framework, as the ratification of the 1995 Protocol is still pending.

253. Part II Allocation of Resources. In its national report, Israel responds affirmatively to the question whether the issuance of permits falls under a designated national competent authority and whether that authority keeps records of sea disposal operations. Israel details that an inter-ministerial permits committee is responsible for the issuance of dumping permits and that all dumping is recorded and documented by GIS and tracking devices. Regarding the question on whether monitoring programmes have been established, Israel points out that monitoring requirements are set in the dumping permits issued by the inter-ministerial permits committee and that deep water dumping sites are monitored before and after dumping in addition to an annual monitoring programme. Limited financial resources is the key challenge faced in establishing and implementing monitoring programmes under the Dumping Protocol.

254. Part V Implementation of the Guidelines. For each dumping permit granted all actions required, from waste prevention audit to consultation procedure, have been carried out. As regards the establishment of monitoring programmes, for each permit granted monitoring activities have been undertaken, including quality control and assurance.

Country: ITALY

1976 Dumping Protocol	Ratification: 03.02.79
1995 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 07.09.99

255. Part I Legal Measures. Detailed account is given of the legal framework in place to implement the Dumping Protocol in Italy. By both sectoral (e.g. Law n. 175 of 27 May 1999 ratifying and implementing the 1995 Protocol) and broader laws and regulations (e.g. Legislative Decree n. 152 of 3 April 2006 on Regulation on Environmental Matters, Law n. 979 of 31 December 1982 on Provisions on Sea Protection, Italian Navigation Code and Legislative Decree 202/2007 implementing the EU Directive on ship-source pollution) dumping and incineration activities at sea are regulated in accordance with the Dumping Protocol.

256. By the legal framework developed: (1) a permit system has been established for the disposal of those wastes or other matter listed in Article 4.2 of the Protocol. This system includes the designation of a competent authority or authorities responsible for the issuance of permits in line with the factors set forth in the Annex to the Protocol and in consideration of the Guidelines adopted for those wastes and other matter listed in Article 4.2 of the Protocol, (2) incineration at sea is prohibited, (3) Italian ships and aircrafts as well as those loading in Italian territory and those engaged in dumping in areas under Italian national jurisdiction are subject to criminal sanctions in case of dumping at sea of prohibited hazardous substances and (4) illegal dumping is reported.

257. On the notification procedures set in the Guidelines on platforms and other man-made structures (2003) and the Guidelines on inert uncontaminated geological materials (2005), legislation has not been adopted to implement such procedures. It is reported however that no dumping authorizations of platforms and other man-made structures have been issued for the 2014-2015 reporting period.

258. Part II Allocation of resources. Under the institutional set-up established, the issuance of dumping permits primarily falls on local authorities, the Italian Ministry of Environment Land and Sea (IMELS) being only involved in cases of applications of dumping permits affecting national special areas. The technical and procedural aspects that govern the issuance of permits are laid down in Decree 24/01/1996 of IMEL, which is complemented by the Legislative Decree n. 190/2010 ratifying the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

259. The establishment of appropriate programmes to monitor the conditions of the sea for purposes of the Dumping Protocol has been done through different pieces of legislation, the

Ministerial Decree n. 56 of 14 April 2009 establishing the criteria for monitoring of water bodies being of particular relevance.

260. Part V Implementation of the Guidelines. For each dumping permit granted all actions required have been carried out, exception made of waste prevention audit and waste management options. As regards the establishment of monitoring programmes for each permit granted, this table has been left blank.

Country: LEBANON

1976 Dumping Protocol	Ratification: 08.11.77 (Accession)
1995 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: Not yet

261. Part I Legal Measures. It is reported that by Law n. 444 of 29 July 2002, the required permitting system under the Dumping Protocol is in place. More deeply: (a) the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation is the designated competent authority responsible for the issuance of permits in accordance with the provisions of the Dumping Protocol and in line with the related Guidelines adopted by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties, (b) incineration at sea is prohibited, (c) mechanisms are established for Lebanese maritime inspection ships and aircrafts to report to its authorities on illegal dumping and (d) provisions of the Protocol apply to Lebanese vessels and aircrafts as well as those loading in Lebanese territory, and those engaged in dumping in areas under Lebanese national jurisdiction. Key challenges faced in implementing the Protocol are administrative management, technical capabilities, financial resources and regulatory framework.

262. Part II Allocation of resources. Under the institutional arrangements set, the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation is the designated competent authority in charge of the issuance of permits and the inventory of sea disposal operations. Regarding the establishment of the monitoring programmes for the purposes of the Dumping Protocol, work is reported to be underway.

263. Part V Implementation of the Guidelines. This Part has been left blank.

Country: MALTA

1976 Dumping Protocol	Ratification: 30.12.77
1995 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 28.10.99

264. Part I Legal Measures. Malta reports that legislation has been adopted to implement the provisions of the Protocol, in order to prohibit dumping in violation of the Protocol (Article 4); (2) prohibit incineration (Article 7), (3) apply the Protocol to ships and aircrafts (Article 11), (4) issue instructions to maritime inspections ships and aircrafts to report on illegal dumping (Article 12) and comply with the notification procedures set in the 2003 Guidelines on platforms and other man-made structures and the 2005 Guidelines on inert uncontaminated geological materials.

265. Legislation is thoroughly listed, encompassing a broad variety of regulations: Waste Regulations, Prevention of Pollution from Ships Regulations, Prevention of Pollution by Garbage Regulations, Prevention of Pollution by Sewage Regulations and Deposit of Waste and Rubble (Fees) Regulations.

266. On specific regulatory action regarding Guidelines, additional information is given about the process that led to the adoption of the Guidelines on the characterization of dredged material within the framework of the Water Framework Directive (1st Water Catchment Management Plan). The Guidelines provide policy guidance to operators for applications of dredging within Maltese territorial waters.

267. Part II Allocation of Resources. Malta reports that its permit-system includes the designation of a national competent authority responsible for the issuance of permits and inventorying current sea disposal operations. Regarding the setting of monitoring of the conditions of the sea for the purpose of the Dumping Protocol, Malta refers to a planned monitoring study within the framework of the Water Framework Directive (2nd Water Catchment Management Plan), which will include the assessment of the physical and chemical sediment attributes and marine benthic biodiversity of national designated sites as compared to control sites.

268. Part V Implementation of the Guidelines. For each dumping permit granted, the decision-making procedure for issuing a permit only includes two steps out of nine: requirement for permit application and conditions for issuing a permit. As regards the establishment of monitoring programmes for each permit granted, the relevant table has been left blank.

Country: MOROCCO

1976 Dumping Protocol	Ratification: 15.01.80
1995 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 05.12.97

269. Part I Legal Measures. Morocco states that legislation has been adopted to put in place the required permitting system under the Dumping Protocol. By Law No. 81-12 on the Coastal Zone (B.O. 6404), complemented by specific laws and regulations addressing waste management and disposal, a legal framework has been established under which: (1) any discharge causing coastal pollution is prohibited, though the national competent authority may authorize the dumping of liquid wastes which do not exceed the specific limits values set by the relevant regulations, (2) authorizations are granted for a period of five years, renewable (3) authorizations include information on the nature, composition and volume of the wastes authorized, dumping site and frequency, and (4) civil and criminal penalties are in place in case the provisions of the Law No. 81-12 or the terms of the dumping authorization are not respected and (5) incineration at sea is prohibited.

270. Administrative management, financial resources, regulatory framework and technical capabilities are the key challenges faced in implementing the Protocol. These difficulties become more acute when it comes to the monitoring of the large coastal area of Morocco.

271. Part II Allocation of Resources. Morocco reports that neither institutional structures nor monitoring programmes have been established to comply with Articles 10 and 6 of the Dumping Protocol, respectively.

