



**UNITED
NATIONS**

EP

UNEP/MED WG.464/8



**UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

UNEP

23 April 2019
English only

Joint Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Marine Litter Monitoring and ENI SEIS II
Assessment of Horizon 2020/National Action Plans of Waste Indicators

Podgorica, Montenegro, 4-5 April 2019

Report of the Meeting

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2019

Table of Contents

	Pages
Report of the Meeting	1-7
Annex I List of Participants	
Annex II Agenda of the Meeting	
Annex III Conclusions and Recommendations	

Introduction

1. In accordance with the UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Programme of Work 2018-2019 (Decision IG.23/14) adopted by the 20th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Tirana, Albania, 17-21 December 2017), the UN Environment/ Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Barcelona Convention Secretariat (MED POL Programme) organized in collaboration with the European Union funded Project ENI SEIS II South Support Mechanism, the Joint Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Marine Litter Monitoring and ENI SEIS II Assessment of Horizon 2020/National Action Plans (H2020/NAP) of Waste Indicators that was held on 4 and 5 April 2019 in Podgorica, Montenegro at the kind invitation of the Ministry for Sustainable Development and Tourism.
2. The main objectives of the Meeting are to review and provide guidance on the following issues:
 - a) Status of implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) with regards to Ecological Objective 10 (EO10) and its further development;
 - b) Assessment of the H2020/NAP indicators on waste cluster including marine litter at national and regional levels; and
 - c) Ways and means to ensure/ maximize synergies between IMAP Marine Litter Indicators and ENI SEIS H2020/NAP Waste Cluster Indicators including marine litter.

Participation

3. The Meeting was attended by representatives from the following Contracting Parties: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, the European Union, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey and the European Union.
4. The following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, convention secretariats and intergovernmental organizations were represented as observers: the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS); the European Environment Agency, the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODNET) as well as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); the European Topic Centre, University of Malaga - PANACEA Project were also present.
5. The following non-governmental organizations and other institutions were represented as observers: Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), the Mohammed IV Foundation for Environmental Protection, as well as the University of Siena.
6. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), including the Secretariat of the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Barcelona Convention represented by the MAP Coordinating Unit and the Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean (MED POL), the Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication (INFO/RAC); as well as the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC).
7. The full list of participants is attached as Annex I to the present report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

8. The Meeting was opened by Mr Mohamad Kayyal, MED POL Programme Management Officer of UN Environment/MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat.
9. The MED POL Programme Management Officer welcomed the participants and highlighted to participants the importance of the CorMon Marine Litter and ENI SEIS Waste Cluster of H2020

Indicators Joint Meeting for supporting preparations for COP 21 (Naples, Italy, December 2019), and for preparation of the Joint UN Environment/MAP - EEA Assessment of NAP/H2020 Indicators Report.

10. The MED POL Programme Management Officer expressed the gratitude of UN Environment/MAP to the Ministry for Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro and to the European Environment Agency ENI SEIS II Support Mechanism for supporting the organization of the Meeting.

Agenda items 2: Organizational Matters

a) Rules of Procedure for the Meeting on IMAP Implementation: Best Practices, Gaps and Common Challenges

11. The rules of procedure for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols applied mutatis mutandis to the present Meeting (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI).

b) Election of officers

12. Subject to Rule 20 of the rules of procedure mentioned at para. 2(a) for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties, the Meeting elected one (1) President, three (3) Vice Presidents and one (1) Rapporteur from among the participants, as follows:

Chair : Mr. Jose Luis Buceta Miler, Spain
Vice-Chair : Mr. Mohammad Elbouch, Morocco
Vice-Chair : Mrs Sevil Öksüz, Turkey
Vice-Chair : Mrs. Semra Fejzibegović, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Rapporteur : Mr. Luke Tabone, Cyprus

c) Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

13. Subject to Rule 14 of the rules of procedure mentioned at para. 2(a), the proposed agenda appearing in document UNEP/MED WG.464/1 and annotated in document UNEP/MED WG.464/2/Rev.1, was reviewed and adopted without changes.

d) Organization of Work

14. The Meeting agreed that discussions will be held in plenary sessions with simultaneous interpretation in English and French. As per practice, pre-session documentation was not distributed on paper. Participants were encouraged to download the documentation on their computers in advance of the session.

Agenda item 3: State of Play of IMAP Implementation Related to Marine Litter (EO10) and its Further Implementation

15. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat provided an overview of the marine litter cluster of IMAP implementation, including status of the MED POL marine litter monitoring programme (Phase IV) and challenges related to its alignment to the requirements of the IMAP, highlighting progress, challenges and next steps, as provided for in the Working Document UNEP/MED WG.464/3. An updated list of beach marine litter items for monitoring IMAP Common Indicators 22 was introduced. Furthermore, a number of elements were presented with regards to mapping of the pressures/impacts and related interactions for IMAP EO10 Common Indicators, taking into account the relevant

geographical scale; as well as examples of score boards to address interrelationships between IMAP EO10 Common and Candidate Indicators and the DPSIR framework (Driving Forces-Pressures-State-Impacts-Responses) applied to the coastal and marine environment.

16. Following the presentations by the Secretariat, the Chair invited the Meeting participants¹ representing Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to deliver their countries' presentations describing the state of play of MED POL monitoring and IMAP implementation at national level; priority actions to be undertaken; and way forward. To this extent, several countries presented their interventions with regards to discussed topics.

17. MED POL in cooperation with SPA/RAC presented a set of documents (UNEP/MED WG.464/5, UNEP/MED WG.464/6, UNEP/MED WG.464/Inf.3) addressing the development of IMAP Candidate Indicator 24, including a report on the most representative species to be used for development of IMAP Candidate Indicator 24, and protocols for monitoring interactions between marine litter and marine turtles (i.e. ingestion and entanglement) with a view to harmonize methods of data collection for monitoring and assessment in the Mediterranean. In that respect, the findings of assessments of available data to propose GES targets for IMAP Candidate Indicator 24 were discussed.

18. The Secretariat presented the basic methodological elements for monitoring floating microplastics, describing the sampling methodology and laboratory techniques and analysis for floating microplastics, prepared in line with the IMAP Guidance Factsheets and presented under document UNEP/MAP WG.464/Inf.4.

19. The Meeting welcomed progress achieved in the implementation of marine litter of IMAP Ecological Objective10 (Marine Litter) from both the Contracting Parties and the Secretariat, and highlighted the significant advancements made with regards to IMAP EO10, Common Indicators 22 and 23.

20. The Meeting also acknowledged the alignment between most monitoring programmes on marine litter in the Mediterranean and IMAP requirements. The Meeting welcomed the support that MAP Secretariat and its MED POL programme are providing towards the finalization of all national monitoring programmes on marine litter in 2019.

21. The Meeting appreciated the Information Document UNEP/MED WG.464/Inf.4 about the preliminary elements for monitoring floating microplastics and requested the MAP Secretariat and its MED POL programme to further elaborate this documents and advance the relevant work.

22. The Meeting's final conclusions related to this agenda item are presented in Annex III of this report.

Agenda item 4: Data Dictionaries and Data Standards for IMAP Common Indicators on Marine Litter

23. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat presented the updated proposal of Data Standards (DSs) and Data Dictionaries (DDs) for IMAP Common Indicators 22 and 23, prepared considering the recommendations of the IMAP Best Practices Meeting in Rome (July 2018).

24. INFO/RAC introduced document UNEP/MED WG.464/5 consisting of the revised Data Standards and Data Dictionaries for IMAP Common Indicators 22 and 23, including those for floating

¹ Presentations were delivered from representatives from: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, and the European Union

microplastics, following the outcome of the Regional IMAP Best Practices Meeting and the bilateral consultations between INFO RAC and MED POL.