272. Part V (Implementation of the Guidelines). This Part has been left blank.

Country: TURKEY

1976 Dumping Protocol	Ratification: 06.04.81
1995 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 18.09.02

273. Part I Legal Measures. Turkey reports that domestic legislation has been adopted to put in place the required permitting system under the Dumping Protocol (Article 5), prohibit incineration at sea (Article 7), apply the measures required to implement the Dumping Protocol to its vessels and aircrafts (Article 11) and issue instructions to maritime inspections ships and aircrafts to report on illegal dumping (Article 12). Domestic existing legislation has been recently expanded by Legislation on Management of Waste of 2 April 2015, which adds to the Legislation on Disposal of Waste of 26 March 2010.

274. Work is ongoing to comply with the notification procedures laid down in the Guidelines for the dumping of platforms and other man-made structures (2003) and the Guidelines for the dumping of inert uncontaminated geological materials (2005). The policy and regulatory frameworks are the two challenges reported in doing so.

275. Part II Allocation of Resources. The establishment of institutional structures for the designated national competent authority under Article 5 of the Dumping Protocol to keep records of the wastes dumped, dumping sites and method of dumping is reported to be in process. The same status of ongoing progress is reported as regards the establishment of a monitoring programme for the purpose of the Dumping Protocol and related Guidelines. In that context, Turkey refers to the development of a Project on Environmental Management of Dredging in the Sea (2013-2016), which once concluded, will underpin the domestic legislation governing dumping activities. Key difficulties to comply with the Protocol provisions regarding the allocation of resources are: policy framework, regulatory framework and technical capabilities.

276. Parts V Implementation of the Guidelines. This Part has been left blank.

EUROPEAN UNION

1976 Dumping Protocol	Ratification: 16.03.78 (Approval)
1995 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 12.11.99

277. Reference is given to the Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on Waste.

Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol)

Introduction

278. Part I Legal Measures. Part I seeks to determine whether national legislative regimes address land-based sources and activities as per the provisions of the LBS Protocol. In particular, questions in Table I of the reporting format are meant to test whether: (1) National Actions Plans (NAPs) and the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) are in place to eliminate LBS pollution and phase-out POPs (Article 5.2); (2) measures have been adopted to reduce accidental pollution (Article 5.5) ; (3) discharges and pollutant releases are subject to the required authorization/regulation issued by the competent national authority (Article 6.1); (4) a system of enforcement, including sanctions, is in place (Article 6.2 /3) and (5) measures adopted by the Conferences of the Parties are implemented (Article 7).

279. Part II Allocation of Resources. Part II seeks to gather information on the institutional arrangements for environmental permitting, compliance monitoring, environmental monitoring and the testing of the National Actions Plans (NAPs) and the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) effectiveness.

Reporting countries

Country: ALBANIA

1980 LBS Protocol	Ratification: 30.05.90
1996 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 26.07.01

280. Part I Legal Measures. In its national implementation report, Albania refers to the legal framework in place to regulate LBS and activities as required by Articles 5, 6 and 7 of the LBS Protocol. The two key pieces of legislation are the Law 10448/2011 on Environmental Permits and the

DCM 419/2014 on Rules and Procedures for Issuing Environmental Permits. This adds to the regulations on drinking water quality, bathing water and wastewater management. This legal and institutional setting is in process of being expanded by the planned adoption of draft laws on BATs and BEPs and accident control from risks related to dangerous substances. Once this draft is passed, the risk of accidental LBS pollution would be covered as required by Article 5.5 of the Protocol. Albania is also in the process of transposing relevant EU Directives and Regulations governing LBS and activities. On difficulties and challenges, administrative management, policy framework, financial resources and technical capabilities are listed.

281. Part II Allocation of Resources. Under the existing legal framework different competent authorities have been designated to deal with the issuance of permits (National Environmental Agency-NEA), the compliance monitoring (National Inspectorate of Environment and Forestry-NIEF), environmental monitoring and effectiveness of National Actions Plans (NAPs) and the LBS Strategic Action Plan (SAP) (National Environmental Agency-NEA responsible for the National Environmental Programme). Challenges remain, such as the lack of staff at the NEA or the NIEF.

Country: ALGERIA

1980 LBS Protocol	Ratification: 02.05.83 (Accession)
1996 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: Not yet

282. Part I Legal Measures. Algeria provides a detailed account of the legal framework regulating LBS and activities, as required by the LBS Protocol. The Law framework No. 03-10 of 19 July 2003 on Sustainable Development is the key reference as regards the elimination of LBS pollution and phase-out of POPs, as required by Article 5.2 of the LBS Protocol. Measures to reduce accidental pollution, under Article 5.5 of the LBS Protocol, are articulated through the Executive Decree No. 06-141 of 19 April 2006 setting discharge limits values for industrial liquid effluent discharges.

283. In line with Article 6.1 of the LBS Protocol, discharges and pollutant releases are subject to authorization issued by the national competent authority under the Law No. 05-12 of 4 August 2005 on Water, and the Executive Decree No. 09-209 of 11 June 2009 establishing the conditions for the granting of discharge authorizations of waters other than domestic into the sanitation system or sewage stations. A system of enforcement, including sanctions, is reported to be in place through the Executive Decree No. 08-232 of 22 July 2008 establishing the competences for environmental inspectors, the Law No. 05-12 of 4 August 2005 on Water, which sets fines and other measures (temporary or permanent suspension of work) in case of infractions and the Executive Decree No. 06-198 of 31 May 2006 on classified facilities for the protection of the environment. A number of Executive Decrees are in place implementing relevant LBS COP Decisions.

284. Part II Allocation of Resources. The issuance of permits provided for in Article 6 of the LBS Protocol is subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), public consultation and a study of the likely incidents associated with the project concerned. By Executive Decree No. 99-253 a national Commission of Monitoring and Control is in place. In case of non-compliance, this Commission may propose to the *Wali* measures such as the temporary or permanent suspension of work in the concerned installation. Different monitoring structures are in place to assess the levels of pollution from the sectors of activity and categories of substances listed in Annex I to the LBS Protocol. Structures include the National Observatory of the Environment and Sustainable Development and the National and Regional Centers for Monitoring and Salvage at Sea. There is an annual programme for monitoring the quality of bathing waters.

Country: BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

1980 LBS Protocol	Ratification: 22.10.94 (Succession)
1996 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: Not yet

285. Part I Legal Measures. In its national report Bosnia and Herzegovina lists a number of legislative instruments, which are reported to meet the requirements of Articles 5 to 7 of the LBS Protocol with no exception. The list includes the following pieces of legislation: (1) the Environmental Protection Law, which establishes a permitting system for the discharges and pollutant releases into the Protocol area and defines BATs in the permitting process, (2) the Water Law, which sets measures in case of water pollution incidents and (3) the Law on Inspection, which establishes the competences of the urban environmental inspection and water inspection authorities. On difficulties and challenges reported, Bosnia Herzegovina names administrative management, regulatory framework and financial resources.

286. Part II Allocation of Resources. Under domestic legislation resources have been allocated to deal with environmental permitting (Environmental Protection Law) and compliance monitoring (entities and cantonal authorities). As regards environmental monitoring, the establishment of appropriate structures is underway. On the effectiveness of the National Action Plans (NAPs), Bosnia and Herzegovina reports that has not officially adopted its NAP yet.

Country: CROATIA

1980 LBS Protocol	Ratification: 12.06.92 (Succession)
1996 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 11.10.06

287. Part I Legal Measures. Detailed account is given of the legal framework in place to regulate LBS and activities, as required by Articles 5, 6 and 7 of the LBS Protocol. The legal framework reported consists of the following pieces of legislation: (1) Regulation on Sea Bathing Water Quality (OG No. 73/08), (2) Water Act (OG Nos. 153/09, 63/11, 130/11, 56/13 and 14/14), (3) Act on Sustainable Waste Management (OG, 94/13), and (4) Environment Protection Act (OG No. 80/13, 78/15).

288. Within that framework, the discharge of pollutants from point sources is controlled by issuing a Water Right Permit or Environmental Permit coupled with the Opinion of the institution in charge (Croatian Waters Agency) on Environmental permit according to Regulation on Environmental Permit (OG 8/14), which stipulates the conditions for wastewater discharges. The Opinion on conditions is a constituent part of the Environmental Permit. A Water Rights Permit is required for every discharge of wastewater for which emission limit values are specified in the Ordinance on Emission Limit Values of Wastewater (OG 80/2013, 43/14) and Ordinance of amendments on Emission Limit Values of Wastewater (OG 43/14).

289. Regarding enforcement, state water rights inspectors operate in Croatia by directly inspecting the acts, conditions and method of work of the supervised legal and natural persons. If the state water rights inspectors establish a violation of the relevant acts and regulations in place, they are able to taken a number of actions ranging from ordering temporary suspension of work or activities to ordering measures to be taken for the treatment of polluted water and elimination of the cause of pollution. Challenges reported are administrative management, financial resources and technical capabilities. More specifically, a challenge reported is the lack of clear differentiation of responsibilities over sea protection and management.

290. Part II Allocation of Resources. The Croatian Waters Agency is responsible for issuing Opinion on conditions for Environmental Permit regarding waters. State water rights inspectors have

enforcement power in case of non-compliance. Different monitoring programmes are in place for monitoring of surface waters, including rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters, and groundwater, and monitoring of wastewater at municipal and industrial discharges. Of particular relevance are the National Monitoring Programme for the Adriatic, the Monitoring Programme for Control of Pollution from Land Based Activities, the Bathing Water Monitoring Programme and the Monitoring and observation system for the assessment of the Adriatic Sea developed under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

Country: CYPRUS

1980 LBS Protocol	Ratification: 28.06.88
1996 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 18.07.03

291. **Part I Legal Measures.** Cyprus reports having established the legal to regulate LBS and activities, as required by Articles 5, 6 and 7 of the LBS Protocol. Domestic laws are listed covering the period ranging from 2002 to 2013. Of particular relevance are the Water and Soil Pollution Control Law No. 106(I)/2002, the Waste Law No. 185(I)/2011 and the Industrial Emission Law of 2013. Domestic legislation in this area includes provisions transposing the relevant EU Directives and Regulations, such as the Water Framework Directive. Financial resources is the key challenge reported.

292. **Part II Allocation of Resources.** Under the established legal framework governing the permitting system, three different permits could be granted: waste discharge permits, waste management permits and industrial emission permits. Inspections are carried out under the Water and Soil Pollution Control Law, the Law on Industrial Emission and the Waste Law. Monitoring programmes have been set up under the waste disposal permits and relevant EU Directives, such as the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the Bathing Waters Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). Financial resources is the challenge reported in this section.

Country: GREECE

1980 LBS Protocol	Ratification: 26.01.87
1996 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 10.03.03

293. **Part I Legal Measures.** In its national report, Greece claim that the legal framework governing LBS and activities, as required by Articles 5, 6 and 7 of the LBS Protocol, is in place. This framework is reported to cover all aspects of pollution sources (urban wastewater, industrial wastewater, solid wastes, etc.) in terms of the required necessary infrastructure (e.g. wastewater treatment plants, solid waste sanitary landfills), emission limit values (organics, heavy metals, etc.) and water quality issues (specific water quality objectives). In detail, by domestic legislation, transposing relevant EU Directives and Regulations (e.g. IPPC Directive), the Strategic Programme of Action for the Implementation of the LBS Protocol is reported to be met. This includes meeting the requirement of having a permitting system in place for discharges and pollutant releases, which in Greece involves the submission of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the establishment of an enforcement system, which in Greece rests on the Environmental Inspectorate, in operation since 2004.

294. **Part II Allocation of Resources.** The required permitting and enforcement system are reported to be in place under the established legal framework. Monitoring structures are also reported to be in place within the framework of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). Work is reported to be ongoing as to the establishment of monitoring programmes to evaluate National Action Plans (NAPs) effectiveness.

Country: ISRAEL

1980 LBS Protocol	Ratification: 21.02.91
1996 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 19.06.09

295. Part I Legal Measures. The legal framework regulating LBS and activities, as required by Articles 5, 6 and 7 of the LBS Protocol is reported to be in place. The two key pieces of legislation governing LBS and activities in Israel are: the Prevention of Sea Pollution from Land-Based- Sources (LBS) Law 1988 and the Prevention of Seawater Pollution by Land-Based Sources Regulations, 1990. Under these legal instruments: (1) a permitting system is in place, thereby polluters are required to obtain a permit for discharges of LBS. Permits are not issued if BAT is available and set *inter alia* the conditions for discharge (method, quantities, concentrations) and the requirements for compliance monitoring, (2) in cases of accidental sea pollution, indictments and financial penalties are in place, in addition to stop orders, and (3) the Ministry of Environmental Protection is the national competent authority conducting regular inspections of discharge permits.

296. Part II Allocation of Resources. In Israel: (1) permits are issued by an inter-ministerial committee that includes representatives of key ministries, and one public representative; (2) ten inspectors are employed to ensure compliance; (3) the national monitoring program for marine and coastal waters is LBS focus oriented. This adds to the existing local monitoring programmes conducted within the framework of the conditions of discharge permits, environmental documents or Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and (4) a National Baseline Budget was submitted to MEDPOL. The difficulties reported refer to the lack of personnel to tighter monitoring programs and effective evaluation.

Country: ITALY

1980 LBS Protocol	Ratification: 04.07.85
1996 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 07.09.99

297. Part I Legal Measures. The legal framework reported to be in place to regulate LBS and activities, as required by Articles 5, 6 and 7 of the LBS Protocol consists of the following three key pieces of legislation: (1) Legislative Decree 190/2010 transposing the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), (2) Ministerial Decree 219/2010 and (3) Legislative Decree 152 of 03/04/2006 on Environmental Regulations. This adds to the domestic legislation transposing the EU relevant Directives in the area, such as the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the Directive 2008/105/EC related to the European list of priority substances (included the priority hazardous substances), the Directive 2010/75/EU on Industrial Emissions, and the Directive 2012/18/EU on control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances (SEVESO III).

298. Under this legal setting: (1) measures on phasing out of inputs of priority hazardous substances have been adopted, (2) a Regional Technical Committee has been set up for the analysis of security reports produced by operators of installations where there is risk of pollution incidents, (3) the legal category of environmental crime is in place, (4) emission limits have been prescribed for a list of substances that includes the substances listed in Annex I of LBS Protocol, and (5) Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) have been defined for substances of the list of priority and national specific pollutants. Financial resources is the challenge reported.

299. Part II Allocation of Resources. The required permitting and enforcement system under Article 6 of the LBS Protocol is reported to be in place under the established legal framework, in particular through the Legislative Decree 152 of 03/04/2006 on Environmental Regulations. On

monitoring structures and programmes under Articles 8 and 13 of the LBS Protocol, work reported has been carried out notably within the framework of the Legislative Decree 190/2010 transposing the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). Main challenges reported in his part are financial resources, policy and regulatory framework and public participation.

Country: LEBANON

1980 LBS Protocol	Ratification: 27.12.94
1996 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: Not yet

300. **Part I Legal Measures.** The legal and administrative regime implementing Articles 5 and 6 of the LBS Protocol is reported to be in place. In that regard, account is given of the laws, decrees and decisions adopted to regulate LBS and activities. This adds to the ongoing projects under the GEF concerning the management of PCBs and the review of the national implementation plans on POPs. No common measures are reported having been adopted for the implementation of the COP Decisions on interim Environmental Quality Criteria, although in this area a national comprehensive monitoring programme for the coast is under development. Challenges faced are reported to be financial resources, technical capabilities, public participation and administrative framework.

301. **Part II Allocation of Resources.** The issuance of permits provided for in Article 6 of the LBS Protocol is limited to industries and classified industries and competence structures for compliance inspections are established by Decree, although the Decree is not mandatory. Work is reported to be ongoing on the establishment of monitoring programmes and structures, with a Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) demo project. Challenges reported are: administrative management, financial resources, public participation and technical capabilities.