25. The Meeting acknowledged the developments achieved with regards to the preparation of Data Standards and Data Dictionaries (DSs and DDs) for IMAP EO10 Common Indicators 22 and 23 and recommended their submission to the Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points to be held in May 2019 further to addressing specific comments and additional inputs provided to the Secretariat.

26. The Meeting's final conclusions related to this agenda item are presented in Annex III.

Agenda item 5: Assessment of H2020/NAP Indicators on Waste Management Including Marine Litter

27. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat provided comprehensive information on the state of development of principles and main elements of the H2020 Assessment Outline regarding waste cluster including marine litter, focusing on data availability and status of population of indicators at national level, in the framework of the ENI SEIS II Project. The information on the status of implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean and implementation of the National Action Plans (NAPs) were also presented.

28. The Meeting elaborated on the current data flow organization, i.e. InfoMapNode and its structure; the status of populated indicators on waste; as well as ways and means for maximizing synergies between the marine litter cluster of IMAP implementation. The Meeting also discussed possible synergies between the MED POL marine litter monitoring programmes and the H2020/NAP Waste Cluster Indicators, and their possible interlinkages and complementarities with ongoing main assessments in the MAP System such as the State of Environment and Development Report.

29. The Meeting appreciated the close collaboration between the Secretariat and the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the contribution of Horizon 2020 Initiative to MAP Barcelona Convention Programme Framework and Policies, specifically towards the efforts in reducing marine litter.

30. The Meeting's final conclusions related to this agenda item are presented in Annex III.

Agenda item 6: Any Other Business

31. Under this agenda item, the following presentations were delivered:

- a) Presentation by IFREMER, of the "Guidelines for the monitoring and assessment of plastic litter in the ocean", outcome of the GESAMP Working Group 40, by IFREMER;
- b) Presentation by IFREMER, of the monitoring and assessment guidelines for marine litter in Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), developed in the framework of the Interreg-MED AMARE Project;
- c) Presentation by the University of Sienna, of the Interreg-MED PlasticBusters MPA project;
- d) Presentation of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative and its preliminary results on marine litter;
- e) Presentation about the MedBioLitter, Mediterranean marine litter and biodiversity interactions database;
- f) Presentation of the EMODnet Chemistry (EU – DG MARE) marine data initiatives on marine litter;
- g) Presentation by CMCC of the plastic marine litter pollution in Montenegro, including lessons learned from the DeFishGear and AMARE Projects.

32. MAP Secretariat informed the Meeting participants about the future MED POL Meetings until summer 2019, and shared relevant information related to the third edition of the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Marine Litter.

Agenda item 8: Conclusions and Recommendations

33. The Meeting reviewed the draft conclusions and recommendations prepared by the Rapporteur and adopted them as slightly revised in Annex III to the present report.

Agenda item 9: Closure of the Meeting

34. After expressing the usual courtesies, the Chair declared the Meeting closed at 17:30 on Friday, 5 April 2019.

Annex I
List of Participants

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Annex II
Agenda of the Meeting

Agenda of the Meeting

- Agenda item 1:** Opening of the Meeting
- Agenda item 2:** Organizational Matters and adoption of the agenda
- Agenda item 3:** State of play of IMAP Implementation related to Marine Litter (EO 10) and its further development:
- a) National implementation of marine litter cluster of IMAP
 - b) Further development of IMAP including elements for Candidate Indicator 24
 - c) Updated IMAP list for marine litter items
- Agenda item 4:** Data Dictionaries and Data Standards for IMAP Common Indicators on Marine Litter
- Agenda item 5:** Assessment of H2020/NAP indicators on waste management including marine litter
- a) Status of population of indicators at national level
 - b) Assessment outline
 - c) Data flow organization and structuring
 - d) Potential synergies with other ongoing assessment exercises within the MAP system
- Agenda item 6:** Any Other Business
- Agenda item 7:** Conclusions and Recommendations
- Agenda item 8:** Closure of the Meeting

Annex III
Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions and Recommendations

On 4 and 5 April 2019, the Joint Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Marine Litter Monitoring and ENI SEIS II Assessment of Horizon 2020/National Action Plans of Waste Indicators was held at Hotel Hilton in Podgorica, Montenegro at the kind invitation of the Ministry for Sustainable Development and Tourism.