Country: MALTA

1980 LBS Protocol	Ratification: 02.03.89
1996 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 28.10.99

302. **Part I Legal Measures.** Malta provides a detailed account of the legal and administrative framework reported to be in place to implement Articles 5, 6 and 7 of the LBS Protocol. This includes general legal instruments (e.g. Environment Protection Act, Water Policy Framework Regulations, and Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations) and sectoral ones (e.g. Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations, Nitrates Action Programme Regulations and Industrial Regulations). This adds to the legislation transposing the EU relevant Directives in the area, such as the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the IPPC (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) Directive, the EU SEVESO Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and Food Safety Regulations.

303. In detail, within the established legal framework it is reported that: (1) measures targeting LBS are captured by the second Water Catchment Management Plan under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), (2) point source discharges from permitted land based installations are regulated via the issuance of environmental permits, (3) regarding the risk of pollution from accidents related to land-based activities, the IPPC permit includes provisions relating to contingency planning and accident prevention of the regulated sites. With regards to SEVESO, sites are obliged to submit a Major Accident Prevention Policy or a Safety Report to ensure prevention, preparedness and timely response, (4) a risk-based approach is taken for facilities covered by an IPPC permit, and (5) bathing water quality regulations, levels of contaminants in seafood and measures addressing priority substances and other chemicals are in place.

304. Malta further reports ongoing work to: (1) improve the collection of quantitative data regarding pollutant importation and use at a national scale, evaluate the diffuse sources of pollutants, and improve knowledge on the impacts on environmental receptors of a number of pressures, (2) increase knowledge on the effects of dispersants on marine ecology, and (3) enhance the legislative framework of the environmental permitting system to enable better regulation in terms of performance, monitoring and compliance checking. Administrative management and technical capabilities are the challenges reported.

305. Part II Allocation of Resources. In Malta: (1) permits are being issued under the provisions of the Environment Protection Act and the Development Planning Act and subsidiary legislation, (2) inspections are carried out by the Environment Resources Authority and (3) marine monitoring programmes are established as part of Malta’s Water Catchment Management Plan (or River Basin Management Plan) under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) as well as part of the obligations of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). This adds to the monitoring to be carried out by individual operators when complying with conditions of the environmental permits. Main challenges reported are financial resources, policy and regulatory framework and administrative management.

Country: MONTENEGRO

1980 LBS Protocol	Ratification: 19.11.07 (Accession)
1996 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 19.11.07

306. Part I Legal Measures. The following is reported as to the legal framework in place to regulate LBS and activities, as required by Articles 5, 6 and 7 of the LBS Protocol. Measures to eliminate pollution from LBS and phase-out POPs, as required in Article 5.2 of the LBS Protocol, are reported to be in place by the laws ratifying the Barcelona Convention and LBS Protocol and the Stockholm Convention and the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control in the Environment (IPPC) Law. In addition, following the update of its LBS National Implementation Plan (NAP), a new set of measures have been defined for the application of BAT, BEP and Clean Production.

307. Measures to reduce to a minimum the risk of pollution caused by accidents, as required in Article 5.5 of the LBS Protocol are reported to be in process within the framework of the National Contingency Plan, although the Law on Environment, the Law on Waters and the IPPC Law prescribe measures to protect the environment from the pollution caused by the accidents. This adds to the measures defined for that purpose in the National Strategy for Coastal Zone Management in Montenegro. Measures under Article 6.1 of the LBS Protocol are reported to not having been taken.

308. An inspection system to assess compliance and apply the appropriate sanctions in the event of non-compliance, as required in Article 6.2 and 3 of the LBS Protocol, is reported to be in place and regulated by the Law on Environment, Law on Waters, Law on Coastal Zone and Law on Inspectorate Control. Within this framework supervision, inspection and sanction activities rest on the Directorate of Inspection, as well as Water Management Inspection and Sanitary Inspection among others.

309. Measures for the implementation of the COP Decisions on interim Environmental Quality Criteria as regards bathing waters, levels of contaminants in seafood, and priority substances, (Article 7 of the LBS Protocol) are reported to be in place through the Law on Environment. Main challenges reported refer to administrative management, financial resources, regulatory framework and technical capabilities.

310. Part II Allocation of Resources. The issuance of permits as provided for in Article 6 of the LBS Protocol is regulated through the following three pieces of legislation: the Law on Environment, the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment and the Law on Waters. Under this legal setting, different bodies are responsible for supervision and inspection activities at both national and local levels, including the Directorate of Inspection, the Urban Planning and Construction Inspection,

Environmental Inspection, and the Water Management Inspection. There is a need to reinforce these structures by *inter alia* increasing the allocations aimed to support their acting and improving their coordination in functioning. Appropriate monitoring structures are reported to be in place.

311. Under the National Programme for Monitoring the State of the Environment of Montenegro, the Programme for Monitoring the State of Marine Ecosystem was defined and launched in 2008 and is being regularly updated to incorporate *inter alia* the requirements of the European Environmental Agency (EEA). In addition, in the 2015 National Implementation Plan (NAP) a number of measures were identified and for every measure specific indicators were defined in order to ensure efficient monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness of the action plan and proposed measures. Among the indicators defined are those based on UNEP/MAP Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) indicators, the application of which will follow the introduction of the Mediterranean Integrated Monitoring Assessment Programme (IMAP) in 2018/2019. Main challenges in this specific area are shared responsibilities between agencies involved, limited technical and staff capacities and financial resources.

Country: MOROCCO

1980 LBS Protocol	Ratification: 09.02.87
1996 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 02.10.96

312. **Part I Legal Measures.** The legal and administrative regime implementing Articles 5, 6 and 7 of the LBS Protocol is reported to be in place. Detailed account is given of the legal framework articulated to eliminate pollution from LBS and phase-out POPs, as required in Article 5.2 of the LBS Protocol. This consists of a broad range of Laws, Decrees and Executive Decisions covering diverse aspects related to the protection of the environment from LBS, including the discharge, management, classification and incineration of wastes and other matter. Of particular relevance in this area are the Law 8-12 on Coastal Zone and the Law 10-95 on Water.

313. Measures to reduce to a minimum the risk of pollution caused by accidents, as required in Article 5.5 of the LBS Protocol are reported to be covered by the Executive Decision 5132 on accidental marine pollution and its associated Decree. In addition, an evaluation of the national system to fight against accidental marine pollution was carried out in 2014.

314. Point source discharges and releases into water and/or air that reach and may affect the sea are reported to be regulated in accordance with Article 6.1 of the LBS Protocol through the Law 8-12 on Coastal Zone and the Law 10-95 on Water. Under the former, any discharge causing coastal pollution is prohibited, although the national competent authority may authorize the dumping of liquid wastes which do not exceed the specific limits values set by the relevant regulation. Under the latter, an authorization system also applies to any discharge into surface waters likely to modify their physical and chemical characteristics.

315. An inspection system to assess compliance and apply the appropriate sanctions in the event of non-compliance, as required in Article 6.2 and 3 of the LBS Protocol, is reported to be in place by the Law 8-12 on Coastal Zone and more specifically by the Decree on Police-Environment. Within this framework, the control, inspection, and sanction fall on environmental agents, basin agencies, the Royal Gendarmerie, the Water Police and the Environmental brigade of National Security. In addition, since 2013 the National Laboratory on Studies and Monitoring of Pollution has an environmental programme of control and inspection to assist environmental inspectors. Limited human resources is the challenge reported in this specific area.

316. On the implementation of the COP Decisions on interim Environmental Quality Criteria as regards bathing waters, levels of contaminants in seafood, and priority substances, (Article 7 of the

LBS Protocol), reference is made to action taken under the Law 8-12 on Coastal Zone, in particular as regards bathing waters.

317. Part II Allocation of Resources. Under the Law 12-03 on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), a national committee and regional committees are responsible for examining the impact environmental studies attached to each authorization and providing their advice. The structures for inspecting compliance are in place under the already described legal framework. As regards monitoring, this is articulated around three key monitoring programmes: (1) the MEDPOL Monitoring National Programme, which is supported by a network of institutions such as the National Laboratory on Studies and Monitoring of Pollution, (2) the National Monitoring Programme for the Quality of Bathing Waters and (3) the National Monitoring Programme of the Quality of the Marine Environment. Main challenges in this area are the limited number of inspectors and financial resources as well as the need to reinforce the technical capacity of the laboratories in performing monitoring.

Country: TURKEY

1980 LBS Protocol	Ratification: 21.02.83 (Accession)
1996 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 18.09.02

318. Part I Legal Measures. The Environmental Law No. 2872 together with the National Action Plan (NAP) for LBS adopted in 2005 include measures to eliminate LBS pollution and phase-out POPs, as required by Article 5.2 of the LBS Protocol. In addition, in this area studies have been conducted by the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs to control LBS of pollution, which have led to the identification of priority sectors for further action. The required authorization or regulation system for discharges of pollutant releases is reported to be in place through domestic legislation (Environmental Law No. 2872, Regulations for Controlling Water Pollution, Regulation on Urban Waste Water Treatment), which follows relevant EU Directives (e.g. EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive). Domestic legislation has been also adopted to implement the COP Decisions in the area (e.g. Law on Bathing Water Quality, Law on Control of Pollution by Dangerous Substances and Law on Surface Water Quality). An inspection system to assess compliance is reported to be in place (Provincial Directorates), but no a sanctioning system. Measures to reduce to a minimum the risk of pollution caused by accidents are reported to be in place.

319. Part II Allocation of Resources. The required permitting and enforcement system under Article 6 of the LBS Protocol is reported to be in place under the established legal framework. On monitoring, the MEDPOL National Monitoring Programme is in place and work is reported to be underway to implement the Mediterranean Integrated Monitoring Assessment Programme (IMAP).

EUROPEAN UNION

1980 LBS Protocol	Ratification: 07.10.83 (Approval)
1996 Amendments	Acceptance of Amendments: 12.11.99

320. The EU reports on Directive and Regulations governing LBS activities. This includes the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control in the Environment (IPPC) Directive, the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the SEVESO Directive, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), the Environmental Quality Standards Directive and the Bathing Water Quality Directive. Focus is put on the specific actions taken to support the implementation of the Mediterranean Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter.

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

Introduction

321. **Part I Legal Measures.** Part I seeks to determine whether Contracting Parties have established the legal framework to: (1) reduce and/or eliminate the generation of hazardous wastes (Article 5.2); (2) reduce the amount of hazardous wastes subject to transboundary movement (Article 5.3); (3) restrict and/or prohibit the export, import and transit of hazardous wastes (Article 5.4); (4) establish the notification procedure of the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes (Article 6) and (5) put in place enforcement measures (Article 5.5).

Reporting countries

Country: ALBANIA

1996 Hazardous Wastes Protocol	Ratification: 26.07.01
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322. **Part I Legal Measures.** By the Law No. 10463 of 22/09/2011 on Integrated Waste Management, Albania reports to implement the provisions of the HW Protocol, which require to: (1) reduce and/or eliminate the generation of hazardous wastes, (2) reduce the amount of hazardous wastes subject to transboundary movement, (3) restrict and/or prohibit the export import and transit of hazardous wastes and (4) put in place enforcement measures. Albania further reports that the questions on the notification procedure of the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes were not applicable.

Country: BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

1996 Hazardous Wastes Protocol	Ratification: Not yet
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323. **Part I Legal Measures.** By waste management laws, Bosnia and Herzegovina claims to have in place the framework required under the HW Protocol to reduce and/or eliminate the generation of hazardous wastes and articulate enforcement measures. As to the remaining requirements under Articles 5 and 6 of the HW Protocol, Bosnia and Herzegovina, reports as status “other”, referring to the provisions of its waste management laws.

Country: CROATIA

1996 Hazardous Wastes Protocol	Ratification: Not yet
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324. **Part I Legal Measures.** By the following three key legal and policy instruments, Croatia claims to implement Articles 5 and 6 of the HW Protocol: (1) Act on sustainable Waste Management (OG, 94/13), (2) Waste management plan in the Republic of Croatia for the period 2007 – 2015, and (3) Waste Management Strategy of the Republic of Croatia. The Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (The Basel Convention) and the ECC Regulation on Shipments of Wastes add to this framework.

Country: GREECE

1996 Hazardous Wastes Protocol	Ratification: Not yet
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325. Part I Legal Measures. Greece notes in its national report that the Ministry of Environment and Energy is the competent authority to implement the Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (The Basel Convention) and the ECC Regulation on Shipments of Wastes. Under this framework, relevant reports, including statistical data, are submitted.

Country: ITALY

1996 Hazardous Wastes Protocol	Ratification: Not yet
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326. Part I Legal Measures. The legal regime implementing Articles 5 and 6 of the HW Protocol is reported to be in place by domestic legislation mainly transposing the Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (The Basel Convention) and the ECC Regulation on Shipments of Wastes. Under the established legal framework of Ministerial and Legislative Decrees: (1) activities are aimed at preventing and reducing the production of waste by *inter alia* the development of clean technologies, (2) in line with the proximity principle, the disposal of wastes is conducted in the nearest appropriate installation to reduce to a minimum the movement of wastes, (3) Basel Convention bans on exports of wastes, including dangerous wastes, apply and (4) punishment measures are in place against the illegal traffic of wastes. These measures are supplemented by the ones in the Penal Code.

Country: LEBANON

1996 Hazardous Wastes Protocol	Ratification: Not yet
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327. Part I Legal Measures. The legal regime reported to be in place to implement the requirements under Articles 5 and 6 of the HW Protocol is reported to be in place through the Law and Ministerial Decision regulating the Management of Hazardous Wastes.

Country: MALTA

1996 Hazardous Wastes Protocol	Ratification: 28.10.99
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328. Part I Legal Measures. The legal regime implementing Articles 5 and 6 of the HW Protocol is reported to be in place by a broad range of waste management regulations as well as domestic legislation transposing among others the ECC Regulation on Shipments of Wastes. In addition, the Maltese Waste Management Plan 2014-2020 includes *inter alia* measures on waste prevention and hazardous waste shipments. Administrative management, financial resources, policy and regulatory framework and public participation are the main challenges reported.

Country: MONTENEGRO

1996 Hazardous Wastes Protocol	Ratification: 19.11.07
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329. Part I Legal Measures. The Law on Waste Management together with the National policy for waste management (2004), the Master plan for waste management (2004) and the National plan for waste management for period 2015-2020 together with the Law ratifying the Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (The Basel Convention) are the key instruments reported to implement the requirements under Articles 5 and 6 of the HW Protocol. Montenegro noted that there are no facilities for disposal of hazardous waste,

therefore all hazardous waste must be exported, mostly to Germany and Austria, by trucks. Detailed account is given of the sanctions (fines, imprisonment) imposed under the Criminal Code in cases of importation and trafficking of dangerous substances and hazardous wastes.

Country: MOROCCO

1996 Hazardous Wastes Protocol	Ratification: 01.07.99
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330. Part I Legal Measures. The implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the HW Protocol is reported to be done by the Law on Waste Management adopted in 2016 and a broad range of Decrees addressing the management of different wastes. The Law on Waste Management transposes the Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (The Basel Convention), which is the key reference as regards the management and movement of hazardous wastes. Another international instruments noted are the Stockholm Convention and the Rotterdam Convention.

Country: TURKEY

1996 Hazardous Wastes Protocol	Ratification: 03.04.04
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331. Part I Legal Measures. Detailed account is given of the provisions governing the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and their management. All of them are reported to be in line with the requirements of Articles 5 and 6 of the HW Protocol in order to: (1) reduce and/or eliminate the generation of hazardous wastes; (2) reduce the amount of hazardous wastes subject to transboundary movement; (3) restrict and/or prohibit the export, import and transit of hazardous wastes; (4) establish the notification procedure of the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and (5) put in place enforcement measures.

EUROPEAN UNION

1996 Hazardous Wastes Protocol	Ratification: Not yet
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332. Reference is made to the main pieces of EU legislation governing hazardous wastes, mainly the Directive 2008/98/EC of 19 November 2008 on Waste and the Regulation No. 1013/2006 of 14 June 2006 on Shipments of Wastes.

**Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and in Cases of
Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (Emergency Protocol)**

Introduction

333. Part I Status of Ratification: Part I seeks to collect information on the Emergency Protocol related Conventions signed, ratified, accepted, approved or acceded to by Contracting Parties. This encompasses Conventions dealing with maritime safety and prevention of pollution from ships, combating pollution and liability and compensation for pollution damage.

334. Part II Legal and Administrative Measures: Part II seeks to determine whether Contracting Parties have established the legal and administrative framework to facilitate international cooperation and mutual assistance in preparing for and responding to oil and hazardous noxious substances (HNS) pollution incidents. This includes a designated national authority, a national operational contact point

and a national contingency plan. In turn, this needs to be backstopped by a minimum level of response equipment, communications plans, regular training and exercises.

Reporting countries

Country: ALBANIA

1976 Emergency Protocol	Ratification: 30.05.90 (Accession)
2002 Emergency Protocol	Ratification: Not yet

335. Part I Status of Ratification. This Part has been left blank.

336. Part II Legal and Administrative Measures. Albania reports that legal and administrative measures have been adopted to strengthen its capacity to respond to oil and/or hazardous noxious substances (HNS) pollution incidents through the development of national contingency plans and other means of preventing and combating pollution. This includes: (1) enhancement of the levels of pre-positioned oil and hazardous noxious substances (HNS) spill response equipment; (2) development and implementation of national training programmes for response to incidents involving oil and HNS, and (3) designation or establishment of a national authority or authorities responsible for the implementation of the Emergency Protocol (IMO representative from the Ministry of Environment). Albania reports that dissemination and exchange of information is done under the conditions set in Article 7 of the Protocol. This includes reporting to REMPEC. Systems and procedures for monitoring aimed at detecting both operational and accidental pollution are reported to be in place.

337. It is further reported that legal and administrative measures are in place to ensure that port reception facilities meet the needs of ships (including pleasure crafts), are used efficiently and ships using port reception facilities are informed of their obligations under MARPOL. The assessment of environmental risks of the recognised routes used in maritime traffic is reported to be carried out and strategies concerning reception in ports and places of refuge of ships in distress are reported having been defined. Difficulties and challenges are also highlighted, covering financial resources, administrative management, technical capabilities and public participation.

Country: ALGERIA

1976 Emergency Protocol	Ratification: 16.03.81 (Accession)
2002 Emergency Protocol	Ratification: 14.11.16

338. Part I Status of Ratification. All international Conventions listed ratified, exception made of: (1) International Convention on the Control of Harmful Antifouling Systems on Ships, 2001, (2) SALVAGE 1989 Convention, and (3) international conventions dealing with liability and compensation for pollution damage.

339. Part II Legal and Administrative Measures. This Part has been left blank.

Country: BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

1976 Emergency Protocol	Ratification: 22.10.94 (Succession)
2002 Emergency Protocol	Ratification: Not yet

340. Part I Status of Ratification. This Part has been left blank.

341. Part II Legal and Administrative Measures. No legal and administrative measures are reported having been taken under this Part.

Country: CROATIA

1976 Emergency Protocol	Ratification: 12.06.92 (Succession)
2002 Emergency Protocol	Ratification: 01.10.03

342. Part I Status of Ratification. All international Conventions listed ratified, exception made of 1996 HNS Convention.

343. Part II Legal and Administrative Measures. Legal and administrative measures are reported having putting in place creating the framework to facilitate international cooperation and mutual assistance in preparing for and responding to oil and hazardous noxious substances (HNS) pollution incidents.

344. In detail, a Contingency Plan for Accidental Marine Pollution was adopted in 2008, and kept updated since then. The list of persons who are professionally and technically qualified for pollution response, their equipment and resources and the available surveillance aircrafts and helicopters is published on the webpage of the central state administrative body competent for the maritime transport. Under the Contingency Plan for Accidental Marine Pollution training is a *sine qua non* to those responsible for their implementation. Training is conducted through training courses and demonstration exercises at national, regional and international level, with involvement of REMPEC and EMSA. Responsibility for the implementation of the Emergency Protocol is split between the Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection and the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure. This adds to governmental, prevention and operational focal points and the entities for the implementation of the Contingency Plan for Accidental Marine Pollution.

345. The Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure represents, in most issues, responsible national authority acting as flag State, port State and coastal State for the implementation of international conventions dealing with prevention of pollution from ships. REMPEC is informed every two years of the measures taken to implement the Protocol. Under the Contingency Plan for Accidental Marine Pollution procedures for detecting sea pollution have been developed. The dissemination and exchange of information follow the conditions set in Article 7 of the Protocol, involving the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure, the Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection and the Maritime Rescue Coordination Center. In the framework of REMPEC activities, different projects have been carried out to ensure that port reception facilities meet the need of ships and operate efficiently. The environmental risks of maritime traffic are assessed using Vessels Traffic System (VTS) and the National Contingency Plan for Accidental Marine Pollution defines the measures to be taken in order to reduce the risks of accidents or their environmental consequences. They include the monitoring of the marine environment and the designation and management of particularly sensitive sea areas (PSSAs). Regulation on refuge places for ships in distress is in place.

Country: CYPRUS

1976 Emergency Protocol	Ratification: 19.11.79
2002 Emergency Protocol	Ratification: 19.12.07

346. Part I Status of Ratification. All international Conventions listed ratified, exception made of international conventions dealing with combating pollution.

347. Part II Legal and Administrative Measures. Cyprus reports that legal and administrative measures have been adopted to comply with the requirements under the Emergency Protocol concerning contingency plans and other means of preventing and combating pollution incidents, monitoring, dissemination and exchange of information, port reception facilities, environmental risks of maritime traffic and reception of ships in distress in port and places of refuge. Cyprus further reports that the existing national contingency plan is under review and focused on oil and that the existing equipment to combat marine pollution is considered inadequate.

Country: GREECE

1976 Emergency Protocol	Ratification: 03.01.79
2002 Emergency Protocol	Ratification: 27.11.06

348. Part I Status of Ratification. All international Conventions listed ratified, exception made of: (1) INTERVENTION Protocol 1973 and (2) 1996 HNS Convention.

349. Part II Legal and Administrative Measures. Greece reports having taken the legal and administrative measures to implement Articles 4 (Contingency Plans and Other Means of Preventing and Combating Pollution Incidents), 5 (Monitoring), 7 (Dissemination and Exchange of Information), 14 (Port Reception Facilities), 15 (Environmental Risks of Maritime Traffic) and 16 (Reception of Ships in Distress in Port and Places of Refugee) of the Emergency Protocol.

350. In detail: (1) a National Contingency Plan for responding to marine oil spills, as well as to marine oil pollution incidents caused by harmful substances other than oil is in place, (2) Greek territorial waters and adjacent coastline are kept under 7/24h surveillance to monitor and detect pollution incidents and Greece is a user of the CleanSeaNet System, (3) governmental, prevention and operational focal points have been designated for the purpose of the implementation of the Emergency Protocol, (4) the EC Directive 2000/59 of 27 November 2000 on Port Reception Facilities for Ships-generated Waste and Cargo Residues has been transposed into domestic law, (5) response to marine incidents is articulate through Port Authorities' Local Contingency Plans. There is also a Volunteer Network to that end, and (6) there is a National Strategy on Places of Refuge of Ships in Distress.

Country: ISRAEL

1976 Emergency Protocol	Ratification: 03.03.78
2002 Emergency Protocol	Ratification: 10.09.14

351. Part I Status of Ratification. All international Conventions listed ratified, exception made of: (1) 1996 Protocol to the ILO Merchant Shipping Convention 1976, (2) International Convention on the Control of Harmful Antifouling Systems on Ships, 2001, (3) INTERVENTION Convention 1969 and its Protocol, (4) SALVAGE 1969 Convention and (5) 1996 HNS Convention. The ratification of the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001 is in process.

352. Part II Legal and Administrative Measures. In its national report Israel states that legislation has been put in place aimed at strengthening its individual capacity to respond efficiently to pollution incidents involving oil and/or hazardous noxious substances (HNS).