The Meeting highly appreciated the work for the successful organization of this Meeting that has been undertaken by the Secretariat and its Components with regards to marine litter monitoring and the assessment of waste indicators in the framework of ENI SEIS II Horizon 2020/National Action Plans, as well as the support provided by the Ministry for Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro and the European Environment Agency ENI SEIS II Support Mechanism.

Following the review and discussions of all agenda items, the Meeting agreed on the following conclusions and recommendations:

Agenda item 3: State of Play of IMAP Implementation Related to Marine Litter (EO10) and its further Development

1. The Meeting welcomed the progress achieved in the implementation of marine litter of IMAP Ecological Objective 10 (Marine Litter) from both the Contracting Parties and the Secretariat. Since the Meeting of the CorMon Marine Litter in 2017, significant progress has been achieved, especially with regards to IMAP EO10 Common Indicators 22 and 23.
2. The Meeting acknowledged that most monitoring programmes on marine litter in the Mediterranean are aligned with the IMAP requirements, as well as a coherent and coordinated approach is ensured between UN Environment/MAP IMAP, EU MSFD, and other regions (e.g. OSPAR, Black Sea) on marine litter monitoring. The Meeting recommended to further support this approach.
3. The Meeting appreciated the support that is provided by UN Environment/MAP MED POL to the Contracting Parties towards the finalization of the national monitoring programmes on marine litter and requested to further enhance its efforts and assistance towards the finalization of the national monitoring programmes on marine litter.
4. The Meeting appreciated the important work that has been carried out and coordinated by SPA/RAC and MED POL with regards to IMAP EO10 Candidate Indicator 24, in the framework of EU-funded Marine Litter MED project, and other projects and initiatives. In that respect, the Meeting:
 - a. Appreciated the Working Documents UNEP/MED WG.464/5 and UNEP/MED WG.464/6, with regards to “Defining the most representative species for IMAP Candidate Indicator 24” and the “Protocols for monitoring interactions between marine litter and marine turtles (ingestion and entanglement) with a view to harmonize methods of data collection for monitoring and assessment in the Mediterranean.”
 - b. Agreed that the most representative species for monitoring IMAP Candidate Indicator 24 at the present time, based on the existing scientific knowledge, is the common marine turtle species *Caretta caretta*, and requested the Secretariat to further advance the corresponding work; including further work on other species that could be used for the monitoring of IMAP EO10 Candidate Indicator 24.
 - c. Expressed a number of concerns with regards to the Working Document UNEP/MED WG.464/5 related to the most representative species for monitoring IMAP Candidate Indicator 24, and requested SPA/RAC and MED POL to further improve it with regards to: i) adequately highlight that other species such as certain fish species,

cetaceans and mollusks are not neglected; ii) properly reflect the transboundary aspects that should be considered during the selection of the indicator species and their interrelation with the assessment of Good Environmental Status; and iii) make reference to the need to apply diverse stages of validation of the indicator's species in order to be considered for the application of relevant monitoring programmes.

- d. Welcomed the Working Document UNEP/MED WG.464/6 related to the protocol for monitoring interactions between marine litter and marine turtles (ingestion and entanglement), and congratulated SPA/RAC and MED POL for accommodating the regional specificities and for ensuring cooperation and coordination with other projects and initiatives.
- e. Agreed to submit the Working Document UNEP/MED WG.464/5 to the Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points to be held in May 2019 after reflecting the elements under point (c) and including Document UNEP/MED WG.464/6 as its annex.