353. This has been done through the development of its National Programme for Preparedness and Response to Incidents of Oil Pollution of the Sea, under which means have been secured to: (1)

enhance the levels of pre-positioned oil and hazardous noxious substances (HNS) spill response equipment (10 stock piles), and (2) provide national training programmes for response to pollution incidents, ensuring a continuous training of both national operating level personnel and supervisory level personnel (training for local oil sea pollution eight times per year).

354. The Ministry of Environmental Protection has been designated as the national authority responsible for the implementation of the Emergency Protocol. In addition, as per Article 7 of the Protocol, information referring to: (1) designated national authorities with responsibilities in case of oil and/or hazardous noxious substances (HNS) pollution incidents and (2) oil and hazardous noxious substances (HNS) pollution preparedness and response national regulations is shared with other Contracting Parties, by means of the REMPEC Country Profiles and Ministry of Environmental Protection Website.

355. Monitoring programmes and activities are reported to be carried out under the Sea Water Pollution Prevention Fund. Legislation to ensure that port reception facilities meet the needs of ships (including pleasure crafts), are used efficiently and ships using port reception facilities are informed of their obligations under MARPOL is also in place. As regards the assessment of the environmental risks of the recognised routes used in maritime traffic, a Rescue Coordination Centre has been established to that end. In addition, the REMPEC web-based tool developed for that purpose is used by Israel. On the definition of strategies concerning reception in ports and places of refuge of ships in distress, it is reported that the Shipping and Ports Authority (SPA) has completed a National Procedure on the subject matter following REMPEC Guidelines. Challenges faced deal with limited financial resources, administrative management and technical capabilities.

Country: ITALY

1976 Emergency Protocol	Ratification: 03.02.79
2002 Emergency Protocol	Ratification: 30.06.16

356. Part I Status of Ratification. This Part has been left blank.

357. Part II Legal and Administrative Measures. Italy reports that legal and administrative measures have been adopted to comply with the requirements under the Emergency Protocol concerning contingency plans and other means of preventing and combating pollution incidents, monitoring, dissemination and exchange of information, port reception facilities, environmental risks of maritime traffic and reception of ships in distress in port and places of refuge.

358. As reported: (1) a three-tier contingency system is in place, encompassing local contingency plans, the Intervention Plan for the Protection of the Sea and the Coastline from Pollution Deriving from Incidents and the National Intervention Plan for the Sea and Coastline Protection Pollution of Oil and Hazardous Substances in Case of Casualties, (2) a national operational structure is in place to guarantee the availability of anti-pollution vessels supplied by a contracting company. This adds to the MOU between the Coast Guard and the Ministry of Transport to that end, (3) regular training (twice a year) is offered to operational officers and civil servants involved in prevention and response to marine pollution events, and (4) within the Ministry of Environment, the Directorate General for the Nature Protection is the authority responsible for the implementation of the Emergency Protocol.

359. As further reported: (1) information is disseminated through REMPEC, EMSA and the RAMOGE Agreement, as well as the institutional website of the relevant Italian Ministries, (2) Coast Guard aerial surveillance and satellite surveillance (EMSA CleanSeaNet) are aimed at monitoring and detecting operational and accidental pollution, (3) the EC Directive 2000/59 of 27 November 2000 on Port Reception Facilities for Ships-generated Waste and Cargo Residues has been transposed into domestic law, (4) a mandatory reporting system has been put in place in some areas (Bonifacio Strait,

Messinna and Adriatic Sea) to reduce the risks of accident, and (5) by implementing the Directive 2002/59/EC June 2002 establishing a Community vessel traffic monitoring and information system, procedures have been put in place to accommodate ships in distress.

Country: LEBANON

1976 Emergency Protocol	Ratification: 08.11.77 (Accession)
2002 Emergency Protocol	Ratification: Not yet

360. **Part I Status of Ratification.** All international Conventions listed ratified, exception made of: (1) OPRC-HNS Protocol, 2000, (2) INTERVENTION Protocol 1973, (3) SALVAGE Convention 1989, (4) FUND Convention 1992 and (5) 1996 HNS Convention.

361. **Part II Legal and Administrative Measures.** In its national report, Lebanon notes that REMPEC is informed of the measures taken for the implementation of the Protocol, as required in Article 4.3, but not on a regular basis and that work is ongoing in defining strategies concerning reception in ports and places of refuge, of ships in distress. Otherwise, legal and administrative measures are reported to be in place to deal with contingency plans and other means of preventing and combating pollution incidents, monitoring, dissemination and exchange of information and environmental risks of maritime traffic.

Country: MALTA

1976 Emergency Protocol	Ratification: 30.12.77
2002 Emergency Protocol	Ratification: 18.02.03

362. **Part I Status of Ratification.** All international Conventions listed ratified, exception made of: (1) INTERVENTION Convention 1969 and its Protocol, (2) SALVAGE Convention 1989, and (3) 1996 HNS Convention.

363. **Part II Legal and Administrative Measures.** Malta reports that legislation has been adopted to facilitate international cooperation and mutual assistance in preparing for and responding to oil and hazardous noxious substances (HNS) pollution incidents. This includes the maintenance and promotion of contingency plans, the enhancement of the levels of response equipment and the designation of a national authorities responsible for the implementation of the Protocol, which are the Transport of Malta, the Environment and Resources Authority, the Armed Forces and Civil Protection. As regards the development and implementation of national training programmes, work is reported to be underway, with Malta leading a project to enhance its capacity to deal with oil and hazardous noxious substances (HNS) spill response through training.

364. The dissemination and exchange of information is reported to follow the conditions set in Article 7 of the Protocol, which includes reporting to REMPEC. Monitoring arrangements are reported to be in place, as required by Article 5. The requirements for the management of port reception facilities are met (Article 14). Environmental risks of marine of maritime traffic are carried out, with a risk assessment undertook in 2008-2009 (Article 15). Finally, strategies concerning the reception in ports and places of refuge of ships in distress have been defined (Article 16). No difficulties or challenges reported

Country: MONTENEGRO

1976 Emergency Protocol	Ratification: No ratification
2002 Emergency Protocol	Ratification: 19.11.07

365. Part I Status of Ratification. All international Conventions listed ratified, exception made of: (1) ILO Merchant Shipping Convention 1976 and its Protocol and (2) 1990 OPRC and its Protocol.

366. Part II Legal and Administrative Measures. Montenegro reports having taken the legal and administrative measures to implement Articles 4 (Contingency Plans and Other Means of Preventing and Combating Pollution Incidents), 5 (Monitoring), 7 (Dissemination and Exchange of Information), 14 (Port Reception Facilities) and 15 (Environmental Risks of Maritime Traffic) of the Emergency Protocol. Exception is made as regards the establishment of strategies concerning reception in ports and places of refuge, of ships in distress (Article 16). No action is reported having been taken in that regard. Details given referred to the fact that the National Contingency Plan does not cover hazardous noxious substances (HNS), that equipment to combat pollution is funded by the EU Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) for Montenegro, and the Montenegro is part of the EMSA CleanSeaNet System.

Country: MOROCCO

1976 Emergency Protocol	Ratification: 15.01.80
2002 Emergency Protocol	Ratification: 26.04.11

367. Part I Status of Ratification. All international Conventions listed ratified.

368. Part II Legal and Administrative Measures. Morocco reports that legal and administrative measures have been adopted to comply with the requirements under the Emergency Protocol concerning: (1) contingency plans (National Emergency Plan for Preparedness and Response to Accidental Marine Pollution in place and updated) and other means of preventing and combating pollution incidents (spill response equipment in place, although considered insufficient given the long length of the coast and training conducted, such as the SIMULEX simulation exercises), monitoring (through CleanSeaNet, although challenges remain in conducting operational monitoring), dissemination and exchange of information (through REMPEC Country Profiles), port reception facilities and environmental risks of maritime traffic (measures have been taken in particular in the Gibraltar Strait). No action reported having been taken as to the development of strategies concerning the reception of ships in distress in port and places of refuge.