5. The Meeting appreciated the work undertaken by the Secretariat to update/revise the IMAP list for beach marine litter and further highlighted the importance of coordinated efforts at different levels, to ensure consistency among the different lists of marine litter items applied in the region, as well as in other regions.

6. The Meeting agreed to the main change proposed by the Secretariat with regard to item G27 and requested to refine the present IMAP list of beach marine litter items. To that end, the Meeting recommended to MED POL and MIO-ECSDE to work together as to finalize the revised list by 26 April 2019. The Contracting Parties are invited to submit to MED POL their proposals for the revised list by 18 April 2019 at the latest.

7. The Meeting appreciated the Working Document UNEP/MED WG.464/Inf.4 about the preliminary elements for monitoring floating microplastics and requested the Secretariat to further elaborate this document and to submit it to the next Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Group on Marine Litter Monitoring.

Agenda item 4: Data Standards and Data Dictionaries for IMAP Common Indicators on Marine Litter

8. The Meeting acknowledged the developments achieved with regards to the preparation of Data Standards and Data Dictionaries (DSs and DDs) for IMAP EO10 Common Indicators 22 and 23 and recommended their submission to the Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points to be held in May 2019.

9. With the aim of finalizing the Working Document UNEP/MED WG.464/4 related to the DSs and DDs for IMAP EO10 to obtain the approval of the Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points, the Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to share any comments they have with INFO/RAC and MED POL by 10 April 2019 at the latest.

10. In order to ensure finalization of the IMAP (Pilot) Info-System, the Meeting recommended to the Secretariat and INFO/RAC the realization of the following steps:

- a) Upload finalized DSs and DDs to IMAP (Pilot) Info System whilst providing the consequent changes to the data base structure;
- b) Ensure IMAP (Pilot) Info-System is enabled to receive in 2020 new datasets related to IMAP Common Indicators 22 and 23;
- c) Inform the Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points on the document related to IMAP "Data Management Policy" developed by INFO/RAC and submitted for consideration of INFO RAC Focal Points;
- d) Prepare by the end of next biennium (2020-2021) DSs and DDs for other IMAP Common Indicators related to Pollution cluster; and

- e) Request the Secretariat in consultations with MED POL Focal Points to designate national experts that would actively contribute to the finalization of DSs and DDs for other IMAP Common Indicators related to Pollution cluster.

Agenda item 5: Assessment of H2020/NAP indicators on waste management including marine litter

11. The meeting appreciated the close collaboration between the Secretariat and European Environment Agency (EEA) and the contribution of Horizon 2020 Initiative to MAP Barcelona Convention Programme Framework and Policies, specifically towards the efforts in reducing marine litter.

12. The meeting welcomed the opportunity to review Horizon 2020/National Action Plans Indicators and the framing of the Horizon 2020 thematic assessment on waste, strengthening the link between marine litter and land-based sources.

13. The meeting acknowledged that the following data flows: IMAP, BCRS, NBB/PRTR, MED POL within the InfoMAP Platform, are relevant for H2020/NAP indicators. These data flows will be harvested by InfoRAC in order to pre-fill data formats and GIS layers with the aim to facilitate the efforts of the Contracting Parties in submitting and completing the required information.

14. The meeting requested the Secretariat and EEA to consider the following in the scope of the Horizon 2020 waste thematic assessment:

- a) Inclusion of maritime sources of marine litter;
- b) Transboundary elements such as rivers;
- c) Need to better identify sources of marine litter and increase monitoring capacity through a coordinated regional approach;
- d) The importance of quantifying the impacts associated with waste and marine litter on the marine environment;
- e) Importance of better understanding the littering behavior within society and to increase public awareness;
- f) Seasonal flows of waste linked to tourism and riverine discharges (including flood plains); and
- g) Addressing issues specific to countries and inclusion of illustrating case-studies.