Country: TURKEY

1976 Emergency Protocol	Ratification: 06.04.81
2002 Emergency Protocol	Ratification: 03.06.03

369. Part I Status of Ratification. All international Conventions listed ratified, exception made of: (1) International Convention on the Control of Harmful Antifouling Systems on Ships, 2001 and (2) 1996 HNS Convention. On the status of the INTERVENTION Convention 1969 and its Protocol, this section has been left blank.

370. Part II Legal and Administrative Measures. Turkey has responded affirmatively to whether legal and administrative measures have been taken to implement Articles 4 (Contingency Plans and

Other Means of Preventing and Combating Pollution Incidents), 5 (Monitoring), 7 (Dissemination and Exchange of Information), 14 (Port Reception Facilities), 15 (Environmental Risks of Maritime Traffic) and 16 (Reception of Ships in Distress in Port and Places of Refuge) of the Emergency Protocol. Details given include: (1) National, regional and port facilities contingency plans are in place since 2012, and (2) train-the-trainer courses on the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC) are delivered together with the conduction of comprehensive oil spill exercises and (3) there are 269 port reception facilities and 38 waste reception ships along the Turkish coast.

EUROPEAN UNION

1976 Emergency Protocol	Ratification: 12.08.81 (Approval)
2002 Emergency Protocol	Ratification: 26.05.04

371. The European Union provides information on the EMSA pollution response services, which States can request through the Emergency Response Coordination Center (ERCC) managed by the EU. Services comprise a Network of stand-by oil spill response vessels, the satellite based oil spill and vessel detection and monitoring service (CleanSeaNet), the MAR-ICE Network to support with expertise in cases of marine pollution incidents involving chemicals and the Expert service to support assessment, planning and coordination of response operations. As regards the development and implementation of training programmes, the European Commission reports on the ongoing training program under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism. This programme involves training courses, the organisation of exercises and a system of exchange of experts of the participating countries.

372. On monitoring, the ERCC performs a continuous monitoring of the situation related to emergencies, including marine pollution. EMSA operates the CleanSeaNet system for marine oil spill detection and surveillance in European waters. The dissemination of information under the conditions set in Article 7 of the Protocol is taking place through different avenues, which include: (1) the organisation of DG ECHO and EMSA joint workshops that bring together the civil protection and marine pollution authorities dealing with at-sea and shoreline pollution response, (2) the exchange of maritime data through EMSA SafeSeaNet (SSN) and (3) the preparation of ECHO Crisis Reports with the updates of an incident. Reference is also made to the 2009 EC Directive establishing a Community vessel traffic monitoring and information system.

Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (Offshore Protocol)

Introduction

373. Part I Legal Measures. Part I seeks to determine whether Contracting Parties have established the appropriate legal framework to regulate offshore oil and gas activities, so that offshore activities are subject to prior authorization issued by the national competent authority in accordance with the requirements of the Protocol for the use and discharge of harmful or noxious substances and materials, oil and oily mixtures and drilling fluids and cuttings, sewage and garbage (plastics, such as synthetic ropes, synthetic fishing nets, plastic garbage etc.).

Reporting countries

Country: ALBANIA

1994 Offshore Protocol	Ratification: 26.07.01
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374. Part I Legal Measures. Offshore activities are subject to authorization (Law on Environmental Permitting), as required by the Protocol. The disposal of offshore chemicals listed in Annex I to the Protocol is prohibited, following the dictate of the Protocol. The disposal of those chemicals listed in Annex II to the Protocol or which are not listed in Annexes I and II to the Protocol is not subject to a permit, as required by the Protocol. Sewage discharges are prohibited (Law on Integrated Water Resources Management) but not the discharges of garbage as the Protocol mandates. Application of BAT and BEP falls on operators as well as the disposal of offshore chemicals in designated onshore facilities. Not applicable the requirement to adopt special measures to protect SPAs from offshore activities.

Country: ALGERIA

1994 Offshore Protocol	Ratification: Not yet
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375. Part I Legal Measures. By the Executive Decree governing the granting of licenses concerning offshore exploration and exploitation activities, offshore activities are subject to authorization. In addition, the Law on Hydrocarbons, regulates the use of BAT and BEP on offshore activities.

Country: BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

1994 Offshore Protocol	Ratification: Not yet
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376. Part I Legal Measures. Offshore activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina are regulated through its entity laws on environmental protection and waste management, which establish the required legal framework under the Offshore Protocol. Exception is made of the provisions of the Protocol referring to the disposal of food waste, the disposal of offshore chemicals in designated onshore facilities and the adoption of special measures to protect SPAs from offshore activities. No action is reported having been taken.

Country: CROATIA

1994 Offshore Protocol	Ratification: Not yet
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377. Part I Legal Measures. Detailed account is given of the legal framework governing offshore activities in Croatia. This includes the Ordinance on the exploration and exploitation of mineral resources, the Ordinance on the Main Technical Requirements, Safety and Protection during Offshore Exploration and Exploitation of Hydrocarbons in the Republic of Croatia, and the Act on the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons and the Environment Protection Act, under which offshore activities in Croatia are regulated in line with the Offshore Protocol.

Country: CYPRUS

1994 Offshore Protocol	Ratification: 16.05.06
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378. Part I Legal Measures. Offshore activities in Cyprus are reported to be regulated as required by the Offshore Protocol, through domestic legislation on permitting and transposing the MARPOL Convention requirements. No action however is reported having taken as regards the requirement of a general permit for the disposal of those substances which are not listed in Annexes I and II to the Protocol.

Country: GREECE

1994 Offshore Protocol	Ratification: Not yet
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379. Part I Legal Measures. Legislation is reported to be in place to regulate offshore exploration and exploitation activities in Greece in line with the Offshore Protocol. In Greece the disposal of substances listed in the Annexes to the Offshore Protocol is prohibited.

Country: ISRAEL

1994 Offshore Protocol	Ratification: Not yet
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380. Part I Legal Measures. Offshore activities are subject to authorization (Petroleum Law, Gas Natural Law and Petroleum Regulations), and the use and disposal of offshore chemicals follows the permitting system established in the Protocol (Prevention of Sea Pollution from LBS, Submarine Areas Law). Sewage, garbage and food discharges from installations are prohibited (Prevention of Sea Pollution from LBS), as the Protocol mandates. BAT and BEP falls on operator as well as the discharge of offshore chemicals in designate onshore facilities (Port Regulations). Special measures in place to protect SPAs from offshore developments.

Country: ITALY

1994 Offshore Protocol	Ratification: Not yet
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381. Part I Legal Measures. The required legal framework is reported to be in place to regulate offshore exploration and exploitation activities in Italy in line with the Offshore Protocol.

Country: MOROCCO

1994 Offshore Protocol	Ratification: 01.07.99
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382. Part I Legal Measures. Offshore activities in Morocco are reported to be governed in accordance with the Offshore Protocol, through domestic legislation which includes Hydrocarbons Law, Exploration and Exploitation Hydrocarbons Law, Coast Law and Waste Management Law. No specific legal measures are reported to be in place as to the integration into domestic legislation of the Offshore Protocol requirements on the disposal of food. Sections regarding the discharge of offshore chemicals in designate onshore facilities and the protection of SPAs from offshore developments have been left blank.

Country: TURKEY

1994 Offshore Protocol	Ratification: Not yet
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383. Part I Legal Measures. Offshore activities in Turkey are reported to be governed in accordance with the Offshore Protocol.

EUROPEAN UNION

1994 Offshore Protocol	Ratification: 29.03.13
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384. Part I Legal Measures. The new regulatory framework (EU Directive of 12 June 2013 on Safety of Offshore Oil and Gas Operations and Commission Decision of 19 January 2012 setting up of the European Union Offshore Oil and Gas Authorities Group) aims at reducing the occurrence of major accidents related to offshore oil and gas operations and to limit their consequences. Consequently, it will increase the protection of the marine environment and coastal economies against pollution. It establishes minimum conditions for safe offshore exploration and exploitation and improves the response mechanisms in the event of a major accident.